

**Infant Development Program of British Columbia**  
**Report to the Provincial Steering Committee**  
**February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

**North Region**

It has been a busy year for consultants in the North with very cold temperatures, road closures and more snow accumulation than for some time, and that is even before we leave the house!

Jan. 12<sup>th</sup>- I had a very positive meeting with Llaesa North of the PG CDC; she is the regional representative for therapy services for the north central area. We discussed role clarification and how services to families can look different from community to community. We also discussed some joint training at a spring meeting.

Jan 30<sup>th</sup>- Regional Conference call with AIDP and IDP  
Discussion included, MCFD reporting templates, Linked-Disc of BC work, working with therapists, training and mentoring AID programs. Diane Gabriesen followed up with contact information for Mark Lalonde for some programs.

Some time ago I collected a list of trainings that people have taken in our region, if they are implementing the training and what they would like to be trained in. Shirley in Prince Rupert is generously compiling this and we are still waiting to hear back from some consultants. We hope that this will help guide some of our regional and provincial training opportunities.

I will also be collecting an “education profile” from each consultant and we agreed that I will develop an educational profile of consultants in the north so I am better able to speak to the backgrounds and education of people when asked. This came out the discussion with Llaesa but is also a good exercise for all of us to be familiar with each others expertise and education.

There was a great deal of discussion on the conference call around Infant Mental Health. Again the consensus was that practice and what services to infants, children and families look like varies a great deal all over our region. Some programs use the ASQ-Se, some do not, some are able to do WWW, some have not had adequate training in strategies etc.. It will be important to discuss what is an infant consultant’s role in infant mental health.

Feb.4-6<sup>th</sup>, Fort Saint John and met with new consultant **Deanne Kosick** unfortunately **Catherine Douglas** was home sick. Deanne and I drove to Dawson Creek to meet with Salley and Jackalin. Our agenda covered topics such as provincial inservice topics, sharing resources, infant mental health, recent workshop on oral feeding strategies etc

Individual contact with programs has varied from letters of support and advocacy for programming and educational opportunities, some staffing issues and changes in the staffing in some communities. We have three new consultants that we expect will be attending Gesell training, **Deanne, Catherine and Laurie Gordon and welcome back to Carol Burbee in Prince George**, Several consultants are taking the IDP Diploma Program (we are very grateful for the grants to assist with tuition costs!!!). There was a very positive discussion regarding the diploma courses as they are very relevant, useful and help enhance practice.

We have a number of requests for training coming up in the spring and we are hoping to have a Regional meeting in April.

I continue to participate on our Regional MCFD Service Provider conference calls. I also continue to participate on the Early Years Planning Committee, Early Intervention Planning, LINKED-DISC meetings, BC Early Hearing Screening Advisory- primarily by conference calls. I will also be involved in the revisions to the Partnerships course on Inclusive Child Care.

Enjoy the rest of the winter!

Respectfully submitted by Mary