



Westcoast Family Resources Society

The Strength of Family

Westcoast News

Volume 9 Issue 2

June, 2010



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Executive Director's Report

It has been a very busy time over this past month as I have attended numerous meetings regarding baseline funding reductions and potential impact to our service delivery in all communities. I am glad to report that, although the cuts are substantial, overall it will result in some changes in service delivery and Westcoast will come through the process with little impact on the employment status of our regular personnel. The biggest impact is to our North Shore program which has had to give up their site for the third time in 6 years and move to a co-locating arrangement with Elizabeth Fry Society in order to accommodate the reduction in funding.

In the month of April, Westcoast was proud to host a very successful Professional Development Workshop, by Dr. Diane Benoit entitled Atypical Caregiver Behaviour and Modified Interaction Guidance Training. The Training was attended by various community colleagues from the Lower Mainland and all over BC.

Also in the month of April, the Tri Cities East Neighborhood Centre MCFD and Westcoast were the hosts of luncheon for the Honorable Minister Mary Polak and the Assistant Deputy Minister, Bev Dicks from MCFD. This was an opportunity for us to show off our hub which once again has been a model for others.



*Bev Dicks, Assistant Deputy Minister
 & Ann Kutcher, WFRS Executive Director*

Our Annual General Meeting is coming up on June 23rd. This year our keynote speaker is **Mr. Glenn McLean**, from Canadian Tire's Jumpstart program.

The Jumpstart program provides an opportunity for children from financially disadvantaged families to participate in sport and recreation activities. This year, Westcoast will be recognizing some of our long time community partners like Canadian Tire and other donors who have helped support many of our families and children with donations throughout the year. We anticipate that it will be an information packed and fun event, and we hope to see you all there.

*Ann Kutcher
 Executive Director*



Westcoast Family Resource s Society

Head Office and Vancouver (NE):	#101 - 2780 E. Broadway, Vancouver V5M 1Y8	Ph: (604) 254-5457
Vancouver (NW):	#201 - 460 Nanaimo Street, Vancouver V5L 4W3	Ph: (604) 255-9568
North Shore:	#301- 255 W. 1st St, North Vancouver V7M 3G8	Ph: (604) 985-2202
Ridge Meadows:	22323 - 119 Avenue, Maple Ridge V2X 2Z2	Ph: (604) 466-7328
Tri Cities East Neighbourhood Centre:	2062 Manning Avenue, Port Coquitlam V3B 1L6	Ph: (604) 944-2500

Program Updates . . .

Vancouver VFPS

Westcoast Family Resources Society was pleased to host its first Professional Development Series presented by Dr. Diane Benoit entitled Atypical Caregiver Behaviour and Modified Interaction Guidance Training. This three day workshop in April was at Van Dusen Gardens.

Dr. Benoit is an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Toronto, Research Scientist in the Research Institute at the Hospital for Sick Children and Staff Psychiatrist in the Infant Psychiatry Program at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto. Her research, educational and clinical activities focus on parenting, child-parent attachment relationships, attachment-based and trauma-focused interventions. She is a focused, dynamic speaker and has trained professionals across Canada.

150 Counsellors, Mental Health Clinicians, Ministry for Children and Family Development Social Workers, Community Service Managers, Supervised Access Workers and Family Support Workers attended from across the Lower Mainland, the Interior, as well as Washington and Oregon.

Over the course of the workshop participants learned how to define attachment, describe the major types of attachment in children and adults, describe the effects of trauma on children, adolescents and adults, and identify specific caregiver behaviours associated with disorganized attachment in children. Those that attended the last day of the workshop were able to describe indications and contra- indications for the use of Modified Interaction Guidance as well as learning techniques of MIG in their every day practice.

The response was overwhelmingly positive. Participants raved that:

- *"This was truly one of the best training sessions I have attended"*
- *"The training was so useful for my line of work that I believe everyone in my organization should have attended"*
- *"Having attended this 3 day workshop will make me more aware of the subtle interactions in my visits between caregiver & child"*

Please stay tuned for our 2nd Professional Development Series in 2011.

Julie Renton, Community Development Manager



Kate Saunders (WFRS Fam. Counsellor)
and **Dr. Diane Benoit**

Clinical Counselling, Family Response and Supervised Visitation Programs

The CC team is excited by the newly acquired space at the head office location on E. Broadway. There is now more room for adult and couples counselling, as well as an additional play therapy room. Staff have worked hard to equip both rooms with furniture and play therapy toys.

At the end of June we say goodbye to our two Masters Level students. Their hard work and commitment to clients and families has been noted and appreciated by staff. The CC department looks forward to two new students beginning their practicum experience at the beginning of September.

The Family Response program continues to provide services to clients through the MCFD Intake Team. Staff look forward to continued collaboration with the new Team Leader recently appointed at the Ministry RFK office.

Supervised Visitation Workers continue to do tremendous work and are busy with full cases. They are also enjoying the additional space afforded to them for scheduling their visits with the families and children.

Wayne Wong
Program Director

Maple Ridge

Things continue to be busy in Maple Ridge. The Ministry for Children and Family Development social workers continue to have high caseloads. As a result, we received more referrals in the last year, altogether we serviced 117 adults and 222 children. Compared to the rest of the Province, our office has one of the highest statistics for Family Development Response (F.D.R.) service delivery. The provincial average is 5.9% of initial responses to protection reports become F.D.R. cases. In our office we are at 13%. Higher if you count referrals from the Family Service team. This is a statistic we are proud of as we continue to strive for excellence in our work.

Training opportunities have been expanded. Specifically, we have joined with the child protection social workers in undertaking monthly training sessions on Strength Based- Solution Focused Practice work. It is gratifying to work so closely and hear more about the quality of social work delivered. Further, we continue to enjoy the atmosphere of mutual respect and dedication to families. That atmosphere is a big part of the every day environment in the office and it is a pleasure to be part of it.

*Theresa Thompson M.A.
Clinical Supervisor*

North Shore

... is on the move! Due to rental increases, North Shore Preservation & Support Services is co-locating with the Elizabeth Fry Society. We will now be in the hub of services, including Hollyburn Family Services, North Shore Family Services, and MCFD. New address is #301-255 W. 1st Street, North Vancouver. Staff have appreciated being warmly welcomed by E. Fry staff, where we will be for the next four to six months.

Newsorthy updates: The Adler Parenting Training Group facilitated by our two Masters Level candidates concluded a STEP (Systematic Training for Effective Parenting) program in April. The group was well received by clients and the community.

A Tween & Teen Parenting Group for Farsi speaking parents, facilitated by Shahla Noorani, is currently being held in the Lynn Valley Library on Tuesdays & Wednesdays. In June, the group will be offered on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

*Wayne Wong
Program Director*

Tri Cities

Tri-Cities East Neighborhood Centre welcomed the Honorable Minister, Mary Polak on April 6, 2010.

MCFD, Westcoast staff, and community partners were invited for lunch and an opportunity to meet and have a discussion with Minister Polak and the Assistant Deputy Minister, Bev Dicks. We had a great turnout and a lively discussion. Ms. Dicks and Minister Polak stated their regard for the work being done in our community.

Our office has also been going through some renovations, especially to the kitchen, making it much more functional and creating a comfortable space for our various cooking programs offered at this site.

*Tanya Valois
Program Director*



From left to right: Christine Kinney-Ludlow, *Exec. Dir. Tri City Fam Place*; Tanya Valois, *Program Director Tri Cities East Neighborhood Centre*; Kathryn Smith, *MCFD Team Leader*; Mary Polak, *Honorable Minister*; Bev Dicks, *Assist. Dep. Minister*; Ann Kutcher, *Exec. Director WFRS*



WFRS 2010 Annual General Meeting

This is an open invitation to all our members, clients, staff, and community colleagues to attend our 26th Annual General Meeting.

Wednesday, June 23rd, 2010
2:00 - 4:30 pm
Executive Hotel
4201 Lougheed Hwy, Burnaby

Refreshments will be served
Please RSVP to (604) 254-5457
or
freeza.anand@westcoastfamily.org



“Westcoast Community Day” at the Hastings Racecourse

For More Information Contact:

Date: Sunday, September 19th, 2010
Time: 12:00 - 5:00 pm
Location: Hastings Racecourse, PNE Gate #6
Price: \$25 per ticket (includes BBQ lunch)

Julie Renton: 604-254-5457 Ext. 231
Email: Julie.renton@westcoastfamily.org
or
Freeza Anand: 604-254-5457 Ext. 244
Email: freeza.anand@westcoastfamily.org

All Proceeds will go to Fund New Programs and Services

Donate to Westcoast Family Resources Society

Canada Revenue Agency registered charity # 13145 4555RR0001
Donations fund education groups for parents, equipment, and new endeavours at Westcoast.

I enclose my donation of \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Return to: Westcoast Family Resources Society #101-2780 E. Broadway, Vancouver BC V5M 1Y8. A tax receipt will be sent to you.

You can also donate to Westcoast on-line. It's easy: Go to our website www.westcoastfamily.org
Click on “Make a Donation”. Then on the “Donate Now” button. This secure website administers donations for us.
You can donate in someone’s honour, or set up monthly donations. A tax receipt will be sent to you.

Westcoast News wants to hear from you!
Please send contributions, photos, and news items to: anne.fitzpatrick@westcoastfamily.org