

Quesnel Community Autism Committee

April 6, 2011

Minutes

In Attendance: Carla Fulton (CDC), David Sutton (CLBC), Anita Bassett (MCFD), Sue MacDonald (SD) and Shareen Evans (Parent)

1. Parent Group Update – Carla gave committee members an update about the last parent session. There were 19 people at the meeting, which is a great turn out. The parents would like to do a family picnic like last year. This was well attended, a great family event. Anita suggested that the parent group apply to PCRT for money (grant they have from CYSN framework). Sue wasn't sure that the grant process/guidelines have been established yet. Sue and/or Anita sit on the PCRT committee and can follow up with that next month.

Carla explained that there was a letter in the paper from a parent with a child with ASD. Carla suggested that the committee do a write up for Autism Awareness month. We can highlight the many things that are happening in our community for youth and families. Carla suggested that we write about Shareen's group (the EPIC group), that each agency could write a brief description of their services or programs. Anita suggested we could include some statistics about how prevalent Autism really is (the stats have changed). We thought we could also highlight our website. Carla offered to get an article started and will send to everyone else on the team for further elaboration.

Carla mentioned that there were questions from parents about school funding and students with Autism. Carla asked if Sue could come to a meeting to talk about School District funding and process for staffing. Sue will check her schedule and coordinate this with Carla.
2. EPIC Group Update – Shareen shared that the group continues to grow. She had one new youth last week and has heard there might be 2 more coming. The spreadsheet that SD developed is working well (can clearly see who has paid, whether parents access funding, etc.). Shareen noted that about ½ the parents use Autism Funding to pay. Carla shared revisions to the registration form. The team made a few suggestions. Carla will finalize.

The kids have been doing some cooking. They really like to do this. They all take roles (making snack, doing dishes and clean up). They are learning some important life skills, learning how to cooperate, compromise, communicate effectively and share responsibility. Shareen noted that there is a lot of valuable learning integrated into the cooking activity.

The group has also been working on emergency procedures. Shareen has taught and reinforced the safety protocol (whistle).

3. Training – Behaviour Workshop – Everything is organized. The information just went out with RTs last week. Money for registration will go through Autism Account hosted by School District. So far there are 5 people registered. The team talked about whether there would be a minimum registration in order to go ahead with the workshop. We agreed that if there weren't 15 people by the deadline we would cancel. Daycare will be provided. It will be by donation (we will see how that works). If parents want a receipt they can ask for one.

Other workshops – Megan Klotz is still willing to do an Anxiety workshop. The team looked at dates in May and June. ACT BC is putting on a workshop at the end of May. There is also FRIEND 2 FRIEND training, Early Learning Expo and the family BBQ in June. The team thought we might have to wait until next fall. Dave reminded the team that we also talked about a workshop re: Personal Support Initiatives.

4. Next mtg – May 25th – 3:00 at School District