

Procurement Advisory Table

Update: May 19, 2016

We are pleased to let you know about progress we've made since our last update in January.

As you know, we are tasked with providing recommendations to the Ministry of Human Services that will help guide the implementation of future-state contracting strategies and approaches that best meet the needs of the Albertans we serve.

Supporting clients' needs is at the centre of our work.

Our table's efforts are intended to align with and support Human Services' goal of greater service integration, stronger and more effective relationships with contracted agencies and achieving better results for Albertans.

We have divided our work into four subcommittees. Here's an update from each:

Roles & Relationships

The Roles and Relationships group is exploring the relationship between the government and agencies from a high-level, strategic view. This will help define potential strategies to achieve a desired future state with respect to how government contracts with agencies. We are currently reviewing approaches in other jurisdictions to assist us in this work.

Strategic Procurement Roadmap

The group is focussed on using research and best practices to develop a Strategic Procurement Roadmap and Implementation Plan that identifies key criteria and considerations to guide procurement decisions. The roadmap will support greater consistency and transparency in procurement approaches across Human Services and create greater awareness and understanding among stakeholders. It will also provide clear guidelines and a lens through which procurement decisions are made - taking into account factors such as service quality, continuity, client choice, specialized client needs, and accountability.

Cost of Procuring for Outcomes

Group members are working on developing recommendations in four main streams:

- Flexibility to manage contract activities within approved total contract amounts;
- Identifying accurate and total costs for contracts;
- Procurement process, contract template and contract management issues that relate to financial management; and
- Financial reporting requirements of contracts.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Monitoring and Evaluation subcommittee is developing a series of recommendations that relate to:

- Performance measurement requirements and the activities, outputs and outcomes levels for contracted services;
- Standardized contract monitoring processes; and
- Evaluating the effectiveness of contracted services in meeting program objectives and Albertans' needs.

We have heard some concerns from service providers about clauses in Human Services' new contract templates. We did share those questions and concerns with the province.

However, we want to stress that our table has not been involved in developing the contract templates.

Our mandate is to provide a platform for informal, focused dialogue between Human Services and leaders from the service provider sector about the ministry's contracting and procurement practices as a whole.

We are examining the current state, what our desired state will look like, and how we are going to get there. This includes identifying baselines, strengths and gaps, best practices across jurisdictions, and what areas of work we need to do to reach an improved future state.

It is best that you speak directly with your ministry's regional contract specialist regarding the current contracts.

Thank you for your continued interest in our table's work. We will continue to update you and add information to our [web page](#), as we make more progress on our four priority areas.

Sincerely,

[Procurement Advisory Table members](#)