

Aspires Housing Group of Calgary

Minutes from Meeting of Thursday, October 3, 2019, 7-9pm

The Ability Hub, Sinneave Family Foundation

Guest Speakers:

Bill Locke and John Seigner: Council for Affordable Housing for Persons with Autism and Disabilities. Bill and John are involved with the City of Calgary to move forward on a new initiative called, The Council for Affordable Housing for Persons with Autism and Disabilities. They are working together with key stakeholders to leverage combined assets, abilities and resources to empower the affordable housing movement in Calgary specifically for autism and others with disabilities with a goal to reach 500 ASD designated units.

For more information contact: Bill Locke, Capacity Builders phone: 403-874-1814. Please see the PowerPoint presentation that accompanies this meeting.

Brian Morrissey and Sumita Anand: Above and Beyond Care: <https://www.aboveandbeyondcare.ca/> Brian and Sumita work together as the operations and facility leads for Above and Beyond Care. They provide permanent housing for individuals with developmental and/or physical disabilities building infrastructure to support the individual clients' needs and requirements. Trained caregivers and staff include a team of Recreational Therapists and access to Occupational Therapists and Behavioral Psychologists. The team works together with parents/guardians to meet the unique needs of each individual.

Above and Beyond Care is building a Respite Centre. Serenity Place is a 25 bed Respite Centre on a 4-acre parcel of land near Stoney Trail N.W. and Country Hills Boulevard N.W. In addition to 25 overnight beds, there will be 50-day program spots. The facility is being planned as a 'Get-Away Resort' for Respite visits of a few hours a day or a few days.

Serenity Place will be operated as a non-profit. It will also be used for transition living. Rent would be income scaled to 30% of income (e.g. AISH benefit). For families who may be interested in purchasing a unit the intent is to bring in a Life Lease Program. Occupancy is scheduled for the fall of 2020. Please contact this agency if you would like to find out more information to talk with Brian Morrissey, Vice President Operations, 403-616-2731.

Business Meeting:

- Request for Additional Agenda Items: no items added
- Review and Approval of Minutes from September 5, 2019: The minutes are posted on the Aspires website. No changes or corrections noted.
- Project updates and New Developments: John Seigner (Director of Independent Living, Sinneave Family Foundation)
 - **Sisters of Charity:** An information meeting was held for interested families from 5-7 p.m. prior to this evening's Aspires meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to describe the

project and to discuss support requirements of individuals living in the Sisters facility. The facility is zoned as a lodging facility, which means all residents must be able to self-evacuate both physically and behaviorally in an emergency and no over-night care is allowed. Low needs individuals would pay room and board for a room with their own bathroom, common spaces and some combination of meals provided. March of Dimes is working on a business plan to provide supports. Horizon Housing may be the agency that operates as the property owner.

- **Attainable Homes:** Attainable Homes Calgary is a non-profit, social enterprise, created and owned by The City of Calgary. Through their home ownership program, it is possible to purchase entry-level housing starting in the \$200,000 range. Currently there is a townhouse development in Martindale. We are working to organize a tour for Aspires members who may be interested in purchasing a condominium or townhouse through the program. <https://attainyourhome.com/>
- **Autism Alliance:** <https://autismalberta.ca/alliance/about-us/> The 2019 Autism Alberta Alliance Event: *A Call to Action Forming Provincial Working Groups* takes place October 11, 2019 in Edmonton. Housing and Independent Living is on the agenda. The intent is to foster discussions and ask interested individuals to volunteer for a working group on Housing and Independent Living. A team of panelists will support a discussion around 'Who will take care of our kids. – The Realities, The Options and The Future.' The Horizon View project will be shared as a successful example of housing for ASD individuals. Ways for families to ensure ongoing support in forming legal entities such as Micro-boards will also be introduced.
- **Aspires Website and 'Connects':** Website Demonstration (John Seigner) <https://aspres.ca/>
 1. If you are new to Aspires, when you join the mailing list you will receive a 'Welcome' email with a link to the 'Connects' database.
 2. If you are already an Aspires member go to Aspires 'Connects' information on the 'about' page <http://aspres.ca/about/> to access the link to enter your information into the database.
- **Social Update:** Planning for a family potluck to take place on November 17th (5 -8 p.m.) is underway. An Aspires parent (K.C.) will be planning and coordinating the event. As the potlucks are getting bigger we will be asking for volunteers to help with the various tasks by sending out a sign-up list along with the potluck invitation.
- **New Business:** S.C. (Aspires member): The Umbrella Conference, October 25-26th. The purpose of the conference is to encourage faith communities to become more inclusive for people with special needs. <https://www.umbrellaconference.com/>
- **Family Round Table:** Families and individuals in attendance who were new to Aspires introduced themselves and described the housing solution they feel would best fit them.
 - For many people this was their first Aspires meeting.
 - A few families who attended the Sisters of Charity meeting prior to the Aspires meeting stayed on and talked about their interest in the project.

- Some Aspires families described their positive experiences with Mina Care Homes, a respite care home. Families can connect with Mina by going to the website, to gather information they need regarding this agency Minacarehomes@gmail.com
- Next Meeting: There will be no November business meeting. News and updates will be provided during the 'Family Potluck' on scheduled for: **Sunday November 17, 2019 5-8 p.m.** **Please RSVP if you plan to attend and/or would like to volunteer.**
housinginfo@sinneavefoundation.org