

Continuing Care in Alberta:

Stakeholder Groups

Date: July 12, 2005

Location: Calgary

Attendees: Coalition of Seniors Advocates, Kerby Centre, Canadian Association for the Fifty-Plus (CARP), Families Allied to Influence Responsible Elder Care (FAIRE), AIDS Calgary, Alzheimer Society of Alberta and North West Territories Calgary Chapter, Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada Calgary Chapter, Central Alberta Council on Aging, Seniors Advisory Council for Alberta, three private citizens

Key Themes:

- The standards are a good place to start.
- An independent body should have the power and authority to enforce the standards and the consequences for not meeting standards.
- The public will gain confidence in the system if the monitoring of standards is done openly and reported in a way that is understood by the public.
- Support the standards with staff and program funding.
- Good food and caring staff are essential.
- There is understaffing in many facilities.
- The resident to care giver ratio needs to be outlined in the standards and maintained at an appropriate level.
- Train staff to focus on residents and their needs as individuals when planning and providing their care.
- Couples should be able to stay together in the same facility.
- Staff training should include how to meet the needs of residents with dementia.
- Routine assessments of residents by qualified staff would ensure residents are receiving the health and housing services they need.
- Long-term care environment may not be suitable for younger adults.

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- Regardless of who operates a facility, somebody must be responsible for the health and housing services provided.
- Concerned about the effectiveness of Protection for Persons in Care in addressing issues of abuse.
- Family members need to be included as part of the team and are critical to good care.

The MLA Task Force also visited with residents and families at Edgemont and Aspen House.