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Making Connections



ECDSS UPDATES

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Making Connections For Our Children's Future (the Survivor Addition)

Have you had a chance to register for our fall all-sites conference? There are still a few days left to register.

This all-day session will provide an opportunity to connect with a number of resources in the region in a fun and interactive way. This conference is more than just a resource fair, it is a resource simulation. It will provide opportunity for program staff to network with each other and pool their knowledge about available resources in the region. This day of collaboration will assist participants in getting in touch with what resources and services are available. We look forward to seeing you all there. Lunch is provided.

Date: October 20, 2009
9:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

Location: North Pointe Community Church,
14025—167 Avenue, Edmonton

Cost: \$15.75 (GST included)

Register online at www.ecdss.ca/events.php

Message from Line Perron

After eight years of coordinating ECD programs in Region 6 and offering support services, I've decided to use the many lessons you have all taught me to contribute to the provincial Early Childhood Mapping Project (ECMap), led by Susan Lynch and the Community University Partnership. I am the Community Development and Mobilization Manager for the project and am looking forward to the challenges and opportunities this will bring my way.

I do want to thank all of you who have contributed to the incredible journey that has led me here. I've appreciated your insights, wisdom and energy (not to mention the wonderful relationships I've been able to cultivate). I am grateful for the generosity you've all shown in sharing your stories and experiences with me along the way.

ECDSS is now in the capable and competent hands of Tracy Bridges at the helm and the rest of our staff who continue to be committed and dedicated to supporting you in your professional needs. I am looking forward to reconnecting with you in a different capacity as I go out into the community. Please keep in touch and have a wonderful fall.

Line Marie Perron

Community Development and Mobilization Manager
Early Childhood Development Mapping (ECMap)
Community University Partnership, University of Alberta
Phone: (780) 248-2007, Cell: (780) 983-9465,
Email: line@ualberta.ca



"Working together for our children's future."

UPCOMING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Kids Have Stress Too

Research shows that even young children can learn to manage their stress effectively. Participants who complete this course are qualified to present workshops to parents and caregivers on how to recognize stress in children, identify stressors, and teach age-appropriate stress-management techniques. Participants are provided with materials to teach the workshops.

Date: October 22, 2009

Cost: \$78.75

Child Development

This session explores child development within the context of relationships. Participants will learn the basic concepts of brain development, relationship development and how interactions between child and caregiver create the crucial foundation for healthy development. Participants will explore the roots of challenging behavior and learn strategies to positively engage children in ways that build relationships.

Date: November 16-17, 2009 (2 days) or
January 19-20, 2010 (2 days)

Cost: \$105.00

Ages & Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) and Ages & Stages Social/Emotional (ASQ-SE)

This session provides the essentials of using the ASQ and the ASQ:SE tools. These questionnaires are flexible, culturally-sensitive systems for screening infants and young children for developmental delays or concerns in the crucial first five years of life.

Date: February 17, 2010 (1 day)

Cost: \$47.25

Can't Find the Course You Are Looking For?

We offer additional courses. Please visit our professional development webpage www.ecdss.ca/course_listing.php to view our complete course listing. If you request a course, we will contact you as soon as we schedule the next session.

Register Online
www.ecdss.ca/events.php

Kouzes and Posner Leadership Challenge

Backed by 25 years of original research and data from over three million leaders, The Leadership Challenge® is a leadership development program by bestselling authors Jim Kouzes and Barry Posner. Approaching leadership as a measurable, learnable, and teachable set of behaviors, this proven leadership model proclaims Leadership Is Everyone's Business.

Date: March 4-5 and 26, 2010 (3 days)

Cost: \$472.50

Relationship Based Practice —Level I (Formerly known as Core Home Visitation Training)

This session focuses on building the knowledge and skills of relationship based practitioners, exploring values and beliefs, and gaining practical strategies for reaching, engaging and supporting hard to reach families. This training will increase awareness and knowledge of child abuse, duty to report, establishing and maintaining healthy boundaries. Practitioners will explore communication strategies, safety practices for working alone, confidentiality and self-care.

Date: December 7-11, 2009 (5 days)

Cost: \$255.00

Relationship Based Practice —Level II

This session focuses on deeper exploration of relationship based practices. Participants will explore interdisciplinary practices and how to collaborate with other professionals. Participants are challenged to look at their own values and beliefs and to explore the impact on their ability to support families. Participants will drill deeper into the topic of maintaining healthy boundaries, case-note writing, ethics and leadership.

Date: November 30-December 1, 2009 (2 days) or
February 18-19, 2010 (2 days)

Cost: \$105.00

DEVELOPING PARTNERSHIPS WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Research shows that it is beneficial to offer child and family-focused services that are comprehensive, coordinated, community-based, culturally competent and individualized. Achieving this is a challenge for any organization that chooses to work independently. Working collaboratively with other organizations to establish integrated services is a viable approach for many human service providers. Organizations can pool their resources and knowledge to develop a successful system of support for the families they serve.

Partnerships Exist at Various Levels

Partnerships exist at various levels and in various forms, depending upon the context. One way to categorize a partnership is the level of relationship development among the members. These levels can include:

1. Networking
2. Cooperation
3. Coordination
4. Coalition
5. Full Collaboration.

As part of the collaboration process, organizations should identify how focused and formalized their partnership needs to be.

Steps to Ensure a Successful Partnership

1. Identify the Need
 - An organization should review their own vision, establish their priorities, and identify their expectations of developing a partnership. It should establish what it can offer potential partners and identify what they hope to gain.
 - They should weigh the costs and benefits of partnering. Identify goals and why partnering is necessary to achieve them.
2. Choose Appropriate Partners
 - Approach possible partners. Take time to get to know them personally before deciding if a partnership is viable.
 - Establish trust.
3. Create a Partnership Agreement
 - Record everything in writing. What are the objectives? Assign responsibilities, clarify roles, identify outcomes, establish an evaluation procedure, identify any risks, etc.
 - If there are areas where partners can not come to a consensus, these should be identified and recorded. Include a procedure for when partners can not agree.
 - Set deadlines. Book partnership meetings well in advance.
 - Communicate!

4. Carry Out the Work
 - Communicate some more! Let partners know if tasks are going as planned. Let them know when changes need to be made.
 - A partnership is a working agreement. Clarify roles if anything was missed. Responsibilities and deadlines may need to be modified. Make changes to the partnership agreement as the work is carried out. Ask questions that need answering.
 - Meet deadlines and commitments.
 - Monitor progress to ensure success.
5. Evaluate the Partnership
 - A formal evaluation should be administered on a regular basis. The evaluation process should be outlined in the partnership agreement.
 - Celebrate successes.
 - Decide when it is time to carry on and know when it is time to end the partnership.

Benefits to Partnerships

Partnerships and collaborative work have a multitude of benefits including:

- Expansion of the programs and supports available for clients.
- Improved client satisfaction.
- Staff skill enhancement through sharing information and organizing joint training.
- Reduced costs by pooling resources and staff, sharing facilities, non-duplication of services, etc.
- Outcomes improve and community members perception of organizations improve.

Partnerships are valuable because they bring different kinds of people and organizations together. Collaborative work makes it possible for participants to accomplish much more than they could on their own. Together, the participants create something new and valuable, a whole that is greater than the sum of its parts.

Establishing a successful collaborative process is easier said than done. Keep in mind that all partners do not have to agree on everything! In fact, it is quite unlikely that they will! The success of a partnership is built on the differences that the members bring to the table. There can be difficulty when members come from very different backgrounds such as various professionals, service providers, and community residents. Partners should remember that the goal of the partnership is to assist children and families. Decisions made may not be what's best for their organization, but if it is improving services for clients, then the partnership is a success.

SUNFLOWER COMMUNITY RESOURCE PROGRAM

PARTNERSHIPS IN ACTION

Back in 1995, the residents of Sturgeon County had voiced their need to access information about community resources, programs and supports in a more efficient and effective way. Participants from various municipalities initiated a collaborative effort to try to meet this need. Two years later, after extensive program planning, Sunflower Community Resource Program (SCRP) opened its doors.

SCRP, located in Gibbons, has become the one-stop information centre to connect community members to resources and services. SCRCP serves residents of the Sturgeon Region including Bon Accord, Gibbons, Legal, Morinville, Redwater; Fort Saskatchewan, and surrounding rural areas. They provide information about programs and support services available for a variety of issues including health, basic needs, parenting, child development, nutrition, addictions, family violence, preschool programming, etc. They keep a current listing of community events. They house a toy lending library and a book borrowing library.

Last week I visited the SCRCP site. I walked into their office and couldn't help but notice the extensive collection of pamphlets and brochures adorning the walls. I browsed the floor to ceiling shelves and found a number of useful publications that I had never even heard of.

I sat down with Teena Pasay, Program Coordinator, and asked her how she acquired such a vast collection of publications. In order to be a provider of all this information, she said she was definitely an active seeker. A lot of research was involved. The request of a client sometimes triggers an in-depth search of what is available.

I asked Teena how she has collaborated with other programs in order to keep up to date on all this information. She described her role as being a participant in the coordination of services. She actively participates on every inter-agency committee in the area. By attending committee meetings, she develops partnerships with numerous service providers in the region.

Teena talked about a few of the inter-agency committees she participates in. At the last Sturgeon County inter-agency meeting there were representatives from the RCMP, School Boards, Food Bank, Children's Services,



Just a few of the publications available at SCRCP.

Mental Health, Public Health, FCSS, local churches, and the list went on. It was a great turnout. With such a big group of active participants, the goal at their next meeting is to develop smaller sub-committee partnerships in order to address barriers and challenges for families to access supports.

When clients call or stop in at SCRCP, the approach taken is to provide them with needed contact information. They are then encouraged to make the call. This empowers families to take charge of their situation. Teena says she will provide additional assistance to some clients who have multiple barriers to overcome. She often has to think outside the box in order to assist families in accessing the right resources.



As my visit came to a close, I came to the conclusion that Teena is not just a participant in the coordination of services. She is a committee coordinator, a creative problem-solver, a community advocate, an active member in all inter-agency committees, a provider of information, a seeker of new information, a website and database updater, and a friendly face to anyone who walks in the door.

**Teena Pasay,
Program Coordinator, SCRCP.**

LOW OR NO COST FAMILY EVENTS

Edmonton's Scarecrow Festival

Put on your favorite costume and take part in dozens of family activities at the 17th Annual Edmonton Scarecrow Festival. Enjoy the spooky games, face painting, story telling, crafts, haunted house and family dance. All funds raised will support ABC Headstart programs.



Date: October 16-18, 2009

Location: Northlands Agricom
7515 - 118 Avenue, Edmonton

Cost: Admission - \$3.00/person
Activity coupons - \$0.25 each

For more information call 780-461-1223 or visit the website at www.scarecrowfestival.org/festival.htm.

Olde Time Fair on the Square

Come out to the Olde Time Fair on the Square for an event the whole family will enjoy. Experience what an Olde Time Fair was like with traditional carnival games, horse and wagon rides, performances, square dancing, food vendors selling candy apples and roasted corn-on-the-cob and more. This event is free!

Date: October 17, 2009, 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Location: Sir Winston Churchill Square
10247 - 100 Street, Edmonton

Cost: FREE

For more information call 780-944-7740 or e-mail civic.events@edmonton.ca.

Food for Thought

An interactive discussion about food label reading, the food rating system and making healthy food choices. Bring a child-friendly recipe to share and exchange ideas to spice up family meal time. Childcare is provided, please state your needs when registering.

Date: Wednesday, October 21, 2009,
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Location: Leduc City Hall,
1 Alexandra Park, Leduc

To register call 780-979-2387 or e-mail brandie-lee@leduc-county.com by October 16.

Family Spooktacular—Bon Accord

Come in your costumes for fun games, crafts and activities for everyone in the family. Donations to the Food Bank will be accepted at the door. Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

Date: Saturday, October 31, 2009
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Location: Bon Accord Community Hall,
50 Ave., Bon Accord

Cost: Admission is free
Some activities require tickets
\$0.25 each or 5 for \$1.00

For more information call 780-921-2540 or email: librarian@bonaccordlibrary.ab.ca.

LINKS

to Partnership Resources

partnershiptool.net/

Partnership Self Assessment Tool

www.healthnexus.ca/our_programs/hprc/resources/dynamic.htm

Dynamic Partnerships

This tip-sheet provides reflections, references and resources about partnerships

www.annwright.ca/documents/quickpartnershipcheck-up_000.pdf

Quick Partnership Check-up

epic.cuir.uwm.edu/NONPROFIT/collaboration.pdf

Nonprofit Collaboration & Mergers:

Finding the Right Fit

A Resource Guide for Non-Profits

www.healthnexus.ca/our_programs/hprc/resources/factors.htm

Factors Influencing the Success of Collaboration

culture.alberta.ca/voluntarysector/partnershipkit/Partnership_Kit.pdf

Working In Partnership, Recipe for Success

Alberta Community Development

www.cielap.org/pdf/shortchecklist.pdf

Partnerships for Sustainability

How to Make a Partnership Work

Canadian Institute for Environmental Law and Policy

DID YOU KNOW...

Fire Prevention Week
October 4-10, 2009

This year's theme is *Stay Fire Smart! Don't Get Burned.*

The 2009 campaign kit, children's activity books and lesson plans are available at www.aema.alberta.ca.

Seasonal Clothing Available at Reasonable Prices

Now's the time of year when many families are pulling out their storage bins and trying on last year's winter coats, boots, sports equipment, etc. They soon realize just how much their kids have grown since last fall. After paying September's school fees and program fees, there may not be a lot left over for new winter clothing. There aren't any bargains on winter clothing in stores this time of year.

Besides heading to consignment stores and second-hand stores, families should watch for community 'I've Outgrown It Sales'. Most sales are held in the fall and spring as the weather prompts us to change our wardrobe. Keep an eye out in community newspapers, public bulletin boards, and local websites for sale information. Families can access good deals on used baby items, kids clothing, toys, books, etc. Head to a sale when the doors first open for best selection, or for best bargains, go at the end of the day when prices are slashed or some items are free.

Upcoming Sale:

Edmonton Twin and Triplet Club (ETTC) is one of many organizations that organizes a twice-yearly huge "We've Out Grown it Sale".

Date: Saturday, October 17, 2009, 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Location: Northgate Lions Centre, 7524 - 139 Avenue

Cost: Admission - \$0.50.

For more information on this sale, visit the website www.ettc.ca/clothing-sales.html.



Edmonton & Area
Child & Family Services Region 6

Early Childhood Development Support Services is supported by funding through the Edmonton and Area Child and Family Services Authority (CFSA). This funding is provided to assist Early Childhood Development funded service providers with program delivery, program development, data collection, evaluation and training. Through ongoing collaboration with the CFSA, this newsletter is intended to provide information to service providers pertaining to these services.

**EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT
SUPPORT SERVICES LTD.**



"Working together for our children's future."

Contact Us

Office/Mailing Address:
205, 10544 – 114 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T5H 3J7

Phone: 780-428-9465
Fax: 780-444-3154
Email: info@ecdss.ca

Contributors

Writing/Research/Communications: Nicole Vogel
Editor: Heather Wagner-Schmidt

Resources

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