

## ABORIGINAL SUPPORTED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS OF B.C.



Jackie Watts, Provincial Advisor for Aboriginal Supported Child Development Programs BC

## **The Role of the Aboriginal Supported Child Development Provincial Advisor**

The Provincial Advisor for Aboriginal Supported Child Development (ASCD) serves in this administrative role contributing to the coordination, training, resources and support to ASCD Programs in BC who support Aboriginal Families with development disability or development delays in Child Care Settings or Community Programs.

### **Program Support**

Networking with Aboriginal Supported Child Development (ASCD) Programs, Program Support to Aboriginal Supported Child Development (ASCD) Programs of BC happened through regular up-dates; emails, AIDP/ASCD Newsletter, and website.

### **Coordination of Aboriginal Supported Child Development (ASCD) Programs Professional Development & Training Opportunities**

In coordination of AIDP and ASCD Programs, Ages & Stages Questionnaire: 3 developmental screening tool training/workshops were hosted through the Provincial Office. These 3 sessions and 34 successful participants who joined in the training were facilitated by Lynnette Gratton. A big “THANK YOU!” to Lynnette Gratton, who is a super dynamic coordinator and facilitator.

### **Data Collection**

This year, AIDP & ASCD combined the data collection from programs using Survey Monkey. The next year’s plan for data collection will be sent out separately to respective disciplines; AIDP & ASCD.

*The top 8 AIDP/ASCD Programs and Services that were provided in order as follows:*

- #1. Home Visiting
- #2. Developmental Screening
- #3. Parent Programs/Workshops
- #4. Home Visiting to Children
- #5. Culture and Language
- #6. Child Care/ Daycare Centre supports
- #7. Elder Involvement
- #8. Health Fairs

*The top 8 Referral Sources in order are as follows:*

- #1. Self-Referred
- #2. MCFD Social Worker
- #3. Public/Community Health Nurse
- #4. Early Intervention Team
- #5. Aboriginal Infant Development Program
- #6. Referred by a Family Member
- #7. Pre-school
- #8. A tie referral source of a Family Doctor & Aboriginal Supported Child Development

*The top 8 reasons for Incoming Referrals are as follows:*

- #1. A tie here for Behavioral Concerns, and Speech and Language
- #2. At Risk for Development Delay
- #3. Developmental Delay
- #4. Suspected Autism Spectrum Disorder
- #5. Parent/Family Support
- #6. Observation/Screening/Assessment
- #7 FASD
- #8. Premature Birth

**Question #53 Are you familiar with the Partnerships Projects? (Community Training Modules)**

50% participants answered yes

50% participants answered no

## **Partnerships Projects**

All in-person training is on hold for 2020-2021 because of COVID-19. Virtual training at this time is not set-up or available until all the Modules are up-dated and ready for on-line accessibility.

The Communications Module Writing up-date has been completed thanks to Zoe Watt, MA Ed., B Sc., RSLP for the Partnerships in Communication. This module for Children’s communication in the early and preschool years was up-dated and written by Zoe Watt, MA Ed., B Sc., RSLP and Contributor & Peer Review by Tamara Lister, M. Sc. RSLP and Lotte Rauter, Regional Advisor, Infant Development Program and Supported Child Development Consultant. The next step is to look at a course author who can then take the up-dated writing to be presented to an on-line course. Eventually, all the Partnerships Projects will be available on line and accessible virtually to all the Infant Development Programs/Aboriginal Infant Development Programs/Supported Child Development Programs/Aboriginal Supported Child Development Programs for professional development specific to frontline work within these disciplinary scopes.

## **Meetings; Committees, Focus Groups & Working Groups**

With the Provincial ASCD Office, there has been an incredible increase of participation in virtual meetings since COVID-19 came to BC. Interesting note on the future of remote work, (Simon Sinek, April 20, 2021) building trust is way more difficult without human contact. It is through human interaction that over time builds this trust. We build trust at in person meetings. With new programs joining the ASCD Programs in BC – it seems more challenging to welcome and orientate these new programs virtually than in person. I have missed setting up site visits where we meet the new ASCD teams in person, and I imagine it must be even more difficult to coordinate virtual meetings between families and programs. Question 59 of the Survey asked all AIDP/ASCD Consultants: “Do you or your staff access the regional advisor and participate in Regional AIDP/ASCD meetings?” Answer 89.29% said “Yes”. And the respondents who said yes the top reasons for the AIDP/ASCD Regional Advisor and what she brings to their program are as follows:

- #1. Information about training
- #2. Networking
- #3. Collaboration
- #4. Regional Meetings
- #5. Information on new resources
- #6. Developmental Assessment
- #7. Mentorship
- #8. Program Visits

## **ACTIVE PARTICIPATION AND ATTENDANCE AT THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS & GROUPS:**

Assessment 101 Working Group

Autism Module for Partnerships Projects Indigenous Working Group

Autism PACE Coaching Advisory Committee

Autism Research Project

BC Healthy Child Development Alliance – BCHCDA

BC Navigation (Summit) for Children & Youth with Neurodevelopmental Differences Working Group

BC Office of the Ombudsperson – Focus Group

ECEBC Advanced Education Skills Training Sector Steering Committee

First Call: BC Child & Youth Advocacy Coalition

Focus Group for Cerebral Palsy Association of BC (Vancouver Island Research Project)

IDP/AIDP/SCD/ASCD Professional Development

Inclusive Child Care Training Module Working Group

Indigenous Circle on the Early Years and Family

Kids Can't Wait Working Group

**\*\*New - Minister's Advisory Council on Children and Youth with Support Needs (CYSN – MAC) April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 to October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 Term**

MCF Child Care BC Engagement

MCFD Inclusive Child Care Reference Group

Partnerships Project Steering Committee

## **Policy Review & Development**

- Promote a Program Strategic Plan for Provincial Office
- Promote and request for an up-date for an ASCD Manual or Guidelines for ASCD Programs
- Create a proposal for a plan to up-date all the Partnerships Projects Modules. Be able to deliver Partnerships Projects Modules virtually through an on-line platform making this training and staff development available and accessible for all front-line Consultants.
- Create, distribute, and gather information to the ASCD Programs, Data Collection.



## COVID-19

Within ASCD Programs, a feeling of powerlessness when it comes to protecting children from COVID-19 (First Nations Health Authority, April 21, 2021). No vaccines are currently approved for use in Canada for people under age 16 years. However, there are still many vaccine-preventable diseases that we can stop. The pandemics of the past are preventable today by maintaining these regular immunizations.

Travel - Because of COVID-19 a Travel ban was put in effect March 2021 with limited travel to essential travel only for all of 2020 to 2021 and this travel ban is still in effect indefinitely.