

Summary Notes

posAbilities Parent Support Network Meeting

September 23, 2010

10 a.m. to noon

posAbilities, Suite 240 - 4664 Lougheed Highway, Burnaby, BC

The proposed agenda was adopted as presented. The Draft Meeting Notes from our July 22, 2010 have yet to be reviewed by Community Living BC. They are currently attached, but remain in draft form.

Business arising:

Securing the Future: Personal and Financial Planning for Families – 6 week series.

Monique presented the program syllabus and process for developing this educational series. It is designed to be taken as a series, and for families to come away with all of the information that they need to complete the processes and documents related to developing a solid personal and financial plan: wills, estates, trusts, representation agreements, the RDSP (if applicable) and to learn about housing ownership options for persons with disabilities. The info session is essential, as it will inform the presenters of the specific needs of this cohort or group of families, and will inform the families of what documents they need to prepare or bring to the meetings to get the most from the sessions. Following the four topic specific workshops, there will be a wrap up session to ensure that everyone has one last chance to let all of the info gel and to ask any remaining questions. If more work needs to be done with a legal advisor, we will provide a list of reputable lawyers with expertise in the field for families to contact directly. We are also working on negotiating a special rate for Wills for those families who participate in the series. The seating is limited to 16 families, so that everyone will have a chance to get their questions answered. Preference will be given to those families who are taking the entire series. Any empty seats we will gladly fill on a first come, first served basis.

We are working on delivering family education in collaboration with the Burnaby Association for Community Inclusion this year. Our two agencies are planning to repeat the program in the Spring, offering sessions in the evenings, or possibly on weekends, to meet the needs of families with younger children, many of whom have daytime work commitments. Interpretation and childcare may also be provided, depending on participants' needs.

The benefits of working together include:

- Burnaby families from various agencies getting to know each other,
- Combining resources allows us to offer a more robust and fully subscribed program;

Adopted December 17, 2010

- Improving and de-cluttering communications to local families.
- We have also met with a representative of Community Living Society, another organization with offices in Burnaby. We believe that they will participate in our Spring Series.

The cost of the series was discussed. A contribution by participants was requested (\$5 per session) to both secure commitment to the series, and to offset the cost of refreshments. The intention is not to pose a barrier to anyone to participate. Kindly contact Monique for more information if a subsidy is required.

The series will run during two regularly scheduled meeting dates of the Parent Support Network: October 28 and November 25. Depending on how many parents sign up for the series, we will either: move our meeting to the afternoon on the same dates, or schedule another date and time that works for the remainder of the group. Monique will send a follow-up letter/email to our parents by October 8 to confirm.

The group also wishes to have a holiday social. This has been tentatively scheduled for the morning of Friday, October 17, 2010.

***Suggestion:** Monique wonders if we could meet with the members of the Self Advocate Committee, as well as to bring our children to this event. This is both to expand our personal support networks and to learn about the benefits of participating in our SAFE committee. What are your thoughts?*

Old Business:

The Picnic was discussed and deemed a success. Suggestions for improvement next year include reintroducing name tags for all participants, so that families know whether or not they are speaking to a staff member, self advocate or family member at the event. A rain shelter will also be requested for next year. The cost of the candies will be reimbursed by *posAbilities*. A special thanks to everyone who volunteered! To those who could not attend, we hope you can make it next year. Monique did not receive photos or an article from the PSN in time for the Fall 2010 issue of our newsletter, “*Imagine!*”

New Business:

After some discussion, it was decided that the group would benefit from a presentation by a representative with the BC Coalition of People with Disabilities. Particular topics our families area interested in include changes to benefits for our children (e.g., recent cuts to dental visits) and any changes about PWD (formerly known as GAIN) benefits.

Action: Monique will contact Jane Dyson, Executive Director to enquire about her availability.

To become familiar with this organization, please visit
<http://www.bccpd.bc.ca/default.htm>

It was also decided that adopted Meeting Summary Notes from the Parents Support Network group will be posted on the *posAbilities* web-site under Families Matter. You will find this section in the drop down menu item called “your *posAbilities*.” See page: http://www.posabilities.ca/?page_id=95

“Your *posAbilities*” is a section of our web-site dedicated to providing information to our stakeholder groups and committees.

Announcements:

posAbilities staff changes – Monique informed the group that David Livingstone is no longer with *posAbilities*. There will be a change to the timing of the specialized MANDT System™ training for our families. I have discussed this with Louise Blackwell who is now conducting a lot of the training, and we are looking at moving this training opportunity to the Spring of 2011. In addition, Monique informed the group that we have some new additions to the staff: Business Developer - Mary McGivern and Manager of Employment Services - Kalena Kavanaugh. More details can be found in our Fall newsletter, available on line or in hard copy for members.

Monique also took a moment to review all of the exciting events that we are hosting during Community Living Month. Again, please refer to our newsletter or web-site for details. Members will receive announcements by email or regular post. Come join us!

The Network also welcomed a new member, Hilary Kariotis of Richmond. Hilary is a representative on the newly formed *posAbilities* Family Advisory Committee. There is an article about the committee in the Fall newsletter. In short, this committee was created by *posAbilities* to inform and support the service review and transformation initiated by Community Living BC (CLBC).

Our FAC is made up of volunteers who have generously offered their time to:

- provide a family view of plans and projects;
- give input on the quality of services;
- offer guidance on handling concerns raised by families; and to support other families.

We currently have openings for additional representatives. For more information, please contact Monique. Terms of Reference for the committee and a summary of the meetings are available for review.

The meeting adjourned at noon. The next meeting date will be announced and circulated within one week (by October 8, 2010.)