



"How do we build a society that prevents problems from occurring rather than one that copes with the consequences?"

June 15, 2017

Dear Child Intervention Panel,

The ALIGN Edmonton chapter is made up of over 50 organizations that provide quality and comprehensive services and supports to children and families in the Edmonton region.

We encourage the panel to not look at child intervention in isolation but rather as an integrative part of the spectrum of services that enhance the well-being of children and families in our province.

We would like to share with the panel our thoughts on the importance of early intervention practices that support families so that they are healthy and resilient and not in a place where there are safety concerns or the need of child intervention.

Early Intervention is about responding where there is already a problem and trying to tackle it in its early stages. It is about providing timely and effective support to children and families at risk of running into difficulties. We want to improve their life chances and benefit society at large, whilst being cost-effective. This requires a multilevel, holistic approach.

We know early childhood experiences can impact lifelong outcomes including education, careers, interpersonal relationships and long term physical and mental health. It is important to try to ensure that early experiences are positive and growth promoting.

We need to enhance the capabilities of every parent to provide a supportive and enriching environment for their children to grow up in so that the next generation has the best chance to flourish with the skills to engage in positive parenting themselves.

Investing in our children's early years will ultimately result in healthier people and communities and have greater cost savings in the long run.

We need to be driven by principles such as:

Suite 255, Bonnie Doon Mall, 8330-82 Ave Edmonton, AB T6C 4E3

Together for Children and Families

www.alignab.ca



Family Voice & Choice

Supports are grounded in family members' perspectives that reflects family values and preferences.

Collaboration

Cooperation and shared responsibility for developing, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating a single wraparound plan.

Community Based

Services and supports strategies are inclusive, responsive, accessible and least restrictive settings possible; and that safely promote child and family integration into home and community life.

Culturally Competent

A strong respect for the values, preferences, beliefs, culture, and identity of the child/ youth and family, and their community.

Strengths-Based

Building and enhancing the capabilities, knowledge, skills, and assets of the child and family and their community,

Persistence

When faced with challenges or setbacks, we continue working towards meeting the needs of the youth and family and them achieving their goals.

Outcome Based

Goals and strategies are observable and measurable with clear indicators of success, monitors progress in terms of these indicators, and revise the plan accordingly.

We want to thank the panel for all the work that is being done to listen to the voices of the people we are providing supports to and appreciate your open minds and willingness to look at the current system.

Kind regards,

Co-chairs of the Edmonton Chapter, ALIGN

Bev Parks, Executive Director Norwood Child and Family

Pauline Smale, CEO The Family Centre of Northern Alberta Association