

INFANT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
REPORT TO THE PROVINCIAL STEERING COMMITTEE

NORTH REGION
September 10, 2009

Hope everyone had a relaxing summer!

June 3: Regional conference call

June 9: The IDP/SCD certificate/diploma has moved under the Institute for Early Childhood Education and Research (IECER) and Dr. Marilyn Chapman is the new Director. A meeting was held to discuss updates and changes to the program. A number of the courses have been revised and 2 more will undergo revisions next term. There was discussion about adding some new courses in the future and the possibility of having a part-time assistant to help students taking the courses. Many thanks to Dr. Pat Miranda for all her hard work over the years and to Jo-Anne Chilton for her continued work!

June 10: BCEHP Intervention Advisory meeting

June 19: DHRN (Disabilities Health Research Network) discussion about the content of upcoming conference. This research network has typically addressed issues related to adult disability or acquired injury so it is hoped that my participation will increase interest in child related disability issues.

June 22-23: Orientation and training of new staff in Vanderhoof, Lynn Clark. Home visit and Gesell. Meeting with Connie Neilson (Fraser Lake) and Lori den Engleson (Fort St. James) in the afternoon.

July 6 to 17: Summer Institute.

Although I was not able to attend the summer institute everyday due to other commitments, the days I did attend were excellent.

8 staff from the North region attended;

Lisa Engstrom, Judie Smith and Shelley Anderson – Prince George

Penny Sterling – Quesnel

Anne Avey – Dawson Creek

Anne Falvo and Sandra Swan – Prince Rupert

Cheryl Lippert – Kitimat

We met during the summer institute and discussed how to share with MCFD the role of IDP in Infant and Child Mental Health in the North. In collaboration with Juanita Hagman (SCDP) I sent a follow-up letter to the Ministry as well as the framework developed by the Interior region and Dana's work on IDP and IMH. It is hoped that this information will be discussed on the next Executive Director regional conference call Sept. 15th.

July 13: Introductory Meeting with Minister Mary Polak.

On Dana's behalf I attended a meeting to introduce the Infant Development Program of BC to Minister Polak. Sharing information about their programs as well were Diana Elliot, Tanya Brown, Joan Gignac, Aboriginal Head Start and Marcia Dawson, Aboriginal Success by Six. We all shared prepared packages of information.

July 15: Parent Child Mother Goose Steering Committee

Welcome to IDP- Lori Fitzpatrick in Kitimat, Cherly Lippert has taken on a supervisory role with the agency but luckily will be the supervisor for IDP as well.

Fall events:

Dana and I completed the curriculum for Family Resource Programs entitled Supporting Families with children with disabilities. I will be piloting this course on October 22nd. I also was able to work with Monique Gray- Smith on revisions to Child Development, and we will be piloting that course on Sept. 23.

Judith Oldfield and I are doing the Make the Connection training in Prince Rupert on Sept. 24/25th

The Northern Aboriginal Early Childhood Development Conference will be held in Prince George on October 13th o 16th. There is an excellent variety of topics and presenters. I will have a hard copy of the brochure available.

I will be attending the DEC – 25th Annual International Conference on Young Children with Special Needs and their Families in Albuquerque New Mexico on Oct. 14-17th through a bursary from DHRN, Disabilities Health Research Network.

I was able to enjoy two weeks off with my family and friends in Valemount and Edmonton which has recharged me! I hope everyone also had time to reconnect with important people in their life and relax and recharge as well.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Stewart