

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

SUBMITTED BY
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The Lower Mainland IDP Supervisors continue to meet monthly and share resources and support. These meetings provide an opportunity to discuss issues common to all of our Programs. I learn a lot of information from my colleagues and I rely on them to help me understand new material and initiatives.

I have been very fortunate to be able to attend high caliber training events during the past few months. The Newborn Early Hearing Screening training has been particularly interesting and valuable. Starting in October 2007 with the introduction to the program, I found out how hard many people have worked in British Columbia to initiate this program. During this training, I learned a new world of information about infants and adults who are hard of hearing and deaf. This introduction was followed by six days of training on the SKI-HI Curriculum which is one of the most thorough, comprehensive curricula I have seen. It addresses the range of issues dealing with early diagnosis of hearing problems, emotional reactions of the parents and family, grieving, types of intervention and resources to find answers to any questions you might have. The training was well organised, comprehensive and taught by local professionals and experts from the United States.

Between these two Conferences dealing with infants who are hard of hearing or deaf was the Early Years Conference. Each two years, when the Early Years Conference is held, it improves in quality and diversity. The range of topics available to learn about meets everyone's curiosity and needs and the caliber of the speakers is outstanding. It is very gratifying to learn about new best practises in the field of working with infants who are at risk and who have developmental problems. This is a suitable and beneficial venue to share new ideas and research which benefits all of us who work in the area of Infant Development. I would like to acknowledge the Organising Committee for the Early Years Conference and the Supporters for doing an outstanding job organising and facilitating such an enormous Conference of a very high caliber.

I have sat in on the meetings with Mari Pighini and Dr. Lara El-Khatib as they begin to implement their Social Inclusion Project in the Vancouver Region. They are very

prepared and have done a considerable amount of networking which will help to make this project successful and accomplish its goals. I am looking forward to having them initiate the project in the Fraser Region.

Another important lecture I attended was the announcement of an expansion of the Resource Centre the Child and Youth Mental Health services at British Columbia's Children's Hospital. It is called the Kelty Resource Centre and has resources for child, youth, and family mental health and addictions. The website is www.bcmhas/keltyresurcecentre.ca

I had the privilege of participating in a meeting in Lynn Krausert's Region where they are working hard to develop a comprehensive Regional Infant Mental Health Plan. The participants in this meeting are dedicated to formulating a thorough plan with the best interests of children and families as the lead goal. It was a productive meeting with an agreement to continue the communication and sharing of ideas. They are very determined to formulate and implement a plan for effective and accessible services. I will be joining this group in person or by phone for their next meeting to continue the discussion and planning.

There have been many meetings with the Ministry for Children and Family Development covering a range of topics. The new SIRD reporting has some new aspects to learn and thus there is confusion about interpreting how to report different items on the spreadsheet. The IDP I work with has been asked to submit a Service Unit Conversion Chart which breaks down many different roles within our job into service units. This has required a considerable amount of time to sort out this chart and make certain that our expectations match those of the Ministry. My sponsoring society has been very supportive in helping to translate and calculate our work into service units. The Regional Advisors have also been extremely supportive and helpful in interpreting the new expectations from the Ministry.

The new Children in Care Policy in the Fraser Region has begun and Alanna Robson and Ken Kabool have been generous with their time in meeting with me and another ID Consultant who is also interested in this project. We want to make sure that we understand what Ms. Robson has in her plans and make sure that we carry this out and do our best for the Children in Care.

The Sponsoring Agency for the IDP I work for is enthusiastic about participating in the Linked DISC data collection system. They have asked MCFD for their opinion and support and are waiting for a response.