



Working with Youth Living with FASD Training

December 2007

The Asante Centre and PLEA partnered on December 4th and 14th to deliver training to 85 participants on aspects of working with youth who live with FASD. Service providers, MCFD staff, Social Workers, Probation Officers, Students, Birth, Foster, and Adopted Parents attended the training focused on youth in the justice system.

Presenters included professionals from the Asante Centre and FASD experts from PLEA. The first day was devoted to the basics of FASD, characteristics and diagnosis. On day two, the participants were involved in a discussion about the brain and FASD. The purpose of the training was to help individuals critically consider FASD as a brain based disability and start to think about how they could make adaptations in the environment so that individuals with FASD can experience greater success.

Those people that attended both days of the training received their level I certification. Level II trainings are planned for 2008 and 2009 which will include topics relating specifically to FASD such as mental health, language, attention and daily living skills. On January 16th, 2008 the first of the Level II trainings was held. Dr. Asante and Dr. Locke spoke about mental health and FASD. The Asante Centre and PLEA are excited about completing more training and are inspired by the level of commitment and interest from those who attended.

If you or someone you know, may be interested in attending training related to youth living with FASD, or other FASD related topics, visit the Asante Centre website events and news page.

Friends and Donors of the Asante Centre

We would like to recognize our **Special Angels**

Annual Donors

Sandra Taylor with the Westgate Flower Garden
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We would also like to send
a **BIG** thank you to our
volunteer handyman
Leo Fontana

Minister Christensen released the new 10 year provincial plan entitled: Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder: Building on Strengths. The new plan provides an overview of progress in addressing FASD and outlines a framework to guide our efforts over the next 10 years. To see the plan visit: http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/spec_needs/

Upcoming Events

Third National Biennial Conference on Adolescents and Adults with FASD

FASD and Mental Health: The Wisdom of Practice

Apr 10-12, 2008 at the Coast Plaza Hotel and

Suites in Vancouver. Visit

www.interprofessional.ubc.ca for more information.

Building on our Strengths: Stone by Stone

May 21st to 24th, 2008 in Banff Alberta. Visit

www.child.gov.ab.ca/fasd for more information.

FASD Parent Support and Education

For dates and times of parent-to-parent support groups and parent education in the Fraser Health region visit Events and News on the Asante Centre website.

Research Opportunities

Your assistance with FASD research can make a difference. We need to learn more about FASD and researchers across North American, including researchers at UBC and UVic, are looking for families and individuals who are willing to participate. Please visit the Asante Centre website research page for further information.

For more information and other events visit the Asante Centre website and click on the Events and News link.



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Report from the Representative for Children and Youth February 26th, 2008

This Brief focuses on the accountabilities of the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) and Community Living B.C. (CLBC) with respect to the delivery of services to children and youth living with special needs. Children and youth with FASD are included in the 5.65% of children and youth in B.C. who have significant special needs. The reports states that "as of February 12th, 2008, 9610 children and families were either receiving or waiting for CLBC services." In addition "MCFD reports that it services approximately 20,000 children and youth with special needs." The report summarizes key concerns regarding services including eligibility, wait times, accessibility, service integration and effectiveness.

The report concludes with recommendations. The first being that MCFD and CLBC need to give greater priority to identifying the population which they serve. Further short term and long term recommendations were outlined and the programs within the organizations were detailed.

The full report can be accessed on-line at :<http://www.rcybc.ca/groups/Media%20Room/RCY%20Monitoring%20Brief%20Feb%2008.pdf>

FASD Social Skills Groups

The Asante Centre is offering FASD specific Social Skills Groups for children age 7 to 12 years and are presently taking names of interested families. Children who have difficulty socially can learn appropriate social behaviors, such as initiating and maintaining conversation, listening, sharing, self-control, dealing with teasing and emotions, and making friends. Call us for more details.

FASD Brain Summit in Winnipeg

Canada Northwest FASD Research Network "Brain Summit"

Dr. Julie Conry, Psychologist, Kristal Bodaly and Carol Woodworth, Speech Language Pathologists, attended this facilitated "Brain Summit" in Winnipeg, on March 28 & 29, on invitation. The summit was funded by Public Health Agency of Canada, the Canada Northwest FASD Ministerial Partnership, and the Canada Northwest FASD Research Network. The purpose of the meeting was to bring together psychologists, occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists and pediatricians in the field of FASD diagnosis in order to: 1. enhance our collective understanding of the Canadian Guidelines for FASD Diagnosis as they relate to diagnosis of the domains of brain function 2. summarize our current practices with respect to diagnosing the brain 3. review the current brain scale and 4. make recommendations for changes.

Members of diagnostic teams from many provinces and territories in Canada as well as policy makers from government attended the meeting to participate in stimulating discussion and networking in the FASD community.



Is there a profile that is the same for all people with FASD?

Individuals with FASD all have a brain based disability. In other words, three or more functional areas of brain development are significantly impaired regardless of where an individual falls on the spectrum. On the other hand, no two people with FASD have the same brain, so there is no specific profile of abilities for every person with FASD.

What can you do?

Become a member of the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Society for British Columbia!

Name/or Organization: _____

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www.asantecentre.org



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Send cheque or money order to:
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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!