

Meeting of the Seniors' Advisory Council of Nova Scotia
Minutes, Thursday, November 26, 2020
Via Zoom

ATTENDANCE:

Present:

Bill Berryman, *Retired Teachers Organization*
Alyson Hillier, *Retired Teachers Organization*
Bernard Conrad, *Nova Scotia Government Retired Employees Association*
Ron Swan, *CARP Nova Scotia Chapter*
Bill VanGorder, *CARP Nova Scotia Chapter*
Earl Muise, *Community Links*
Helen MacDonnell, *Community Links*
Peter Kerr, *National Association of Federal Retirees*
Michelle Langille, *National Association of Federal Retirees*
Claude Renaud, *Regroupement des Aînés de la Nouvelle-Ecosse*
Richard Malin, *Royal Canadian Legion, Nova Scotia /Nunavut Command*
Terry Donovan, *Federation of Senior Citizens of Nova Scotia*
Bernie LeRusic, *Federation of Senior Citizens of Nova Scotia*
Margaret Casey, *Senior and Retired Doctors Section of Doctors Nova Scotia*
Phil Bagnell, *Senior and Retired Doctors Section of Doctors Nova Scotia*
Véronique Legault, *Regroupement des Aînés de la Nouvelle-Ecosse*
Ernestine Gouthro, *Nova Scotia Government Retired Employees Association*
Nancy MacLellan, *Department of Seniors*
Faizal Nanji, *Department of Seniors*
Shalini Keel, *Department of Seniors*

1. Welcome and Call to Order:

Bill B. called the meeting to order.

Nova Scotia Seniors Pharmacare: Marina Keeping and Emily MacDonald from the Department of Health and Wellness, Pharmacare and Extended Health Benefits division provided an update and presentation to members.

PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES & EXTENDED BENEFITS					
	2019/20	2020/21	2020/21	2021/22	
	Actuals	Budget	Forecast	Budget Projection*	
Seniors Pharmacare	\$190,333,000	\$190,885,000	\$201,225,000	\$214,001,000	
Seniors Pharmacare Revenue	(\$57,564,637)	(\$57,452,000)	(\$59,983,000)	(\$60,943,000)	
Cost Drivers	<p>Increase of beneficiaries entering the program this year (2.5% growth), Shift towards utilization of new, high cost drug therapies, and an increase to the quantity amount of drugs being used by patients. Budget Pressure for 20/21 - \$10.34M - Currently experiencing a growth of Non Hep C drugs costs of 8.9% compared to last fiscal. The average # of claims per claimant is increasing by 8.8% over last year fiscal, Total estimated # of claims this year is 4.9M.</p> <p>Estimated Pressure for 21/22: \$12.8M - 5% increase to Non Hep C drug costs based on the 5 year trend average. This growth is driven by consistent increases to the # of beneficiaries entering the program each year (2.5% growth) and the anticipated addition of new drugs to the NS formulary.</p> <p>**The Revenue budget for fiscal 21/22 is projected to increase due to the steady growth in the number of beneficiaries in the Senior's Pharmacare Program that we continue to see year over year.</p>				
2020/21 Beneficiaries Stats (YTD)	Beneficiaries	Full Premium	Partial Premium	Low Income	GIS
	138,464	66,972	8,376	4,225	60,086
	YTD Claimants				
	125,953				

Members were advised many new drugs were added to the formulary. Marina to share list of new drugs with members.

Bill B. welcomed Earl Muise the new president of Community links replacing Carol Rogers to the Seniors Advisory Council.

2. Additions/Adoption of the Agenda:

MOTION: That the agenda be approved with additions: Correspondence from Federal Minister of Seniors Deb Schulte, Budget Submission, and meeting with Iain Rankin.

Terry D./ Ron S.

CARRIED

3. Approval of October 22, 2020 Minutes

MOTION: That the minutes of October 22, 2020 be approved.

Terry D./ Ron S.

CARRIED

Action Items:

-Sympathy Card sent to Alma's family.

- Information on CORAH was sent to members. Possible invite in the new year to present to committee.
- Jean Flinn presentation was sent to members.
- Critical Path was sent to members.
- Bill B. wrote letter to Minister of Health and Wellness and will be meeting with Minister on December 2, 2020.
- Priorities on the agenda
- Quality of Life initiatives for the new year.
- CAP Brief: responses received from the All Party Committee Gary Burrill, Tim Houston, and the Minister. Subcommittee (Bill B., Ron S., Peter K.) to request meeting with Keith Irvin of the All Party Committee. Suggested setting up individual meeting with each political party separately.
- Nova Scotia Affordable Housing Commission has been launched and are looking for stakeholders to participate in the discussions. Bill B. to follow-up.

4. Marjorie Willison, Co-Chair of the SHIFT Advisory Committee and Elizabeth Haggart, NS Department of Seniors presented a process update on SHIFT 2.0 and next steps over the next three years (April 2021- March 2024) to members.

Members commented on the following:

- Dementia Strategy is not identified as an issue
- Pleased to see Seniors Mental Health included

Deputy MacLellan provided members with the SHIFT 2.0 Critical Path outline. See below.

Proposed Critical Path/Time Line

Target date	Deliverable
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update for Seniors Advisory Council <i>Thursday, October 22, 2020</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shift 2017-2020 final report first draft due. • Activities from departments for Shift 2.0 due
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briefings for Deputy MacLellan on proposed activity for Shift 2021-2024 • Final review of 2017-2020 report by departments. • Confirmation from departments on activities & budget requests for Shift 2021-2024 • Shift Advisory Committee meeting • Seniors Advisory Council of Nova Scotia meeting (<i>presentation on 2017-2020 final report, and overview of activity proposed for 2021-2024</i>) <i>November 26, 2020</i>
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deputy Minister meetings • Refine activities per feedback from stakeholders
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final document preparation
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documents finalized and submitted for approval

Deputy MacLellan to provide an update at the next council meeting in January.

5. Mike Myette, Executive Director of 211 NS presented to members regarding the new features available from 211 “Directory on Demand”.

THE 211 DATABASE • has 8,500 records on 1,300 agencies offering 5,000+programs @ 2,900 locations. • is organized according to need using a taxonomy encompassing 1,400 categories of need • Various processes in place to keep information up-to-date

SUPPORT TO SENIORS A lot of what we do relates to supporting Seniors:

- Typically 50% of the calls we receive involve inquiries for services supporting seniors
 - We have supported numerous local initiatives around senior wellness – several projects involving senior navigation
 - We contribute a monthly article to the “Senior Living” supplement in the Chronicle Herald
 - 211 has served as an additional distribution hub for copies of the Positive Ageing Directory
- 211 Can now be accessed by:
- Phone 24/7/365 in 140+ languages
 - Text – 211 • Email at help@ns.211.ca
 - Self-service website at ns.211.ca
 - Online chat (via website)

In 2019 432,000 people reached out to 211 for help, 91% (395,000) reached out through the web, 9% (37,000) called 211. Callers identified 33,000 needs across 900 different need categories. 211 staff made 38,000 referrals to 5,000 + unique resources 42% of calls resulted from service provider referrals.

To Create a Directory of Programs and Services: Click on this link to open the application: http://211ns.mpdev2.com/directory_on_demand This tool is designed to make it easy to create a list of services that can be organized by category, agency, or location.

1. The first option to consider is which services to include: Those that reside WITHIN a specified geographic area or any that SERVE the geographic area selected. WITHIN (default selection): Means the directory will only include services that have a physical location (address) located within the county and/or community that you choose. SERVE: Means that directory will only include services that have a coverage area that matches that area that you choose. This one can be tricky as the coverage area must exactly match the search area. If a service only serves a few communities within a county, it will not be included in a directory of services that SERVE that county.

2. Next, you can choose a county you want the directory to cover. You can choose one, many, or all counties.

3. Once you have selected a county (or several), the drop-down list of communities will populate with communities that are both in the selected counties AND have services that are located within them or serve that community. If you want services for the entire county, you can either choose the “select all” option at the top of the list, or do not select any of the communities.

4. After the county and communities have been selected, you can then choose what category or categories of service you want the directory to be about. Only categories that have services that match the geographic criteria you’ve selected will be included in the list.

5. Finally, to complete the directory options, you must choose how you want the directory to be organized. CATEGORY: Will sort the directory by the categories you’ve selected. Best used when you’ve chosen to include multiple categories. AGENCY: Will sort the directory alphabetically by

agency name and list the agency names in the index. LOCATION: Will sort the directory alphabetically by the locations (counties or communities) that are included.

6. Click on the "Submit" button to create your directory. The page will reload to a pdf document that can be downloaded or printed. Do you have comments? Please send your comments via email to: info@ns.211.ca and put "DOD Feedback" in the subject line.

6. Treasurer Report

Claude provide Report to members. Funds for donation to the Cherry Brook United Church in Alma's memory to be sent by end of next week.

Claude R./ Ron S.

CARRIED

7. Nominating Committee Report

Bill V. nominating committee has meet and will announce recommendation at next meeting.

8. National Pharmacare Program – advance essential medicines list to July 1, 2021

Bill V. sent email to members November 6th requesting input on moving the list to July 1, 2021 and asking for support at a National level from each organization.

9. Seniors Advisory Council Priorities 2020-2021

Due to Covid-19 Council Priorities may need change or updates. Suggested leave Priorities as is until members can meet face to face in 2021. Will keep as an item on the January 2021 agenda.

10. Meeting with Minister of Health and Wellness December 2, 2020

Bill B. to meet with Minister. Topics on agenda for discussions are High Dose Flu Vaccine, National Pharmacare program, Canadian Drug Agency (Essential Medicines list), National Seniors Strategy, Canadian Medical Association Demand a Plan, CAP, Shift 2.0, National Covid-19 Strategy, A Declaration Concerning a National Health Care Strategy for Seniors document.

11. New Business

Correspondence from Federal Minister of Seniors Deb Schulte announced the new Aging in Place Challenge Program. The aim is to reduce by 20% the number of older adults requiring nursing home care across Canada by 2031.

The program will support safe and healthy aging in four areas:

-**Safety:** Innovative living environments and injury prevention at home

-**Health:** Cognitive monitoring and enablement, chronic health management and daily living support

-**Connection:** Mobility, transportation, and social engagement

-**Standards:** Smart home standards that support safety and enhance technical interoperability.

The program is currently seeking researchers from the academic community, the not-for-profit and private sectors, and Indigenous governments to express their interest in collaborating. A panel of experts with lived experience will also be created. Seniors,

caregivers, and advocates who wish to share their real-world insights and experience are invited to submit their interest.

New Horizons for Seniors Program – Regional Committees Recruitment

The New Horizons for Seniors Program is seeking candidates to serve on Regional Committees, which help ensure that funding decisions take regional needs into account. Members are volunteers who are active in seniors-related issues as well as broader community issues. To help make a difference in the lives of seniors, submit your application by November 30, 2020.

12. New Business:

Budget Submission

Bill V. sent information to members from Karen Casey today regarding Budget Submission for the following year. Transportation, BluePrint for Continuing Care, Dementia Strategy, Pharmacare, and Housing for adequate funding.

Meeting with Iain Rankin:

Meeting request from Iain Rankin for December 1st or 2nd to discuss seniors' issues and priorities. Bill B. to send letter to all 3 candidates outlining the council priorities.

Bill V. shared invited members to attend an online webinar December 1, 2020. Dr. Kathy Slayter will be presenting on Adult Vaccination. Bill V to send invite to all.

13. Future Meeting January 28, 2021, February 25, 2021

14. Adjournment