

QUESNEL COMMUNITY AUTISM COMMITTEE MEETING
SEPTEMBER 21, 2004

ATTENDING – Shareen Evans – Parent, Anita Bassett - Team Leader Quesnel Community Living Services, Glen Grunau – Child and Youth Mental Health Clinician, Carla Fulton – Supported Child Care Coordinator, Beata Polaski – SLP for Northern Health & Sue MacDonald – SD #28

1. AUTISM WEBSITE – Sue shared about the recent updates to the website. She has passed along the min. from previous meeting, information about the Sensory Workshop in Quesnel, and another Workshop in Edmonton that Shareen suggested. She also passed along some information re:useful resources, links, etc. which Elizabeth (Gateway Trainer) recommended. The rep. from ABC PG has been very accommodating. We have ‘exhausted’ the time given for initiating a website. Liz will bill us for the extra time that she has needed to update the site (still minimal).

2. PARENT SURVEY – Sharene reviewed the feedback forms from the Starting Blocks Training Sessions. Most of the responses came from BIs (Behaviour Interventionists). Sharene has made a survey, specific to parents, which will help her get the information she needs in order to establish a local Autism Support Group. She will circulate the survey through MCFD and SD. Once the information is returned to her she will share with the team what the community wants (if people want to form a support group, when people want to meet, how often...). This will be reported back to the committee at our next meeting. Presently, Shareen, Archie (Gateway Behavior consultant), and Louis Dinwoody – CDC Family Support Worker will facilitate this group. The CDC has offered its facility as a host site.

3. DONATIONS TO THE LIBRARY – The team talked at length about how to best facilitate sharing resources. We all agreed that we would like to see resources more readily available to parents, but wonder if the public library system would be the best/most accessible way (vs promoting the resources already available/on loan at our individual organizations). We also wondered whether it would be more worthwhile to develop kits (videos, books..etc., organized by topic such as Communication, Sensory...) rather than purchase individual books. The team decided to explore the option by doing a ‘test’(purchasing some resources to loan to the library and monitoring its success/usefulness). Beata will approach Quesnel Library to see what their service looks like (do they monitor, lend to neighboring districts...). She will report back to the committee next month and we will go from there.

4. CLARIFYING THE REFERRAL PROCESS – The team talked about our frustrations in not knowing what names are put forward to Rachelle. As well, this referral system is inconsistent - some physicans are using this route, while others are still sending referrals directly to Dr. Marriage (through Glen Gruneau). We feel somewhat unconnected with the process we had established for our community (another step in the process). Beata announced that she would be assuming Rachelle’s position (Autism

Spectrum Disorder Diagnostics Services Coordinator) as of Oct. 6. Rachelle is taking a leave. The position has been increased to ½ time. Beata will attend training at the beg. of Oct. Given the responsibilities and limited time allocated to the position, Beata still hopes to make a commitment to our team (even if it means only attending for a short period of our monthly meetings). The team agreed that it would be a huge asset to our community to have Beata in this position. We wish her well!

Plan:

- Beata will talk to her supervisor to see what support she can offer to help 'clarify' the process. She may try to attend a Medical Staff mtg to introduce herself and remind local physicians of the referral process
- Beata will write a letter to physicians reminding them of referral process
- Glen will screen Dr. Marriage's referrals. If there is an Autism assessment referral he will return it to local physician as a reminder to follow the process established

5. WORKSHOP UPDATE – Registrations for the Sensory workshop Oct. 1-3 are 'trickling' in. There is a concern that we may not meet our minimum (number established to decide registration fee). Some wondered whether it is just a reflection of how busy this time of year is or whether people are anticipating a second/repeat Sensory Workshop at a future date. The team agreed that if we have to, we can use money in our account (surplus from Starting Blocks workshops). Anita asked about sharing Workshop info with neighboring communities (to increase registration #s). She is going to send flyers to CLS as well as Gateway in Prince George and Williams Lake. Carla is going to contact the radio station to do a reminder (also hopes to clarify that this is a 'one time only' session...and will not be repeated).

Elizabeth has replied about the next training dates. She is available on Jan. 15 and 16 (Sat. and Sun.) to do the one day Communication and one day Behavior workshops. She is not available at the beg. of March...would prefer a Feb. date. The school district has an NI day on Feb. 4th. Sue has emailed Elizabeth about doing a Follow-up Starting Blocks training session that weekend (Feb. 4th and 5th). She will update the team at next meeting. The dates should then be finalized.

The team talked about the Parent Make'n Take Night. Presently, there are 10 participants. Only one parent has requested day care. When it gets closer to the deadline, Sue will contact Carla to share what the daycare needs are and they will make a decision whether to look at a different support rather than daycare at the Riv. Site.

6. FRIENDS2FRIENDS - The dates are confirmed – Monday, Nov. 15- Thursday Nov. 18. Sue and Shareen have been coordinating this visit. The team looked at/drafted a temporary schedule. Sue will send to presenters for final confirmation. Tentatively, they will present to 5 schools, 5 daycare sites and possibly the separate schools. We also hope

they will do an adult presentation. Their expenses (flight, meals, and honorarium) should come to about \$2000. This is based on \$600 for flights, \$100 each per day of visit - honorarium, and their meals for 4 days. Shareen will be presenting with them and offered to chauffeur them from site to site (Sue and Carla can also help in the a.m.'s). The CDC and SD will contribute \$500 each and the remaining money will come from the donations at each site (i.e. \$loonie charge per person for performance) and as well from our Autism Account Surplus. Shareen will get the presenters to send flyers that we can send out in the community to advertise this event.

NEXT MEETING – Tuesday, Oct. 19th 10:30-12:00 DAO