

Frequently Asked Questions

AHS Staff Transition to Recovery Alberta: Mental Health and Addiction Services

April 2024

This applies to Alberta Health Services (AHS) employees who are part of Addiction & Mental Health and Correctional Health Services.

This is a living document and we'll update this frequently as more information becomes available. As more details are shared with us during this transition, they will be shared with those directly involved, including our union partners.

We encourage you to periodically return to these FAQs. They will be expanded throughout the transition as we receive feedback and further questions.

What is Recovery Alberta?

Upon approval of the new Act by the Alberta Legislature, Recovery Alberta: Mental Health & Addiction Services will be the primary provincial organization and provider of mental health and addiction services in Alberta.

Accountable to the Ministry of Mental Health and Addiction, all Addiction and Mental Health services currently provided by AHS, as well as all Correctional Health Services, will be consolidated under Recovery Alberta.

Why are mental health and addiction services being set up as a separate entity?

When legislation is passed, the creation of Recovery Alberta will mean a greater focus and improved visibility for mental health and addiction. This reflects a strong commitment by the Government of Alberta to these vital areas of service.

Alberta is refocusing the health care system with the goal of prioritizing patients and empowering front-line professionals. This refocus will result in the creation of four dedicated health organizations, one of which is Recovery Alberta. When legislation is passed, Recovery Alberta will be the first of the four organizations to be established, with staff anticipated to transfer over this summer.

Recovery Alberta will deliver services in acute care, outpatient, virtual, detoxification, standalone psychiatric, and provincial correctional settings, along with community outreach and community bed-based mental health and addiction treatment. We will work closely with AHS to deliver services in shared spaces.

What is the timing of the transition to Recovery Alberta?

While timelines are dependent on legislative amendments yet to be introduced, the Ministry of Mental Health and Addiction is aiming to establish the corporate structure of Recovery Alberta by June 3, 2024. Following the establishment of the corporate structure and executive team, staff and services would begin operation under the banner of Recovery Alberta on July 1, 2024.

Frequently Asked Questions

What changes should we expect following the announcement on April 2, 2024?

It is business as usual for all AHS Addiction and Mental Health and Correctional Health Services staff, service providers, contractors, and partners.

What changes should we expect following the official launch of Recovery Alberta anticipated this summer?

Staff won't likely notice any significant change and day-to-day work will be the same. You will still use the same systems and processes to do your job, including Connect Care and e-People. Your work setting will not change because of this transition.

What impact will the transition to Recovery Alberta have on job security and other employment related areas like pension and benefits?

This transfer from AHS to Recovery Alberta will not result in changes to any Terms and Conditions of Employment including pay, benefits, pension, and union affiliation.

What can we share with our patients, clients and the public?

The main thing we want our clients and patients to know is that their care, and their care team, remain unchanged. We will be here for them, as we are now. They can still access their usual treatment services, the same way that they always have. Albertans seeking support can continue to access AHS helplines (Addiction Helpline at 1-866-332-2322 and Mental Health Helpline at 1-877-303-2642) and 8-1-1 for resources.

Where do we go for more information or to ask questions?

You can learn more about each phase of the transition through email updates, in-person and virtual meetings, and by visiting [Insite](#). We encourage you to discuss the transition and any questions or concerns you might have with your manager or direct supervisor. You can also send your questions to mha.transition@ahs.ca. Questions submitted will inform future communications and this evolving list of FAQs.

Mental Health and Addiction Minister Dan Williams and senior leaders from AHS Addiction and Mental Health are hosting four telephone town halls to answer questions from staff affected by the transition to the new mental health and addiction organization.

The town halls are scheduled as follows:

- Thursday, April 11 at 6:30 PM
- Tuesday, April 16 at 10 AM
- Wednesday, April 17 at 6:30 PM
- Monday, April 22 at 10 AM

Staff can [pre-register](#). **Please note that pre-registration ends five hours prior to the start of each telephone town hall.**