

Report to Provincial Steering Committee
February 15, 2007 meeting
Interior Region I.D.P. of B.C.

This has been a long and unusual winter in the Interior; increased snowfall, freezing rain and huge variations in temperature from one day to the next has taken its toll on families and consultants both. Currently there is a significant increase in RSV infections, putting many families at risk. That being said, spring will be very welcome when it arrives.

Many projects that affect IDP are being pursued in the Interior both by MCFD staff and by Interior Health.

- Tracey Hulten, the Regional Research Analyst for MCFD's Interior Region, has undertaken a project for Marcia Julian whereby she is "trying to find a statistic that shows the number/proportion of children in the general population with special needs." She has begun with stats from Vital Statistics called "Counts of Children (Less than 20 yrs.) Living with Selected Disabilities and Handicapping Conditions by Age Group, as of Year-End 2002". In my discussion with her I noted the value of Herb Chan's work and that the LINKED-DISC would provide this information.
- Nadine Johnson, Assistant Director of Early Childhood for Interior Health Kelowna is interested in the ASQ-Social Emotional. We will be in dialogue about the tool itself, who could provide the screening, where it fits in the continuum of services and the development of resources for those identified as having difficulty in this area.
- John Bergman, Regional Finance Officer, continues to chair the group writing a Logic Model for Interior IDP. John did this same work with Interior SCD last spring [Lorraine sat on that committee].

I met with John last June and made him aware of the existing provincial Logic Model but the process has continued and will lead to a standard contract for all IDP within the Interior. The concern is that each region could end up with different logic models for this provincial program.

- Cross Training: a Spring conference for all Early Childhood Development sectors is being planned for April 25-27 in Kelowna. Marcia Julian, MCFD Regional Manager, spoke to IDP at our spring Regional meeting last April and encouraged us to participate in a collaborative meeting in 2007...and here we are.

The conference will be significantly more costly than what we usually pay because of hotel costs, presenters' fees, accommodation costs. It will remain to be seen if our very high participation can be maintained with costs between triple and quadruple the 2005 and 2006 rates. The event itself looks exciting.

- Sue Rossi, Interior Region ECD Advisor, completed a report describing the Interior Early Childhood Development Network. A particularly useful portion of the paper illustrates the linkages between Success by Six and/or Children First initiatives and the various coalitions [of whom IDP is a member] within communities and areas.

We have new consultants in **Revelstoke** [Amanda Macintosh] and Kelowna [Michelle Dickie]. Welcome to them both ☺

I provided training in the ASQ-SE and the AEPS [Assessment, Evaluation and Programming System] to 3 consultants from **Lilloett** and 1 from **100 Mile House** in December. Last week consultants from **Revelstoke, Princeton, Clearwater** and the **South Okanagan** traveled to Merritt for this same training. Training for staff of the **Kamloops** IDP is scheduled for March 27th [new staff from Kelowna etc may join in too]. It is very gratifying to see the enthusiasm with which IDP staff embrace these tools. It is also a good use of the training that RAs received in **Oregon** in May of 2005.

I spent a ½ day with staff from the **South Okanagan** before attending the **Early Hearing Screening presentation in Penticton** on January 25. Consultation with **Connie Dean, Aboriginal RA**, in Vernon on February 2 centered around resources and process for providing support to consultants.

Our Regional Conference Calls are now scheduled for every other month; March 5, May 14 and June 25 are the next dates.

Respectfully submitted

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