

**Autism Committee Minutes
August 24, 2004**

Present: Shareen, Carla, Glen, Anita, Sue, Beata

AGENDA ITEM:	ACTION:
<p>1. Previous Minutes Reviewed:</p>	<p>Beata to follow-up with Sharon re: plan to ensure that communication occurs between diagnosing physician and the rest of the team, even if the child is over 6 years of age. Suggestion: that the co-ordinator ask parent if there is any other information or assessments.</p>
<p>2. Referral Process:</p> <p>How can the process be changed so that parental concerns re: possible diagnosis, will be addressed, even if the school-based team is not concerned? Ideas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The process for dealing with conflict is outlined at the School District website; first talk to the school, then talk to the School District staff. • Continuing education of school staff regarding this. • ASD diagnosis is a medical issue so it can be addressed with pediatrician or family physician. • Links on Autism website (Checklists for GP's; information brochure to be distributed in community; Links to the Australian Scale for Asperger's Syndrome (www.aspenj.org/atwood.html.) and Child Syndrome Inventory (preschool and school-age versions). 	<p>Glen will be in contact with Sue re: referrals for school-age kids.</p>
<p>3. Sensory retraining:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October 1 & 2nd sensory system. October 3rd - sensory diet. • As workshops are paid for by MCFD contract, no fees will be charged to participants for workshop itself. Fees will cover room rental and food. • Make And Take Night: On Sept. 30th, at Riverview School 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Participants will be charged material cost at \$10.00 per person. Child Care will be covered from the Autism Committee's account. • Decision re venue: it must hold 60 – 100 people with tables and chairs; food. • Possible dates for additional workshops: January 15th & 16th or 22nd & 23rd, March 4th & 5th. Dates to be firmed up when Elizabeth is here. These additional workshops will also be covered by the MCFD contract 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sue to look into venues and food cost. • Sue will distribute workshop brochures to Committee Members via e-mail.
<p>4. Website is up and Running:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost to establish the website by ABC \$245.00 plus \$11.95 a month to monitor. We may want to buy more time to update the website and add to it. 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information regarding website to be put on workshop brochures and in MCFD mailings. • Sue will give Shareen feedback forms re. attendance at Parent Support Group that was gathered during the workshop. 	
<p>5. Friend to Friend:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is put on by the non-profit Social Learning Society and involves educational programs for kids of different ages and parents/professionals. 1-2 hour sessions could be put on at preschools, elementary schools, and both high schools, where students with Autism attend. • Travel, accommodations and meals to be paid, plus an honorarium by donation. Team of 2 could come to Quesnel for a few days in October or November. Visit should be coordinated with a school NI day so that teachers can attend. A parent offered to cover hotel accommodations. • Possible ideas for fundraising: donations at the workshops, agencies contributing. 	<p>Shareen will contact Friend to Friend re: tentative dates. Shareen and Sue will talk about scheduling their visit.</p>

Next meeting September 21st, 11:00 – 1:00 p.m. at the School District Office.

Possible Agenda Items:

- Link with library to donate books, videos on Autism.
- Clarifying our referral process, i.e., flow chart, including the distribution of information.
- Which disciplines do we want involved for school age children and how do we arrange for it?
- Please send other items to Carla.

BP/dw