

Aspires Housing Group of Calgary
Minutes from Meeting of Thursday, February 6, 2020, 7-9pm
The Ability Hub, Sinneave Family Foundation

Guest Speaker: John Seigner, Director of Independent Living, Sinneave Family Foundation: Presentation of new opportunities offered to Aspires by Homespace. <https://www.homespace.org/> For details of John's presentation refer to **New Business**

Business Meeting:

1. **Request for Additional Agenda Items:** Add Housing Symposium to New Business.
2. **Review and Approval of Minutes from January 9, 2020:** The minutes have been posted on the Aspires website. No changes or corrections noted.
3. **New Business:** John Seigner – presentation on PDD funding, and Homespace housing opportunities

New funding for individuals who receive PDD funding is not coming through at this time. We understand new contracts and requests for additional supports are only being considered in emergency of crisis situation. Agencies we have been in contact with also report that there is no new funding available at this time.

Paradoxically the real estate situation is currently more favorable with increased inventory coming on stream in the affordable housing market.

Homespace Presentation: <Y:\03 Programs & Initiatives\05 Independent Living\Power Points>
 Recently there has been a significant shift in the Calgary Affordable Housing landscape. Homespace: <https://www.homespace.org/> has reached out to Aspires with three housing opportunities with the potential to work for Aspires clients; all ready for occupancy in 2020.

Crescent Heights Building: Suitable for PDD eligible individuals who can manage in their own apartment. A three story apartment building comprised of eight single bedroom units and three two bedroom units. The building is located in Crescent Heights; 238 5th Avenue N.E. within easy access to nearby amenities including a community center, public transit access and downtown.

- Homespace owns the building. SCOPE <https://www.calgaryscope.org/> will provide 24/7 support on site. One unit can be repurposed to serve as an office/social area
- Rent is estimated at \$660/month (1 bedroom), \$860/month (2 bedroom).
- Homespace owns the building. The current agency gave up the building due to loss of funding. Current tenants are moving out by the end of February. New tenant move-in target is June 2020.

Actions:

1. Information will be sent out to the Aspires mailing list.

2. Sinneave will host a meeting with Scope for interested families. Scope will need to learn from families who have PDD contracts* what their current funding situation is. Funding may need to be converted to a new model. For those who have Family Managed Contracts an exemption to policy may be required. Scope may also be able to offer some 'fee-for-service' supports.

*In the current climate a person can be qualified but not receive any money until new funds become available to PDD.

Hillhurst Apartment: A new apartment building located at 344 14th Street N.W. Homespace is looking for an Agency to provide supports

- Four stories including 3000 sq. ft. of commercial space on the ground floor
- 2nd floor has a large common area, office space and 7 studio self-contained units
- 3rd floor has 10 studio units and an office
- 4th floor has 10 studio units and office
- Occupancy August or September 2020.

Scope also looked at this building but chose the Crescent Heights building over this new build because they felt the units are undersized for the need (+/- 250 sq. ft) John canvassed the Aspires families present at the meeting for feedback. Some families agreed the units would be too small; others felt the size could work.

5th Avenue Apartments: A new apartment building located at 5th Avenue and 10th Street S.W. suitable for independent tenants with concierge support within the larger building community.

- 74 units, 14 studio, 60 one-bedroom
- Rent up to \$728/month
- Ten stories, 12 stalls parking, 3300 sq/ft of commercial
- Second floor community kitchen with patio

This project is suited to the "Concierge Model" for independent ASD individuals most of whom would work full or part time. There would be no agency provider for supports. Homespace is open to hiring a concierge with a human services background. The concierge would receive some training in ASD and Sinneave could also assist the concierge with navigation to community resources as needed to support tenants. Sinneave could potentially facilitate finding an agency such as AAFS to host social activities in the second floor common area. It may also be possible for some PDD tenants to be supported by an agency in a pod set up on one floor.

Housing Symposium: The Sinneave Family Foundation in partnership with Autism Alliance is planning a two-day housing symposium to be held in the fall of 2020. Information will be shared with Aspires as the event planning progresses.

4. **Project Updates:**

Horizon View: Phase 2 will be coming on stream in the fall of 2020. The plan is to contact Horizon Housing/Monarch House to enquire whether there will be any units available.

- The wait list is ongoing for individuals with low support needs. To be added to the waitlist email: housinginfo@sinneavefoundation.org. We receive short notice for units that come available. To ensure you receive notification of any opportunities as they come available join the Aspires mailing list and add your information to Aspires Connects. You will be referred to Monarch House to complete a support needs assessment. If a unit is offered to you, you need to be ready when contacted. Units are offered to other agencies/clients within days if not accepted.

Homespace: See John's presentation in New Business.

Ed Larkcom, Highcliffe Properties: Scope has chosen to focus on the Homespace buildings first and has informed us that they are not able to pursue a partnership with Ed Larkcom at this time.

5. **Social Update:** Family Potluck is scheduled for Sunday April 5th, 2020 starting at 5:00 p.m. Details regarding volunteers needed and potluck theme to follow.
6. **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.
7. **Next Meeting:** Thursday, March 5, 2020 7-9 p.m. at The Ability Hub