

Recovery Alberta



Alberta's government is establishing Recovery Alberta as the largest provider of mental health and addiction services in the province. It will be responsible for the delivery of services currently delivered by Alberta Health Services (AHS) and is expected to be established and operational by July 1, pending legislative timelines.

Alberta's government will be introducing legislation this spring to enable the creation of Recovery Alberta as a provincial health agency under Alberta Mental Health and Addiction. The Ministry of Mental Health and Addiction will be responsible for the oversight and provision of funding for Recovery Alberta and as part of the Ministry's mandate to develop and implement recovery-oriented systems of care in the province.

Recovery Alberta will be led by Kerry Bales as CEO, who has served AHS as the Chief Program Officer of Addiction and Mental Health and Correctional Health Services within AHS. Also supporting as leadership in Recovery Alberta will be Dr. Nicholas Mitchell as Provincial Medical Director. Dr. Mitchell currently serves as the Provincial Medical Director of Addiction and Mental Health and Correctional Health Services within AHS.

Refocusing Health Care

In August 2023, the Ministry of Mental Health and Addiction began the process of consolidating the delivery of mental health and addiction services within AHS, a process that was completed in November 2023 with no disruption to services.

Recovery Alberta will report to the Ministry of Mental Health and Addiction and further support the Ministry's mandate to provide high-quality recovery-oriented mental health and addiction services to Albertans. It is anticipated that Recovery Alberta will be fully operational by summer 2024 and will operate with an annual budget of \$1.13 billion from Alberta's Government. This funding currently supports the delivery of mental health and addiction services through AHS.

For staff currently working in AHS

Frontline workers and staff at AHS Addiction and Mental Health will continue to be essential to Alberta's health care system under Recovery Alberta.

To ensure stability of services to Albertans, there will be no changes to terms and conditions of employment for AHS Addiction and Mental Health staff transitioning to Recovery Alberta. Additionally, there will be no changes to grants or contracts for service providers currently under agreement with AHS upon establishment of Recovery Alberta.

As part of the refocusing and changes made within our health care system, AHS and the Government of Alberta have been committed to transparent engagement to ensure staff are given the opportunity to ask questions and bring forward their concerns.

This engagement will continue as the Government of Alberta and leadership of Recovery Alberta host four telephone town halls throughout the month of April. Each of these will be 90 minutes long and will be held on the following dates:

- April 11 at 6:30 p.m.
- April 16 at 10 a.m.
- April 17 at 6:30 p.m.
- April 22 at 10 a.m.

AHS staff and service providers are invited to sign up and submit questions [here](#).

For patients receiving care

For individuals receiving care through AHS Addiction and Mental Health, this will continue without disruption as the transition is made to Recovery Alberta. Across the province, services will continue to be available in the same locations and provided by the same frontline staff.

Focusing on Recovery

For the past five years, Alberta's government has been building a system of care that supports people in their pursuit of recovery.

The [Alberta Recovery Model](#) focuses on four main pillars including prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery. Recovery Alberta will continue with this focus and ensure best practices are used from around the world to support evidence-based treatment and recovery.

Next Steps

Spring	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alberta's government will introduce legislation that will enable the creation of new provincial health agencies, one of which will be Recovery Alberta.
June 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If legislation is passed, establish the corporate structure of Recovery Alberta.
July 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recovery Alberta officially begins delivering mental health and addiction services.