

Community Autism Committee Minutes

May 3, 2005

In attendance:

Megan Klotz – MCFD

Shareen Evans and Nadine Forseille – parent reps

Sue MacDonald – SD #28

Regrets: Beata Polanska - NHA

Sandy Meidlinger - CDC

1. Parent Support Group Update:

- Only 4 parents attended – lots of conflicts – soccer, ball, etc.
- Ina Kaebe offered to do a play group for peers – only 2 kids were there
- Difficult with wide spread of ages to offer this kind of daycare
- One more month of meetings – off for the summer
- Sue loaned books for the group to look at
- They established a big “wish list” for their resource library – need to prioritize. Shareen will do this and give to Sue and she’ll put in another order.
- Watched video on understanding classmates with Aspergers -“Intricate Minds”
- The group is applying through BC Children’s Hospital for Grants for extended services – refer to handout
- Shareen made posters and pamphlets for support group – adding logo from website
- Posters will be put in daycares to remind people of support group
- Process for sending out reminders – Sue will continue with RTs
- Ideas for future meetings:
 - SLP – peer group / play group – possibly over a series of months.
 - List of ideas from Autism BC – pkg. – parents were interested in accessing pkg re: peer groups
- They will be offering daycare for 1 more month. Revisit in Fall

2. Committee proposals: Kid’s day

- They have commitments by various professionals for displays:
PT – Lynn Goodwin OT – Sarah Turner
SLP –Rita SD and CDC will provide information pamphlets as well
They will also have Quesnel Autism/parent support group pamphlet
and Autism BC pamphlet (What is Autism?...). The group also hopes that
Beata will do a pamphlet re: Assessment/referral process
- They have a tent booked
- They envision 4 tables surrounding the tent with various sensory activities for kids to engage in/try
- Shareen checked out the cost of banner - between \$100 & \$200 at Sign Stop. The committee approved the purchase of 2 x 8 in color – up to \$200.00
- Shareen and Nadine are still working on purchases for the sensory tables – committee agreed to revisit this at June meeting
- They will be loaning materials from CDC (and possibly SD)
- They do still need Volunteers to help at booth/tables. They expect that they need min. 1 person X 4 tables for three different shifts (i.e. 9-11, 11-2, 2-4)
- Group talked about sending a notice to parents requesting volunteers for Kid’s Day
- Shareen will start on a draft

3. Nadine talked to Annett (who is in charge of Mandt system for Canada). Since Quesnel Autism is not an official society, had a hard time answering questions.
 - They did agree that the Quesnel Autism could be an umbrella group and that anyone that volunteers can be trained under the Autism group. The volunteers & parents would have to be pre approved by Mandt. (need to send in information, have to have a relationship)
 - The cost is \$1145 to take training course
 - good for two years
 - \$845 to be re-certified
 - certification includes a resource CD
 - ability to train anyone in organization (i.e. volunteers) – just need to cover the cost of manuals – 2 day workshop
 - School board was sent the same information that Nadine shared. There is a workshop Aug. 2005 in PG.
 - Megan mentioned that Doris Hocevar (sp?) – Mental Health – is trained in Mandt and that she might be able to train us. Sue will check this out.

4. Snoezelen Rooms
 - Sue shared about the opening of a new Snoezelen room in Invermere (Rocky Mountain House School District)
 - With declining enrolments there are rooms available in the schools...might be a possibility to look at initiating this
 - Group talked about the need for this in our community – meets the needs of various groups (kids with Autism, children and adolescents with multiple disabilities, adults with dementia, etc.). The room could be set up in a school and used by schools staff, CDC during school hours and community staff outside of school hours
 - How can we support a multi sensory room? Are there grants we can access?
 - Need to look at avenues to access funding: Ronald McDonald House, Community groups (Quesnel Autism, QCLA, MCFD, NHA, SD, CDC, Nursing homes...). Sue will contact Ronald McDonald House to ask for an application

4. Next meeting – Beata suggested Mondays or Wednesdays. This provided daycare issues for Nadine and Shareen. The group decided to stick with Tuesdays (following parent support meeting).

Next Meeting date: Tuesday, June 7th 1:00 DAO