

Meeting: Open Meeting
Location: Room 2 Lethbridge Centre Mall, Conference Centre
Date: January 22, 2009
Recorder: Leah Bruder

In Attendance:

PDD Board: Henry Heinen; Jo-Lee Godfrey; Tom Hopkins; Leo VandenHeuvel; Sandy Annis; Sharon Rowntree; Syl Bellefeuille;

PDD Staff: Leigh Bremner; Scott Wensmann; Mike Durrant; Denise Bunning;

Regrets: Lorne Abells;

Community Partners: Colette Acheson, More than the Label; Dave Lawson, LACL; Ben Rowley; Chris Rowley, SRSAN; Ed Quering, Venturers Society

Community Partner

Ed Hinger, Service Provider Council; Judy Brown, SAIPA

Regrets

The Chair, Tom Hopkins called the meeting to order at 11:10 a.m.

MOTION 09-01:that the meeting be moved in camera

MSC: Jo-Lee Godfrey, Henry Heinen

MOTION 09-02:that the meeting move out of in camera at 12:04

MSC: Leo VandenHeuvel, Henry Heinen

1. Call to order

The chair, Tom Hopkins, called the meeting back to order at 12:44

2. Welcome & Introductions

The Chair welcomed everyone and introductions were made.

3. What is Happening outside the PDD Boardroom?

Presentation by Chris Rowley, Self Advocate

What is Self –Advocacy? Self advocacy is advocacy that you undertake directly to achieve a specific goal or outcome for your self “self advocacy is cool”

How do we describe disability? Which one of us is not disabled or challenged in some aspect of our physical or mental capacity. The spectrum of human ability is wide and it is on our capabilities that we would like society to focus.

So how do we get heading in the right direction?

- We find out what we like doing
- We find an outlet **in the community**
- We make sure that **we have the support that we need to make it a good experience**

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

Ways to becoming a self advocate

- The path to big change is made up of small steps
- Everyone gets stuck at least once along the way (staff need to encourage the individual to try again)
- We all need to plan for having fun and finding support when making life changes (everyone needs this support and it is natural for individuals without disabilities, but it is more difficult for individual with)

How do we learn? Quality questions create a quality life. Successful people ask better questions and as a result they get better answers – Anthony Robbins. Ask why???

What struggles do we have in becoming Self Advocates?

- Overcoming prejudice / stereotypes
- Understanding that our contributions are valuable and important
- Under commitment or uncommitted supports (need to help train the staff on how to support)
- Understanding that we must lead the way of change

Why be a self advocate

- Self advocates are a major stakeholder in making social change
- We are part of many entities and people that are making the community a better place for everyone... Self Advocates are helping make the community a better place
- It is right...sometimes hard but always right

How to be an effective Self Advocate

- Talk to and work with the right groups and people (work with agencies, staff) don't be judgemental they are working under policies and regulations – help them to make changes to the policies
- Remind yourself and others of the truth and values of SA
- Work in partnership with those that share those truths and values – when we work with others with the same values we have a stronger voice
- Believe in yourself
- Know your rights

A discussion at the conclusion of the presentation resulted in the following:

- Chris' goal is to give this presentation to other Self Advocates. Anyone can be a self advocate, they do not need training. Self advocacy is about who you are and knowing yourself and your voice. Everyone is an advocate in some form or another.
- Open Communication is necessary to be a self advocate, everyone communicates in their own way so there may need to be training on how to listen to the different forms of communication. By advocating for yourself you are also advocating for others. By advocating for yourself you are advocating for the greater good.
- Chris' plan is to start presenting to self advocates and to eventually present to the service providers throughout the region. PDD will invite Chris to present at one of the staff meetings.
- It was suggested that Chris' may want to consider adding the history of self advocacy to his presentation? When did it start to change? Who were the key individuals?

The Chair thanked Chris for his presentation and wished him success in his future endeavours.

4. Review and approval of agenda

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MOTION 09-03:that the agenda be approved as with the following additions

7.7 More then the Label update

7.8 Overview of the Venturers program

MSC: Leo VandenHeuvel, Sharon Rowntree

5. Review and approval of minutes of November 27, 2008

MOTION 09-04:that the minutes of November 27, 2008 be approved

MSC Jo-Lee Godfrey, Henry Heinen

6. What is PDD Doing in the South Region & Across the Province

6.1. Chairperson's Report

Governance Council

The intent of the January Governance Council Meeting was to review the revised Terms of Reference and set the future direction of the Governance Council. A sub-committee presented revised terms of reference and led the Council through a facilitated process. There was significant dialogue, the terms of reference will be presented by the partners at their next Board Meeting to review and approve. This will set the future direction and format of the Governance Council. The intent of the Governance Council is to bring governors together to address issues and needs and to identify initiatives or projects within the region that could be addressed at a Governance Level. PDD has always been an active participant of the Governance Council and continues to see the value of and appreciates the opportunity to work with other Governance Bodies.

Council of Chairs

Lorne has been working with the Council of Chairs and the Minister regarding future direction of the PDD Program.

6.2. CEO Report

Business Plan

Administration is in the process of developing the 2009-12 Business Plan. PDD South has held a stakeholder engagement process on December 11, 2008 and a staff engagement process on January 7. Administration is also review the results of information gathered throughout the year. A draft Business Plan has to be submitted to the Ministry by mid February. The Business Plan does not become a public document until it is approved and signed by the Deputy Minister. However, has per previous years PDD will present an overview of the draft Business Plan at the February Board meeting.

Canadian Municipalities Against Racism & Discrimination (CMARD)

The CEO for PDD South was been asked to participate on the Lethbridge CMARD Leadership Team. The purpose of the team is to look at ways and initiatives to address racism and discrimination within our community. The team is in the process of developing a Strategic Plan that is to be completed in March.

6.3. Liaison & Community Engagement

- East:

The meeting has been scheduled for February 9th in Medicine Hat.

- West

A meeting has been scheduled for February 20th in Lethbridge.

6.4. Committee Reports

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee met with Greg Weadick, MLA West. The purpose of the meeting was to provide an overview of PDD South and to identify regional challenges and successes. It was a very positive meeting. Mr. Weadick requested PDD provide additional training to his staff to ensure they have the appropriate information to direct individuals seeking services to the appropriate services. PDD is now looking at connecting with the rural MLA's within the region.

Audit Committee

Over the past year PDD South has been projecting a deficit for the end of the 2008-2009 fiscal year. However, through the efforts of PDD South administration it is now anticipated PDD South should zero balance at the end of the fiscal year. PDD South has not received the figures for the 2009-2010 budget.

Policy Review

No report at this time, a SMART Plan has been submitted for the next fiscal year.

Task Force on Community Engagement

Will be meeting within the next few weeks to determine a method for integrating all of the information gathered through the various initiatives and engagement processes throughout the past year into the Business Plan and SMART Plans.

Communications Committee

The SMART Plan and Work Plan have been submitted. The Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Strategic Communication Plan has been launched. The RFP closes on February 3, 2009.

CEO Evaluation Committee

A SMART Plan has been submitted and a process is in place and will be reviewed on March 26th.

Board Evaluation Committee

The Committee would like Administration to determine if the process has changed from previous years and as asked administration to get copies of the templates needed for the Board Evaluation and Board Member evaluation.

ACTION: Leah Bruder

6.5. Finance Report – Denise Bunning

A report was circulated to Board and guest. Administration is forecasting a deficit of \$21,000; however there are strategies in place to ensure PDD South balances by year end. PDD South did receive a transfer of funds from Central Region as 10 who were residing in the Michner Centre have transferred to the South. PDD South is providing services to 40 new individuals, 20 individuals no longer require services. 23 individuals have been deemed eligible and are actively seeking services. 5 individuals who are under 18 have been deemed eligible and will be turning 18 within the next few months. 35 new individuals under going eligibility review process and 1 individual looking to transfer into the south region. PDD South is involved with 1102 individuals.

6.6. Board Member Reports

Henry Heinen: Met with the Sharon Rowntree Award committee to start planning the awards. Henry also attended the Governance Council meeting as well as the January SRSAN meeting.

Syl Bellefeuille: On February 22nd Core Association is hosting 2nd Annual Spring Concert and tickets are for sale.

Sharon Rowntree: worked with Tom Hopkins and Lea Switzer to revise the Terms of Reference for the Governance Council. It was an interesting process and Sharon is looking forward to seeing the outcomes of the work the committee did.

Sandy Annis: Working on the Sharon Rowntree Award and will be bringing some ideas forward. The Sharon Rowntree Committee would like to have representative from the LACL to be a part of the committee.

Jo-Lee Godfrey: attended the Newell Community Action Group AGM. Jo-Lee attended the Alfred Egan Mexican Christmas Party. It was a wonderful event.

Joy Lawson: Attend the SRSAN meeting and is negotiating to be one of the presenters at the summit meeting.

Leo VandenHeuvel: no additional report.

Tom Hopkins: no additional report.

7. What are our Partners doing

7.1. Family Voices / LACL

Held a planning meeting for the LACL annual dinner dance. LACL is planning on adding a recognition component to the Gala and welcome the opportunity, if the committee should so choose, to present the Sharon Rowntree Award at the Gala event. .

LACL's AGM is scheduled for March 24th at City Hall in the Culver Room at 6 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend. LACL is hosting a presentation on Family Managed Supports on Feb 21st 2009 from 10 am – 3 pm (lunch will be provided) at the Lethbridge Public Library. The PDD Staff have made themselves available to participate in the presentation. Call Dani or Tina at LACL for more information.

Family Voices is hosting a Hot Topics night. The plan is to alternate the Hot Topics Night with the regular monthly meetings. This months Hot Topic Night is scheduled for January 29 and the Topic for the Evening is the new PDD funding model and what it means for families.

The CEO reported that PDD was receiving a number of calls regarding funding to families and requested that all questions about the Program are forwarded to Tina Zimmer, Family Managed Supports Coordinator.

A Registered Disability Savings Plan information session has been scheduled for Feb 11th at Meyers Norris Penny. The purpose of the session is to discussion how the plan will work for families and individuals. AISH has indicated that those funds will be exempt from the Asset Limit test. Families are still able to claim for 2008 and to receive the matching funds.

7.2. South Region Self Advocacy Network (SRSAN)

68 individuals attended the meeting. Brenda Carlson, Region Program Supervisor, PDD South attending the meeting and survey the attendants. Judy Mowat gave a presentation on AISH. The

next SRSAN meeting is scheduled for Wednesday March 11 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Medicine Hat Lodge

7.3. Southern Alberta Individualized Planning Association (SAIPA)

Representatives sent their regrets.

7.4. Southern Alberta Disability Action Team (SADAT)

The next meeting is scheduled for Feb 5th. The Team will be holding elections and approval of new direction and format.

7.5. Service Provider Council

The representative sent his regrets.

7.6. More than the Label

The More Than the Label program provides mentoring for individuals with developmental disabilities to launch self employment initiatives. The program received 22-23 requests for service from individuals; however, not all the individuals fit under the PDD Mandate. There are currently 10 active participants in the program. Some of the initiatives included writing, a recruitment initiative to develop an inventory of resources available to support families in the Family Managed Supports program. One individual started a sign language course and is hosting two sessions, one at Family Centre, and one at the Seniors Centre. The More than the Label program has been nominated for the Business of the Year Award by the Alberta Chamber of Commerce.

7.7. Venturers Society

Venturers Society was established in Calgary in 1986. Since its inception it has grown to include individuals who perform fire hazard reduction in the forestry, city parks and along roads. One group within the program assists with maintenance at Camp Horizon. This past summer Venturers started at Camp Gardner assisting the Scouts. One of the challenges for the program is with people accepting that the individuals having the ability to provide the services. In Fish Creek, Venturers has two groups who work with the Friends of Fish Creek to maintain the park. 5 years ago Venturers started a program in Medicine Hat and currently have 2 groups in place. The Medicine Hat program includes 9 participants who go out year round 5 days per week and provide maintenance, fire hazard reduction, firewood for riding on stone, snow removal and help maintain the ice rinks. The participants are accepting as part of the community and everyone is very welcoming. The participants are contributing to the community and as a group are really making difference. The program helps build self confidence for the participants. Venturers Society transports the participants in a van, and the equipment is usually provided by the partners. The program is fortunate to have great partners and to be able to make a contribution that everyone benefits from. The program operates on a 1 support worker to 5 individuals ratio.

8. What is happening in our community (upcoming events)

8.1. Alberta Association of Community Living 2009 Family Conference March 20-21

The registration form is available online at the AACL website. It is a very well organized conference. PDD is working with LACL to support families to go. LACL is trying to access other funds to support others to attend as well.

8.2. Best Practices & Innovation Symposium (March)

The Symposium was identified as a strategy in 2008-09 Business Plan. Planning is underway; more information will be circulated to all PDD partners. The basic theme of the symposium is looking at best practices to support adults with developmental disabilities to be the best they can be.

9. Correspondence

- 9.1. Lethbridge Herald Article
- 9.2. Medicine Hat News

MOTION: **that the meeting be adjourned at 2:45 p.m.**

MC Leo VandenHeuvel

10. Next Meeting

February 26, 2009 at the Culver City Room Main Floor City Hall.

Date of Approval

Tom Hopkins, Board Vice-Chair

Leah Bruder, Recorder

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