

What We're Hearing

PDD Review Panel

Red Deer – Community Conversations

The Persons with Developmental Disabilities (PDD) program review panel visited Red Deer, Alberta, November 14 and 15, 2018. More than 135 people who receive PDD supports, their families, service providers, community disability workers, Government of Alberta staff and other interested Albertans came to share their views about the PDD program review at five Community Conversations.

The Community Conversations were an opportunity for participants to share their experiences directly with the review panel. The panel heard insights, ideas and stories from many people. Participants could also provide written comments and suggestions about the topics addressed by the PDD program review.

The issues and themes below were noted by review panel members as they reflected on their conversations with Red Deer participants. This is a summary document only and may not reflect everything heard during the sessions.

What's Working Well?

- Families, service providers and staff with the PDD program are motivated to collaborate to improve existing services and develop new services in the region.
- Service providers shared creative and practical ideas they want to implement related to housing models for people with disabilities as well as training for community disability workers.
- Service providers attending the sessions expressed a strong commitment to the rights of

people with disabilities and ensuring their rights are respected.

What Can Be Improved?

- All participant groups shared a strong desire for greater involvement in planning and decision making about the PDD program, especially on how changes are implemented.
- Families, individuals and service providers desire an increased focus on person-centered and flexible supports.
- Families and service providers indicated transitional planning for youth and older adults with disabilities needs to improve.
- Many families of adult children with disabilities, who are not eligible for the PDD program, shared their experiences and belief that PDD supports would benefit their children.
- Service providers would like streamlined and simplified administrative requirements.
- All participants indicated a need for staff training related to people with complex service needs.
- Families would like improved information to navigate systems and use Family Managed Services.

The verbal feedback and written comments offered by participants at the sessions will be analyzed to support the review panel's continuing work.

How Can I Get More Information?

Please visit the PDD review webpage at <https://www.alberta.ca/pdd-review.aspx>. You can also sign up for email updates on the site.