

**Meeting:** Open Meeting  
**Location:** Conference Room 5 Lethbridge Centre Mall  
**Date:** January 29, 2010  
**Recorder:** Leah Bruder

**In Attendance:**

**PDD Board:** Bob Bartlett; Fred Nowicki; Henry Heinen; Lorne Abells; Sandy Moritz; Tom Hopkins;

**PDD Staff:** Leigh Bremner;

**Community Partners:** Dave Lawson, Ben Rowley, Anna Olson, Lilian Westling, Chris Rowley, Sean

Wensmann, Ed Quiring, Collect Acheson,

**Regrets:** Leo VandenHeuvel and Sandy Annis

## 1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:05 am.

**MOTION 10-01:** that the meeting be moved In Camera

MSC Tom Hopkins, Henry Heinen

**MOTION 10-02:** that the meeting be moved out of In Camera

MSC Tom Hopkins, Henry Heinen

The Chair called the open meeting to order at 1:11 pm.

## 2. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed everyone and introductions were made. The Chair reminded everyone that motions are voted on by Board members only. Guests are welcome to participate in discussions and ask questions.

## 3. Review and Approval of Agenda

**MOTION 10-03:** that the agenda of January 29, 2010 be approved

MSC Fred Nowicki, Bob Bartlett

## 4. Review and Approval of the Minutes of December 17, 2009

**MOTION 10-04:** that the minutes of December 17, 2009 be approved

MSC Henry Heinen, Sandy Moritz

## 5. What is PDD doing in the South Region and across the Province?

### 5.1. Chairperson's Report:

Joy Lawson a PDD South Board member has submitted her resignation. The Chair thanked Joy for her tenure on the Board and thanked her for her significant contributions to the Board. Joy has a huge heart and has made it her priority to ensure adults with developmental disabilities have fulfilling and inclusive lives.

The PDD South Executive and CEO met with the Co-Chairs and CEO of Southwest Alberta Child and Family Services Authority. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the role of the PDD South Board, update on the region and how PDD South operates as a governance board. The Executive

also provided information about the Minister's priority actions and identified areas that may impact children transitioning in to the PDD South system. PDD South is one of the few if only regions that has a transition coordinator that assists families transitioning from Children's Services to PDD Services. The CEO's have been asked to document the transition position as a protocol to bring back to the respective boards.

#### Council of Chairs

The Chair met with the Deputy Ministers and Chairs of the other 5 regions to discuss the implementation of the priority actions. It was very educational to learn about what is happening in other regions. The Chairs were able to provide some input on the feedback received regarding the Minister's communication plan and role out of the priority actions.

The Chairs from the 6 regions participated in a conference call with the Minister on January 11. The purpose was to provide an update on feedback from stakeholders in each of the 6 regions. The Minister released statements yesterday that "The health and safety of those supported by the PDD program has remained paramount—even while we looked for savings."

#### Chairs Advisory Committee

Service Providers, Families, Individuals and a community member are represented on the committee. It is an opportunity to for the Chair to hear first hand the thoughts and opinions of the participants on the priority actions. It is a venue for eliciting feedback and providing accurate information to participants. At the meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> two PDD staff provided a presentation on the SIS Process. The entire morning was spent on informing the group about SIS. Participants appreciated the opportunity to learn SIS. The Board and operations are committed to supporting our region in understanding the priority actions.

#### Priority Action Presentations

- The Chair participated in the presentation to SADAT on the Priority Actions with Leigh and Henry. Families, Individuals and Service Providers were in attendance at the meeting. It was a great opportunity for an exchange of information and ideas. The questions were primarily focused on SIS and the Eligibility Regulation.
- The Chair and CEO attended the Cardston & District Handicapped Association Board meeting and provided an overview on PDD South Governance and the priority actions.
- The PDD South Executive met with the Service Provider Council and gave a presentation on the priority actions. There were approximately 60 in attendances. The Executive captured the questions and recommendations put forward by the Service Provide Council. The questions will be forwarded to the Board, Ministry and Service Provider Council. The Chair thanked all Board members for their assistance and participation in the presentations.

The questions posed at the SRSAN presentation where compiled and have been forwarded to the provincial working group to ensure consistent accurate information is being provided throughout the province. A joint meeting between LACL and SAIPA will be scheduled and they will be requesting an additional presentation about the priority actions.

#### **5.2. CEO Report:**

Much of January was spent supporting the Board with the presentations on the priority actions and thanked the groups for their hospitality and active engagement in the presentations.

PDD South was one of three regions who participated in a pilot project with AISH to try and simplify the process of applying for PDD and AISH. The group is meeting and sharing the results of the pilot and associated evaluation. The other three regions are looking at the process and once they've had an opportunity to review the information the 6 regions will look at a method for standardizing it throughout the province. The pilots were implemented in a couple different ways and the regions are looking at the best method for combining the intake functions of both programs. As a result, PDD

South has reviewed our Intake Process to try and simplify it for families. The new process will be monitored and evaluated for effectiveness and impact on families.

PDD South and members of the West Liaison & Community Engagement Committee gave a presentation was made to the Student Health Partnership on the transition of young people to adulthood. It was a very beneficial presentation as families with young children don't tend to spend a lot of time planning for their child's future.

PDD South is in the last quarter of our fiscal year. Things are tight but we are in a good position and have the expectation that we will balance at the end of March. PDD South is permitted to have up to a 9 member Board. With the support of the Board, the Chair has recommended to the Minister that the open position remain vacant, which will result in cost savings for the Board.

### **5.3. Committee Reports**

#### East Liaison & Community Engagement Committee

The purpose of the committee is to make recommendations to the PDD South Region Community Board on how the Board can connect with all aspects of Community for the purposes of promoting inclusive communities. The East Liaison Committee has not met but is working on a joint meeting with Family Voices East for a presentation on the Priority Actions.

#### West Liaison & Community Engagement Committee

The committee has discussed a number of times the payoff of doing the committee work. The Committee is planning a presenting at a Chamber of Commerce Lunch and Learn on employment. The plan is to include individuals who are self employed, as well as businesses within the community that employ adults with developmental disabilities. The purpose is to discuss the benefits of employing an adult with a developmental disability to employers as well as to adults with developmental disabilities. The Committee gave Round Street Café as an example of a success story and is looking for other examples of businesses that employ adults with developmental disabilities. Logic Lumber and Smitty's were put forward as options. The Chair also reminded everyone that there is regional and provincial award/recognition program that are open for anyone in the community to nominate someone they believe are deserving. There are regional and provincial Chamber awards that would also be beneficial in recognizing these businesses. Each committee has so much they can learn from each other and it is important that the information continues to be shared.

The University of Lethbridge will be conducting a study on the economic contributions of adults with developmental disabilities as well as the disability service sector in general. The research is scheduled to start in January of 2011.

#### Executive Committee

Has not had a formal meeting but have been busy attending priority action presentations.

#### Audit Committee

The Audit Committee is responsible for financial oversight and risk management. The committee is working with all regions in developing a common risk registry and risk management process. In the fall the Audit committee has tasked with reviewing the Board budget and committee structure and to forward recommendations to board on potential cost saving initiatives. In December the Audit Committee proposed a committee restructure to better align committees with common functions and for cost savings.

**MOTION 10-05: that the Board approve in principle the amalgamation of the following committees with draft Terms of Reference to be presented at the February Board meeting with final approval at the March board meeting**

1. **That the Task Force on Engagement, Communication Committee and Awards Committee be combined into the Communication Committee and appointed a Standing Committee of the Board**
2. **That the Board Evaluation and CEO Evaluation committee be combined into the Board and CEO Evaluation Committee and remain an Ad Hoc Committee.**
3. **That the Policy and Procedure Committee be amalgamated with the Audit Committee.**

**MSC BOB & Henry**

Task Force on Community Engagement

The Task Force on Community Engagement is tasked with collecting information to help the Board with its planning process. The Wheel of Life and Independence Survey are examples of information collection undertaken by the committee. The Task Force completed the Independence Survey in the fall and have incorporated the results of the survey into the annual Board planning process.

Communications Committee

The Communications committee is responsible overseeing Board Communications. The committee is working on a communications plan and are hoping that the plan will be presented at the February meeting for approval.

CEO Evaluation Committee and Board Evaluation Committee

The CEO Evaluation Committee will be forwarding documents to Board members to be completed as part of the CEO Evaluation.

**5.4. Ministers Priority Actions**

The primary areas of concern to date regarding the Priority Areas for Action are the Eligibility Regulation and the implementation of the Supports Intensity Scale. There have been a lot of questions regarding the use of IQ in the eligibility process. The questions have been compiled and shared with Ministry. One of the resounding suggestions has been to improve communications and the feedback has been shared with the Ministry. PDD South will endeavour to use our website more to assist with communicating information. Going forward it would be beneficial to have education informational sessions at the Board meetings that are specific to the priority actions.

PDD South is concerned that there is confusion regarding the Eligibility Regulation and the process for determining eligibility and the SIS interview process. The IQ is only used in determining if an individual is eligible for the PDD Program. Once an individual has been deemed eligible they will then go through a SIS interview which is an entirely different and separate process from the eligibility determination.

What happens to those who do not meet the PDD eligibility? The concerns about the gaps have been raised with Minister; however, it may need a community movement similar to the FASD Network to create a cross-ministry collaboration to find government funding to address the gaps and provide supports.

**5.5. Progress on Business Plan**

Much of the work in the business plan has been operational and the major focus has been in the area of Family Managed Supports including a quarterly newsletter, and other resources to support families, as well as continued work on the provincial working group. A communication plan is in development and will be ready by the end of the fiscal year. PDD South is working on supporting adults with complex service needs. Provincially it is about identifying regional supports for adults with complex needs as well as engaging in cross-ministry discussions. Our regional coordinator tries to facilitate getting all of the necessary resources to the table to support an adult with complex needs. The

coordinator has seen more success in the Medicine Hat area, where as is in Lethbridge we have seen more difficulty in breaking down the government silos.

#### **5.6. Finance Report:**

PDD South is forecasting a balanced budget. PDD South's ability to balance this year is due to prior year surpluses and underutilization of current contracts.

#### **Caseload growth**

55 new individuals entered services and 22 people left or are no longer receiving services; as a result PDD South has had an uptake of 33. The 55 new individuals have come from a number of avenues:

- 14 from children services
- 30 self referrals
- 7 from other regions
- 4 from out of province

#### **5.7. Board Member Reports**

SANDY M. is on a committee that is planning a continuation of the Now We're Talking conference and are moving on to ensure there is a learning opportunity every other year. The Now We're Talking Committee has formed three groups to support inclusion in the Medicine Hat community: inclusion of person with disabilities, inclusion of other cultures and New Canadians, and education on what makes a good community.

HENRY H. attended the SADAT meeting on January 7<sup>th</sup> it generated a lot of questions

FRED N. is focused on the Audit Committee work. Participating in the presentations on the priority actions is also an education experience for the Board members. Fred is glad we retained our Minister as she as a true sense of caring.

TOM H. had opportunity to participate in and give the presentations on the Priority Actions and has noticed how the community is accepting the information and that the more they hear the information the more their questions evolve which supports the implementation of the priority actions. Tom is leading the Strategic Planning process focused on identifying values, and developing strategic priorities for the next year.

### **6. What are our Partners doing?**

#### **6.1. Family Voices**

No report at this time

#### **6.2. Lethbridge Association for Community Living (LACL)**

LACL is working on the belonging project which recognizes the success of people with disabilities as well as the families that have achieved success. It is an information sharing process that helps other families learn what opportunities are available to them. LACL is also working on Thinking Like a Movement, integrated play groups, beyond graduation, RDSP, financial planning, wills and estates.

#### **6.3. South Region Self Advocacy Network (SRSAN)**

The next SRSAN meeting is scheduled for March 3 in Crowsnest Pass. 90 people attended the last meeting. Elections were held and a new executive was elected. There are currently 89 paid members. The Teaching Community Committee has revised the presentation and will be identifying who will be giving the presentation and where it will be given. Developing Workshop Committee has developed the headings for their workshop and is now developing the content for the headings. The spring edition of the Ripple is being worked on. Jeff Helm retained the president position, Ben Rowley is Vice-Chair, Stephanie King is secretary, and

Edmund Zaiser is the new treasurer. The new executive is in training and will take over their positions next year.

**6.4. Southern Alberta Individualized Planning Association**

SAIPA gave a presentation to Next Step in Medicine Hat to discuss SRSAN and SAIPA and what both groups have to offer. Next Step is looking at starting a Self Advocacy Group. SAIPA will be giving a similar presentation to Crowsnest Pass and are looking at doing the same in Cardston in other communities in the region. SAIPA has completed the first MAP and Plan session with an individual and have two more scheduled.

Chris Rowley has completed a MAP session and believes the information is extremely beneficial and that it will be more beneficial to him that a SIS interview. The Chair challenged Chris to go through the SIS process before he makes judgement on how useful the results of the SIS will be.

**6.5. Service Provider Council**

No report at this time.

**7. Correspondence and Information**

- 7.1. Copy of Agenda from the PDD South & Southwest CFSA Executive Committee meeting (Dec 22, 2009)
- 7.2. Calgary Herald Article "Cuts to disabled labelled 'unethical'"
- 7.3. Articles Lethbridge Herald dated December 17, December 18, and December 26, 2009
- 7.4. Christmas Greeting from CORE
- 7.5. Postcard from Oslo Norway from Sandy Annis

**8. Next Board Meeting:**

February 25, 2010

**MOTION:**      **that the meeting be adjourned**

**MC Henry Heinen**

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Date of Approval

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Lorne Abells, Board Chair

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Leah Bruder, Recorder