

Accessibility Notes – February 28, 2018

In attendance: Sandi, Jennifer M, Laurel H, Joanne, Nikki

Regrets: Dixie

Brought forward:

- Cultural Diversity Plan:
After considering our current Cultural Diversity Plan, Joanne feels that it should be reviewed, some of its practices put into place, and tailored more for our agency.
 - We will take on the 'annual assessment of facilities for cultural and family friendliness'
 - Once PTHP moves into their new space it would be good to do a walk through for the 'annual assessment' and if necessary, make recommendations. *Nikki will contact them*
- CARF Requirements for Accessibility
 - Sandi will send out the new revisions on the Accessibility Plan to review/ update/ plan for coming year, for next committee meeting – *brought forward*
 - We need to draft a new policy about 'Requests for Special Accommodation' as a result of our recent CARF survey. Joanne feels that it is much like our commitment to Family-Centred Service, but in keeping with our ongoing accreditation we will craft a new policy using this language. Joanne will review the CARF report to see if this actually is a requirement or just a suggestion from the surveyors. We might have to add in new language regarding people's rights and put more emphasis on our complaints process. *Brought forward - Joanne*
 - Transportation to and from the agency continues to present difficulty for some families. This problem is exacerbated by the local bus schedule. *Laurel (Family Advocate) is able to pick up and drop off (with notice) to allow for families to attend appointments at the agency building*
 - We need to explore the addition of refreshing 'allergies' on the clients' forms. Perhaps this could be added to the 'consents' review annually. *Brought forward – Laurel*
 - There is still an ongoing issue with signage for parents and visitors arriving from the parking lot. *Brought forward, but will be on hold until the new building is complete and we will assess at that time*
 - Joanne is interested in creating a more welcoming space for families and we will continue to assess and modify as the opportunity arises
- Rick Hansen Foundation – BC Access Grants Program.
 - There is the possibility of up to \$20,000 to enhance the accessibility of our building(s). The first step is to set up a meeting and invite the grantors to our facility to have a look around. If they feel we could benefit more details will be available. *Joanne will put in an application*

New business:

- New Accessibility Committee member: Chris Lang, Project Inclusion participant
- Staff Planning Day – May 7. We will do up a "Did you know?" segment (*Nikki and Sandi*) and a Jeopardy game show for our presentation this year
- Laurel will follow up on the agency car seats and determine whether there is a need to purchase more
- The gravel parking lot presents difficulties for persons with diverse abilities because it is uneven and often unsteady underfoot. *This will likely be addressed when the upgrades to the new building are complete*
- There is a need for more labelled disabled parking spots. *This will likely be addressed when the upgrades to the new building are complete*
- Walkways from the parking lot through to the courtyard

Next meeting: March 28, 2017@ 2:30 pm (and every fourth Wednesday of the month)