



CAN Newcomers with Disabilities

January 26, 2021
Teleconference
Minutes of Meeting

Chair: Mezaun Lakha-Evin, Gelayol Soroor

Present

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|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Mezaun Lakha-Evin (CAN) | Jenny Crabbe (CIWA) |
| Yasmin Mohamed (Children’s Link) | Ginger Mullen (ShareStory) |
| Danny Zoetewey (SCOPE Society) | Ermira Kusari (CAN) |
| Gilary Guzman (Between Friends) | Gelayol Soroor (ISC) |
| Eghosa Ejegi (U of C) | Arevik Tokmajyan (CLIP) |
| Ben Patmore (CCIS) | Kim Marion (LEAD Foundation) |
| Andrea van Vugt (Disability Pride) | Hayat Amer (CFN) |

1.	Land Acknowledgement Welcome and Introductions
2.	November minutes - Approved
3.	<p><u>StoryShare for Seniors</u></p> <p>- Storytelling Alberta (Calgary Chapter) launched a free friendly outreach program called StoryShare as a pilot project during the pandemic for Calgary and area seniors 65 years of age or over. We have delivered over 140 StoryShare sessions so far. For more info: https://storytellingalberta.com/aboutstoryshare</p> <p><u>Calgary East Zone Newcomers Collaborative</u></p> <p>- Collaborative of different agencies in Calgary in response to the rising Covid-19 cases in NE Calgary, potentially due to more individuals living in the same household and working in the frontline.</p> <p>- The collaborative was formed to address the need in the community and set a phone line (1-833-217-6614) and those who called in, that tested positive for Covid-19, were connected to a cultural broker for resources (in their home language) such as food hampers, financial support, employment support. Services are offered in more than 20 languages.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• https://www.calgarylip.ca/cenc – Overview of the initiative and translated resources• https://www.calgarylip.ca/cenccommunitymeetings – Information and Slides from the CENC Community Meetings

- Also, if any member wants to be included in future meetings, they can connect with Samantha Burdett, the CLIP Coordinator, at Samantha.Burdett@calgary.ca and she will add them to the meeting attendee list.

Community/Cultural Broker Presentation

- CAN Newcomers table is currently working with Action Dignity to plan for a presentation on Cultural/Community Broker program. Through the Broker Strategy, residents are trained to become connectors and bridge between neighbors, groups, community organizations, and service providers. More information will be distributed once available.

Comments/Suggestions:

- The presentation would be beneficial to agencies so they can better serve the community.

Events that bring information to the agencies/community

- Children's Link Fair brings together agencies and community members who are or have family members who are making the transition to adulthood and presents them with the opportunity to learn more about the services available.

- Private Career Development Contractors Association of Alberta (PCDC): includes immigrant and settlement serving agencies that provide information around contracts that agencies have with funders for employment training. In collaboration with the Government of Alberta, PCDC hosts a historical event called Connections that was hosted last week that enables income support case workers to visit booths virtually, as well a panel discussion component, to bridge the information to refer better. The intersection of the disability sector with such agencies can be when parents are seeking employment training while caring for a child or adult with a disability. In such cases, it is difficult for agencies to provide respite care for the children/adults. Such events can bring together sectors but there should be certain limits in place.

Family Support for Children with Disabilities (FSCD) and childcare:

- Work-related hours money is to be used for before and after school care. Parents can apply for a subsidy from the Government of Alberta and there is an assessment that is done to determine whether the applicant qualifies based on the income (know as the parent portion). The other portion, some agencies have funding to pay for it at a regular childcare rate. Then the parents can then reach out to FSCD for supports to pay for the before and after school childcare.

- FSCD are currently gathering feedback to make sure FSCD services are delivered effectively and sustainably, so families can continue to access them into the future. Deadline to submit your feedback is February 1, 2021:

<https://www.alberta.ca/family-support-for-children-with-disabilities-engagement.aspx>



Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) Questionnaire

Calgary Ability Network Poverty Reduction table are planning on embarking on an educational campaign about AISH. over the years, the table has come across a lot of information and misinformation in the community regarding AISH which has contributed to the stigma around the program and those who rely on it. The table has created a simple questionnaire and encourage everyone to answer and further distribute to their networks and social media platforms. The table is particularly interested in finding out what the general public (who do not rely on AISH or do not support people on AISH) knows about the program. In addition, we encourage everyone to not research information about AISH before answering the questionnaire. The deadline to answer the questionnaire is **February 10, 2021**: <https://forms.gle/MFzBTEzggq3XguPg6>

- Should you have any questions, you can contact sarah.boon1@ucalgary.ca

Service delivery Models:

- Over the course of the coming table meetings, we will look at the various ways that services are provided and how we fill the gaps that exist to better serve newcomers. In addition, mental health is an important aspect that we need to focus on as it is usually secondary to the other needs that families have to meet.

Identifying needs and training opportunities

- Draft a request to be sent to table members regarding their interest in participating in trainings, such as the Frontline Worker Training that was provided in February of 2020. The training was useful and beneficial to many who attended it.

Question to think about for the next meeting:

- When referring newcomers to disability sectors, what can settlement sector practitioners provide to you/your agency to better serve newcomers?

4. Wrap-Up/Adjournment

Next meeting:

Date: February 23, 2020

Time: 1:30 – 3:30 PM

Location: Zoom