



Date/Time: Jan 20, 22/9:30-10:30am

Location: Zoom

Chairs: Kim Presser, Karen Dommett

In Attendance:

Cydney Yaremko (BLOOM)
Elizabeth Kaleta (CPAA)
Kim Presser (Between Friends)
Karen Dommett (CAH)
Candice McLellan (CP Kids & Fam.)
Michael (ILRCC)
Leonard O’Keefe (DDRC)

Suzanna Tangen (UPSA)
Scott Godfrey (AAFC)
Kevin Kwasny (City of Calgary-Rec)
Heather Craig (City of Edmonton)
Ermira Kusari (AAN)
Eva Jones (AAN)
Jenna (UPSA)
Alyson Thompson (Recreation Respite)

Meeting Minutes

Land Acknowledgement
Welcome and Introductions

Review/Approval of previous meeting’s minutes

Topics of Discussion:

Round table agency updates

BLOOM: running adults day program on Tuesdays at Evergreen; movement program and a few nights of virtual programming. Shuffling participants and staff around to adopt to guidelines.

CPAA: programs continuing virtually; experience an increase in attendance.

Added two special events for January:

- Jan 13 – virtual live concert with a band
- Jan 28 at 6:30pm: princess party with crafts, songs and other interactive and fun activities. Registrations is open to all ages and is free:

<https://cpalberta.akaraisin.com/ui/onlineprograms2021>

Preparing for in-person programs but working with parents and hear their feedback. Continuing to provide a parent support group and working on providing a workshop to address mental health support in interactive ways.

Recreation Respite: recreation programming for children, youth and adults and building workshops for teens (confidence building, self-regulation, life skills, engaging with peers and working towards goals and outcomes). All programming is being provided virtually. Running a hybrid program with seniors to meet them where they are at. Have put together a series of “Counselling for Caregivers” for caregivers who support an individual with a disability and those who support an individual with Dementia or Alzheimer’s. Both sessions are taking place in February and there will be a psychotherapist with the skillsets of both these topics. There is still room in the Dementia and Alzheimer’s session.

Continue to provide 1:1 in person supports (in home & community). The virtual group program calendars are available on their website:

<https://www.recrespite.com/virtual-services/>

Looking for collaboration opportunities and ways to support other agencies.

CP Kids and Families: Offices are closed on Mondays and Fridays with limited staff in the office; by appointment. Virtual programs are busy and have opened the bike program and hoping it will run smoothly in March and April. Offering the coffee socials as info sessions sharing what organizations are available for the members – reach out to Candice if you would like to join the coffee socials and share more about your agency (second Tuesday of every month).

<https://www.calgarycp.org/>

DDRC: Business as usual, not a lot of changes. Received a large stack washable and N95 masks that they have been providing to their staff. Leonard will connect with DDRC staff to find out the source of the supplies.

Calgary Adapted Hub:

Active Energizers at Repsol Sport Center is new inclusive program for kids of all abilities: <https://repsolsportcentre.com/active-energizers>

Inclusive Boccia at Mount Royal University. There has been a registration uptake and registration is pro-rated:

https://anc.ca.apm.activecommunities.com/mrurecreation/activity/search/detail/19409?onlineSiteId=0&from_original_cui=true

Mount Royal University has decided not to go forward with the wheelchair basketball program after several attempt to bring it back, registration uptake has been low. Taking an in-depth look into the program.

Parasport partners at Repsol Center had to cancel their para ID camps due to the Omicron variant. The hope is to get it back online at the end of March. This has led to a conversation to bring a sport summit together at Repsol Sport Center in 2023, bringing national sports organizations and classifiers, coaches from clubs in Western Canada.

AAFS: Several in-person programs are currently taking place (in conjunction with the guidelines set forth by Alberta Health Services alongside a few virtual programs (one being a podcast on building a program). The movie project is being offered in on-person and virtually. In the process of looking to help some of the members share their passion with others as some members are seeking certifications to lacrosse, boxing and rugby. Planning for spring (March-May) and having conversations or the summer season. Looking to take lacrosse on the road with 5 members that are starting to do lacrosse coaching and are looking for ideas to tailor the sport to specific abilities.

Ultimate Para Sports Associations: run multiport programs for persons with disabilities of varying ages. Cross country and cycling are running in-person and are re-evaluating the cycling program as it is indoors. Another block will be starting at the end of February. Virtual spin and meditation classes are being offered.

City of Edmonton: working on a 64 action corporate accessibility plan in the works and one of the actions is ties to recreation. Will be launching a pilot program starting in March with the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community to offer communication services for programs. There has been an increased interest in ASL and Captioning services. Work with the Edmonton interagency committee on inclusive recreation, similar to AAN Recreation table, where they share what is happening, sharing space and instructors, funding and professional development opportunities; as well working with ISR.

City of Calgary – Recreation: adapted fitness programs are continuing to run however evaluating children's programs as they navigate school. Hoping to relaunch a few things at the end of the February and looking to bring adaptive guests and partners to the camps.

Between Friends: Relaunching the weekend and evening adults programs. Fall programs were carried out in person successfully. Looking into doing camp

again this summer (Bonaventura) and expanding into a north site. Launched a pilot project in 2021 called GLOW (group learning opportunities and workshops) with three series: social and emotional development, health and wellness strategies, and community engagement (1 day to multiple days, depending on the topic). One of the largest topics Between Friends is working on is community engagement, providing workshops and training to persons with disabilities on what is needed to sit on various boards. Looking for partnerships for the other two topics.

Gearing for camp and looking for part-time staff, which has proven to be challenging.

Alberta Camping Association is looking into dedicating a page on their website to help agencies recruit staff.

Last of last year FSCD is no longer funding camps and 1:1 workers (families have to choose one of the other), creating some uncertainty for agencies that provide camps. Working with FSCD and communicating to families the importance of camps for the children.

Working to adjust the gender policies and exploring ways to be inclusive while supporting families and meeting the families where they are at.

- University of Calgary has an updated care policy for camps.

Next steps:

Kim, Karen and Alyson are working on a short survey that will be distributed to table members to better understand what the expectations of the members are from these meetings and compile the data to better identify ways to lead the conversations and move the agenda forward.

Recap of the meeting with the new Advocate for Persons with Disabilities in Alberta

- This was the largest event that AAN has hosted to date with more than 160 people in attendance at the height of the event. Those who registered through the Eventbrite platform had the opportunity to submit questions that they would like to ask the new Advocate and 13 questions were selected from the pool. The Advocate, Greg McMeekin, provided responses to the questions that he could speak to as he is settling into the new role and noted that as he becomes familiar and further settles into the new position he will be connecting with the community to hear about the issues that people are dealing with and working towards identifying solutions and ways to address them.

Save the Date - Event

- AAN is working on bringing an exciting event on February 22, 2022 from 2-3Pm, celebrating accessibility innovators in Alberta. Keep an eye out for an email with more information and how to register.

uCareLINGO: Care-based Voice Translation App breaks down language barriers between Care Providers and patients so you can better understand their needs, reduce delays in their care, and offer them and their family members peace of mind (<https://ucarenet-technologies.com/elementor-273/>)

Coming Up

Bell Let's Talk Day: January 26, 2022 (<https://letstalk.bell.ca/en/>)

February is Recreational Therapy Month (<https://canadian-tr.org/>)

Pink Shirt Day: February 23, 2022 (<https://www.pinkshirtday.ca/>)

Spotlight Member Series sign-up sheet:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1uv96sgVZ8YvipyWdVIXoMvD8_7mPO-S00elgyFMUO98/edit?usp=sharing

Link to the AAN Recreation table folder on the Shared Google Drive:

- <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/12pSAIKVUOI4zsa0gq6z8l9BbjQhYt0oW?usp=sharing>

Wrap-Up/Adjournment

Next meeting:

Date: February 17, 2022

Time: 9:30am – 11:30am

Location: Zoom