



Since the COVID-19 public health emergency was declared in mid-March 2020, ACDS has intensified supports to the Community Disability Service (CDS) sector.

COVID-19 Advocacy Timeline

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.

December 2021

As the Omicron COVID-19 variant spreads and active cases hit an all-time high, booster shots are opened up to all Albertans and new screening, capacity, and testing restrictions are put into place.

The Ministry of Community and Social Services announces that Complex Support Needs Designation and Secure Treatment surveys are now mandatory for organizations that provide these supports. A plain-language version of the PDD Steering Committee’s recommendations is released by CSS, and SPPC meeting notes are shared publicly through the ACDS website.

EVENTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

ACDS ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSES

December 30, 2021

Winter break for K-12 students is extended by a week in light of the rising case count

December 23, 2021

CMOH Order 58-2021: screening requirements are amended, residents returning to their living facility must mask for 14 days, and all staff are encouraged to wear surgical masks or respirators

PCR testing is restricted to those at high risk of severe outcomes or those who work in high-risk settings; other Albertans are encouraged to use at-home rapid tests

December 21, 2021

Booster shots open up to all Albertans 18+

December 17, 2021

Free rapid test kits are made available to all Albertans at select AHS sites and pharmacies

The Canada Worker Lockdown Benefit is introduced, providing \$300 a week in income support to workers impacted by lockdowns; the Canada Recovery Hiring Program is extended and new subsidies are introduced to replace CEWS and CERS

December 15, 2021

Indoor gatherings remain limited to 10 people 18+, though the limit of two households, and differing restrictions for vaccinated / unvaccinated attendees are lifted

Booster shots become available to all Albertans 50+

85% of Albertans 12+ are fully vaccinated

December 2, 2021

All Albertans 60+ and health care workers providing direct patient care are eligible to receive booster shots

December 17, 2021

Complex Support Needs Designation and Secure Treatment surveys, available through ACDS’ CET Accreditation, are made mandatory for organizations that provide these supports

December 16, 2021

A plain-language version of the PDD Steering Committee report is released by CSS, sharing recommendations developed over the course of November 2020 to February 2021 to address some of the ongoing challenges impacting the PDD program

The SPPC begins publicly releasing bi-monthly meeting notes on the ACDS website

November 2021

Vaccination rates rise and booster shot availability increases. ACDS releases a report featuring stories from the CDS sector on the continued impacts of COVID-19.

EVENTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

November 24, 2021

Children between the ages of 5 to 11 become eligible for vaccination

November 10, 2021

Round two of the Alberta Jobs Now program opens, providing wage subsidies for businesses and nonprofits hiring new employees

November 8, 2021

Booster shot eligibility opens up to Albertans 70+ and frontline health care workers

November 1, 2021

80% of eligible Albertans are fully vaccinated

ACDS ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSES

November 4, 2021

ACDS releases a report, 'COVID-19 Pandemic Year 2: Stories from Summer 2021 in Alberta's Community Disability Services Sector', that highlights the continued impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the CDS sector

October 2021

As service providers weigh the benefits and challenges of vaccine mandates within their organizations, two vaccine doses are now required to access services covered under Alberta's Restrictions Exemption program. ACDS hosts a Fall Webinar Series on 'resilience', as well as two separate webinars to answer service providers' questions about vaccination considerations from both an HR and legal perspective.

October 25, 2021

In line with the Restrictions Exemption Program, Albertans must now provide proof of two COVID-19 vaccine doses to access restaurants, movies, sporting events, and other businesses

October 20, 2021

CMOH Order 49-2021: supportive living and long-term care settings require masking in all indoor areas and quarantine/testing requirements for residents returning from other health settings

October 5, 2021

75% of Albertans are fully immunized against COVID-19

October 25 to 29, 2021

ACDS hosts its Fall Webinar Series, focusing on the theme of 'resilience'

October 18, 2021

ACDS is invited to attend a weekly meeting held by Alberta Health to relay COVID-19 related issues and upcoming policy changes

October 12 to 15, 2021

ACDS hosts two webinars for the CDS sector on vaccination considerations, presented by human resource and legal professionals

October 7, 2021

ACDS issues a statement on its support of vaccination in community disability services



September 2021

Restrictions based on vaccination status are implemented as cases and hospitalizations rise during Alberta's fourth wave.

SPPC meetings resume and the PDD Transformation Committee presents its recommendations to Minister Luan.

EVENTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

September 29, 2021

Olds, Alberta declares September 29th 'Support Worker Appreciation Day', an initiative spearheaded by local service providers

September 24 & 29, 2021

Alberta Health hosts two webinars on rapid testing programs for disability service providers

September 20, 2021

The Restrictions Exemption Program launches, allowing businesses to avoid new capacity and operating restrictions if they check patrons for proof of vaccination or a negative test result before entry

September 16, 2021

Private gatherings are limited to two households of vaccinated Albertans and prohibited for those who are unvaccinated; work from home measures are mandatory unless operationally required

September 15, 2021

A third public health emergency is announced

September 13, 2021

A vaccination incentive of \$100 is offered to all Albertans 18+ who receive either their first or second dose between September 3rd and October 14th

September 6, 2021

Disability Services offices close for in-person PDD and FSCD appointments following work from home recommendations

September 4, 2021

Due to rising C-19 cases, masking and alcohol serving restrictions are implemented

September 2, 2021

70% of eligible Albertans are fully vaccinated

September 1, 2021

Disability Services offices reopen and resume in-person PDD and FSCD appointments

Third doses of C-19 vaccines are made available to seniors living in congregate care and immunocompromised Albertans

ACDS ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSES

September 29, 2021

PDD Transformation Steering Committee presents their recommendations to Minister Luan

September 23, 2021

Regular SPPC meetings resume after pausing for the summer

ACDS announces the launch of the 2021 Creating Excellence Together Standards

Mid-September, 2021

As wave 4 cases continue to rise, the SPPC resumes COVID meetings to discuss COVID-specific issues such as vaccination mandates and changing restrictions



August 2021

Cases begin to rise as Alberta enters its fourth wave. Supportive living and long-term care restrictions that were set to expire in August are extended due to rising case counts.

ACDS connects with the new Minister of Community and Social Services to discuss future work in the CDS sector.

EVENTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

ACDS ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSES

August 27, 2021

Active C-19 cases exceed 10k as Alberta enters its fourth wave

August 25, 2021

Dr. Hinshaw writes a letter to licensed supportive living and long-term care staff, reminding operators that CMOH orders 37-2021 and 38-2021 are to remain in effect while C-19 cases remain high

August 13, 2021

Masking, isolation, and testing restrictions set to expire in mid-August are extended to the end of September due to rising C-19 cases

August 3, 2021

ACDS CEO and Board Chair meet with Alberta's new CSS Minister, Jason Luan, to discuss future work in the CDS sector

July 2021

Restrictions are lifted as Alberta's Open for Summer initiative is implemented and vaccination rates continue to rise.

July 29, 2021

Quarantine for close contacts of positive cases changes from mandatory to recommended, contact tracing is limited to high-risk settings, and testing is limited to symptomatic cases

July 19, 2021

Alberta disability service providers release the results of 2021 Referral Capacity Survey

July 13, 2021

CMOH Order 37-2021 and 38-2021: the Government of Alberta begins lifting some continuing care restrictions, including visitor, dining, and recreation restrictions

July 8, 2021

Jason Luan becomes the new Minister of Community and Social Services

July 7, 2021

Over 50% of eligible Albertans are fully vaccinated

July 1, 2021

Stage 3 of reopening: the majority of all COVID-19 restrictions are lifted in Alberta

July 30, 2021

Developed in partnership with Griffith University's Centre for Investigative Interviewing, ACDS presents a new year-long certification program on Trauma Informed Abuse Investigation



June 2021

Vaccination numbers rise, prompting the first two stages of the Open for Summer reopening plan.

After months of letter writing, social media campaigning, and conversations with CSS, eligibility for the Critical Worker Benefit is extended to all frontline community disability workers.

EVENTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

ACDS ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSES

June 30, 2021

Active C-19 cases drop below 1,000 for the first time since July 2020

June 29 & 30, 2021

AHS hosts three town halls to discuss lifting restrictions in licensed supportive living and other care sites

June 22, 2021

Eligibility for the Critical Worker Benefit is expanded to all community disability workers

June 18, 2021

All Albertans become eligible for second doses

June 14, 2021

CMOH Order 32-2021: operational and outbreak standards for continuing care facilities are updated

June 10, 2021

Stage 2 of reopening: outdoor gatherings allowed for up to 20, indoor recreation opens at 1/3 capacity, indoor dining is reopened, and work from home order is lifted

Second doses are made available to those who received their first dose in April or earlier

June 1, 2021

Stage 1 of reopening: outdoor gatherings allowed for up to 10 people, outdoor patio dining resumes, indoor retail capacity increases to 15 percent, personal and wellness services open by appointment only

Second doses are opened to those who received their first dose in March

Throughout June

The SPPC and its associated working groups continue to meet, discussing urgent operational needs due to C-19 as well as broader sector concerns

ACDS continues to update members with sector-relevant information and resources

June 23, 2021

ACDS holds its Annual General Meeting, featuring CSS Deputy Minister Cynthia Farmer as a guest speaker



May 2021

Vaccination eligibility opens to all Albertans over the age of 12. C-19 cases continue to rise and hit record highs, before beginning to fall in mid-May.

Issues arising due to SLALA regulations in the CDS sector are discussed between ACDS, CSS, and AHS; ACDS submits a research brief summarizing the effects of SLALA regulations on group homes.

EVENTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

May 26, 2021

The Alberta Open for Summer plan is announced, with three reopening stages based on vaccination rates of Albertans 12+

May 25, 2021

Students return to in-class schooling

May 21, 2021

CMOH Order 26-2021: establishes isolation and quarantine requirements for people who are fully or partially vaccinated

May 19, 2021

Alberta Jobs Now is announced, providing salary support for newly hired employees and higher grants for employees with disabilities

CMOH Order 23-2021: outbreak and operational standards are updated for supportive living, long-term care, and hospice settings

May 18, 2021

50% of Albertans aged 12+ are vaccinated

May 10, 2021

All Albertans 12+ are eligible for vaccination

May 9, 2021

Alberta reaches the peak of wave 3 with over 25,000 active C-19 cases

May 6, 2021

All Albertans 30+ are eligible for vaccination

Alberta Health holds two webinars on CMOH Order 16-2021

May 4, 2021

New restrictions are announced: schools are moved online, indoor and outdoor dining is prohibited, outdoor gatherings are limited to 5 people, and personal care services are closed

May 3, 2021

AHS holds a town hall to answer vaccination questions for disability support workers

ACDS ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSES

May 27, 2021

ACDS Chair participates in panel discussion hosted by ADWA on the future of the CDS sector workforce

May 25, 2021

A virtual meet-and-greet event is held for new CEOs and ACDS Board members

May 21, 2021

ACDS submits research brief to CSS and AHS on the impact of SLALA regulations on PDD group homes

May 11, 2021

ACDS cohosts a third vaccination Q&A with ADWA, moderated by COVID-19 Resources Canada

May 6, 2021

ACDS meets with CSS and AHS to discuss Bill 70 and the need to ensure consistency across licensed and non-licensed facilities

May 4, 2021

ACDS participates in a cross-provincial session on mental health to contribute issues from the CDS sector



April 2021

C-19 cases rise rapidly as Alberta enters a third wave. Step 1 restrictions are reinstated. C-19 vaccines become available to more frontline workers.

As community disability workers become one of the last remaining groups providing care in congregate and home settings still ineligible for vaccination, ACDS continues to advocate for vaccine eligibility in the sector. Frontline CDS workers become eligible for immunization at the end of April.

EVENTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

ACDS ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSES

April 30, 2021

All frontline disability workers become eligible for vaccination, alongside everyone eligible in Phase 2C and 2D

April 29, 2021

Increased restrictions are implemented in select communities with high C-19 cases

April 26, 2021

CMOH Order 16-2021: visitor restrictions are eased in continuing care

April 21, 2021

Alberta Labour announces job-protected 3-hour paid leave for workers to get C-19 vaccinations

April 20, 2021

AstraZeneca is made available to all Albertans over the age of 40 years

April 14, 2021

Alberta exceeds 1,000,000 vaccinations administered

April 12, 2021

Phase 2C of vaccinations open to select health care professionals

April 8 & 9, 2021

Alberta Health holds two town halls to discuss restrictions in continuing care

April 6, 2021

Alberta returns to Step 1 restrictions following rising C-19 cases

Throughout April

ACDS continues to advocate directly with government and publicly over social media for vaccine eligibility in the CDS sector

April 27, 2021

ACDS forwards PDD vaccination questions from service providers in preparation for upcoming town hall

April 15, 2021

ACDS shares resources with members through their SPOKES newsletter

April 12 & 14, 2021

ACDS hosts two Q&A webinars on the science behind vaccinations led by volunteer experts from COVID-19 Resources Canada



March 2021

While the number of active cases of COVID-19 plateaus and then begins to rise, Alberta begins Step 2 of reopening. Vaccines are made more widely available; individuals with severe or profound learning disabilities or severe developmental delay become eligible for vaccination in late March.

PDD transformation draft recommendations are presented to CSS. ACDS hosts a webinar on legal and HR considerations on COVID-19 vaccinations, distributes the findings of the 2020 Workforce Survey, circulates a list of resources on vaccinations, and produces a brief analysis of the Alberta 2021 budget.

EVENTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

ACDS ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSES

March 31, 2021

Alberta CSS and Alberta Health host a virtual town hall for the disability community on vaccines

March 31, 2021

ACDS shares a list of vaccination resources with service providers

March 30, 2021

Phase 2B of vaccinations begins, targeting people with eligible high-risk underlying health conditions; this includes adults with severe or profound learning disabilities or severe developmental delay

March 23, 2021

Bill 58, the Freedom to Care Act, is introduced, proposing a process for non-profits to request one-time exemptions from regulations, if an exemption does not already exist

March 15, 2021

Phase 2A of vaccinations begins: Moderna and Pfizer vaccines are made available to 65 to 74 year olds

Albertans with severe developmental disabilities are made eligible for vaccination in phase 2B

March 12, 2021

ACDS hosts 'Legal and HR Considerations on Vaccinations' webinar

March 10, 2021

Staggered distribution of the AstraZeneca vaccine is made available to 50 to 65 year olds

Early March, 2021

PDD Transformation Steering Committee presents report with 30 recommendations to CSS

March 8, 2021

Several restrictions are relaxed for retail, hotels, performance groups, and youth sports

March 1, 2021

Alberta begins Step 2 of reopening: libraries are open to 15 percent capacity and low-intensity fitness activities are permitted

March 1, 2021

ACDS produces a brief analysis of Alberta 2021 budget

2020 Workforce Survey is released



February 2021

Step 1 of Alberta's new reopening strategy based on hospitalization benchmarks begins. Critical Worker Benefit (CWB) is announced, providing one-time \$1,200 to workers in public and private sectors; CDS eligibility is limited to staff in overnight staffed residences.

ACDS writes to Minister Sawhney expressing concerns on narrow CWB eligibility for CDS workers. A letter writing campaign is launched for CDS organizations to advocate for expanded eligibility for CWB.

EVENTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

ACDS ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSES

February 24, 2021

CMOH order 03-2021 is issued, with stricter protocol to licensed and designated supportive living facilities with an outbreak of a C-19 variant of concern

Vaccination eligibility is expanded to Albertans born in 1946 or earlier

February 19, 2021

ACDS provides members a template and key messages for writing letters to MLAs and CSS for CWB advocacy for the sector

February 17, 2021

CWB details limit eligibility to CDS workers in overnight staffed residences, and merges CWB (covering October 12, 2020 to January 31, 2021) with initial staff recognition grant (covering March 2020 to July 2020), for a maximum of \$1,200 per employee under both time periods

February 18, 2021

ACDS advocates to Minister Sawhney to expand CWB eligibility to all frontline disability workers, with employer flexibility to recognize other workers if benefit allocations are not fully expended. ACDS also requests that CDS workers and individuals with disabilities be among the priority groups for vaccination

February 10, 2021

CWB is announced, providing a one-time payment of \$1,200 to public and private sector workers

February 9, 2021

Rapid testing program is expanded to include testing of asymptomatic staff in long term care and designated supportive living facilities

February 8, 2021

Alberta commences Step 1 of a new reopening strategy based on hospitalization benchmarks

February 3, 2021

Alberta Government announces an additional \$68.5 million dollars of funding for continuing care and supportive living



January 2021

C-19 cases begin to drop across Alberta as strict restrictions continue. Select services reopen in mid-January and outdoor gatherings of up to ten people are permitted. Vaccination distribution continues.

ACDS continues to advocate for vaccination eligibility for disability sector workers and launches a multi-partner initiative to promote workplace health and safety.

EVENTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

ACDS ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSES

Throughout January

ACDS advocacy focuses on prioritizing all disability workers for vaccination access

PDD transformation working groups continue to provide input to develop recommendations

January 29, 2021

CSS announces it will continue to fund select government-operated care facilities in Calgary and Edmonton

January 22, 2021

Active C-19 cases in Alberta drop below 10,000 for the first time since November 2020

January 20, 2021

ACDS launches multi-partner Community Services Staff Safety Initiative (CSSSI), a set of resources to increase workplace safety

January 18, 2021

Personal and wellness services reopen (appointment only) and outdoor social gatherings are allowed for up to 10 people

January 4, 2021

CSS restructures PDD from six regions to two zones (North and South)



December 2020

As C-19 case counts continue to rise, new restrictions are enacted, prohibiting all indoor and outdoor social gatherings. C-19 vaccinations begin in Alberta and recognition pay begins to rollout to select disability service providers.

ACDS assists AHS to host two sector-specific Town Halls, and presents a webinar with an expert panel discussing approaches to complex challenges. Preliminary results of ACDS' 2020 Workforce Survey are released, and ACDS is invited by CSS Minister Sawhney to a sector-specific round table discussion on challenges and opportunities.

EVENTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

December 22, 2020

CSS recommences bi-weekly Q&A for disability service providers which had last been released on July 9, 2020, answering questions asked at the Town Halls in early December

December 21, 2020

Q&A is released by the Alberta government answering questions on the enhanced public health measures and their effect on congregate care centres

December 18, 2020

Rapid point-of-care testing begins at long-term care and designated supportive living facilities using dedicated mobile testing centres

December 15, 2020

First C-19 vaccine is administered in Alberta

December 8, 2020

Alberta announces province-wide mandatory masking in all indoor public spaces and workplaces, restrictions to social gatherings, and mandatory work from home where possible

December 6, 2020

Alberta exceeds 20,000 active C-19 cases for the first time

December 4, 2020

CSS distributes information to claim recognition pay for certain PDD and FSCD positions

December 2 & 4, 2020

In response to ACDS advocacy, and with ACDS assistance, AHS hosts two sector-specific Town Halls to clarify public health orders and address questions

ACDS ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSES

December 21, 2020

ACDS CEO and a Director participate at an invited round table with CSS Minister on sector challenges, opportunities, and learnings from navigating through C-19

December 18, 2020

ACDS releases the preliminary findings from the 2020 Workforce Survey: COVID-19 Wave 1

December 11, 2020

ACDS hosts *Uncertainty, Risks, and Transformation: Preparing Organizations for the Shifts Ahead*, a webinar for leaders of member organizations

Early December, 2020

ACDS advocates for: vaccination in the CDS sector, recommencing biweekly C-19 meetings, and reinstatement of the weekly Q&A document



November 2020

C-19 cases continue to rise throughout Alberta and a second state of public health emergency is announced. New restrictions include no indoor gatherings, a maximum of 10 people at outdoor social gatherings, and grade 7 to 12 classes move online for the remainder of the year.

ACDS continues to circulate information on Alberta's CDS sector as a part of the #QualityCDS campaign, and advocates for a forum by AHS to address CDS-specific questions related to the public health orders.

EVENTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

ACDS ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSES

Late November, 2020

ACDS advocates for a CDS sector-specific Town Hall with AHS to interpret health orders

November 30, 2020

Grade 7 to 12 classes move online for the remainder of the year

November 26, 2020

Executive Summary of *Impact and Insights: COVID-19 and Alberta's CDS Sector* is published, with recommendations for sector recovery and growth

November 25 & 27, 2020

AHS hosts two telephone Town Halls by Dr. Hinshaw to discuss ongoing issues in supportive living and long-term care

November 24, 2020

Alberta enacts a second state of public health emergency, along with restrictions allowing no indoor gatherings and limiting outdoor social gatherings to a maximum of 10 people

November 20, 2020

Dr. Hinshaw writes a letter to supportive living and long-term care operators, reminding agencies that staff must stay home when they are sick and practice proper hygiene/distancing

November 15, 2020

Alberta exceeds 10,000 active cases for the first time

November 5, 2020

ACDS hosts a leadership webinar for organizations to share firsthand experiences and learnings from COVID-19 outbreaks

Throughout November, 2020

ACDS continues the #QualityCDS campaign, sharing CDS sector data and celebrating the hard work of disability workers during the pandemic



October 2020

As federal CERB comes to an end, workers are transitioned to an expanded version of Employment Insurance and a new sickness and caregiving benefit (CRSB and CRCB). C-19 cases begin to rise in mid-October, resulting in a 15-person limit on social gatherings in Calgary and Edmonton.

ACDS resumes committees that had been paused due to C-19, and launches the #QualityCDS campaign to celebrate and share facts about the CDS sector. A report detailing impacts and learnings from the first 6 months of C-19 is produced to help inform improvements to PDD program sustainability and supports.

EVENTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

ACDS ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSES

October 29, 2020

Dr. Hinshaw writes a letter to supportive living and long-term care operators in Edmonton and Calgary, recommending visitor restrictions

October 26, 2020

Following record numbers of C-19, a 15-person limit is placed on indoor and outdoor social gatherings in Calgary and Edmonton

October 5, 2020

An updated screening tool is provided to long-term care sites aligning screening with other sectors to focus on limiting entrance of individuals with a high risk of transmitting C-19

October 3, 2020

CERB benefit ends and is replaced by an expanded version of Employment Insurance

October 2, 2020

Bill C-4 is passed, providing federal benefits to workers quarantining due to C-19 (CRSB) or staying home to care for dependants (CRCB)

October 30, 2020

ACDS publishes *Impact and Insights: COVID-19 and Alberta's CDS Sector*, highlighting impacts in the first 6 months of C-19, with recommendations for sector recovery and growth

October 28, 2020

ACDS releases a statement to provide facts on community-based service delivery in Alberta

October 19 - 23, 2020

ACDS Fall Webinar Series provides 5 days of professional development for frontline on mental health and trauma, intercultural competence, dementia care, gender and sexual diversity in the disability community, and care in the time of C-19

October 8, 2020

ACDS launches the #QualityCDS campaign to celebrate the hard work in the sector during the pandemic, and to share key facts about the sector and its workforce

October 2, 2020

ACDS summarizes the list of new federal benefits and grants relevant to the CDS sector

Early October, 2020

ACDS Government Relations Committee and ACDS Human Resources Coordinating Committee resume work

The SPPC continues to meet and discuss COVID-related issues and broader PDD program needs, while the Contract Working Group resumes to address outstanding invoicing issues



September 2020

Schools reopen in Alberta, a broader range of PDD data becomes publicly available, some public health restrictions are relaxed for care facilities, and new federal programs are announced.

ACDS supports the sector with information on federal programs, and provides input to CSS on distribution of federal wage top-ups if these were to become available to workers in the CDS sector.

EVENTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

ACDS ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSES

September 17, 2020

CMOH order 32-2020 is put into effect, lessening quarantine requirements upon admission to long-term care facilities, re-allowing volunteer access, and allowing exemptions to single-site regulations for specific professions and roles

Asymptomatic individuals are no longer able to access C-19 testing in Alberta

September 2, 2020

Schools begin reopening across Alberta, with masking requirements in place

September 1, 2020

PDD and FSCD program data is updated to the end of June 2020 and made available on the Alberta Government's Open Data Portal

Early to Mid September 2020

CSS requests ACDS' input on the distribution of potential federal wage top-ups for essential workers; ACDS advocates for a flexible process that is not prescriptive or burdensome, which allows employers to use their own criteria for distribution in their agencies

August 2020

Masking bylaws are implemented in various communities across the province. Increasing numbers of staff and individuals begin testing positive for C-19. Staff coverage costs start exceeding budgeted amounts; some staff express reluctance to work in homes where positive C-19 cases are reported.

ACDS advocates for clear guidance from AHS, and for CSS to allow unbudgeted coverage costs to be claimed under C-19 expenses. CSS invites input from ACDS on developing a collaborative process to address sustainability challenges through system transformation.

August 19, 2020

At SPPC, service providers express concerns about staffing and challenges related to unbudgeted costs as communities open up and more staff and individuals test positive for C-19

August 19, 2020

ACDS advocates for clear and consistent guidance from AHS, streamlined reporting process for positive cases, and for CSS to cover unbudgeted expenses as part of C-19 costs

Early to Mid August, 2020

CSS approaches ACDS for input on developing a collaborative process to address systemic challenges and sustainability issues

Early to Mid August, 2020

ACDS advocates for engagement that includes clear parameters, systems design expertise, and representation from community disability service providers, families, and individuals

August 1, 2020

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

ACDS Government Relations Committee supports the development of a new engagement body for ACDS to connect with families of individuals receiving community based services



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

ACDS ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSES

July 21, 2020

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

July 16, 2020

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

July 7, 2020

Bill 32, the Restoring Balance in Alberta's Workplaces Act, is introduced in the Legislature

July 6, 2020

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

July 31, 2020

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

July 20, 2020

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

July 10, 2020

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

July 9, 2020

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

July 6, 2020

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



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 others 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

June 23, 2020

Dr. Hinshaw hosts Town Hall on visitor policy for supportive living and long-term care facility residents

June 19, 2020

Alberta Disability Workers Association (ADWA) launches letter-writing campaign to advocate for at least \$2/hr wage increases for CDS workforce

June 19, 2020

SPPC Contract Management Working Group continues to meet. ACDS shares feedback regarding ongoing invoicing challenges and implementation inconsistencies

June 18, 2020

New SPPC COVID Learnings Working Group convenes to examine responses to pandemic, and identify practices to retain or amplify

June 15, 2020

Alberta ends state of public emergency

June 12, 2020

Phase 2 of Alberta's reopening announced

June 11, 2020

CSS releases relaunch guidance for disability service providers

June 11, 2020

ACDS updates its decision-making and planning tool to incorporate the guidance from CSS

June 10, 2020

SPPC recommences pre-pandemic conversations related to PDD sustainability and data sharing, and creates new COVID Learnings Working Group to capture recent learnings

June 4, 2020

ACDS informs service providers of tools and resources to assist with reopening planning, including sharing response strategies being developed in some regions



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



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

April 28, 2020

CSS releases C-19 invoicing process giving greater contract flexibility and recognizing C-19 costs

CMOH Order 12-2020 issued, providing guidelines to support quality of life, testing directives and an 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 23, 2020

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

April 10, 2020

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.

April 7, 2020

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

April 2, 2020

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

April 24, 2020

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

April 23, 2020

ACDS publishes flowchart to clarify Order 10-2020 for various disability service facility designations

2019 Workforce Survey released to support advocacy for frontline wages

April 17, 2020

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

April 10, 2020

ACDS continues to advocate for access to PPE

COVID19@ACDS.ca email created to efficiently gather service providers' pandemic-related concerns

April 8, 2020

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

April 6, 2020

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



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, recognize COVID costs, and support agencies to interpret health guidelines and access PPE.

EVENTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

ACDS ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSES

March 27, 2020

Virtual biweekly meetings between CSS, regional PDD representatives, and regional service provider councils begin

March 27, 2020

ACDS is a core participant at biweekly meetings between CSS and regional service provider councils

March 25, 2020

CMOH Order 06-2020 issued, with extensive operational protocols for symptom notification and response, distancing, cleaning, and PPE use. Service providers have issues accessing adequate PPE

March 25, 2020

ACDS, ALIGN, and ECVO release list of federal and provincial services and benefits, and non-profit resources and initiatives related to C-19

First case of C-19 announced in PDD group home

March 22, 2020

CMOH Order 03-2020 issued; licensed supportive living and long-term care sites to limit visitors and conduct health screenings. Agencies express concerns about having enough thermometers

March 22, 2020

ACDS CEO speaks to Minister Sawhney about issues facing the sector and advocates for direct and ongoing engagement

March 20, 2020

CSS releases direct communication assuring a coordinated CSS and community response to C-19; requests agencies to track C-19 related costs

March 19, 2020

CSS ADM and ACDS CEO begin daily briefings

ACDS stresses the need for direct communication from CSS to service providers

March 17, 2020

Alberta declares public health emergency

March 16, 2020

CSS agrees to provide agencies service delivery and staffing flexibility as resources are re-deployed to maintain essential supports

SPPC begins meeting weekly to address emerging C-19 issues and develop solutions

March 13, 2020

ACDS begins regular C-19 e-updates to support agencies with information and resources

Pandemic resources are curated on ACDS website

