



CAN Human Rights Table

July 6, 2017

11:00 – 1:00pm

Independent Living Resource Centre of Calgary

Minutes of Meeting

Present

Brittney Gavin – Cerebral Palsy Association in Alberta
Robyn Joffe – Community Living Alternative Services
Diane Dmytryshyn – Calgary Community Day Services
Matthew Hagel – Independent Living Resource Centre of Calgary
Keith Geddes – Vecova Centre
Brandon MacLean – March of Dimes

Regrets

Cam Stewart – Alberta Human Rights Commission
Cath Petrinack – Children’s Link Society
Mary-Fran Stoll – Children’s Link Society
Kevin Zeh – Calgary Police
Leanne Squair – City of Calgary

Item		Action
1.	<u>Welcome and Introductions</u> Participants introduced themselves and the organizations they represent.	
2.	<u>Approval of June Minutes</u> - Group approved June minutes - Brittney summarized the conversation from our June meeting	ALL: Contact Brittney if you are interested in continuing with the CAN Human Rights table and she will give you access to the online hub space



CALGARY ABILITY NETWORK
HUMAN RIGHTS

① What do you hope to gain from these meetings?

- Education
 - work w/ the police
 - acceptance of different disabilities
 - understanding when human rights have been violated - including caregivers
 - addressing discrimination
- Enhance organizational capacity
 - collaboration for smaller agencies to survive
 - support
 - unify the sector
- Creating advocates
 - working w/ guardians/caregivers to advocate for those who can't do it for themselves
 - protection of human rights

② What are the "hot spots" related to human rights?

- Transitions
 - age 18, human rights and support services change
 - age 65, taken off AISH
 - differences in working w/ kids/youth compared to adults
- Policy / Systems
 - finding housing on AISH budget is difficult
 - systemic barriers to existing guidelines in nursing homes
 - abuse line for persons w/ disabilities
 - systems to enforce standards, e.g. rental housing renovations
- Creating Advocates
 - education /awareness on human rights
 - targeting people who work w/ persons w/ disabilities

a) Action Items Follow-Up

- Brittney connected with Kevin Zeh from Calgary Police Service; interested in attending future meetings



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brittney contacted Cam Stewart from AB Human Rights Commission; interested in attending future meetings - Brittney attended Community Development Learning Initiative (CDLI) Meet-Up with Disability Action Hall and Poverty Talks!; invited persons with lived experiences to the table - Reminder to contact Brittney if you are interested in continuing with the CAN Human Rights table so she can get you set-up on the online hub space 	
<p>3.</p>	<p><u>Roundtable Updates</u></p> <p>Brittney:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Alberta Culture will be coming in for our September meeting to begin planning. - CDLI Next Steps – Carya Calgary connection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • United Nations Human Rights Day December 10, 2017 <p>Robyn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vulnerable persons registry exists in Calgary - Works with Police – has done training on issues related to disabilities <p>Diane:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No updates <p>Matthew:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Upcoming Celebration Day: United Nations International Day of People with Disability (IDPD) December 3, 2017 <p>Brandon:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chair of IDPD committee - Worked on Alliance for Inclusive and Accessible Canada; group focused on addressing “how can legislation around the disability act move forward?” - Currently conducting an online survey 	



<p>4.</p>	<p><u>Alberta Culture Preparation (Sept 7, 2017)</u></p> <p>a) How do we define human rights?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Group reviewed three definition of Human Rights: <p>United Nations Human Rights Definition: <i>“Human rights are inherent to all human being, regardless of race, sex, nationality, ethnicity, language, life and liberty, freedom from slavery and torture, freedom of opinion and expression, the right to work and education, and many more. Everyone is entitled to the rights, without discrimination.”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Definition is very broad; some of the things mentioned aren’t particularly relevant to Alberta political climate such as “freedom from slavery and torture” <p>Canadian Human Rights Act: <i>“All individuals should have an opportunity equal with other individuals to make for themselves the lives that they are able and wish to have and to have their needs accommodated, consistent with their duties and obligations as members of society, without being hindered in or prevented from doing so by discriminatory practices based on race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, family status, genetic characteristics, disability or conviction for an offence for which a pardon has been granted or in respect of which a record suspension has been ordered.”</i></p> <p>Alberta Human Rights Act: <i>“Whereas it is recognized in Alberta as a fundamental principle and as a matter of public policy that all persons are equal in: dignity, rights and responsibilities without regard to race, religious beliefs, colour, gender, gender identity, gender expression, physical disability, mental disability, age, ancestry, place of origin, marital status, source of income, family status or sexual orientation.”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– The Alberta definition includes source of income, which is important; additionally, it specifically recognizes both physical and mental disabilities– No definitions include health status– Robyn read <i>Vecova’s Charter of Rights for Persons with Disabilities</i>	
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- Persons with disabilities often have people making decisions on their behalf; it is important to ensure they are protected from abuse
- Many people don't know their rights
- It's important to keep our definition broad
- **Final decision:** Group will adjust the Alberta Human Rights Act definition by incorporating aspects of Vecova's document to be more specific to persons with disabilities

b) SWOT Analysis

Strengths:

- Diversity between agencies at the table
- Historical experience at the table; a lot of work done already in this area
- Cross section of agencies – government and community organizations
- Five years of funding from United Way
- Expanded network – we each have our own
- Accountable to the community
- Have some committed organizations
- Members have experience with planning and creating a terms of reference
- Coming together strengthens our political voice – one voice

Weaknesses:

- Shouldn't reinvent the wheel
- Continuity – what happens when five-year funding runs out?
- Agency amalgamation (lack of funding)
- No persons with lived experience currently at the table – self-advocates
- Very little representation at the table from persons under age 18

***Question: Do we focus on adults? People under age 18 don't represent themselves, however children have rights too*

- Human rights encompasses a large number of potential focus areas
- Need more people around the table
- No budget
- Possibility of committee member changes



- How do we access and engage caregivers/guardians?
- What will give validity to what we're doing? How do we translate words into action?

Opportunities:

- Mental health committee representation
- Five years of funding from United Way has flexible indicators
- Provincial review – Safety and Vulnerability (David Eggen)
- [Bill 205](#) - Advocate for Persons with Disabilities recently passed (Sandra Jensen)
- International Day of Persons with Disabilities on December 3, 2017
- United Nations Human Rights Day on December 10, 2017
- Changing government/upcoming elections
- Alberta Committee of Citizens with Disabilities (ACCD)/[Voice of Albertans with Disabilities](#) (VAD)
- [Alberta Disabilities Forum](#) (ADF) – Brittney currently a member
- Awareness and education
- Promote organizations and enhance organizational capacity
- Learn more about current issues
- Action-oriented members

Threats:

- Timeliness – e.g. elections coming up soon, International Day of Persons with Disabilities coming up soon
- Economy of Calgary – less funding for social services
- Changes in municipal and provincial government
- No formal commitment from organizations currently (no terms of reference)

c) What do we need moving forward?

- No suggestions at this time



<p>5.</p>	<p><u>Wrap Up</u></p> <p>a) Who else needs to be at the table?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Matthew will contact Traci Mancini from the City of Calgary– Robyn will contact the Office of Public Guardian and PDD <p>b) Co-chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Matthew has volunteered to co-chair <p><u>NEXT MEETING (WITH ALBERTA CULTURE):</u></p> <p>Date: Thursday, September 7, 2017</p> <p>Time: TBD</p> <p>Location: Community Living Alternative Services Unit 110, 112 – 28 St SE, Calgary, AB, T2A 6J9</p>	<p>MATTHEW: Contact Traci Mancini from the City of Calgary</p> <p>ROBYN: Contact the Office of Public Guardian and PDD</p>
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