

TRANSITION NEWS JULY-SEPTEMBER 2011

BY RACHELLE R-CZERWINSKI and vptg.ca

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1-Editorial: Yes, maybe my last in this newsletter but not my last involvement in Community Living, not to worry. In my 6 years' journey with the Vancouver Parents Transition Group, I went from providing information on existing resources to transitioning families to strong advocacy and I now realize that without constant advocacy at various government levels, there is no help. So I intend to spend more time in the future for advocacy work and I urge you all to do so. In the last issue, I suggested that parents visit their MLAs with their child in tow and consider leaving their child for a couple of hours so that they KNOW what it is like. A mother sent me and Yuko an email voicing her concern about her child's safety if she were to leave him/her in the MLA's office. Yes, of course this is a last recourse to obtaining adequate funding but that is where we are, right, with about 200 families desperately waiting for services! The more MLAs are aware of our situation, the more likely they are to raise the disability funding issue at the Legislature.

So this is Goodbye but not Adieu. The Community Living movement is a civic rights movement and a human rights movement. We just want for our children the supports they need in order to access community services. For example, they need equal access to a public pool and if in order to do so they require an attendant, then they should be able to get an attendant otherwise this will be discriminatory. They need same access to employment and if in order to do that, they need employment supports, then this is what they should be getting.

One of the dilemmas of Community Living is economical and philosophical: Our children require to live in a society that will provide supports according to their needs but we are currently living in a society that provide recognition according to how much we earn or what we do for a living. But not all is bleak. The positive side of this dilemma is the following: Our children with their different abilities carry with them an enormous potential for transformative change towards a caring, welcoming

society. Scandinavian countries do not know about waitlists for social services. If it can be done there, it can be done here and that is what we need to fight for.

I may no longer be a coordinator at the Vancouver Parents Transition Group but I will continue to be actively involved until the end of waitlists for services.

Yours truthfully,

Rachelle

2- Did you know about the Quality of life indicators? There are 8 areas in our life that provide an indication of our quality of life:

Well-being, Interpersonal relations, material well-being, personal development, physical well-being, self-determination, social inclusion and rights. How do we fare and how do our children fare? To read about self-advocates' review of their quality of life go to

<http://www.communitylivingbc.ca/individuals-families/innovation-program/quality-of-life-demonstration-project/>

3-BC Council for Families Awards gave an honourable mention to the Vancouver Parents Transition Group coordinators for their work in supporting families who have youth (14-25) with disabilities transitioning from high school into adulthood. At their AGM on June 10, I had the opportunity to give a brief presentation on what we do.

Check their website for more info www.bccf.ca

4-Summer Hang Out program will run during the month of August from Renfrew Park Community Centre. Cost \$59 per week. Contact Levana Luu for more details:

Levana Luu
Summer Hang Out Coordinator
Renfrew Park Community Centre
2929 East 22nd Avenue
Vancouver, BC V5M 2Y3
Tel:604-773-8321

5-Easter Seals Camps at Camp Shawnigan for adults with disabilities aged 19-25. The camp will run from August 25th-28th and costs \$275 per participant. Applications will be posted to our website on June 27th. There will be space for 18 campers, including up to 3 campers who attend with personal support workers.

Contact Jennifer Blair, camp registrar, for financial support information at:

campregistration@lionsbc.ca or 604-873-1865 ext 422

For any other questions regarding the camp, contact Cheryl Williams
Administrator BC Easter Seals Camps

T: 604.873.1865 ext 445 or 1.800.818.4483

F: 604.873.0166 C: 604.561.2707

E: camp@lionsbc.ca

Websites: www.lionsbc.ca www.eastersealscamps.ca

6- The Cross Ministry Transition Protocol for Youth with Special Needs was introduced in October 2009 and promotes a cross-ministry commitment to collaborate around the transition planning process for youth and their families. Nine government organizations are participating in the Protocol:

Community Living BC

Ministry of Social Development

Ministry of Children and Family Development

Ministry of Advanced Education

Ministry of Health Services

Ministry of Education

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

BC Housing

Public Guardian and Trustee

There are numerous sites to view the protocol. All participating Ministries and agencies have it on their website. I like the one from secondwave:

http://www.secondwavevictoria.ca/html/transition_planning.html

There is a very useful appendix to the protocol, called the Youth with Special Needs: Roles and Tasks for Transition Planning Team Members that outlines the roles of team members including youth, family and staff from school, youth services and adult services in a clear chart

7- "The Power of Knowing Each Other" is the product of a partnership between CLBC and Family Support Institute about informal safeguards. Through 12 stories, the book depicts how families have built creative and unique connections in their communities around their family member who lives with developmental disabilities.

The book is available on request from any CLBC's Community Planning and Development office.

8-CILLI (Canadian Inclusive Lives Learning Initiative) is an in-person and online customized learning program to empower family members and individuals with intellectual disabilities to build a good life for themselves and others. CILLI teaches individuals the skills and offers the tools and resources needed to navigate increasingly complex systems of support.

The CIC (Centre for Inclusion and Citizenship), at UBC's School of Social Work, is pleased to be working in conjunction with community groups and organizations to develop and offer the CILLI program.

We are launching the first ever CILLI pilot in September 2011, and are looking for 25 individuals to benefit from and help make CILLI pilot a success. Applications are currently being accepted. The application deadline is July 4th.

**For more information, contact Meaghan Feduck, Project Coordinator
mfeduck@interchange.ubc.ca**

604-723-8251, 604-822-5872

For any info on the Vancouver Parents Transition group, contact our coordinators:

Liz Cochran tel 604-733 6252 email lizanddoug@hotmail.com

Yvonne Lam tel 604-729 8440 yvonne8440@hotmail.com

Yuko McCulloch tel 604-222 2258 yukomcculloch@telus.net

Starting next fall, we will run 8 meetings a year, 4 each on the Vancouver Eastside and westside. Our Eastside location is at Britannia Community Centre and our Westside one is at Pacific Spirit Community Health Centre

We also want to thank our funders for their continuing support: BC Children Hospital Foundation, Developmental Disabilities Association, PosAbilities, Spectrum, Vancouver Coastal Health and last but not least Vancouver Resource Society. We run this group with a barebone budget so every little help counts.

http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=6tpfzucab&et=1105985493193&s=836&e=001_0rzm2ek7K-dl-VjVD5oeqBHLns1Y4pow-2acaa6yhwohB5T00z8XPC0RjUoFjqyt2BRS0bL-6rJOuEGPWniwgWHD3JqY14tOgD5JLt_FTyaUdXz7Ak8Y3oRJ_wRte9AISdIDFAuyc9qJdF4Ta0Si5Zpl16weGqZWx5jKQaOGMkPBlbQJoN142OwdsVWG_aBBY8gvxgYZ5-91SY3ka8Xc1Xuq9n48PCsJvFvU-g-DzUsPnwkNzYJF9cGImVIH8P7G5LxWsdPQRBvbq-eUG8

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