

ALBERTA COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRISTS



4/6/2016

2016 Public Strategic and Operational Plan

This ACO Strategic Plan is available for public viewing.

Executive Summary

The 2016 Alberta College of Optometrists (ACO) Strategic and Operational Plan is a roadmap to our desired future. It continues the ACO's goal of facilitating optometrists being a skilled, competent, valued and integral part of Alberta's health care system.

While strategic planning is focused on high-level thinking such as an organization's Mission, Mandate and Values; operational planning is focused on the specific goals designed to achieve the strategic objectives. Although, the two frameworks are totally separate and distinct, they are forever entwined by equally impacting our organization's goals, resources and long-term health.

Following the 2016 Strategic Planning Session, the ACO will:

- Continue our unwavering commitment to govern our Regulated Members in a manner that protects and serves the public interest.
- Continue to implement the various projects as developed by Council.
- Continue communication and collaboration with external stakeholders; however, attempt to solicit more feedback from the general public to ensure that our policies and future direction are indeed patient-focused.
- Continue to review, revise and evolve the ACO Policy Manual to ensure the ACO operates in a transparent, fair and ethical manner.
- Continue to work with the general public, the provincial government, other health care regulatory bodies, associations and other organizations to ensure Alberta's health care system is able to provide all necessary services in a timely, easily-accessible and efficient manner.

The preferred and desired end-result of the 2016 ACO Strategic and Operational Plan is how can we, as a regulatory body, influence and direct health care policy and culture to ensure optometrists are a valued and integral part of a patient-focused, effective and efficient health care system that provides appropriate, skilled and competent services in a timely manner to all Albertans.

To quote the late, great Yogi Berra: Success is 90% planning and the other half is doing.

Mission, Mandate and Values

Mission

The Mission of the Alberta College of Optometrists is to protect and serve the public by regulating and providing direction to the optometric profession.

Mandate

- We will carry out our activities and govern our regulated members in a manner that protects and serves the public interest.
- We will provide direction to and regulate the practice of optometry by our regulated members.
- We will establish, maintain and enforce appropriate registration requirements, a Continuing Competence Program and Standards of Practice for the profession of optometry.
- We will establish, maintain and enforce a Code of Ethics.
- We will carry on the activities of the college and perform all other duties and functions in accordance with the Health Professions Act.

Values

- We value the privilege of self-regulation granted to us by the Government and people of Alberta.
- We value honesty, fairness, reasonableness, transparency and effectiveness in our daily activities.
- We value improved patient outcomes supported by collegial and professional communication with other health care providers, technological innovation, evidence-based research and implementation of new and improved models of patient care.
- We value individual practitioner responsibility for always striving to do what is in the best interests of the patient and meeting generally accepted standards of care.
- We value the personal and professional commitment required of competent, compassionate and caring practitioners to ensure they maintain their level of competence throughout their careers.
- We value flexibility, transparency, honesty and reasonableness in discussions and joint endeavors with all external stakeholders.
- We value feedback from patients, the provincial government, other regulatory colleges, other associations and any other interested stakeholder on our activities and performance.

ACO Structure and Governance Model

- The ACO Council has adopted a Policy Governance model that is reviewed on a regular basis and revised as required.
- The current ACO Council has 6 voting Regulated Members, 1 non-voting Regulated Member (Past-President) and 2 Public Members. This ensures compliance with Section 12(1) of the *Health Professions Act* that requires a minimum of 25% of voting members of a council be public members.
- All Regulated Members on the ACO Council are elected by the general membership at an Annual General Meeting.
- All Public Members on the ACO Council are appointed by the provincial government.
- The current ACO Committee structure is comprised of Legislated and Ad Hoc Committees as follows:
 - a) Legislated Committees and Appointments
 1. Competence Committee
 2. Registration Committee
 3. Hearings Director
 4. Complaints Director
 5. ACO Privacy Officer
 6. Membership List
 - b) Ad Hoc Committees and Appointments
 1. Legislation Committee
 2. Canadian Examiners in Optometry Representative
 3. FORAC Representative
 4. ARBO Representative
 5. Scope of Practice Committee
 6. Strategic Planning Committee
 7. Remuneration Committee
 8. Governance Committee
 9. Standards of Practice Committee
 10. ACO Mediators

Monitoring and Reporting

The ACO Council will monitor the effectiveness of all college activities via Monitoring Reports that are drafted and submitted by the ACO Registrar as per the Monitoring Report schedule.

Although, it is understood that formal, scientific measurement of some strategies may not be possible, all Monitoring Reports will contain appropriate performance metrics that detail completed activities, current projects and deliverables, potential issues, Registrar interpretation and recommended ACO Council action items.