

Infant Development Program of British Columbia
Report to the Provincial Steering Committee
April 19th, 2007
North Region

It feels like a long time since our last meeting and I hope everyone has been enjoying the subtle signs of spring; it is a big topic of conversation in our region!!

I participate on the revision committee for the Partnership Course, Inclusive Childcare. Although I have not been working in the child care field for some time I feel fortunate to be working with a group of very skilled and knowledgeable people in this area.

March 7-10th FASD Conference in Victoria

This was a very, very exciting conference and I was very impressed to see the level of information that we are now discussing and sharing. The current research and international participation took this topic to a new level for me. I was very impressed with the integration and blending of parents and individuals living with FASD and the shared experiences. I would like every child and family in the province to experience the feeling of acceptance and community that was achieved at this conference.

I have included a list of the workshops I attended if anyone would like further information. Of particular interest to me was a workshop by Yude Henteleff, entitled "FASD: Know your legal rights in order to enforce them". Mr. Henteleff is a human rights lawyer from Manitoba who specializes in disability advocacy and his paper is very interesting.

March 26-30th Invest in Kids- Core Home Visitor Training in Saskatoon for Health Canada, Maternal Child Health.

This was a valuable learning experience for me to see how programs are offered in other provinces as well as meeting a wonderful group of committed and involved participants from rural Saskatchewan. The six facilitators were from: BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario (2) and Nova Scotia. I made some connections with Health Canada and I see this as a beginning link possibly to the Maternal Child Health initiatives in our province.

April 2: Regional conference call.

These calls are well attended and consultants are also very grateful for the chance to talk collectively. We end each call with a clinical situation and this has been extremely beneficial to share resources and knowledge. Every call we welcome more participants and colleagues from the AID programs.

April 23-24th: Regional meeting in Prince George

The focus of this will be Infant Mental Health, MCFD staff has been invited as well as staff from the local CDC and we have arranged for a tour of the newly renovated SCN. We also have a number of community members as presenters as well as parents. Thanks to the team in Prince George for their help in putting this together.

A great deal of individual contact with programs via email and calls. Many programs are facing issues around funding. Travel for training and even travel costs to see families are escalating and some programs have had to make cuts to staff training dollars in order to get in sufficient travel funds. Programs also are working hard at maintaining community partnerships in times of cuts, changing staff, uncertainty at community level etc. One community does not even have room to hold the programs that the community really values and wants, due to closure of spaces or space being used for other programs.

I continue to sit in on the Service Provider conference calls. There is still a great deal of discussion around the bargepole and the need, particularly in our region, to consider travel time as part of direct service time. Margaret Warcup (ED for Kitimat CDC) represents our region at the provincial table for these discussions and I am grateful for her calm, thoughtful and comprehensive representation of the issues. Also clarified was the contractual obligation to collect only bargepole statistics. It will be very helpful to include the benefits of our bi-annual and statistical collection forms when we distribute the bi-annual stats.

Congratulations to Mackenzie, once again for their successful completion of accreditation.

Congratulations to AimHi, of Prince George for 50 years advocacy and support for people with disabilities. Prince George will be hosting the BCACL Conference and AGM, June 14-16th. entitled "Aiming High and Leading the Way"

Welcome to Darcy Dennis of the AIFDP in Prince George as he replaces Anita Zakresky as the AIDP Regional Advisor for the North.

Welcome to Llaesa North (PT) from the Prince George CDC who has put her name forward to be the regional physiotherapy advisor to IDP.

There is a constant request for training regionally and provincially. We are already looking at training dates in June for 2 communities for the ASQ and ASQ-SE.

I look forward to a busy spring!

Respectfully submitted by Mary Stewart