

## Draft Summary Notes

### *posAbilities* Parent Support Network Meeting

March 24, 2011

10 a.m. to noon

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

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The proposed agenda was adopted. The previous month's meeting notes were tabled until the next meeting.

#### **Part 1. Presentation on Social Media, by Danielle Kelliher, Director of Communications for the BC Association for Community Living.**

Guests: Jeremy Vis, Family Support Worker for the BCACL, Alex, *posAbilities* Richmond Life Skills program, and Lois and Carol, family representatives from the Burnaby Association for Community Inclusion.

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Daniele shared her role at the BCACL, her education in this area and that she has a sister who is experiencing the benefits of using social media and in particular, the iPad, which is very accessible and easy to use. She introduced Jeremy Vis, who coordinates the Family Support Workers network at the BCACL.

Daniele then defined social media as the use of web-based and mobile technologies to turn to turn communication into interactive dialogue. This is in stark contrast to traditional communications, particularly for businesses or organizations that are used to controlling the messages that are sent to its audiences.

Note: **privacy laws** prevail over social media, as they do any other communication.

The different kinds of social media are:

- 1.) **Social Networks** – websites like Facebook and Myspace, where you create a profile, add content (text updates, videos, photos, and links to other web-sites) and can send an invitation to join your network or group. You decide on which privacy settings you want to use, and can invite friends to join. You control who sees what on your Facebook page.
- 2.) **Blogs** – on-line journals that let you write about things you love (see Al Etmanski's blog as an example. Al is affiliated with PLAN.) Again, they are interactive and people can comment on individual entries called 'posts'.
- 3.) **Wikis** – websites that allow the easy creation and editing of any of a number of interlinked web pages, used to create collaborative works, for example Wikipedia. Wikipedia is considered as accurate as any print encyclopedia, and submissions are all referenced for accuracy and strictly monitored. Examples include the

- Family Movement, which took the Burnaby Association a few months to write up and work out the details before it was posted.
- 4.) **Forums** – on-line discussion sites. They were created as the modern equivalent of a bulletin board (example, Dawn forum)
  - 5.) **Content communities** – websites that allow you to share photos, videos et cetera. Examples include YouTube (on-line videos), Vimeo, Flickr (on-line photo album), and Slideshare (a great place to look for ideas on how to make a presentation.)
  - 6.) **Micro-blogging** – sites like Twitter, that allow you to share bite-sized pieces of information.

**Benefits of using social media** platforms like Facebook:

- Not anonymous – ideally, you know who you are talking too.
- Personal- peer network of support, linked to self-esteem, maintaining connections and belonging.
- Connection to local face to face events – finding out what your friends are doing.
- Big announcements made on Facebook, even wedding invitations! Simply by seeing photos of someone’s vacation, new baby, you’re included.
- Less intimidating to communicate on-line.
- Privacy settings are strong, and getting better.

A quick tour of a **Facebook** page followed, and we also had a discussion about on-line predators. When a person sets up a profile, the only info they need to share with Facebook is their full name and age. You can set the privacy settings to not show your age, and can use a different user name. The safeguards are put in place so that no one under 13 years of age can legally open a Facebook account.

A surprise to some, Daniele advised that in spite of public concerns, the use of social media networking sites does not appear to increase the risk of being victimized by an **on-line predator**. Studies show that offenders use instant messages, email and chat rooms to develop relationships with the person whom they will prey on (includes on-line gaming sites too.)

Next, we discussed on-line **risk behaviours**:

- maintaining friend lists with strangers
- talking about sex online with people you don’t know in person

Daniele passed around her friend’s **iPad**, which is also called a tablet computer, and which has a platform for audio-visual media. It runs on the same operating system as an iPod touch and iPhone. iPads have touch screens, wireless or 3G network connections and can be used as a phone or camera.

There is **software** that enables eye movement to trigger applications, and voice recognition too (called Dragon Dictation). Apple has been producing access software since the 1970s.

Daniele reviewed a few **Apps** (see attached glossary), including **Proloquo2Go**, which is \$189 to purchase. This is at the high end of what people typically pay for Apps, but is much less expensive than buying an Augmentative Communication Device, and can serve the same purpose. This App has 7,000 pictures included in it, and can help a person make (speaks out loud) sentences, using pictures of carrier phrases and a variety of picture symbols.

The meeting adjourned at 12 noon. The next meeting date is April 28, 2011 in the Large Boardroom of *posAbilities* Head Office in Burnaby.

Attachment: Social Media Glossary