



FACS

Family and Children's Services
of the District of Rainy River



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A Word from the Executive Director

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FACS' TAG LINE

In March of this year, our staff met for a couple of days to review last year's service plan accomplishments, and develop a service plan for 2007-2008. This plan, which provides a blueprint for our priorities and activities this year and which addresses long term strategic goals developed four years ago, is reviewed on a regular basis by staff, management and Board.

In addition to service planning, we have taken the opportunity of having all the staff captive for these couple of days each year to address other organizational needs. For example, last year the staff drafted

value statements that reflected what was important to our agency. This staff input was critical to the final set of agency values approved by the Board last spring.

This year, the staff were challenged with the task of drafting a new "Tag Line" for the agency to replace the old one ("An Integrated Social Service Delivery System") which was included on our old letterhead, etc. The only stipulation was the tag line had to be short and reflect our agency. Staff broke up into groups which developed a number of ideas. These in turn were shared with the whole group in some very creative ways (eg. included in a song or jingle).

Although there were several excellent submissions, staff eventually chose the idea presented by the group led by our fearless but soon to be retired colleague, Stuart McIvor. **"Where Families Matter"** has since been formally endorsed by our Board as our official tag line. I honestly cannot think of a tag line that represents our organization any better than this.

Vik Nowak



Vik working with other staff members during service planning.

"Where Families Matter"

FEATURE - SUNNY COVE CAMP

Once again Family and Children's Services is hosting a camp at Sunny Cove, free of charge to children and youth involved with the Agency. The camp runs from 1:00pm on June 25, 2007 to 11:00am on June 27, 2007 and is open to children ages 6-12.

For the past five years we have had a "Survivor" themed camp and this year we decided to make some exciting changes and have a new theme of "Countries of the World."

The camp counselors and helpers are comprised of many staff and volunteers of the Agency who graciously give up their time, sleep and energy to offer a fun and exciting opportunity to those who may not otherwise have a chance to attend a camp.

Each year proves to have some new and exciting adventures for all involved and hopefully this year will be no different.



Community Services & Quality Assurance

A LINE FROM THE FAMILY CONFERENCING COORDINATOR



Family Centred Conferencing is a gathering of family, extended family, friends, community persons, and service providers to support families in making decisions and planning for their children.

Our journey implementing the Family Centred Conferencing project has been a work in progress with many variables and directions. The program was initiated based on recommendations from the agency's strategic planning sessions and the Service Excellence Committee. Our direction has been driven by the Northern Framework for Ministry-Funded Children and Youth's Services and the Child Welfare Transformation agenda.

The program has many positive outcomes on the agency and for the families we serve.

Many successes have been achieved through this program, such as: preventing children from coming to care, keeping families connected and collaborating with our service partners.

For more information, please call Tina Leimenstoll, Family Conferencing Coordinator at 274-7787, ext. 223.



Family Centred Conferencing participants. Tina is second on the right, back row.

The Community Services Team is very pleased to introduce our summer student, Kerri Stinson.



The position was made possible through Human Resources and Skills Development Canada. Kerri will be entering her second year of the Honours Bachelor of Kinesiology degree program at Lakehead with the ultimate goal of becoming a physician.

As a student in our department, Kerri will be developing communications materials (newsletters, articles, website information, brochures, etc), helping out at Sunny Cove Camp, and working with families and children involved in the Supervised Access Program and Family Centred Conferencing Program.

Welcome Kerri!

We're taking a break! There will be no newsletter for July or August, but look for one in September. On behalf of the Board, management and staff at FACS, have a safe and happy summer!

We are on the Web!
www.facsrr.ca

Child Protection Services

Call your local office of Family & Children's Services 24 Hours a day, 7 Days a week Or visit us on the web www.facsrr.ca

The Child Protection Team takes great pleasure in announcing the arrival of Gabe Carpenter to its team as a Child Protection Worker and as the successor to the position Manager of Protection Services when Stuart retires later this summer.



This is Gabe's second stint with us. He was a Child Protection Worker from '03 to '05 and then left for a similar position at Waterloo Children's Aid Society. He "came

home" to us in April of this year and was the successful applicant for the Managerial position.

In his many travels, Gabe has had exposure to other CAS's in Southern Ontario, and has had an opportunity to compare the various styles of service delivery. Gabe appreciates how, as an agency, we conduct ourselves and for the quality of the relationships we attempt to develop. This is particularly suited to his style and preference.

Gabe especially welcomes the Differential Response initiatives with its emphasis on strengths. He is hopeful that the changes in the model and the Standards will help our families and community service partners see us as an agency of help and support.

He is looking forward to the opportunity to work with our partners to help them understand the new emphasis that the Differential Model brings.

Gabe is very excited about his upcoming move to the Managerial position. He is looking forward to working with the experienced Child Protection workers and to helping the new workers fit in and develop their skills and style in the team. Toward this end, Gabe will be gradually assuming some of the Managerial duties with full implementation planned for August.

Welcome back Gabe!



Developmental Services

Developmental Services will be sponsoring their first annual **Children's Services Fair** on Thursday, September 27, 2007 at Robert Moore School Gym from 5:00pm to 9:00pm.

This fair is to highlight the services, sports and other activities available to children in the Rainy River District.

There will be food, activities for the children, draw prizes and, of course, balloons. For more information you may contact Carolyn Skirten, Developmental Service Manager at (807) 274-7787 ext 248. Hope to see you all at the **Fair!**



FACS Booth at Atikokan Families 1st Expo



FACS participating at DayTime Land at the Fort Frances Bass Tournament

Children's Mental Health Services

MODELING: FROM CAREGIVERS' LIPS AND ACTIONS TO OUR CHILDREN'S EYES AND EARS.

Modeling. The more I continue to work in the field of children's mental health, the more I become aware of the importance of modeling for our children. I've begun to envision our children as having little sponges atop their shoulders with giant eyes and giant ears.

Our children are sponges to the information and world around them, soaking up everything as they go. And, it seems that for those children who have a lot going on in their lives, such as divorce, family conflict, and overwhelmed parents, those giant eyes and ears grow even bigger. These children seem to become more sensitive and hyper-

vigilant to their surroundings. For some children, just a subtle change in a person's tone of voice is interpreted as yelling. For some, this sensitivity has been developed for survival and may follow them into other relationships and environments.

Modeling takes many shapes and forms and incorporates all of the senses (sight, sound, smell, touch, and taste). Some parents ask, "why is it that when I want them to listen they don't, and when I don't want them to listen they're hanging on every word." This is one of the magical mysteries of parenting. But, with this latter piece in mind, our children learn not so much from what we tell them, but what we say and do around them. I've come to realize that our children will not

learn and practice morals, values, responsibility, boundaries, and problem-solving skills, if we don't practice them ourselves. Plus, if we are asking these things from our children, but are not committed to them ourselves, then our children are missing the value of learning about respect. Children will learn to respect others when they themselves are feeling respected. So, before you repeat an off coloured joke or make a disparaging comment about another person, remember your sponge with eyes and ears

may be soaking things up from just a room away.

Jacquée Loerzel



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