



ACDS COVID-19 Advocacy Activities

MARCH to AUGUST 2020

Since the COVID-19 public health emergency was declared in mid-March 2020, ACDS has intensified supports to the Community Disability Service (CDS) sector. Through the Service Provider Partnership Committee (SPPC) and with regular communication with service providers and Alberta Community and Social Services (CSS), ACDS has kept abreast of emerging issues and been a central player influencing the collaborative development of policy responses.

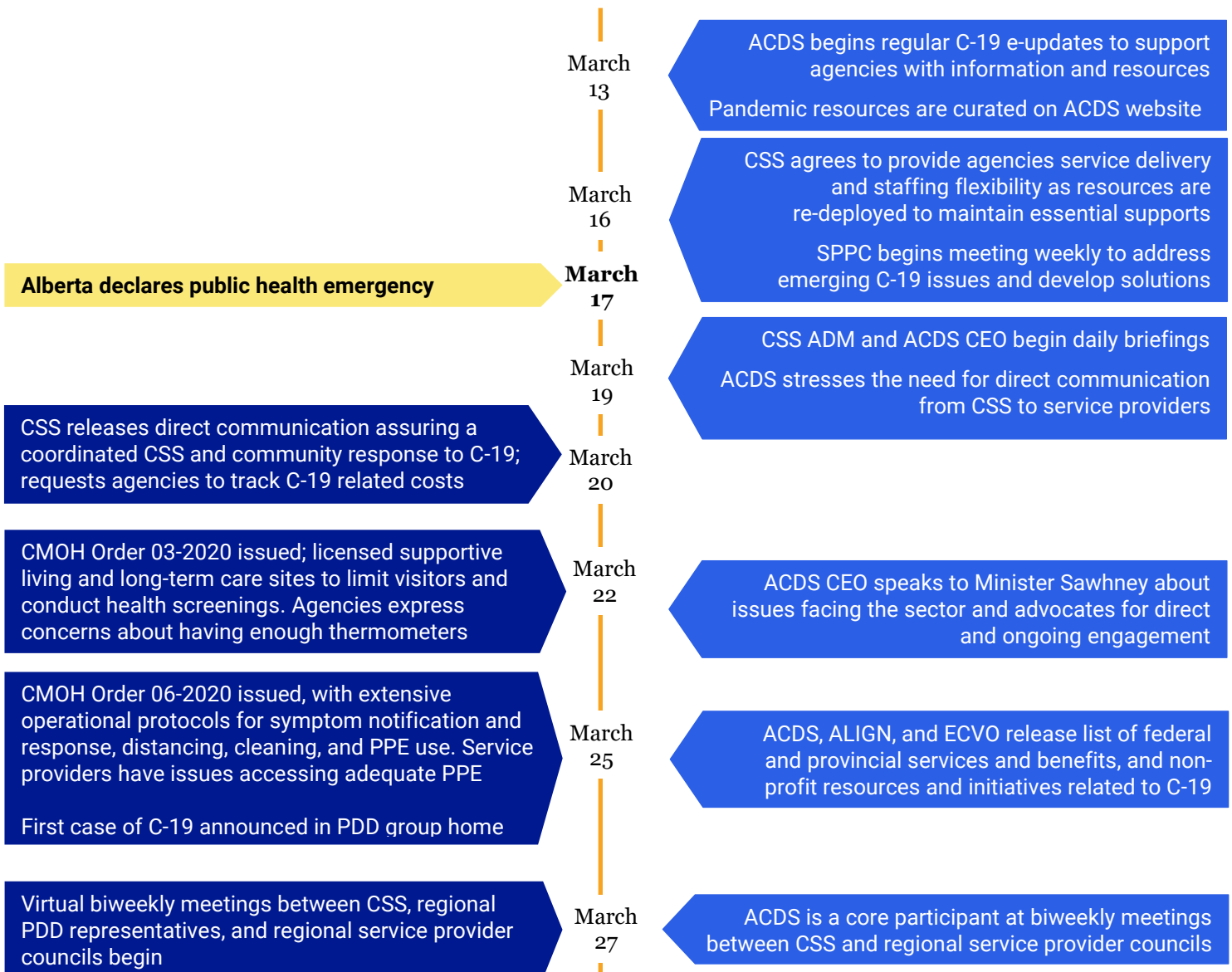
MARCH 2020

Provincial public health emergency issued. Public health orders guide operations at care sites.

ACDS advocates CSS to enhance direct communication with service providers, allow service delivery and staffing flexibility, recognise COVID costs, and support agencies to interpret health guidelines and access PPE.

Events and Developments

ACDS Activities and Responses





COVID-19 Advocacy Activities

APRIL 2020

Health orders restrict staff movement across care facilities, and there is confusion in how these apply to community disability residences; staffing challenges and access to PPE are exacerbated.

ACDS advocates for CSS to coordinate access to PPE, provide written communication to help clarify health orders, and raises concerns about staffing challenges. Through SPPC, ACDS supports CSS to develop revised C-19 invoicing for greater contract flexibility.

Events and Developments

ACDS Activities and Responses

Telephone Town Hall with Minister Sawhney, Minister Schulz and Dr. Hinshaw to provide clarity on health guidelines for licensed sites
AHS C-19 Coordinated Response Line is available to support congregate living site operators with symptom reporting, questions or concerns
CMOH 08-2020 issued; movement of staff across sites is restricted and strict guidelines are in place for reporting C-19 outbreak

CMOH Order 09-2020 issued; visits to mandated facilities restricted only to provide essential care or if resident is near death

CMOH Order 10-2020 issued. Part 1 restricts staff to single care facility effective April 23, causing concerns of loss of staff to better-paying facilities. Continuous masking mandated for direct care work causes concerns arising from inadequate PPE supplies. Part 2 updates operational and outbreak standards. Complexity of order causes widespread confusion for disability sector home operators.

CSS responds to ACDS pressure for: (i) increased clarity and communication, by launching weekly Q&A for disability sector based on questions brought to ACDS and regional councils; (ii) PPE supplies, by temporarily coordinating orders via regional PDD offices

CSS releases C-19 invoicing process giving greater contract flexibility and recognising C-19 costs
CMOH Order 12-2020 issued, providing guidelines to support quality of life, testing directives and expanded list of C-19 symptoms
CMOH Order 14-2020 issued, allowing temporary replacement for designated essential visitor and allowing outdoor visits with some restrictions

- April 2
- April 6
- April 7
- April 8
- April 10
- April 17
- April 23
- April 24
- April 28

ACDS e-update clarifies which disability care sites are mandated to follow Order 08-2020, and what CSS recommends for service providers
ACDS CEO presents video message on what ACDS has heard from agencies, current areas of advocacy and emerging issues or concerns

SPPC discusses staffing challenges arising from federal CERB and administrative challenges of navigating changing employment standards

ACDS continues to advocate for access to PPE
Covid19@acds.ca email created to efficiently gather service providers' pandemic-related concerns

ACDS compiles resources related to federal support programs and initiatives, and links to funding sources for non-profits

ACDS publishes flowchart to clarify Order 10-2020 for various disability service facility designations
2019 Workforce Survey released to support advocacy for frontline wages

SPPC develops detailed parameters for funding flexibility and invoicing to address C-19 costs



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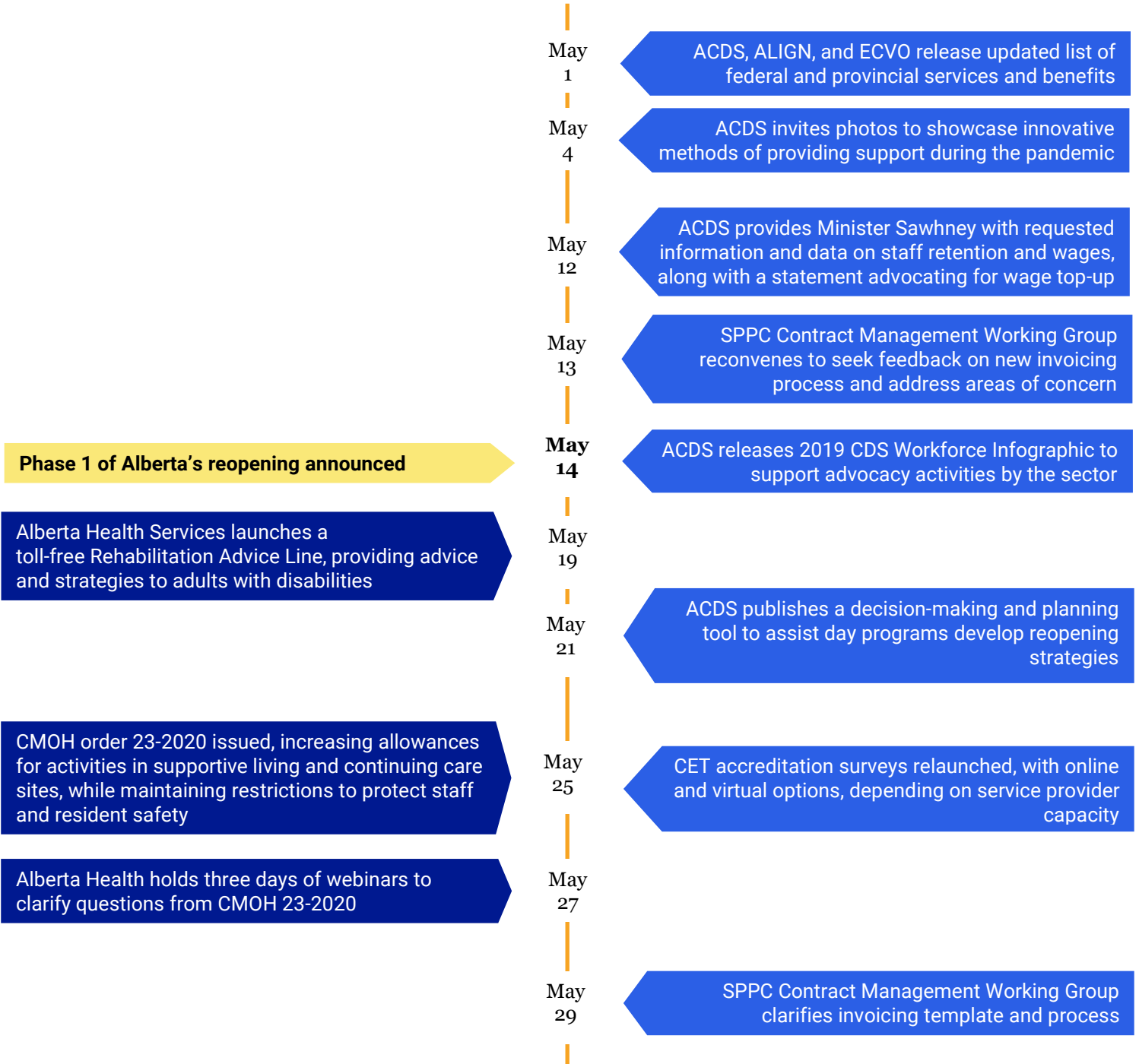
MAY 2020

Phase 1 of Alberta’s reopening begins May 14. Health orders gradually and cautiously relax restrictions.

ACDS advocates for clear guidance from CSS for the reopening of community access programs and prepares a tool to assist service providers develop their reopening plans. ACDS also provides workforce information to the Minister and a statement advocating for wage top-up. A one-pager on workforce data is also released to support sector advocacy.

Events and Developments

ACDS Activities and Responses





COVID-19 Advocacy Activities

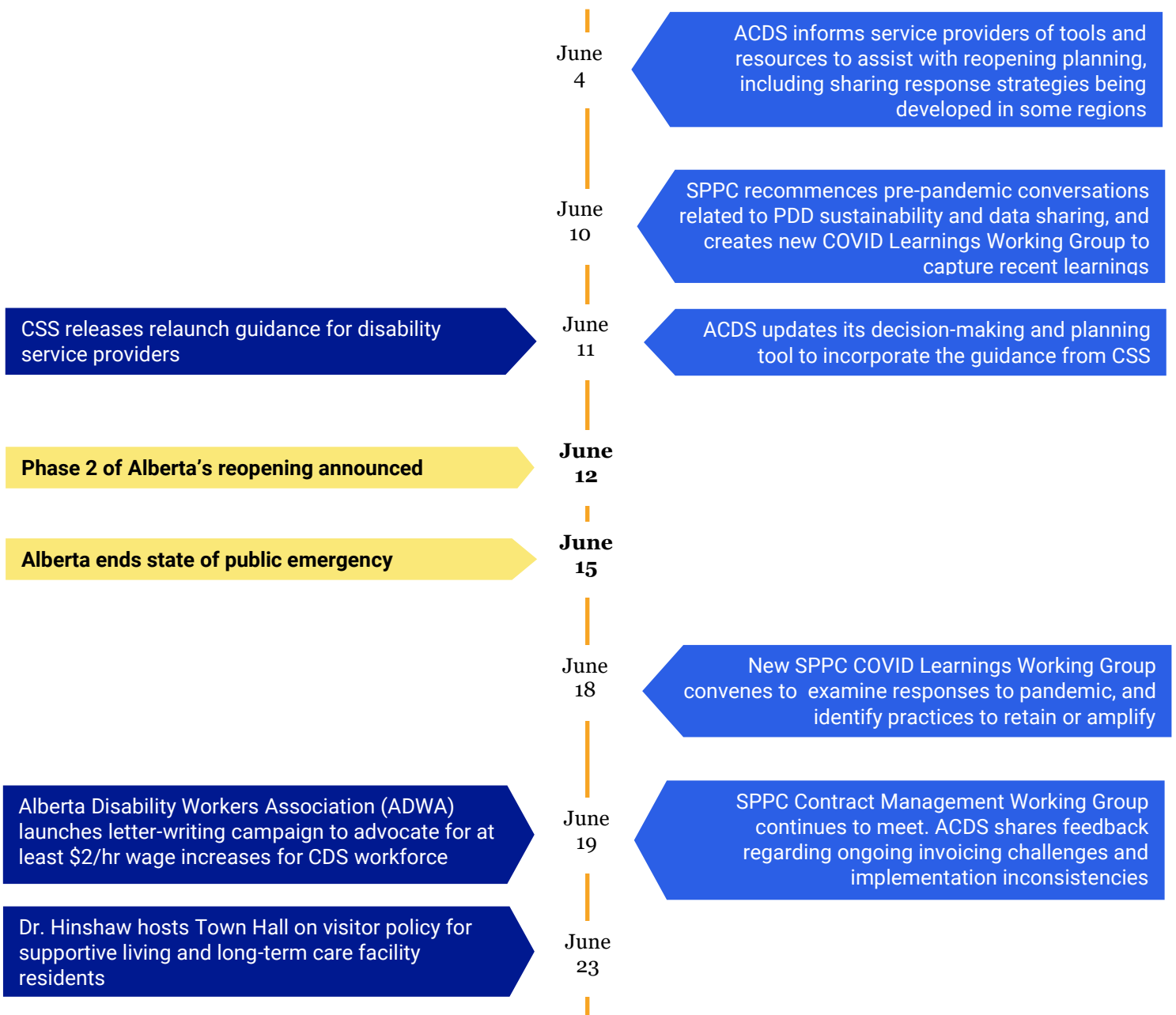
JUNE 2020

Phase 2 of Alberta’s reopening begins June 12; public health emergency is lifted June 15. Health guidelines increasing some allowances while restricting other create confusion and conflicting pressures. Reopening of non-essential services creates new staffing deployment issues.

ACDS advocates for CSS to engage with Health to make appropriate adjustments and exemptions to mandatory regulations to reflect differences in risks between sites, and to provide services with information and tools to make reasoned risk assessments in their reopening approach. Invoicing process is clarified and SPPC launches COVID Learnings Working Group to assess responses and identify key learnings from the pandemic.

Events and Developments

ACDS Activities and Responses



ACDS COVID-19 Advocacy Activities

JULY 2020

Visitation restrictions relax in long-term care facilities and school re-entry plan is announced.

ACDS supports CDS sector relaunch, SPPC resumes discussions on systemic issues, and ACDS submits formal response to Premier's Council on Charities and Civil Society.

Events and Developments

Minister Sawhney and senior CSS staff consult with academics and researchers to discuss opportunities and challenges in PDD, FSCD, AISH, and Income Supports

CMOH order 29-2020 issued, giving long-term care facilities greater visitation flexibility
Alberta Health releases an updated Q&A for CMOH 23-2020, answering questions on health screenings, testing and isolation

Alberta Education announces schools re-entry plan for September under scenario 1 (near normal operations with health measures in place)

ACDS Activities and Responses

ACDS Director of Strategic Services and Stakeholder Engagement is invited to participate in Minister Sawhney's Disability Advisory Forum

SPPC COVID Learnings Working Group summarizes key learnings and provides recommendations to support governance, flexibility, collaboration, and innovation in the sector

ACDS makes their return to office guidelines publicly available as an example for any organization planning their own return to office

ACDS is invited to participate in Premier's Council on Charities and Civil Society consultation on what Alberta's civil society needs to to guide recovery

ACDS submits formal response to Premier's Council on Charities and Civil Society consultation, advocating for: sustainable and flexible funding; reduced regulatory burdens; supports to enhance overall organizational capacity (not just service delivery); better understanding of cross-system impacts; and stronger collaboration mechanisms

AUGUST 2020

Masking bylaws are put into effect in various communities across the province.

ACDS is approached by CSS to engage in conversations related to systems transformation.

Mandatory mask bylaws are put into place in multiple cities, including Calgary and Edmonton

August
1 - 10

ACDS is approached by CSS to begin discussions to develop a collaborative process on system transformation to address systemic challenges and program sustainability issues