

Aspires Housing Group of Calgary

Minutes from Meeting of Thursday, May 2, 2019, 7-9 pm

Location of the Meeting: The Sinneave Family Foundation at The Ability Hub

Guest Speaker: John Seigner, Director of Housing: The Sinneave Family Foundation

John Seigner updated the Aspires families present with a new Supported Living presentation. The first slide titled 'Our approach' lists key principles for families or individuals to consider when evaluating their choices. John emphasized that references to terms such as 'sustainable' refers to finances and supports when you are no longer there. 'Wrap around support' means someone will be there to help them out. Key to sustainability is being connected with a good agency. Recognizing there are as many housing models as there are individuals the presentation focused on 5 examples of models. The comfort of the building is important but the supports combined with the building are what make the model. A mediocre model well executed will always be better than a 'better' model poorly executed.

If you would like more information, please call 403.210.5000 or 1.888.733.7976 or email john.seigner@sinneavefoundation.org.

Business Meeting:

1. Additions to the agenda: Add Larry Scarbeau: March of Dimes update
2. Minutes of March 7, 2019 were approved.
3. The Sinneave Family Foundation Update: John Seigner provided a few updates.
 - a) **The Glamorgan Project Video**: The Glamorgan Project video was shown. Families and one Glamorgan tenant were present at the meeting. The parents of one of the residents shared how their daughter has really come into her own since moving into Glamorgan. One of the Glamorgan tenants also added that he is very pleased with the neighbourhood and surrounding amenities. He finds transit accessible. The video is accessible through The [Sinneave Family Foundation website](#). It will also be posted on the Aspires Facebook page. (Note: The Glamorgan Building has recently been named "Horizon View")

John added that Sinneave is keeping a list of individuals who could be potential tenants in the event that there is a turn-over of units that are supported by Monarch House.

- b) **Mailing List migration to Mail Chimp**: The Aspires general email subscription list has grown substantially and is therefore being moved to an automated email platform. Emails from Aspires will come through a platform call Mailchimp, which is managed by The Sinneave Family Foundation on behalf of Aspires. Families who have been receiving Aspires email will automatically be added to the new distribution list. You can unsubscribe at any time if you do not wish to receive meeting notices and reminders from Aspires.

Families who are looking for supported housing will also have the opportunity to be added to a new database called: 'Aspires Connects.' The new database ensures a higher level of security and confidentiality. The database will be accessed by The Sinneave Family Foundation to identify individuals and families who may be interested in upcoming projects. Families may also unsubscribe from the database at any time.

A few tips:

- When filling out the information for Aspires Connects database, families need to enter the D.O.B. manually and disregard the calendar choice for now.
- Ensure a separate entry is set up for each adult with autism in your family looking for supported housing. Individuals and families will be linked in the database.
- Individuals who are their own guardians can add themselves to the database directly or families can add their adult child.
- If information in the database needs to be changed such as housing status, contact the database administrators to make the change for you.

c) Project Updates:

- AILA (Autism Independent Living Association). John travelled to Edmonton to meet with AILA and Red Deer developer, Ed Larkcom, to discuss a project they are looking at.
- Red Deer Tour: Encouraged by the positive response by Aspires families to Ed Larkcom's February presentation, Sinneave staff went to Red Deer to tour one of his projects: a three storey apartment building with small apartments on the top floor, 2 group home apartments on the second floor and communal and administration amenities on the lower level.
- John will be continuing further discussions with Ed in hopes of eventually finding the right opportunity in Calgary.

4. March of Dimes Update: Larry Scarbeau, Regional Independent Living Manager

<https://www.marchofdimes.ca/EN/AboutUs/about%20modc/Pages/WhoWeAre.aspx>

- Good News! March of Dimes has passed 1st step of Alberta accreditation with PDD (Persons with Developmental Disabilities). In 6 months the accreditation will be finalized and M.O.D. will be listed as an approved PDD agency with Level 1 accreditation.
- M.O.D. is hoping to continue to work with Aspires families. They are interested in supporting families and individuals in Edmonton and Calgary. M.O.D. plans to build their Calgary staff by the end of 2019. In Edmonton they currently have a staff of 40.
- Fee for service is also an option to clients who do not receive PDD funding.

5. Additional updates to report, Bonnie Kaplan

- 1) Aspires member Sherry Rumney proposed The Next Chapter Project in the past. She now reports that she has found a room-mate for her son and they will be moving in together.
- 2) Aspires member Raymond Kim is looking to connect with other Aspires parents to form a parent support group. Stay tuned for more details.
- 3) Facebook Group: Join the Aspires Calgary Facebook group. This is a closed group. Follow the link below to ask to join the group. If you are an Aspires member you will be accepted.
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1533178936998908/>

6. Social Update: The Aspires Spring Potluck took place on April 7th with over 50 people in attendance. John showed the Glamorgan video. Karen and Phillip Coppard organized the timing of the 3 course event: appetizers, main courses and desserts. Phillip Coppard brought a treasure hunt. Teams had to solve the clues in order work their way through to the final clue – the key to the treasure box. Thank you to everyone in attendance who pitched in to help with food and cleanup. For the next social event we will be asking for volunteers to help out again.

7. Family Round Table: Several new members were present and gave an introduction to their situations.

8. Next Meeting: Save the Date for **Thursday June 6th, 2019. 7-9 p.m.**