

## QUESNEL COMMUNITY AUTISM COMMITTEE

NOVEMBER 5, 2010

### Minutes

1. Parent Support Group – update – things are going well, attendance has been good. Carla mentioned that some parents are in the process of transferring or looking for new Behaviour Interventionists. This led to a discussion about our website. The B.I. list is quite dated. Carla created a BI application form that is available to download from the site. It was agreed that we would tell our respective staff (ie. Sue will send out an email to SSWs/YCWs and casuals, Carla will let CDC staff know) that the BI list is going to be revised and that anyone who wants to be on the list needs to download the form, fill it out, and submit to Carla by Dec. Carla will then create a revised BI list.

Anita mentioned that she is preparing a resource for parents, looking at the role of BI, and how to maximize intervention for ASD children and youth. She offered to share with parents at a parent support group meeting. This resource might also be put on the website.

2. EPIC Group – update – Shareen wasn't able to attend the noon hour meeting. We look forward to her update next month.
3. Training: WE CAN be Friends Program – This program was created by the Canucks Autism Network in order to encourage friendship, empathy, and inclusion among children with ASD and their peers. The School District was one of 24 Districts that had approval to pilot the program last year. Gail Adams, the District Inclusion Helping Teacher, was the ambassador (trainer). She facilitated implementation of the program at one Elementary School (Riverview) last year. She did lessons in all classes at Riverview. Classroom Teachers followed up with additional lessons and/or activities. This year the program has been updated (based on feedback from pilot schools) and Gail is planning to implement the program in 2 more schools (Dragon Lake and Barlow Creek). There are other schools also interested. But the time for implementation is quite intensive. The School District is looking at training a second ambassador for the program. Feedback from parents, staff, and students is very positive. In addition to this the School District will look at how to develop, in consultation with CDC staff and Committee members, a preschool version that can be implemented in community day cares.

Social Thinking Workshops – The School District has been increasing awareness of this important part of Autism instruction. Gail Adams, the District Inclusion Helping Teacher, has developed a workshop and has presented to School Administrators, School Resource Teachers, District SSWs and YCWs as well as Classroom Teachers. Sue mentioned that developing a common understanding

and using common language has made a big difference for students. The committee talked about the value of sharing this information by doing a workshop for parents and B.I.s. Gail is available in January. Sue will develop a flyer and will send to committee members to distribute to parents, B.I.s, and other interested staff.

Other training – the committee talked about developing a learning series (series of 2-3 hour workshops) for parents and B.I.s. The other topics being considered are:

- A workshop on anxiety – presented by CYMH staff
- A Communication workshop – presented by Lynne Dunn – School District SLP
- Gateway workshop – presented by Michael Watt – Carla will ask parents what topic they would like addressed by Gateway
- How to Build a Plan – presented by Quesnel Autism Committee Members (Carla Fulton, Anita Bassett...)

The committee will discuss this further at next month's meeting.

4. Mtg Dates – the next meeting will be Thursday December 9<sup>th</sup> 3:00 at the DAO.