



Special Meeting of the Board of Directors – January 19th 2016

Minutes

Attendance:

Joe Mckenna, President	Mark LaCosta, Western Region Rep
Suzanne Kenny, Vice President	Derrick Hanrahan, At Large
Matthew Dove, Treasurer	Susan Goold, At Large
Victor Shea, Secretary, South Central Rep	Angela Decker, At Large
Chad Perrin, At Large	Darrin Tulk, At Large
Kim Maher, At Large	Scott Crocker, Executive Director
Roger Kennedy, At Large	Adam Chafe, Recorder

Regrets:

Tom Jackman, Self-Advocate	Connie Robertson, Eastern Region Rep
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1. The Agenda

The meeting came to order at 7:00 p.m. There were just two items on the agenda for discussion: 1) Senior Management's plan for the public release of the Needs Assessment Survey Report, including timing, participants and format; and 2) Senior Management's Recommendation to the BOD about priorities from the 26 recommendations to be adopted and become part of ASNL's strategic plan moving forwards.

2. The Public Release

a) Recommended Plan for Public Release

Tess Hemeon, Manager, Advocacy & Communications, described Management's initial goal as being that of obtaining both public and government support for the survey report and its recommendations. It is important to release it at the earliest opportunity – preferably by mid-February but prior to the end of February at the latest. The timing is right for this initiative with government's stated focus on "evidence-based decision-making."

b) Public Release Options and Recommended Action

Four options exist: 1) ASNL can release the report independently; 2) ASNL can partner with the MUN research team; 3) ASNL can partner with the provincial government; and 4) ASNL can partner with both MUN and government.

Senior Management's recommendation is that we invite just Dr. Rick Audas, MUN's research team lead, to sit at the table with ASNL's President and Executive Director. Having government participate as a partner may see ASNL lose autonomy and, with that loss, any control over the release timing and format. This may be especially problematic during the difficult fiscal situation.

The purpose of the public release is to highlight the strong research base, its quality and validity, and pressure government to acknowledge the survey report findings and recommendations as providing an important starting point for evidence-based decision-making around the promised "provincial autism strategy".

Senior Management believes government (and both opposition parties) should be provided a copy of the Executive Summary Report and ASNL priorities prior to the public release in order to give them an opportunity to develop their public response. It is believed this approach will help maintain and build our partnership approach as we seek to improve life for those with ASD and their families

c) Becoming a Part of the Conversation

The commitments made by the government, during the election campaign and in the Mandate Letters, are encouraging. Executive Director Scott Crocker has reached out to secure a meeting with key ministers who are "ASNL-friendly" and provide an overview of the report, its findings and our prioritized recommendations in the context of a provincial autism strategy. He will request that they provide a formal response to the release of the report with a press release and press conference.

d) Venue

The venue will need to be accessible and capable of hosting 30-40 observers (i.e. COD-NL, NLACL, ILRC, Autism Exchange Research Group, Board of Directors (past and present), membership and select staff. Proceedings will be video-recorded and posted on ASNL's website for those unable to attend.

e) Format

The standard format will be used: earlier press release; press conference; in-depth presentation at end for any who wish to stay and see it. Follow-up activities by ASNL will include presentation of the research findings at the Autism Research Exchange Group meeting; round tables for stakeholders to have discussion and present ideas on the key themes arising from the Needs Assessment Survey Report; visits to each region for presentation of report's findings and ASNL's strategy moving forward with prioritized recommendations.

Moved by Matthew Dove, seconded by Darrin Tulk; carried, to accept Senior Management's recommendation regarding timing and format of the public release of the Needs Assessment Survey Report (**Motion 0119-0001**).

3. The Strategic Plan

Scott Crocker, Executive Director, presented Senior Management's prioritized recommendations for ASNL's response to the Needs Assessment Survey Report. They flowed directly from the list of top 10 findings in the Executive Summary, which were based on the priority responses given by all group responders in a table containing 26 recommendations.

Senior Management's position paper on strategy provided the high-level objectives under the four traditional categories used to differentiate ASNL's roles in the community: programs; advocacy; outreach; and research. Recommended actions going forward included just 11 objectives; the number after each shows the linkage back to the top 10 priorities identified by the research.

- a. Increase program capacity in Avalon and Eastern Regions - #5
- b. Reinstate core programs and in South Central and Western Regions - #5
- c. Early identification, referral and diagnosis (within 6 months); rapid follow-up intervention therapies (within 3 months) - #4
- d. Formal review of inclusive education, including: student assistant allocation model; transition planning into, between grades, between schools, and out of schools into adulthood - #2 and #3
- e. Develop comprehensive plan for professional development of educators & healthcare practitioners on ASD - #6
- f. Improve services and supports for adults including: employment opportunity; residential options; and health services - #1, #2, #7, #9
- g. Increase ASD awareness in four areas - healthcare, education, employers and the public - #6, #8, #9
- h. Provide information that helps families navigate systems and access services and supports – #8, #10
- i. Investigate use of technology to offer programs, outreach, services and supports - #10
- j. Identify and locate priority needs in autism community in Labrador Region - #10
- k. Conduct a cost-benefit and qualitative analysis of existing housing options for adults with ASD, inclusive of: Staying at Home; Cooperative Living Arrangements; Individualized Living Arrangements; Alternate Family Care Homes; Assisted Living Arrangements and Institutional Placements (long term care facilities, Waterford Hospital, and Personal Care Homes) - #2, #7, #10

Directors indicated a desire to see the operational action plan, with the very specific actions that will be taken to help achieve the goals and the timelines. Directors also requested estimates of the cost associated with each action comprising the operational plan.

The operational plan will be presented at a second Special Meeting of the Board of Directors on Tuesday, February 2, 2016, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

4. Adjournment

Moved by Angela Decker, seconded by Mark LaCosta; carried, that the Special Meeting of the Board of Directors for January 19th 2016 be adjourned. **(Motion 0119-0002) 8:45PM**