



ALBERTA
COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Office of the Minister

JAN - 6 2022

Pauline Smale
President
ALIGN Association of Community Services
Suite 255, Bonnie Doon Mall
8330 - 82 Avenue NW
Edmonton, AB T6C 4E3

Dear Pauline Smale:

Thank you for your letter regarding disability services in Alberta. As Minister of Community and Social Services, I appreciate the opportunity to respond.

I want to thank ALIGN for sharing input as part of the Family Support for Children with Disabilities (FSCD) Program Review. Feedback from ALIGN and others informed a FSCD action plan which will focus on program improvements to better serve families, including a project to improve FSCD multi-disciplinary team processes and bundle developmental services. I have been informed ALIGN was invited by the department to provide advice on this project and hope you will share your insights and expertise to support this important work.

The government has also committed to improving the Persons with Developmental Disabilities (PDD) program and making sure people have access to the right services that meet their needs. The PDD Transformation Steering Committee advice informed a PDD program action plan, which includes projects to enhance operations to better serve individuals and their supporters.

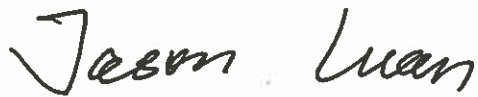
I appreciate you sharing your concerns regarding agreements between agencies and FSCD families and assure you no changes have been made to the FSCD regulation or program. The program continues to enter into agreements with families, who are responsible for either hiring staff themselves or working with agencies to obtain services, or a combination of both at their discretion. Agencies remain responsible for decisions about operational matters, such as staff compensation. This ensures agencies can make the most effective business decisions to support the successful outcomes of families receiving services.

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While my schedule does not permit me to meet at this time, I look forward to a future opportunity to meet with you. I understand ALIGN has invited senior leadership staff from my ministry to meet on February 22, 2022. I encourage you to work with them to address your concerns regarding agency support in FSCD agreements and look forward to hearing the results of this discussion.

Thank you for taking the time to write and share your concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason Luan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jason Luan
Minister of Community and Social Services

cc: Cynthia Farmer
Deputy Minister of Community and Social Services

Clay Buchanan
Assistant Deputy Minister, Disability Services