

Infant Development Program of British Columbia
Report to the Provincial Steering Committee
April 24th, 2008

North Region

The last two months have flown by with so much happening.

Northern Training

I am sorry not to be participating in this meeting but Lynn and I are in Prince George doing the Gesell training. This is an exciting initiative as it is the first time that the Gesell training has been held outside the Lower Mainland. Thanks to the vision and support of Richard King (MCFD) and Anita Zakresky (AIDP Regional Advisor) and Sheryl Eglie (conference organizer) for making this possible.

This week is the Northern Aboriginal ECD conference.

Wednesday, (April 23) we will be having our Regional Inservice in Prince George with presentations from Dana, Shelley Anderson (Northern Attachment Network), Judie Smith (Professional Association) Terry Dauvin (New Guide by Your Side) and Lynn Rogers (Pediatric P/T) and Llaesa North (Regional P/T advisor).

I will be traveling to Terrace on Monday (April 28th) to train in the ASQ and ASQ-SE to Public Health, child development Staff, building blocks staff, IDP, AIDP etc. Staff from both Terrace and Kitimat will be represented.

Regionally

ASQ and ASQ training in Haida Gwaii Feb. 28th and 29th

Regional conference calls: valuable opportunities for consultants to connect and discuss provincial, regional, community issues and well as clinical support and discussion.
Follow-up issues with conference calls.

New consultants: there are several new consultants in the Region so many email and phone connections with them to mentor and train in new role. I am looking forward to meeting some of them in Prince George.

I participate in a very positive regional conference call with the Early Hearing team in our Region. We will be getting a regional coordinator in the summer and this will help facilitate stronger links between the IDP, community service providers, specialized services and designated service providers for children who are deaf and hard of hearing and their families. It is particularly important with our vast geography that we have a strong, well connected network so people do not miss out on services and support.

Provincially

I continue to sit on a number of committees to bring the voice of the region to the table.

LINKED- DISC- design team. It has been helpful to have representation from Kitimat sitting at the table as they also bring the perspective of service delivery in the North. There has been considerable feedback from some programs in the region that have really helped us with considerations when designing the data system and ensuring this process is respectful of families and includes their voice. Much credit goes to Herb Chan for keeping us on track with this work!

I also participate on the *design team for the data collection for BCEHP Intervention.* This links to the BEST data collection system that is currently being used by audiology etc. Hands waving to Lori Bell who keeps us all on track with this project!

Hands and Voices. We had training for the Guide by Your side Parents and I am thrilled that Terry Dauvin of Prince George has started her training to be a regional parent contact for families who have a child diagnosed as deaf or hard of hearing.

We had the *PICCOLO* training on March 26th. This was excellent training and will undoubtedly be a useful tool to support parent- child interactions. We will be offering more of this training in the fall.

I was fortunate to be able to attend the *Infant Mental Health Conference* in Toronto. I was pleased to share this experience with Dana and 4 consultants from the North Region. It was excellent information and all the proceedings are on a DVD so I would be happy to share any information from the conference with you.

Lynn, Judith and I have been working with Lori Bell to assist her with organizing the *Summer Institute*. The title is: Infants with Hearing Loss; Infant Mental Health considerations with educational intervention. It is timely to offer a very practical and applied course for consultants that combine the fields of infant mental health and infant/ child disability.

I have also started working as a liaison with *UBC and the IDP/ SCDP certificate diploma*. There has been concern in the field that accessing these courses are not as easy as we would like so I am assisting some students thru this process and working closely with Joanne Chilton from UBC, who has been a great, great support to many of our colleagues!

Wishing you all warmer days of spring!!!

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Stewart