

Jewish Family Services
Minutes of the 70th Annual General Meeting
Wednesday, November 27th, 2024
Location: Beth Shalom Synagogue
11916 Jasper Ave., Edmonton, Alberta

I. Call to Order:

President, Toby Rabinovitz called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Toby respectfully acknowledged that our meeting was taking place on Treaty 6 Territory, the ancestral home of Canada's indigenous people. A quorum was declared and the meeting proceeded with an introduction of past and present Board Directors and the representatives of funding organizations.

II. Present:

Board of Directors: Toby Rabinovitz (President), Sarah Amato (President-elect) Peter Silverstone (Vice-President) George Abrams (Treasurer), Linda Hartum (Secretary), Ruth Coppens, Barry Rosof.

Board Nominees: Judith Friedman, Jessica Shifrin, Tracey Hillier

Regrets: Jeannette Hoffman, Ron Middleton, Emily Block

Staff: Danielle Dolgoy (Executive Director), Alyona Lanyme, Tatiana Kastner, Rhonda Eidelman, Deepika Pillay, Machel Curtis, Sarah Karesa, Alberto Genis, Liron Shteynpress.

Guests: Pei San Chan (Donnelly & Co. LLP), Krista Mulbery and Nancy Wang (Edmonton Seniors Coordinating Council), Sharon Marus (Chevra Kadisha), Sarah Barber (Director of Investment Impact & Research, United Way), Michael Alpern (Past President), Judi Card (Past President), Linda Goody (Casino Co-ordinator) Lana Black, Phil Kirman, Yaw Keddy, Rabbi Alisa Zeibershtein, Catherine Miller, Christine Foley, Deb Neilson, Cory Felber, Danielle Eidelman, Francie Nobleman, Inna Sukonnik,

III. Agenda:

Motion 1]: Motion to approve the agenda as presented. Moved by Peter Silverstone, seconded by Ruth Coppens. CARRIED

IV. Approval of Minutes from previous AGM of November 29th, 2023:

**Motion 2]: Motion to approve the Minutes of the November 29th, 2023, Annual General Meeting. Moved by Linda Goody, seconded by Danielle Eidelman.
CARRIED**

BUSINESS:

V. President's Report:

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Toby expressed our gratitude to all our supporters, donors, funders, board and staff for their dedication and passion.

As this was Toby's last address as President of the Board, she took us on a little trip down "memory lane" recalling how six years ago Barry Rosof had taken her for coffee and encouraged her to assume the position of Board President. Judi Card had served faithfully for so long and was ready to retire, our short-term E.D., Robert had moved back to the United Kingdom, and we needed the expertise that Toby could provide. Toby accepted the calling and soon after contacted a colleague, Jann Beeston, and convinced her to apply for the position of Executive Director. Jann brought just what we needed at that time, strong organizational strength. Then, the Covid 19 pandemic hit, and it was as though the world turned upside down.

The strong leadership team of Toby and Jann delved into the challenge of keeping the organization afloat. The staff were amazing and pulled together as a team to provide the services and programs that were so vital to our community...we made it through!

Then the move: A fire in the building we rented, and the construction of the LRT made the decision to move to a new location imminent. According to her plan and original commitment, Jann retired, while Toby committed to one more year on the Board and worked with the E.D. hiring committee to secure the employment of Danielle Dolgoy.

With the events of October 7th, the world once again turned "upside down" and JFS was ready to respond. Under Danielle's strong leadership, along with our outstanding team leaders and committed staff we continue to respond to the ongoing trauma experienced by the Jewish community.

Toby is smiling tonight because she is confident and excited to see the changing of the generations with Danielle and Sarah leading JFS into an amazing future of fulfilling our vision and mission of Tikkun Olam.

Treasurer's Report:

George Abrams referred us to the Financial Statement of Operations June 30, 2024. In the revenue column we used funds that were left over from the Covid relief funding to cover the additional staffing needs.

We still had a deficiency in 2024, but it wasn't as serious as it was in 2023.

George drew our attention to the line entitled Extraordinary Income. This was a one-time gift from an anonymous donor. This has placed us in a good liquidity position.

He stated that our statements have been audited and introduced Pei San Chan, our independent auditor from the accounting firm: Donnelly & Co. LLP

The Financial Statements were made available as part of the AGM Annual Report package.

Pei San Chan, of Donnelly & Co. LLP confirmed that in the qualified opinion of the auditors we are in a solid financial position. Revenue for the Year Ended June 30th, 2024, was \$4,618,602 and Expenses were \$4,648,425 leaving a Deficiency of \$(29,823). She explained that they had no concerns upon the completion of the audit.

Motion 3]: Motion to accept the Auditors Report for the year ending June 30th, 2024, as presented.

Moved by George Abrams, seconded by Barry Rosof. CARRIED

VI. Appointment of the Auditors for the 2024-2025, fiscal year:

Motion 4]: Motion to approve Donnelly & Co. LLP as the auditors for the year ending June 30th, 2025. Moved by George Abrams, seconded by Peter Silverstone. CARRIED

VII. Guest Presentation:

Our guest speaker for the 2024 AGM is the Social Prescribing Project Manager, Edmonton Seniors Co-ordinating Council: **Krista Mulbery**. Krista began her presentation by explaining that social prescribing is a process where a health care provider, recognizes a need of an individual that is currently not being met through the health care system. An example of this would be: if an individual was discharged from hospital but still needed regular medical follow-up, and didn't have a way to get to those appointments. Consequently, missing those appointments could lead to a

deterioration of health, possibly requiring further hospitalization. An agency such as Jewish Family Services could provide some home care and ensure that the individual was taken for those appointments.

Being proactive in meeting those non-medical needs could make a huge difference in the overall physical and mental health of the person. There is a formal referral pathway which begins with a medical professional who connects the individual to a link worker, such as JFS or SAGE who then supports clients in developing and achieving a personalized set of goals by engaging with a community support network. The partnership with Jewish Family Services began in 2019 and is pleased to report that JFS excels in the model of providing these much-needed services.

Krista is so passionate about the work she does, pulling everything together while attempting to not let anyone in need “fall through the cracks”. She was excited to share that the Alberta Government has pledged 5.5 million dollars towards this initiative.

In response to a question of what initiatives are being taken to address the social isolation that can happen, her response was profound: “Rather than asking, “What is the matter with you”; ask, “What matters to you?”

She works with health care providers to advocate for those who can’t advocate for themselves. Peer to peer support is also vitally important.

The goal of addressing client’s needs is anywhere from three to six months. This could be an opportunity for JFS to expand a Social Prescribing Program with the generated income being invested back into the program to assist those who are unable to afford the services. It was suggested that an under-developed service that is worth considering, is home maintenance.

For those who are not seniors they can be referred through Youth Mental Health. A referral is generated through Connect Care and usually takes about two weeks for a referral connection.

VIII. Executive Directors Report:

Our Executive Director, Danielle Dolgoy, began her presentation this evening by stating that joining JFSE has been one of her life’s greatest honours. A quote from Danielle really describes the heart of Jewish Family Services. She says, “The teams that deliver the wide range of programs offered by JFSE are brilliant leaders: champions of mental health, expert navigators of the social safety net, caregivers, and advocates who show up for our clients every day. Each one of them embodies the values that bring JFSE to life: Healing the World, Fairness, Compassion and Respect.

I feel great pride and privilege to lead this talented group of social workers, therapists, homecare workers, and support staff. The challenges over the past year have required our organization to be agile and responsive to situations as they arise. Each employee of JFSE answers a call to serve and for that they have my heartfelt gratitude.”

Danielle shared information about the various programs offered: The Edmonton Healing Centre provides Grief and Loss Programs as well as Online and Community programs. Outreach Services provides Newcomer Support, English Classes, Community Outreach and a 2SLGBTQ+ Support Group. The Older Adults Services encapsulate Social Prescribing, Coordinated Outreach and Holocaust Survivor Services; or Home Support Services Program provides housekeeping, personal care, transportation and companionship dedicated to the wellness of our clients.

Since the shockingly violent events in Israel on October 7th, we have seen a 110% increase in service demands. There is a rise in antisemitism and a dramatic increase in settlement of newcomers from Ukraine and Israel. In response we have established a Yachad Community Support Group, provided trauma therapists and offered three free support sessions for those adversely affected. We are thankful to have received a Federal Antisemitism Grant as well as a New Horizon Grant to help cover the costs of providing these services.

A very special thank you to our volunteers and donors who are such an essential part of our mission.

As we look ahead, we hope to expand our counselling services and continue to make profound differences in the lives of those we serve, both in the Jewish and broader Edmonton community. The doors at JFSE are open to everyone – and everyone, at some point, has need of our services. At JFSE all are welcome.

IX. Recognition of Members Leaving the Board:

Barry Rosof is retiring after serving as Vice-President of the Board for the past three years. This was Barry’s second time to serve on the Board of Directors.

Jeannette Hoffman is retiring following a two-year term where her business advice was a great asset to the Board.

Joseph Garcia retired before he was able to complete his term as the result of a move.

X. Recognition of Rhonda Eidelman on Her Retirement.

Rhonda Eidelman has been the heart and soul of Jewish Family Services. Many of the volunteers who have worked with Rhonda to cook and deliver hundreds of meals gathered this evening to honour her. We wish you every happiness and good health as you embark upon this new chapter in your life.

Toby presented Rhonda with flowers and a lovely plaque. We are thankful that Rhonda is working with Danielle and staff to maintain the Outreach Program.

XI. Nominating Committee Report & Slate of Nominations for the Board of Directors:

Toby Rabinovitz presented the slate of Nominees (Bios are in the AGM Package)

Standing for Election (Two Year Term):

- Emily Block
- Judith Friedman
- Tracey Hillier
- Jessica Shifrin
- Peter Silverstone

Standing for Re-Election (Two Year Term)

- George Abrams
- Sarah Amato
- Ruth Copens
- Linda Hartum
- Ron Middleton

Motion 5]: Moved that the membership approve the election slate.

Moved by Linda Goody, seconded by Barry Rosof CARRIED

XII. Courtesies and Announcements:

We recognize the sad loss of many friends and clients of JFSE over the past year. May their memories be for an eternal blessing.

XIII. Adjournment:

Motion 6]: Moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Moved by Barry Rosof CARRIED

Linda Hartum, Secretary; _____ Director; _____