



**Chairs:** Kim Presser, Karen Dommett

**Present**

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|--|---|
| Scott Godfrey (AAFSC)                  | Kim Presser (Between Friends)               |
| Ermira Kusari (CAN)                    | Laurie Borudage (CP Kids and Families)      |
| Karen Dommett (Calgary Adaptive Hub)   | Janice Schneider (Stars Youth Singers)      |
| Leonard O'Keefe (DDRC)                 | Nikola Stevens (We Did It)                  |
| John Marquina (Abilty4Good)            | Deanne Rommens (City of Calgary-Rec)        |
| Kim Yager (Vecova)                     | Karly Mortimer (National Access Art Center) |
| Alyson Thompson (Recreational Respite) |   |

**Meeting Minutes**

1 Land Acknowledgement  
Welcome and Introductions

2 **CAN UPDATE**

- CAN did not receive the Civil Society Fund, which it hoped to use to expand its reach. CAN will however proceed with the name change (Alberta Ability Network) and will expand by relying on the support of all the members. CAN will continue to seek other sources of funding.

**Member Spotlight – Recreational Respite**

- Has a team of recreation therapists and services include 1-to-1 support in individuals' homes or in the community. Support all ages and a formal diagnosis is not required – members can self-identify or choose not to to access services. Also have group programming (all virtual currently). Have a curated calendar each month with recreational programs as well as workshops which are skill focused (self-regulation and coping skills, anti-bullying strategies for youth, art and mixed media, cooking sessions).

- This month are running an Identify and Culture program; Stepping into Independence workshop (ages 12-18+). Can participate in one session or the whole series (10 in each topic). More info on the website: [www.recrespite.com](http://www.recrespite.com).

For questions, contact Alyson at [alyson@recrespite.com](mailto:alyson@recrespite.com)

**Discussion:**

- **Do you have connecting and referring services?**

- Have worked closely with a lot of organizations since 2008 but it has been enhanced in the last year much more.

- **What does the financial commitment look for families?**

- As a social enterprise there is a fee structure on a scale. 1-to-1 services is \$29.50/hour (no min or max); virtual programming ranges \$15-25 per session. If they register for the whole series, the cost is reduced for the commitment.

**- Do you work closely with FSCD and PDD on funding?**

- Not a direct provider for these funding types. So far no families have been successful in adjusting the family managed plans to include Recreational Respite. Families are utilizing funding from private funding sources.

- Partnered with Jays Care Foundation who surveyed the families to see what they need and based on the responses, they provided money for the families to access 1-to-1 services through Recreational Respite (either at home or in the community, depending on the comfort level of the family).

- For virtual programs, connected with AAFS and Autism Calgary in providing virtual programming to their participants and brought programming into peer support night at no cost.

**- Do you have age restrictions?**

- No. They youngest supported was 3½m but also support the ageing population. When bringing the programming into the home, it also serves as respite for the caregivers as they are not required to participate.

**- How many families do you support? What gaps are you seeing that you are able to fill through programming? What are your goals for future partnerships?**

- Does not currently have access to the total number of families they serve. There are a number of gaps that exist in rural areas. Teams can be built based on the inquiry from the family. Brainstorm with organizations about best approaches to serve the families.

**Member Spotlight Series Sign-up:**

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1KAh5\\_7ou1uRE2ITDXGHXyf6R\\_YpGkJsmza8xCNIFY0/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1KAh5_7ou1uRE2ITDXGHXyf6R_YpGkJsmza8xCNIFY0/edit?usp=sharing)

**Agency Updates – Summer programming**

**We Did It! School-Age Care Society:** volunteer-based organization that offers programming for school-age children under the age of 13. Currently the programming is once a month as an art class. Pre-covid they were ready to launch some culinary programs. Will continue the art class online over the summer. Do not currently have funding but have applied for it. Should it come through, it will help expand the program. Looking into collaborating with other agencies as well. Participation is generally consistent.

**DDRC:** Since we moved to Level I restrictions, people are choosing to stay home so the agency is offering phone check-ins to see how they are doing; engage in activities online via Zoom. As vaccines have become available to persons with disabilities, people are choosing to wait until they get their vaccine before returning to activities. For the Learning

and Leadership program they are looking into providing new workshops to keep them engaged and interested. Will continue on this path over the summer.

- As far as the vaccine rollout is concerned, they relay the info to the members that reach out for it however for the most part, the families are already very knowledgeable on the topic. Most of the families they have connected with, have already booked the vaccine appointment.

**Youth Singers:** the restrictions have hit the organizations pretty hard. Lost half of the members however the children that have stayed on are the ones that rely on the agency the most (about 34 children). Received funding do to the year end show for ? Heritage. Working on making an outdoor classroom – looking into funding opportunities for it.  
- WinSport received funding from Calgary Foundation to set up a tent to support outdoor programming fully accessible space – they are open to connecting with the community regarding the space.

**Vecova:** with new restrictions in place, have moved to more virtual programming. There are still some members accessing in-person activities still available in the community (going to the Zoom, being outdoors). Have seen a significant uptake in online programming. Members are not reporting Zoom fatigue so far. Tentatively moving forward on a week-by-week basis for programming. Serving 60-80% percent of the members, and the remaining members will hopefully return once they have received their vaccine. The main facility remains open two afternoon a week and bit on the weekend for youth fitness and for families to book the gym for fitness.  
- Vecova is offering mental health services as well. Referral form included in the email with the minutes.

**AAFS:** Working with Trellis for a physically distanced indoor cooking program. Planning other programs on a holding pattern for the summer. Camping will not be moving forward for this year. Looking into theme weeks, with a target sport (i.e. archery, fencing, target shooting). Continuing to work towards identify suitable spaces. Providing virtual boxing programming and other online exercise programs. Have a practicum student leading the fencing program. Working with Epic Fencing Club and planning to utilize their spaces as soon as allowed to. The student that will support the work on the resource list for the CAN Recreation table has been confirmed.

**National Access Art Center:** been busy with virtual programs. Artists who have the means and support to join online have been very active; those who do not, have not been as engaged. Attendance continues to remain consistent. Did a programming overhaul in January to better respond to the needs of the artists (structure, themes). Looking at another reinvigoration for the summer, taking into consideration Zoom fatigue. Found that working on specific projects were better for the artists. Have 10 outdoor exhibition sites launching on the summer on window spaces. Looking into an outdoor school for the

summer. Performing art classes, have been working with facilitators digitally, prioritizing people with lived experience being the facilitators and leaders for the dance and movement program (locally and nationally). Hoping to get the Professional Dance Ensemble together over the summer to work on a few projects. Working on a new project with many partners exploring all things gender, burlesque, stand up comedy, special effects makeup, graphic design, film. The first session is called Digivovle and will move into more into writing, theater. Professional Ensemble is tentatively slated to go to Montreal this fall however if travel is not possible, there are different ways to work online wit them. Working on theater performances that might go to Glasgow, Forum on Climate Change. Surveyed the artists and found that 40% were keen to return to programming as soon as AHS allow; 40% will wait until they are vaccinated and 20% will wait until the whole provinces is vaccinated. Based on that, will maintain the virtual programming.

**CP Kids and Families:** moving forward with summer camps with smaller ground in person and one-on-one and continue wit the well received virtual programming. Running the adapted bike clinic in a warehouse by appointment only. Had a Bingo, Karaoke, Dance night with Boom Wellness and activity in a box each month.

**Between Friends:** based on the changes in restrictions happening, they have a dedicated staff planning different scenarios regarding programing. Will move to a more respite model for the summer is camps are not allowed (3 people per group). Planning to open registration on April 28<sup>th</sup>. Virtual programs are doing well, sold out about 90% in about an hour today. Based on conversations with families, they are not adapting well to the ever-changing nature of restrictions, so the agency has opted to wait longer before making final decisions on programs.

- Inclusion Training is going very well. 70 people attended the program in the month of April. The first 3 hours are now available online.

**Calgary Adapted Hub:** Hosting the third Research and Community Engagement Seminar with Speaker Mr. Eli Wolff ( <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/research-and-community-engagement-seminar-speaker-mr-eli-wolff-tickets-148368551331?aff=erelexpmlt>).

- Summer programming: Mount Royal University was planning on running their camp but pulled the pin on all summer programming including a one-week parasport specific camp. But they are continuing to look at options to deliver the program in August.

- University of Calgary did their one-week summer virtual camp over the March break. Attendance was low, likely due to fatigue among youth however it made program management easier. Unclear what the summer camp program (two weeks of parasport camps – one young and one teenage group).

- All programs at WinSport are in the backburner. Programs are ready to go for Strength and Conditioning and para-health sport program. They are also dealing with some staff turnover.

- Have been able to address a lot of the messaging and transparency with the partners through the Inclusive Training with Between Friends.
- Attended the Recreation Virtual fair from Children's Link. Attendance was low however the conversations were very meaningful.

### **Ability4good**

- The summer camp will not be taking place for the second year in a row. Focusing on social skills and respite programming.
- Radiate Counselling Centre aims in improving mental wellness and building healthy relationships in our community. The program offers affordable short term online or in-person services for people aiming to enhance their lives and achieve their goals and aspirations. Radiate Counselling Centre offers the following services:
  - Individual, couples and family counselling support
  - Mental wellness workshops
  - Let's Play & Chat Online Group Social skills group for children
  - Mental wellness support group for children

[https://www.ability4good.com/radiate\\_counselling\\_centre](https://www.ability4good.com/radiate_counselling_centre)

### **City of Calgary – Recreation**

- The City continues to be cautious. Started with in-person youth programs on Monday and will push forward despite the school closures. Outdoor programming only with access to washrooms. In addition there is an indoor space to go to in case of severe weather.
- Fitness program, which includes adapted fitness, hoping to get it up and running after the May long weekend, and moving forward with summer programming, all outdoors (therefore accessibility might not be the best in all programs). Looking at other locations as well. The City does not own any dry arenas so they are looking at the communities to see if they can use their spaces.
- Successful ran a series of outdoor programs over the winter with 10 participants per group. Will be running some of these programs, especially for children and youth. If in the field, there will be two groups in separate ends that can accommodate 18 children plus 2 instructors.
- Facilities are closed with limited access. Clients interested in using the pools, have to be accompanied by a swimming coach (credentials not required).
- For more info and bookings:

<https://liveandplay.calgary.ca/home/public/page/home?redirect=/liveandplay>

### **Member Spotlight Series Sign-up:**

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1KAh5\\_7ou1uRE2ITDXGHXyf6R\\_YpGkJsmza8xCNIFY0/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1KAh5_7ou1uRE2ITDXGHXyf6R_YpGkJsmza8xCNIFY0/edit?usp=sharing)

### **Sports and recreation (grants, award nominations, new research, etc.)**

- There is not as much support and granting opportunities as there were last year. In the arts sector, there was a big injection into equity seeking communities.



- Calgary Development Authority is putting together a matching space finder and there were conversations about the accessibility of the facilities. They are looking at revitalizing the downtown core and opening it up to the community (with an arts lens).
- Active City is a group of sports organizations and facilities (<https://www.activecityproject.org/playbook-2030>). They received funding from the Civil Society Fund. The group originated after the 2023 Olympic bid to look at how to take advantage of all the opportunities in the City collectively.

**Inclusive Sport and Recreation Collective**

- At their last meeting, it was mentioned that a large number of sports organizations across the province are taking an inclusive and accessible approach in their programming.

**Events**

**Soccability – Para**

**Open House FREE events April 18 & 25**

**When:** Sundays 2:00-3:00 pm and 3:00-4:00 pm

**Where:** EMFC indoor fieldhouse located at

#5, 640 28 St NE, 640 28 Street Northeast, Calgary, AB T2A 6R3

**Who:** All abilities for children/youth under 18 is welcome!

**Sign up:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/emfc-soccability-open-house-tickets-150410853913>

\*\* Registration will be open the week of April 19th for our May - June season at our [www.emfc.ca](http://www.emfc.ca)!

**Soccability - Powerchair**

**When:** Thursdays 5:30-6:30 pm, 6:30-7:30 pm and 7:30-8:30 pm

**Where:** The Commons Church located at

2404 Kensington Rd NW, Calgary, AB T2N 3S1

**Who:** All abilities for children/youth under 18 is welcome!

**Sign up:** Contact coach Sam CF at (587)-434-5258 [coachsamcf@gmail.com](mailto:coachsamcf@gmail.com) to attend

\*\* Registration will be open soon for our May - June season at our [www.emfc.ca](http://www.emfc.ca)!

Wrap-Up/Adjournment

**Next meeting:**

**Date:** May 13, 2021

**Time:** 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

**Location:** Zoom