

Aspires June 4, 2020 Virtual Meeting Notes

Welcome, and “Disclaimer”: Richard Conte and Bonnie Kaplan, (Co-chairs): Using Zoom is enabling Aspires families who cannot attend in person to participate so we expect to use Zoom for all Aspires meetings from now on. Zoom also enables us to have guest speakers from outside the local area, which is another advantage of this technology.

If guest speakers agree to be recorded, we will do so – then we can post their talks for our larger membership. However, please be aware that some of the audience questions, comments, or even images may be captured on a Zoom recording of a speaker.

The Zoom recording will always be turned off after the guest speakers finish. Aspires participants can continue to engage in the meeting and share their own personal situations (if you want to) with the other Aspires members in attendance. These discussions will not be recorded, so your privacy is assured.

Special International Guest Speaker: Desiree Kameka, Director of the Autism Housing Networks for Madison House Autism Foundation gave an informative presentation to the Aspires group. The presentation “*Trends and Emerging Models*” recording will be available on the Aspires.ca website and the Aspires Calgary facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1533178936998908/>

Minutes: No changes or edits were brought forward therefore they are assumed approved from the last meeting. (May 7, 2020)

Project Updates by John Seigner:

Horizon View: Eleven Aspires members are currently tenants at Horizon View. We have been offered 8 more spaces. As of today there are 6 people interested and 2 spots available. The estimated move-in date is approximately mid-July. If you are interested please get in touch with us as soon as possible by emailing: housinginfo@sinneavefoundation.org

HomeSpace Projects: There are 2 low-income projects in development for fall. Expressions of Interest (EOI) were submitted April 30th and both EOI’s have been accepted by HomeSpace.

- **Crescent Heights:** Located at 238-5th Avenue N.E. This small apartment building will have 10 units available; suitable for relatively independent individuals who can live in their own apartment. Scope will provide 24/7 supports in the building to tenants who receive PDD funding. For individuals interested in the building who do not receive PDD funding, Scope is developing a fee-for-service model to provide supports as needed.
- **The Beltline Project** located at 5th Avenue and 9th Street is a 74 unit apartment building with commercial space on the main level and a second floor community kitchen and patio. The building will also be home to other HomeSpace tenants. This site will have some concierge support available to tenants who are independent but could benefit from a light level of support. AAFS will be organizing a monthly social event. ASD tenants may reach out to Autism Calgary who will be the contact agency for them.
- **PDD Update:** There is currently a backlog of people waiting for PDD to get back to them. In April the message shared to families who receive PDD funding was to get in touch with their case worker to discuss needs for flexibility in current PDD contracts.

Family Round Table:

Twenty-six Family and individual contacts participated.

For two families this was the first time joining an Aspires meeting. Both families are from outside of Calgary and can now attend Aspires meetings because of the virtual format.

Two items were suggested for discussion.

1. We are open to ideas for future speakers. We are now able to invite speakers from outside of our local area including international speakers.
2. Getting together socially – How do you feel about Aspires organizing a social get-together this summer? We would stage it outside and observe all social distancing protocols in place at the time. – are you interested? People who attend would have to be able to manage physical distancing. Attendees would bring their own chair(s), food, drinks and maintain physical distancing. The gathering could be held outside at the forecourt of the Child Development Centre.

The response to holding a social event was well-received. Most people would be interested in a social distancing event. We may be able to plan something for mid-July depending on how Alberta is doing and assess how we can safely manage a small event within the phase rules at the time.

Guest speaker suggestions:

- Invite people from outside of Canada such as our speaker tonight. It would be helpful to be inspired by ideas from other countries .
- AAFS and Autism Calgary
- Coping topics, for parents

Suggestions for guest speakers are always welcome. Please email your ideas to housinginfo@sinneavefoundation.org

Next Aspires meeting tentatively scheduled for: Thursday July 2nd 7-9 p.m. via Zoom.