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Board Members

Ingrid Seitinger - Chairperson

Phyllis Jackson - Secretary

Mark Tamagi -Vice Chairperson

Laurie Tancowny – Member

Bill Dolman - Treasurer

Jennie Tomlinson – Member

Bill Carr - Member

November Newsletter

Board Chair Report

It has been a busy month, with many meetings and discussions with Nicole. We went over unfinished work in process. Lists of work to be finished, PDD, time sheets made up and implemented. Now the ED needs help from us. Nicole has already seen where there is a need for some policy changes in the staffing. There are several areas in our policy book that we did not finish revising last year, we need to set up a policy committee and continue to finish the revisions needed.

Please note: Change to the board. Mark Tamaji has been appointed Vice Chair. Laurie Tancowny has stepped down due to time concerns and is now member. Ingrid

Executive Director Report

It's been a busy month, with the Gala, community events, and the day to day of LINX. On October 13th, I participated in a grant and fundraising workshop that was offered here. The presenter did a fabulous job of giving us ideas to help build our brand and our agency. She left us with a great deal of information that we can use to access that until now, were unknown resources. October 18th was "Meet the Director". There was not a large turn- out, but it was nice to get to meet some staff and parents on a different level than I otherwise might not have been able to. I look forward to sitting in on the case conferences this year to meet even more families. There have been some internal features to LINX that have been augmented. Management has been working on new time sheets to ensure that we are accountable to the time we are spending with clients, and is more transparent. We are also attempting to have all day and residential staff using our data base to document their work in daily log notes. We have also expanded our day staff and client of the month to include a residential staff of the month. We now have a volunteer coordinator whose first job is working on a comprehensive and complete contact list for all the team around a client. She will then be coordinating the volunteer requests and offers for the day program, and wherever else there is need.

We have been working with the City of Leduc grant for our nutrition and computer programs to assess where there are still needs for the funds, what is left, and so on. We are hoping to use part of the computer portion for a more industrial wireless printer. The printer that we are Looking at would be able to be accessed by all the computers in the building and would support the further

Training of our front desk staff. We are also looking at future grants to enhance the Snoezelen room to include more diverse items, such as a sensory water/music/vibration bed, and additional items that can be physically manipulated for stimulation. A student from Christ the King came with her aids to try out the room, and they had great feedback on items they have used in their training that has been very successful. We would also like to look into a "Go Green" type of grant that would have to teach the clients skills that are environmentally, and often by default, economically sound. I have started reaching out to various sections of the agency for their input. A four page questionnaire went to the day staff this week, and will be included with paycheques for the residential staff. I have already gotten a lot of informative comments back, and will do a compilation and a report when it is completed.

Many of our individuals were involved in a "My Life" survey from PDD last year. Liz Peterson from PDD would like to make a presentation to share the results with everyone. As there were only a few agencies that were involved with this process, we have been asked to do a presentation on our "My Life" survey experience, and where we would like to utilize this breakdown for the future of the agency. We will be attending this on November 3rd in Edmonton. Liz Peterson will be here for her presentation on November 28th at 2:30 and 6:00pm. We would love if as many clients, families, and staff could attend one of those sessions to celebrate the results.

Residential Report

Residential Support Person of the Month: Susan Boyle

I am pleased to announce our first month of acknowledging our Support Providers. Susan supported one of her clients as well as the client's family through a difficult month. Susan works very hard to complete and maintain all tasks required from LINX, as well as support many of her fellow providers and always demonstrates professionalism and an exceptional overall team player attitude. We would also like to give a Big Welcome to Jennifer Rogers and a Welcome Back to Teena VanBoom.

Residential is always looking for respite workers as well as Support Home Providers if you know of anyone who would make a great addition to our team please encourage them to contact me at 780-980-9423 or linxres@linxconnect.ca

Day Program Report

Employee of the Month Janice Bezaire

Janice brings many qualities to our team and is very flexible and takes on whatever is asked of her, and supports a variety of individuals and is a true team player.

Citizen of the Month Gerald Poitras

Since coming to LINX in May of this year Gerald has found work not only at the City of Leduc but at a local business as well. Gerald has become an active and contributing member of the community.

Our day program has been very busy, we have recently implemented computer training on Wednesdays and everyone involved is very happy with learning new skills. Ed, the instructor is very well liked. Our entire office is looking forward to our upcoming visit to the Titanic Exhibit at the science center in Edmonton on Nov 25th. Everyone had a great time at the Halloween party and many people dressed in costumes.

Fundraising Report

The fundraising committee is very busy with several projects. The Gingerbread Gala is the number one concern now. It is well organized by the Gala Chair Diana Manion and Co Chair Susan Boyle and their Gala Committee; they have everything in hand and organized. Now it is up to each and every one of the members and stakeholders to make it a success. The tickets are ready for sale, please try and sell some. Try and get some donations. The letters and posters are ready for you. Ask the committee, or pick them up at LINX. If you go somewhere please let the committee know where you are going, we want to cover all so we have a list as to not duplicate the businesses that have already been approached.

MAKE THAT GINGERBREAD HOUSE!!

We were very fortunate to have Debbie Hagman, Community Development Officer, from Alberta Cultural Community Spirit, donate a seminar to us, in Grant and Proposal writing. It was informative and inspiring; she left us with a lot of material, and ideas. Debbie will also help us with our new home, as she has helped on several other similar projects.

We have several projects on the go. If you hear or have any fundraising ideas please pass them on for the committee to consider.
Thanks Ingrid

2011 Gingerbread Gala

Thank You to all who have volunteered their time for the Gala, we appreciate all the time and commitment you have committed to help make this Gala a great success. The Rep has donated advertising space for our Gingerbread Gala, we will be advertising in the paper on Oct 28th and Nov 4th. The Pipestone Flyer has also done a wonderful write up. We are still in need of volunteers for the set up of the Gala and to work during the Gala. Please contact either Cathy Norberg or Jennie Tomlinson if you are able to help .WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT WITH OUR GALA!!! SELL SOME TICKETS> TELL YOUR FRIENDS>GET YOUR CORPORATE ASSOCIATES TO DONATE TO OUR AUCTION! Please bring in your silent or live auction items into LINX as soon as possible. We would also like to encourage all of you who are planning on attending the Gala to purchase your tickets ASAP so we can have a more accurate count of how many tickets are left, they are a hot item. Get baking those gingerbread houses for the competition, and tell all your friends and co workers. We look forward to seeing you all at the Gala!
Sincerely, Diana Manion

**OUR ANNUAL GINGERBREAD GALA
IS OUR BIGGEST FUNDRAISING
OPPORTUNITY OF THE YEAR. PLEASE
HELP.**

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Clients – Families – Caregivers –Staff

There will be a Christmas Party on Sunday Dec 4th, 2011. At Telford House from 1:00pm to 5:00pm. It is free with the food being potluck finger food. Please R.S.V.P. to Dorothy Whitehead ASAP @ 780-986-5869. Contact calls will be made for food items.

Dates to Remember

November 6th – Day light saving time ends

November 11th – LINX closed for Remembrance Day

November 12th – 2011 Gingerbread Gala

November 17th – Board Meeting @ LINX 7pm

November 25th – Field trip to science center Titanic exhibit

November 28th – PDD Presentation “My Life” 2:30 & 6pm

December 4th – Christmas party @Telford House 1pm-5pm

PLEASE READ & PASS ON THIS IMPORTANT INFORMATION: SEND A LETTER TO THE FINANCE MINISTER. Our new Premier promised that she would see to it that the wages get raised for our staff, to be in line with other government agencies. Please support the action recommended. Take the few minutes and write that letter. Thank you Ingrid

ADWA

Alberta Disability Workers Association

E-Bulletin

for 1 November 2011

The information in this electronic mail transmission is the property of the ADWA. It is only for the use of the individual to which it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender immediately by e-mail and delete this e-mail. Thank you.

INFLUENCE THE BUDGET

The government is asking for input into the 2012 budget and is starting with seven roundtable dialogue sessions with invited community members in Edmonton, Calgary, Red Deer, Grande Prairie, Lac La Biche, Medicine Hat and Lethbridge, hosted by the Minister of Finance, the President of Treasury Board and Enterprise, and the regional Political Minister. **THESE ARE CLOSED MEETINGS!!**

Public input will be through an online survey on the government website at <http://budgetdialogue.alberta.ca/>. Written submissions are also being accepted and can be sent to:

Hon. Ron Liepert
Minister of Finance
#323 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6

We have an opportunity to be heard if we all participate in the online survey and send a letter to the Minister of Finance, outlining the need for the wage gap to be closed between government employees and private sector and non profit sector disability workers doing the same work, AS THE PREMIER PROMISED WOULD HAPPEN.

I urge all ADWA members to complete the online survey, write a letter to Minister Liepert stating that Disability Workers need increased financial support, and spend the cost of a postage stamp to mail it.

The Premier and Deputy Premier both said they would address the wage issue during the Leadership Campaign. Now we need to give them the support to do it!

MISSION:

**To build a valued workforce,
promoting the well-being and
potential of all Albertans**

Colin Reichle

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