

Edmonton Region Community Board
Persons with Developmental Disabilities

Public Board Meeting
Excel Society, Grand Manor
10766 - 97 Street
November 21st, 2007

Approved Minutes

Attendance: Don Risdon (Chair), Douglas Fletcher, Peter Portlock, Dennis Maltais, Tracy Zala, Sheryl Pearson, Martin Prentice, Hansa Thaleshvar, Susan Moisey, Marjorie Thompson

Hart Chapelle (CEO), Dan Orobko (Manager, Finance and Administrative Services Team), Arlene James (Recorder)

Guests: Ms. Laurie Blakeman, Edmonton Centre MLA, Sharon Read and Sue Kovich, Excel, Maureen Murphy Black and Lynn Groves Hautmann, Workforce 2010

Call to Order: 6:45 p.m.

Topic	Discussion	Action
Presentation - Excel	<p>Mr. Don Risdon opened the meeting. Mr. Risdon shared the Board is pleased to be meeting at Excel and thanked them for hosting. Ms. Sharon Read, President and Executive Director of Excel, presented on behalf of Excel. Ms. Read talked about how Excel uses the Balanced Scorecard as a tool to help measure their successes in meeting their Business Plan targets. Ms. Read shared the use of the Balanced Scorecard provides better reporting on how Excel is changing and growing and shows areas where improvements and growth are taking place. Ms. Sue Kovich, Program Director for PDD funded services at Excel talked about how Excel has made changes to how they collect information about the supports and services they provide to individuals. Ms. Kovich explained how the changes have helped improve reporting, and show where changes are needed. In closing, Ms. Read commented Excel's use of the Balanced Scorecard contributes to ongoing growth and change in the organization. Ms. Read also thanked the PDD Edmonton Board for providing Excel with the opportunity to host the Board meeting. Mr. Risdon thanked Excel for their report.</p>	

<p>Presentation – Edmonton Council of Service Provider Chairs</p>	<p>Ms. Read presented on behalf of the Council, on the Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) subsidy for room and board and rent. Ms. Read explained the AISH benefit provides a modified living allowance for individuals living in a facility. Grand Manor, with Excel, is defined as a facility, according to the AISH program's definition of facility. Individuals who receive AISH and live in their own homes, or in housing accommodation provided by their service provider/agency, do not receive the modified living allowance. Their accommodations do not meet the AISH definition of facility. Ms. Read talked about how individuals, receiving AISH, but not living in a designated facility, could benefit from receiving the modified living allowance. The allowance would be of great help, especially at a time when individuals and agencies are struggling to meet housing challenges.</p> <p>Ms. Read provided additional information on facts and figures, in a written overview she distributed to members of Board, "AISH Subsidy for Room and Board/Rent".</p> <p>Ms. Read indicated the request to the PDD Edmonton Board is that the issue be taken forward to the Minister of Alberta Seniors and Community Supports, with the request that the subsidy be applied to individuals in their own homes.</p> <p>Mr. Risdon responded, indicating an understanding of the issue. Mr. Risdon stated the Board will continue to provide whatever influence they can to bring about a change in the rent subsidy issue.</p> <p>Mr. Risdon further shared there is awareness of the issues of AISH and affordable housing within the Ministry of Seniors of Community Supports and with the PDD Board Chairs. Mr. Risdon thanked Ms. Read for the presentation, indicating he is not aware of what may be specifically pursued at this time, but he will carry the message forward, through the PDD Council of Chairs. Mr. Hart Chapelle responded to a question about availability of housing for PDD funded individuals, indicating that there is an overall decline in the number of rental units</p>	
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	available, because of the high number of recent condo conversions.	
1. Welcome and Introductions Call for Presentations	Members of the Board shared in a time of introductions. Mr. Risdon welcomed Edmonton Centre MLA Ms. Laurie Blakeman to the meeting. Mr. Risdon invited members of the audience to make presentations to the Board. Mr. Risdon asked that they register their presentation with Board Coordinator, Ms. Arlene James.	No formal requests for presentations were received.
2. Review of Agenda	No changes.	Moved by Ms. Hansa Thaleshvar, seconded by Ms. Susan Moisey that the agenda be accepted as presented. Carried.
3. Review of Minutes	September 19 th 2007 Public Board meeting: Correction noted in item 7.2 Budget Report – Projected deficit changed to read “\$2.5 million”.	Moved by Mr. Martin Prentice, seconded by Ms. Tracy Zala that the minutes be accepted with noted correction. Carried.
4. Correspondence & Upcoming Events	Correspondence – None Events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PDD Edmonton Open House – November, 29 • SKILLS Open House, December 18 • PDD Public Board meeting, January 16, 2008 	
5. Presentations	Ms. Maureen Murphy-Black and Ms. Lynn Groves-Hautmann presented on Workforce 2010 - Calgary and Edmonton’s Collaborative Partnership to implement “An Action Plan for Building People Capacity”. Ms. Murphy-Black is the Director of Strategic Development with the Alberta Council of Disability Services. Ms. Groves-Hautmann is the Chair of the Edmonton Workforce Committee. Ms. Groves-Hautmann is also the CEO of the Chrysalis organization. Information packages were distributed to members of the Board. Ms. Murphy-Black provided information on the background of Workforce 2010. Ms. Murphy-Black talked about	

	<p>how Workforce 2010 is about building a well trained, stable and professional workforce, to provide support to children, youth and adults with disabilities. Ms. Groves-Hautmann talked about the Calgary-Edmonton collaborative partnership. The partnership was formed in the fall of 2007. They have set out a three year work plan. Seven Edmonton agencies sit on the council.</p> <p>Ms. Groves-Hautmann talked about the challenges staff undertake, often working two jobs, because their current jobs in the disability sector don't pay them sufficient wages. Ms. Groves-Hautmann acknowledged there are many good things happening too and we need to celebrate how organizations in the sector are making a difference in the lives of individuals with disabilities.</p> <p>In concluding, Ms. Groves-Hautmann thanked the Board for supporting the partnership. During a time of discussion the question of low enrollment in Disability Studies at post secondary institutions was raised. There was concern expressed about the potential for programs to be discontinued. Ms. Murphy-Black responded indicating training and education is very important. Efforts are taking place to encourage enrollment and develop a bursary program. Foundations in Community and Disability Studies in-service training course will be available on-line in January 2008.</p> <p>Member of the PDD Edmonton Board, Ms. Susan Moisey, and Associate Professor at the Centre for Distance Learning, Athabasca University shared that Athabasca University recently established a scholarship in the Masters of Human Services Program Administration. Mr. Chapelle acknowledged Ms. Groves-Hautmann and Ms. Murphy-Black for all of the work they have been doing. Mr. Chapelle commended Ms. Groves-Hautmann for her many contributions to Workforce 2010, which he noted she does in addition to her work as CEO of a large organization. Mr. Chapelle acknowledged Ms. Murphy-Black for her incredible investments in the sector.</p> <p>Mr. Risdon extended thanks on behalf on the Board.</p>	
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PDD Edmonton Deferral Process		Carried forward to the January Public Board meeting
6. Business Arising from Minutes	Under New Business in item 7.2 CEO Report – Report on Risk Management Plan. Mr. Chapelle indicated this item will be reported on at the January Public Board Meeting.	Report at January Public Board Meeting.
7. New Business 7.1 PDD Council of Chairs meeting	<p>Mr. Risdon provided a report on the PDD Council of Chairs meeting, held earlier today. Mr. Risdon shared the following highlights from the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget - It is expected an announcement on the Alberta Government's Budget 2008/09 will be made February 14, 2008. Agency staffing issues, AISH issues and affordable housing are some of the pressing issues facing the Ministry of Seniors and Community Supports. • The new Funding Allocation model will soon be finalized. The allocation model is the process for how dollars get allocated out to the regions. • Business Planning - There is work taking place ensure the vision and mission statements of each PDD region are consistent throughout the province. Each Region will determine their priorities and strategies. • PDD Council of Chairs Evaluation – The Chairs took part in an evaluation process, looking at the areas of work they have been involved in. Two key priorities areas are Inter-Ministerial cooperation and Eligibility. In the area of Inter-Ministerial cooperation, there has been increased sharing and cooperation between the Ministry of Seniors and Community Supports and Justice, Children's Services and Health. In eligibility there is work taking place around a regulation. The regulation is expected to be finalized in the next few months. • Core Governance Policies Framework – The Framework is the broad outline of policies for PDD in the Ministry. It is almost complete and should soon be coming out to the Regions. Mr. Risdon commented each Region will need to review their policies to ensure they are aligned 	Mr. Risdon will share the Chair's Evaluation document with the Board.

	<p>with the Framework.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The final report on the Review of Agencies Boards and Commissions (ABCs) has been released. There are 248 ABCs in the province. There are 15 recommendations in the report. PDD was found to be in compliance with the recommendations. 	
<p>7.2 CEO Report</p>	<p>Mr. Chapelle reported on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agency Contracts - Contractual agreements with community agencies for this current fiscal year were completed by the target date of October 2007. Payment has gone out under the new contracts. • New Contract Template - The Ministry of Seniors and Community Supports, PDD Program Branch has developed a new contract template intended for use for the 2008/09 fiscal year, with an April, 1, 2008 start date. However, before the new contract template is implemented there is further work needed. Mr. Chapelle stated the PDD Edmonton Region would not be using the new contract template until work on creating a solid implementation plan has been completed. Mr. Chapelle shared this information at a recent meeting with the Edmonton Council of Service Providers. Mr. Chapelle explained that before a new contract template is implemented there is a need to deal with strategic changes in the PDD business plan model and a need to set out principles to better define the business relationship between PDD and service providers. These areas need to be addressed at a provincial table where discussions can take place with the Alberta Council of Disability Services (ACDS), the Ministry and PDD. To date there have been two encouraging meetings held with senior staff from the PDD Program Branch, representatives from ACDS, PDD Calgary CEO, Dr. Alex Hillyard and PDD Edmonton CEO. Next steps involve ACDS and PDD putting together a communication plan, to help ensure all involved are operating from same base, with consistent messaging. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• New Money for the PDD Sector-The Ministry recently announced \$15 million in new money for the sector. The money will be divided among regions. Edmonton's share will be \$4.7 million. The money is to be used to support community agencies in meeting staff recruitment and retention challenges. <p>Agencies have been asked to submit a plan to show how the money can make a difference in their specific recruitment and retention issues. At this time it is not known if the funds will become part of the ongoing PDD budget. The plan is for funds to be out to agencies prior to the Christmas break.</p> <p>During a discussion and question time, Mr. Chapelle clarified it is up to each service provider to allocate the dollars with their agency. A comment was made regarding the new contract template and the fact that not all service providers belong to ACDS. Mr. Chapelle provided assurances that information will be shared through other means.</p> <p>Regarding the agency contracts for this fiscal year, Mr. Chapelle clarified the current contracts were extended. The new contract template was not utilized. There was a comment made about the angst and frustrations expressed by service providers on the new contract template, along with a question about the understanding service providers now have regarding the new developments and how the new developments have alleviated some of the concern. Mr. Chapelle responded indicating clear and consistent communication and ensuring information is shared broadly will help to alleviate frustrations and address concerns. He also talked about having trust in the process and the requirement for PDD to demonstrate its sincerity. There was an additional comment about the PDD Boards being involved in the final approval process for the contract template. Currently authority is with the Ministry of Seniors and Community Supports. It is hoped the PDD Council of Board Chairs and CEOs can provide influence in this area.</p>	
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	<p>In concluding the CEO Report Mr. Risdon thanked Mr. Chapelle for all of his work, and in particular the role he has taken in addressing the new contract template.</p>	
<p>7.3 Budget Report</p>	<p>Mr. Dan Orobko presented the Budget Report, "Expenditure and Statistical Summary Report August 2007". Mr. Orobko reviewed the report. The following are noted highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The addition of \$4.7 million for service provider agency staff recruitment and retention. • Current deficit being forecast is \$1.5 million. The deficit is a result of the requirement for PDD regions to set aside dollars for the PDD Innovation Fund. • In the New People Supported Category we are showing numbers similar to this same time last year. • There were 21 individuals deferred/waiting for services, as of October 1, 2007. The average deferral time is just under six months. <p>Mr. Orobko provided a detailed report on each of the categories in the summary.</p> <p>Mr. Orobko responded to a question about where the impact of the minimum wage increase is showing, indicating the increase has not resulted in much budget pressure and costs are being absorbed. A question was presented about deferrals. In a given monthly period how many people are supported and how many are carried over to the next month? Mr. Orobko indicated the data on deferrals is not currently showing this information. A further question in this area was presented. The question was: "Do individuals waiting for supports access other services, such as generic services, stay with the generic services when PDD supports become available?" In the response provided the indication was individuals appear to remain with the generic service.</p> <p>In concluding discussion, Mr. Chapelle indicated the Board will receive a full report on the Deferral/Wait List at the January public Board meeting.</p>	
<p>8. Other</p>	<p>Research Project: Ms. Emma Pivato talked about a research project she is currently involved in. The project is about a</p>	

	<p>quality of life issue, of particular concern for persons with multiple disabilities and their parents/guardians. The project will look at the need of greater washroom accessibility for individuals with multiple disabilities.</p> <p>Ms. Pivato also talked about another project she is working on, with the Industrial Design group at the University of Alberta. The project involves the development of a new wheelchair commode design. Ms. Pivato commented that overall these issues of accessibility for individuals with profound disabilities are poorly understood and there is work to be done to help increase awareness and understanding. Ms. Pivato shared there is further information in the November /December 2007 issue of the PDD Edmonton newsletter, "Including You".</p> <p>Mr. Risdon thanked Ms. Pivato for sharing information on the work she is involved in and acknowledged the importance of the research and hopes it helps promotes better understanding of the issues.</p> <p>Board Member Recognition: Mr. Risdon provided a presentation to outgoing member of the Board, Ms. Ursula Stewart, for all of her "tireless and passionate" work over the past six years. Mr. Risdon commended Ms. Stewart for her many contributions to PDD Edmonton.</p>	
9. Adjournment	Mr. Risdon thanked Excel for hosting the meeting.	Ms. Susan Moisey moved the meeting be adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Don Risdon, Chair

Date

Hart Chapelle, CEO

Date