

Meeting: Open Meeting
Location: Conference Room 1 Lethbridge Centre Mall
Date: October 22, 2009
Recorder: Leah Bruder

In Attendance:

PDD Board: Bob Bartlett; Fred Nowicki; Henry Heinen; Joy Lawson; Lorne Abells; Sandy Annis; Sandy Moritz; Tom Hopkins; Leo VandenHeuvel;
PDD Staff: Leigh Bremner; Pam Williams; Heather Ries; Tina Zimmer; Janet Rosentreter;
Community Partners: Darren Bennet, Kim Flickinger, Dean Summerfelt, Gwen Rowley, Vernon Rowley, Ben Rowley, Chris Rowley, Sandy Layton, Peter Portlock, Dave Lawson, Sue Manary, Collette Acheson, Mindy Moman,
Regrets:

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:30 am and introductions were made.

MOTION 09-41: That the meeting move in Camera

MSC Leo VandenHeuvel, Bob Bartlett

MOTION 09-42: That the meeting move out of in camera,

MSC Leo VandenHeuvel, Fred Nowicki

2. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair called the open meeting to order at 1:04 pm. The Chair welcomed the community partners and introductions were made.

3. Engaging our Community

Tom Hopkins led the participants through a facilitated discussion regarding how we can support healthy risk taking. The information will be compiled and reported out. The chair thanked Tom on behalf of everyone and the Board.

4. What is happening outside the PDD Boardroom?

Cardston & District Association for the Handicapped (CDAH)

The Association broke away from Magrath in 1987. Since then the two have separated and Cardston & District Association for the Handicapped employees 33 staff and provides community access, evening, weekend and in home support to 26 individuals.

The Association is a viable part of the community and individuals receiving supports make substantial contributions to the community. The Association has the recycling contract for the Town of Cardston and own and operate the Bargain Barn, a second hand store. The individuals that work at the Bargain Barn sort clothing, taking care of all of the incidentals in the building, assist with sales. A portion of all of the clothing received is sent to third world countries in need. The individuals also have a wood project and sell wiener sticks and make wood bundles for sale to campgrounds and tourists.

The Cardston & District Association for the Handicapped support individuals with all levels of disabilities, the staff's primary focus is on the interests and abilities of the individuals served. The individuals feel like they are contributing members of the team. The community has been very receptive and accepting of the

Legend: MSC = Motion, Seconded, Carried
MOTION = Blue
TASK = Red

individuals. The donations to the bargain barn are equivalent to a truck load per week, and those donating return to make purchases. The program has created numerous jobs and employment opportunities and is a great fundraiser. The program is imbedded into the community of Cardston. The stereotype is slowly dissipating and the community really does accept the abilities and contributions of the individuals.

The Chair expressed the Boards appreciation of the Executive Direction and Board Chair of Cardston for coming today and provided information about the agency. The Chair, on behalf of the Board apologized for not being able to have the meeting in Cardston.

5. Review and Approval of Agenda

MOTION 09-43:that the agenda be approved.

MSC: Leo VandenHeuvel, Sandy Moritz

6. Review and Approval of the Minutes of September 24, 2009

6.1. Business Rising from the Minutes

MOTION 09-44:that the minutes of September 24, 2009 be approved.

MSC: Henry Heinen, Leo VandenHeuvel

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

7.1. Chairperson's Report:

The Board and Chair attended the Provincial PDD Awards Gala in Edmonton. The Chair congratulated all of the nominees who were recognized their contributions to community and persons with developmental disabilities. There were 300 people in attendance and the Master of Ceremonies for the evening was Tom Hopkins. Below is a list of nominees from the south region:

Norm McLeod Self Advocacy Award:

- Chris Bobson – Lethbridge
- Tyler John Rinker (posthumous) – Medicine Hat

Individual Leadership Award

- Leonard Newton – Lethbridge (Award Recipient)
- Derek Zech – Lethbridge

Community Citizenship Award

- Charlotte and Neil Bonogofsky – Medicine Hat
- Bonny Greenshields – Lethbridge (Award Recipient)
- April Uwazny – Lethbridge

Family Leadership Award

- Gloria Bell – Lethbridge
- Mary and Martin Hyder – Lethbridge

The Board is very proud of all of the South Region nominees. The Chair encouraged everyone present to nominate anyone they feel are deserving for next years awards.

The Chair has been busy at the governance level in structuring the Board committees. Leigh and Lorne have been active in making presentations to service providers and have made presentation to SASH, New Beginnings and Blue Fox.

MOTION 09-45: that Sandy Moritz be appointed to Family Voices East

MSC: Tom Hopkins, Leo VandenHeuvel

In February, the Minister released that What We Heard document, the Minister indicated to the province that 6 priority actions were being developed as a result of the information gathered and

reported in the What We Heard report. One of the priorities was put in to law this past summer; the other 5 will be rolled out in the near future. The CEO and Ministry staff have been working very hard in formulating recommendations to the Ministry.

Question: Where in the process would there be community consultation or opportunity to provide input?

Response: The consultation process is still under development.

The PDD South Board would like to recommend to the Service Provider Council of Chairs, which has not been very active lately, that they may be a possible communication link with the PDD South Board. The connection between the PDD South Board and the Service Provider Council of Chairs helps to ensure we have the understanding and ability to link with our service provider boards. This will ensure PDD Board is in the position to dialogue with this key stakeholder group. The PDD South Board would like to have attendance from the Service Provider Council of Chairs at PDD South Board meetings and to ensure there is an avenue for dialogue.

Other Ministries have informed their constituents that there will be budget reductions of approximately 10%. It would be very naive of PDD to think we would not be affected by the reduction in revenues. We do not know what our actual budgetary pressures are going forward but we can anticipate some change.

At a Board level the Audit Committee will be reviewing board governance budget. The Board has dispensed with the annual Board Retreat and has incorporated the yearly planning as part of the regular Board meeting day.

Question: Is there any idea how the budgetary cuts will impact PDD given that not all the funds allocated for this year were distributed whereas they were in other Ministries, will the impact be lesser for this program?

Response: The matter is under review and being analyzed at a Ministry level. There are concerns about annualizing allocations going forward. The PDD approach to allocating the funds was very different in that they withheld the dollars for 6 months. Other Ministry's allocated the dollars and agreed to deal with the economy going forward, our Ministry handled things differently.

Question: Has there been a discussion at the provincial level regarding increasing flexibilities for regional boards to use funding in creative innovative ways.

Response: The contracting process is very prescriptive in terms of how the dollars are used. PDD Program still trying to figure the balance between being a provincial program and local autonomy.

7.2. CEO Report:

Susan McLean, the Communication Manager for PDD South, is moving on to another career early November. Staff have been busy reviewing and processing one-time payments. All but two funds administration one-time contracts have been processed and 20 of 27 Service Provider one-time payments have been processed.

Pandemic Planning

PDD South has been working with a number of Service Providers to ensure their Pandemic Plans are in place. PDD South encourages everyone to consult Alberta Health Services for information regarding H1N1. PDD South and PDD funded Service Providers will be taking its direction from the Medical Officer of Health regarding the stages of the pandemic and/or any potential closures. Services Providers cannot unilaterally close a program. PDD South needs to ensure there are acceptable levels of service at all times. Funding for extraordinary situations will be reviewed on an agency by agency basis.

City of Lethbridge

The CEO is a member of the Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination (CMARD) Team who is looking at hosting a community event early in 2010 related to creating inclusive and welcoming communities.

7.3. Committee Reports

East Liaison & Community Engagement Committee

The PDD South Board established two committees that are tasked with identifying potential allies that the Board can connect with to help create inclusive communities. The new committee members were ratified at the September board meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for November 2nd.

West Liaison & Community Engagement Committee

The purpose of the committee is to make recommendations to our board on initiatives and or allies that would promote community inclusion. The next meeting is schedule for November 20th. This will be the first meeting for Bob Bartlett as Chair. The Chair will be trying to work with a multitude of stakeholders to gain a better understanding of the opportunities available to the Board to create allies and promote inclusion.

PDD South is the only region in the province to have Liaison Committees. These committees are our grassroots way of networking, connecting, determining how we can best liaise, develop, maintain and improve our relationships within our communities.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee is comprised of the Chair, Vice Chair and one other Board member who sits on the committee for a 6 month term. The committee has not met since the last Board meeting. Leo VandenHeuvel has served as the 3rd member for the past 6 months. The Chair thanked Leo for his valuable assistance during his term.

MOTION 09-46: that Fred Nowicki be appointed as the third Executive Committee member for a term of 6 months (April 2010)

MSC Tom Hopkins, Sandy Moritz

Audit Committee

The Audit Committees role is to provide oversight for the Board on budget and financial matters that may impact operations. The Audit Committee is charged with meeting at least on quarterly basis, these meetings include the Auditor General meetings. The committee is currently meeting on a monthly basis. The committee attended a provincial audit meeting and discussed Risk Management, and the Audit process. The Audit Committee will be reviewing Board expenses to look for savings. The Chair is impressed with the amount of work that has been done with pandemic planning in the south region. The chair expressed his complements all involved in the process.

Task Force on Community Engagement

The Task Force on Community Engagement is comprised of Tom Hopkins, Sandy Annis and Leigh Bremner. The Task Force's objectives are to collect information from the community on the wants, needs, challenges, issues, and information about what is taking place in community. The information is collected in a fashion to support planning initiatives. The Task Force also supports the "made in southern Alberta approach". The Task Force has just completed the independence engagement process. The analysis of the independence information will take approximately a month to compile and prepare for dissemination.

Communications Committee

The Communication Committee is comprised of Tom Hopkins, Bob Bartlett and Leigh Bremner. The purpose of the committee is to develop a strategic communication plan for the Board and to develop consistency in how the board communications with its key stakeholders.

7.4. Business Plan Progress Report

The CEO provided a progress report on the status and accomplishments of the strategies identified in the business plan.

7.5. Finance Report:

PDD South has a budget of \$66,630 million. PDD as a program is mandated to balance and PDD South is diligently working to achieve that goal.

Caseload Update:

- PDD South's case load as of the end of August is 1,102 individuals
- 39 new individuals have entered the PDD South system
 - 29 self referrals
 - 10 that have turned 18
- 15 individuals have been deemed eligible and are looking for supports
- 1 possible transfer
- 14 individuals undergoing eligibility determination

7.6. Board Member Reports

Joy Lawson: Joy attended the SRSAN/LACL Gala on October 16th. Joy is looking forward to attending SRSAN. A number of individuals have commented that Persons with Developmental Disabilities should be renamed; some of the options presented are persons with developmental challenges, or persons with different abilities.

Henry Heinen: Henry attended FASD workshop and found it very informative.

Sandy Moritz: Sandy spoke with all of the individuals from Medicine Hat nominated for a provincial award. Sandy attended the CORE and REDI AGMS and circulated their annual reports. The organizing committee for the Now We're Talking conference is reforming itself and will be organizing the "We're Still Talking" conference for next year. Sandy has been asked to sit on the committee.

Fred Nowicki: Fred attended the Family Conference hosted by LACL. Fred's notes were circulated to the Board Members. The conference was attended by 23 people. Fred met with Henry to transition the chairmanship of the policy committee to Fred. The purpose of the Policy Committee is to look at the policies in the south to ensure they are consistent with Ministry guidelines and policies, MOU and the Gore Governance Guidelines. Over the next few months the policy committee will be working on ensuring the PDD South's policies are consistent and meet the expectations of the Board and Ministry.

8. What are our Partners doing?

8.1. Chris Rowley

Chris Rowley reported that he is giving presentations on his own and was invited to give a presentation and the Self Advocacy Summit in Edmonton. As a result of the presentation in Edmonton Chris has been asked to give a presentation at Taber Special Needs. The presentation has evolved from the one he gave at the Bridging Innovation and Change Symposium in March.

8.2. Family Voices

Families Voices East is planning on hosting education sessions/presentations to help and support families. The first presentation will be about the changes to the Guardianship and Trustee Act.

8.3. Lethbridge Association for Community Living

LACL co-hosted the October 16th Gala with SRSAN. The gala was attended by 100 people who celebrated the accomplishments of individuals and community. The Parent Guardian conference was the following day with 30 in attendance. LACL has provided direct consultation with 4 families in setting up Registered Disability Savings Plans (RDSP). LACL is available to provide information sessions to groups or individual consultations regarding the RDSPs.

8.4. South Region Self Advocacy Network (SRSAN)

Next meeting scheduled for November 4th. The Teaching Community Committee made presentations to the Board and gave the same presentation at the Summit in Edmonton and at the Conference on October 16th. The keynote speaker was Cory Johnston and the toast master group did a demonstration on meetings. The afternoon session at the conference consisted of Cara Milne providing training. There were lots of people at the provincial summit. There were presentations from VRRRI and Chris Rowley on how to access community. Sandy Layton spoke about her personal story.

TASK: Add I am citizen to the November agenda and schedule 10-15 minutes to view the DVD

ACTION: Leah

8.5. Southern Alberta Individualized Planning Association

Anna Olson has been hired and will be starting on the 16th.

8.6. Service Provider Council

The Service Provider Council held their AGM and planning retreat in September. A new Executive was voted in and consists of:

- Alex Hann as Chair
- Judy Brown as Vice-Chair
- Darren Bennett Member at Large
- Ed Hinger – Past President

The Service Provider Council held their first meeting yesterday and is in the process of establishing committees and identifying committee chairs. The committees will be assigned activities, work and goals identified during the strategic planning conducted at the AGM. The Service Providers are actively advocating to their MLA's and Minister regarding the one-time funding to try and get the decision to only allocate \$14.4 million of the original \$24.4 million as one-time dollars overturned and to convince the Minister to allocate the entire 5% as identified in the budget and to annualize the dollars in the next agreement.

The Service Provider Council inquired as to the status of the Southern Alberta Disability Action Team (SADAT) and Service Provide representation on the committee. SADAT has adopted new Terms of Reference that outlines four pillars within the PDD Sector: individuals, families, service providers and PDD. Each pillar is to appoint 4 representatives attend SADAT. The representatives are to provide updates from their pillar, report information back to their respective constituents, share information, exchange ideas, provide clarification etc. PDD South recognizes the challenges for members in the eastern part of the province and is looking at options.

9. Next Board Meeting:

Next meeting is November 26th

MOTION: that the meeting be adjourned at 3:30

MC: Sandy Annis

Date of Approval

Lorne Abells, Board Chair

Leah Bruder, Recorder

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TASK = Red