

# **Minutes from the Fall BCPWSA Meeting 2006**

**October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2006**

**Kelowna, B.C.**

Results of the BCPWSA Spring Survey indicated members were interested in having workshops or speakers on various topics at their meetings. Based on those survey results, the BCPWSA Fall Meeting became a Conference in Kelowna, B.C. The day included full day and part day speakers on the following topics:

## **Strategy Model for Managing Challenging Behavior**

**Presenter: Dan Kalyn**

Dan has been the co-owner and operator of D & L Consulting for the past 17 years. This agency contracts with The Community Living Association to provide behavior consultation to parents, caregivers and staff supporting both children and adults with mental challenges. Dan has also taught in the Human Service Worker program at Okanagan College and has conducted a number of workshops on non-aversive behavior management to both parents and the staff of various human service organizations in the Okanagan area.

**Outline:** This presentation will review a model parents and caregivers can use to establish reactive, proactive and motivational strategies. All aspects of establishing an overall non-aversive behavioral plan will be explored. Participants will learn the skills involved in a variety of procedures from redirection to establishing social skill goals and setting up for success.

## **The Impact of Living with a Sibling who has a Disability and how Parents can Support their Typical Children**

**Presenter: Susan Van Gasbeck**

Susan Van Gasbeck is a social worker who has worked with families for over thirty years. She has a strong background working in child and youth mental health and also with children labeled developmentally challenged. She has facilitated sib-camps for typical children in families with a child who has a disability and workshops for parents. Susan had a sibling with Down syndrome who inspires her work. Susan is currently enrolled in the Masters of Social Work Program at UBCO.

Growing up with a brother or sister who has a disability can overshadow the typical childhood experiences. The sibling relationship is altered and there may be additional intensification of emotions. Parents are understandably preoccupied with parenting the child identified with a disability so that the typical child may experience an alternative dynamic.

**Specific goals:**

- To look at the impact of raising a child with a disability
- To focus on the sibling's perspective
- To understanding parental/sib dynamics
- To sharing concerns and ideas with other families experiencing similar issues
- To address strategies which to enhance relationships within the family

## **Financial planning, wills and estate planning, trusts, tax credits, living options and legal aspects of a special needs person**

**Presenter: Allison McNeill**

Allison McNeill was born in Vancouver and has lived in the Okanagan for the past 25 years. She is married to Jack Acres father of their 4 children ranging in age from 13-24. Allison's background is planning in marketing and Public Relations. She was in commerce at UVIC and was the Director of Public Relations at Cascadia Brands for 12 years after which she founded AGM Consulting a Public Relations and Special

Events Company for 12 years, which she sold in 2004. For the past 18 months she has been working at Thom and Associates Financial planners as a Marketing consultant as she finishes off her Certified Financial planner certificate. Being a mother to a Down Syndrome daughter, and being an advocate for Special Needs people, she is now focusing in specialized planning for special needs children and adults. She currently sits on the Special Olympics Winter Games board and is Vice President of the Okanagan Sun football club. Allison is also the PR person for Communities in Bloom-Kelowna and was appointed to the Royal BC Museum board.

**Outline:**

Funding available for the disabled person, samples of the Disability Assistance Program, through the Ministry of Employment, will be discussed  
Funding: Grants available through MCFD (for persons with developmental & disabilities and special needs) to promote independence and family support.  
CLBC funding available to young adults with developmental disabilities who have left school within the last 3 years  
Living options of special needs persons.  
Legal aspects of the disabled person. Estate Planning and trusts within estate law.  
Personal tax credits off income taxes.  
Losing and creating identity and daily structure.

## **B.C. Prader-Willi Syndrome Association General Meeting - minutes 3:30-5:00 Location: Kelowna, B.C.**

Chaired by: Joanne Taylor, President

Present: Bev & Carroll Baldwin, grandpa Baldwin, Trudi from Alberta PWSA, Lindy Thomson, Roy & Natasha Campbell, Cheryl Gagné

1. Introductions
2. Spring 2006 Minutes approved by Bev Baldwin, seconded by Carroll Baldwin.
3. Treasurer's Report: Lindy Thomson  
Balance at this point is around \$3600. Some recent donations have come in.  
Proceeds from the Richard Brodeur Golf tournament have yet to come in.  
If anyone is interested in taking on the treasurer's position on the executive, Lindy is willing to pass on the responsibility.
4. Report on Richard Brodeur Golf Tournament: Bev Baldwin  
This year the BCPWSA was one of the chosen charities for the Richard Brodeur 2006 Charity Golf Tournament. Some activities the association participated in to help the tournament and raise money for our association included gathering items for the live and silent auctions at the tournament, attending meetings (thanks Bev!) and working the 18<sup>th</sup> hole during the tournament. The actual amount the

association will receive will come in once the tournament organizers complete the final funds raised for the tournament. There is the potential to participate in this tournament again.

5. Information on the March 2007 Meeting  
Sheila Kelton from the BC Children's Hospital Endocrinology Department is willing to assist us in our next meeting by providing a host location (BC Children's Hospital) and various workshops of medical interest to our association members.  
A discussion of what those topics may include followed with these suggestions: Growth Hormone, Genetics, Nutrition, Behaviour, Family Counseling, Fears/Needs for families, Library information available from the hospital.
6. Terence James – Terence James is an author who writes about special needs children and children with Prader-Willi Syndrome. He recently attended a dinner at Joanne Taylor's house and she presented a letter from him encouraging our dialogue and research of information on a group home specific for people with Prader-Willi Syndrome. Ontario apparently has such a home. Discussion followed regarding the possibility of pursuing this endeavor, the use of an agency with experience with running group homes, the possibility of sending a member to visit a successfully run group home for people with PWS. It was suggested to create a 'research committee' of those interested and to add this topic to the Fall 2007 agenda.
7. Spring Meeting focus will be medical related and held at the B.C. Children's Hospital. Any members that would like to see a specific topic should contact the BCPWSA as soon as possible with their suggestions. Spring Agenda will be posted in early 2007. Following the work shops from the BC Children's Hospital staff, the BCPWSA meeting will take place. Some items on the Spring Agenda will include: Spending goals. Educational goals. Rotating meeting locations (Island, Coast, Interior) Meeting will take place in March, specific date to be posted soon. Following the Spring meeting all members are invited to a potluck at the Baldwin's in West Vancouver.
8. Other:
  - a) Joanne Taylor will have Thank you cards made up for sending to people who donate to the association.
  - b) Anyone with Recipes for the WEB site, please send them in.

Meeting adjourned.

Social Family BBQ Followed at the Gagné home in Kelowna.

Next meeting: March, Vancouver B.C. Specific date to follow.