

SPCRS NEWSLETTER

April - June 2006

South Peace Community Resources Society

is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to meeting the social, educational, and personal needs of the community by providing services that develop skills for living.

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CCRR OPEN HOUSE

The Child Care Resource and Referral office in Fort St. John had their Open House on May 25th to show case their new office location and the toy lending library. It was an exciting night for the CCRR office to have care providers and parents come see what CCRR can offer to the community. Some programs that CCRR offer includes workshops, start-up and operating information, referrals and access to child care resources and much more. At the open house guests were able to ask staff questions and experiment with the toys as well as network with other child care providers. By the end of the night the CCRR office had 43 requests from child care providers in the community to borrow items from the toy lending library. It was a fun and exciting night!



*Submitted by
Heather McBryan, Program Coordinator
Child Care Resource & Referral*

Visit our web site @ www.spcrs.ca

Child Care Resource & Referral Fort St. John Open House - May 2006



Meet new members of our team



The Family Safety Counselling and Support Services Department is pleased to welcome Magdalena Sweetgrass to our agency as the new Stopping the Violence Counsellor. Magdalena joined the SPCRS team as of May 3rd, 2006, and looks forward to working within the community, as well as with the other services in Dawson Creek and the surrounding area.

She has many years experience working with women in a variety of capacities, most recently as a support worker and counsellor for women who reside in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.

As the Stopping the Violence Counsellor, she will provide individual counselling and related support to women who have experienced violence or abuse. Following STV program guidelines, counselling is provided in an accessible, safe and supportive environment, within a feminist framework. Program services are delivered with respect to each woman's individual rights and needs regardless of economic status, gender, age, race, cultural or ethnic origins, physical or mental ability or sexual orientation.

Please feel free to contact Magdalena at 782-9174 ext: 238 if you have any questions, or if you have a woman you would like to refer to the services, or feel free to stop in at the Admin office and introduce yourself.

New Worker in Tumbler Ridge Office

The Family Safety Counselling and Support Services Department is pleased to welcome Tanya Sanderson as the new Children Who Witness Abuse Counsellor and Outreach Worker in Tumbler Ridge.

As the Children Who Witness Abuse Counsellor, Tanya will be providing individual/group counseling to children and/or youth who have witnessed violence, as well as community awareness, and prevention activities in schools. As the Outreach Worker, Tanya will be working towards developing a network, and coordinating services with other community agencies that provide services to women and their children who have experience violence. She will also be responsible for community coordination and public education on issues of violence against women.

Prior to moving to Tumbler Ridge with her husband and two children, Tanya was a student at Aurora College in Fort Smith where she studied Teacher Education for the past two years. Tanya's work experience includes working as a counsellor in a Women's Shelter, working with Youth in a Young Offenders Facility and a Women's Correctional facility. Tanya feels very passionately about the helping profession and is full of energy and enthusiasm.

Tanya Sanderson's office is located at the Health Centre in Tumbler Ridge, and her phone number is (250) 242-2082. Stop by or call anytime, we know she will welcome you with a smile.

PQI Training – A Successful “Road Trip”

As you may or may not know, accreditation time has rolled around again and SPCRS is up for re-accreditation. So over the past few months 2 groups of staff have jetted off to Vancouver to receive Council On Accreditation (COA) training regarding the new Performance Quality Improvement Standard (PQI). The individuals who have been trained are also the staff who will make up the PQI Committee. They are:

Jane Harper	Sian Lewis
Diane Neubauer	Patricia Hamilton
Deanna Sudnik	Darren Johnson
Brigitta Ratschker	Allyson Hayes
Connie Buck	Colette Bourque
Bonnie Avey	Sharla Sullivan



Accreditation, and PQI, is a formal way of maintaining the high quality of service we want for our clients and our community. It's a way of putting systems in place to identify areas of improvement, set realistic goals, and effectively measure performance and outcomes. The purpose of a PQI committee, and the standard, is to encourage agencies and staff to examine their quality of service, identify areas of improvement and continually work to reach these standards of best practice.

WHY ALL STAFF NEED TO KNOW AND UNDERSTAND PQI?

- We are all responsible for it, from the Executive Director to casual employees.
- We aspire to work in an environment that is committed to quality care.
- Change and growth are inevitable, and this is a way to ensure that we are collectively working towards positive change and quality assurance for the clients, the community, and the staff.
- The COA review team will randomly interview staff.

WHY IS STAFF IMPORTANT IN MAKING PQI SUCCESSFUL?

During the training, Darren Johnson formulated an interesting analogy: That the accreditation endeavor is like embarking on a road trip together in our big SPCRS RV! Although we need someone to drive the RV (PQI Committee) we require input and assistance from all passengers (staff) in defining the route and which stops to make the trip most meaningful. If any of the passengers on the road trip do not want to be on the road trip, they can quite effectively ruin the trip for the rest, bemoaning the journey. The road trip will still occur, but it may take longer, requiring even more enthusiasm from the remaining passengers to make it successful. The end goal sees future trips involving more passengers as past passengers become enthusiastic new drivers.

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PQI has the potential to unite staff, increase staff involvement, responsibility and accountability; increase staff and client satisfaction and create positive lasting changes within the agency that will ensure our quality of service continues to grow as our client needs change and shift.

Staff attending the training had the following to share:

“I would have to say the information that I brought back from the COA training is an increased awareness of Accreditation and its process. I had an awareness of accreditation but did not fully understand the whole process of it. We had a great facilitator who provided the workshop with knowledge, humour and information that was presented in an interesting way that kept you thinking from the beginning to the end. For me, my head started thinking of ways to improve the program by looking at the areas that were weak and needed updating.”

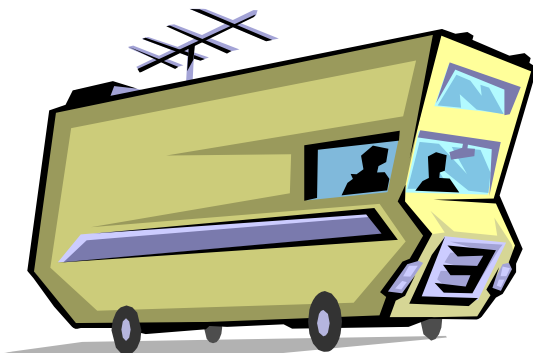
*Connie Buck
Community based Victim Services*

“What jumped out at me was; that the SPCRS Web Site will be a most valuable tool in meeting many of the requirements in the standard; that we will not have to send a ton of paper (because more narrative can be used), which will also cut down on shipping costs; and that we need to get a PQI team up and running.”

*Allyson Hayes
Executive Assistant*

Staff can expect to hear more and see more information coming from the PQI committee over months to come. It is the hope of the PQI Committee that staff will embrace this philosophy of quality of service and feel free to share their ideas and suggestions. Let the adventure begin!!

Submitted by the PQI Committee



Accomplishments

Have you heard? We have a teacher in our midst. RC has been successfully teaching math to his peers at the Opportunity Centre for over a year now. I had the privilege of sitting in on one of his classes - he does a superb job. Well done RC!



President of the People's First Group for several months now, JL is capably chairing each meeting and handling any delicate agenda items that may arise. I had the opportunity to observe JL in action when I attended one of these meetings. Good job JL!

I've heard from reliable sources that SF is becoming known as an expert with puzzles. It is rumoured that he doesn't wait for someone to pull out the puzzles, he just displays a "bring them on" attitude and then enjoys demonstrating his expertise. Way to go SF!



Do you recycle? MY's dedication to recycling is benefiting our community in more ways than one. One of her customers, who doesn't get out much indicated how much they appreciate the regular pickups, and even though they don't make contact with MY, they look forward each week to a glimpse of her. Keep up the good work MY!



Do you enjoy a hearty laugh? If you are having a bad day and want a pick me up, go for a visit with SB. Her deep laugh and magnetic smile will cause your day to turn around. A merry heart doeth good like a medicine. SB, thanks for the cure!



Back Pack Drive



It hardly seems appropriate to be thinking about going back to school at this point in time, but that is exactly what we are preparing for. You see....

SPCRS is, again, collecting back packs and school supplies to help kids return to the classroom fully prepared .

We are looking forward to a successful back pack drive, with the very positive goal of collecting 75 to 100 back packs filled with supplies. To reach that goal, we will need to make sure that the community is aware of what we are doing. So, at the end of June, we will be hanging a very large banner across the front of our Admin Building, announcing that we are the official drop off spot for back packs and school supplies, allowing the community two full months to stop by and drop something off. Hopefully we will be able to arrange for some media coverage of the event, which will help get the word out.

In August, we will be having a small entry in the parade (watch for the walking pencil and oversized eraser stuffed with fun giveaways).

As well, we are hoping to have a coloring contest, with a first, second, and third prize (it's in the works).

So as this school year draws to a close, we invite you to think about the next school year, and perhaps you will be able to make a donation to this very fun and valuable event. We will be collecting for students from kindergarten to grade 12, both girls and boys.

Donations can be dropped off at the SPCRS Admin Building at
10110—13th Street, Dawson Creek
Between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. (closed over the lunch hour).

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact
Allyson Hayes at 782-9174, ext: 222.

Thank you for your generosity!

SF Residence

Summer is finally coming and SF is ready for it. He can already be seen browsing through garage sales again, forever extending his video and DVD library. SF enjoyed the Easter Lunch together with his friends. He still visits the library to look through new books and listens to staff reading them to him. Since the weather warmed up, SF likes to be outside, playing ball in the backyard with friends, going for walks through local parks trying out swings. SF is very fond of his Mom so he went shopping for a birthday gift and delivered it to her. SF visited the Spring Trade Fair again this year, taking in all the different things to see. SF walked a friend's dog through Kin Park and even gave him a dog treat for good behaviour. An antique show and vintage car show were also on his list of things to do. In between all of these activities, SF practices putting together puzzles at home and looks through his kaleidoscope. He still visits with a friend every Monday for an outing around town and goes to lunches and suppers with his peers on a regular basis. At the duplex he comes together with his neighbours to watch a movie, listen to live music or have lunch in the backyard. With all this activities he still finds time to do the mail run for the main office every weekday and recycles.

We welcome Jessica and Jamie to our team.

Submitted by SF team

SB Residence

SB had a busy year so far. She is picking up recyclables at different places around town and delivers them to the Depot every week. Swimming is something SB really enjoys and so she visits the CDC pool regularly. SB works on her swimming skills or just relaxes in the water bubbles the friendly life guard creates for her. If music is played during her swim time, SB is definitely in heaven! SB helps with the chores around the house and after everything is neat and tidy goes on drives around town and countryside. You guessed it; here too SB likes to listen to music. Another past time activity is walking up and down the isles at the bigger stores, looking for new things and chatting with friends and acquaintances she meets on the way. SB likes to sit outside feeling the sun and summer wind on her face. She often has friends over to watch a movie or have supper with her. Her hearty laughter is very contagious and puts everyone around her in a good mood. Have a great summer everybody!

We welcome Jamie and Jessica to our team.

Submitted by SB team

Occupational Safety & Health Committee

The Occupational Safety and Health Committee meets the requirements of the collective agreement and the Workers' Compensation Board. The Committee reviews monthly safety checklist from all programs, tracks safety issues for employees, investigates accidents to employees, makes recommendations to improve the health and safety of employees, negotiates with landlords where necessary, monitors statistics are accidents and reports them to the Board of Directors through the Health and Safety sub-committee of the Board and maintains information on safety of workers.

The Committee is made up of volunteers who meet monthly to review the checklist submitted by programs. These employees are Connie Buck, Chair; Fran Love, employee representative; Jane Harper, management rep. and Patricia Hamilton, management rep. Connie has been instrumental in revising policy and procedures, revising and maintaining the tracking system, and arranging and rearranging meeting times to ensure members can attend.

Some things you should know when completing the safety checklist:

- ◆ Review the past month's checklist and report the status of all issues listed in the report of the previous month. In this way the committee will know what issues are outstanding and which have been resolved.
- ◆ Do not report missing window screens unless this is a safety issue for employees.
- ◆ Do not report burned out light bulbs unless it requires a maintenance person to replace them. Otherwise, replace them yourself and report nothing.
- ◆ Use the correct up-to-date form from the SPCRS website: www.spcrs.ca

In the near future, schedules will be developed that assign the shift that will complete the safety checklist for residential programs. This will allow everyone to become aware of the safety issues at each worksite. Everyone will be required to know how to complete the safety checklist. This will also give a new perspective on safety as we will not become complacent of hazards that we may look at every day.

At this time of year we are looking for employees who would like to be members of this committee. The members volunteer and attend, under the new collective agreement with pay. The committee is comprised of two employee reps and two management reps. If there are more employees interested in working on this committee than is necessary, a vote may be required. (This has never happened yet) Being part of this committee is rewarding, allows you to learn about other programs and the issues those programs face, gives you the opportunity to meet employees from other programs, is an opportunity to learn more about SPCRS systems and a chance to share some laughs with the other members. Please submit your names to Connie Buck at 782-9174 ext: 234.

From the Board

September! Autumn leaves! Shortening days! Back to school!

For many students and (especially their parents) the approach of a new school year is filled with anticipation and excitement. Whose class will I be in? Will my friends be there? What should I wear on that first day? For some children, these feelings of nervous anticipation can be compounded with worries about not having adequate materials for class.

Some students arrive lacking even essential items, or worse, may not attend school for fear of embarrassment over supplies. Central Middle School's teachers and counsellors are grateful for the generosity of community members and to South Peace Community Resources for organizing efforts to provide materials for students in need. Last years backpacks and supplies were found to be of tremendous use.



A phone call from a parent or an inquiry made by a teacher or other Central staff member is all that is needed to bring necessary supplies to a student in need.

Thank you again for thinking of all of our students!

Common things students tend to be in need of (especially at the start of the school year):



Paper, pencils, pens, math sets, calculator, erasers, binders, and pencil cases.

Submitted by Joanne Dueck
SPCRS Board member
Central Middle School Counselling Department

HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE

APRIL – JUNE 2006

NEW HIRES	PROGRAM
Magdalena Sweetgrass	Stopping the Violence Program
Karen Boyd	Berry Patch Childcare Facility
Sheila Hopkins	Berry Patch Childcare Facility
Rita Farrell	JL Residential Program
Ellen Morris	Supported Child Development
Jackie Spurrell	Supported Child Development
Deloris McGhghy	Supported Child Development
Cora-Lee Paish	MY Residential Program
Candice Smith	RC Residential Program
Whitney Carriere	Residential Programs CSAL
Michael Apps	Residential Programs CSAL
Joan Rhyason	Residential Programs CSAL
Jamie Grant	Residential Programs CSAL
Jessica Berg	Residential Programs CSAL
Ashlee Dionne	Berry Patch Childcare Facility
Elisa Wonnacot	Berry Patch Childcare Facility

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL NEW AND CURRENT EMPLOYEES!!!!!!!

MY Residence

MY has been keeping busy these past three months. She attended a birthday party for RC as well as a get together for Patricia. We took that opportunity to get a few group pictures and MY enjoyed the time spent with all her friends. On another occasion, we went exploring out to the bird sanctuary on Rolla road. We walked out to the bridge and were lucky enough to see many different types of birds. Another fun thing that MY has been trying is swimming at the Child Development Center. She shares the pool with SB and loves to bounce up and down to the music and can swim and kick her feet. With the nice weather we have been having lately, MY spends many hours out in the sunshine enjoying the yard and visits with the other residents of the duplex. She also has been enjoying the use of her mp3 player that she received at Christmas which she brings along on her walks around the neighbourhood. MY continues to do well with all of her volunteer jobs. She's been saving up her money that she earned from recycling cans and hopefully can find something nice to buy on her summer vacation this year. We are already in the process of finding a fun and new place to explore this summer. Will tell you all about the fun and excitement in the next newsletter!

Submitted by MY Residence Staff

Meet our staff

Allyson Hayes

I'm a lifer - born and raised in Dawson Creek, with the exception of three years in Prince George from six weeks old to 3 years old. Prince George is where I learned to love sand - it was everywhere! Crystal and I even made a habit of eating it. Not sure why - that will always be a mystery. In Dawson Creek I spent most of my time as a kid playing with dried up horse turds and cow patties – they make great projectiles. We had toys, but for some strange reason these were just as fun. You had to have imagination in those days – no DVD's, video games or computers, no shopping mall or McDonalds Restaurant. In fact the only TV channel was Channel 5 – Walt Disney on Sunday evenings was pretty special. We would wait too for “The Partridge Family” and “Hawaii Five O”. My parents were “news hounds”. News in the morning, news at lunch, news in the evening, and if you happened to be up that late, you could catch the late night edition of the news at 11:00 p.m. I remember watching these strange stories about this far away place called Vietnam, where people were flying helicopters in and out of the jungle and a lot of people being killed. It was strange to watch the live pictures on T.V. and it seemed very surreal, especially since we lived in a place where we did not have to lock our door at night.

Anyways, we grew up on the farm – me, my twin sister (we are the babies of the family), my two older sisters and my older brother. Life was interesting, with stories too numerous to tell. There was a lot of work to do, which I did not mind. I like working more than I do playing (that of course changes if I am anywhere near an ocean and beach). But there was a lot of playing too. Summers were great – long and hot (not so much wind), with fun trips to the river and Rotary Lake to swim. Winters were full of snow and cold, riding on the tube behind the snowmobile until you were numb. Spring was great – full of baby animals. Fall was great - time for HUGE bon fires (us Fordyce's like our fires).

Many years later, now “all grewed up”, I have made my living with my fingers and a typewriter/computer. I have done some travelling, but would like to do a whole lot more. I love travelling. I met a great guy 9 years ago, and Jason and I were “Mauied” almost 7 years ago (Mauied means married in Maui). We have chosen not to have children, but instead live vicariously through our two nephews, and enjoy spending time playing with our great-nephew.

Now that I'm older (I did date myself already), life is pretty busy. We have a home in Dawson Creek, a cat named Simon, and aging parents who need a little more care than they used to. My sister Darcy and brother Derek have passed away, so there is only Crystal, Carrie and myself left. We all look a like – so I really can say I have two twins. You will most likely run into one of them downtown some day. So if I am not saying hello or recognizing you, it is most likely because it is not me. And of course there is work. My job is very busy, although everyone asks me “what do you do?” All I can say is that when I go into work I usually have no idea what will come my way. I may have a plan, and there are certain things that I do on a regular basis – update the Web Site, personnel paperwork, attend a tonne of meetings and type a tonne of minutes, organize meetings, SPCRS orientations, Pro-Bono Clinics, the Annual General Meeting, etc., etc. – but often times jobs will come up at a moments notice – much like they do at home – and they just have to be done. Like the toilet or the sink is plugged, a presentation is being made and the board has to be contacted to have their picture taken accepting the cheque, a Department Manager will need help gathering information for a proposal, a new

Continued on next page...

counsellor has been added to the EFAP so everything will need updated - that sort of thing. It takes up a lot of time. Plus now I've had to write a bio about myself, and what a blabber mouth I have been, which will strike most people as odd, because most times I don't do a lot of talking. I'm always looking for a simple "yes or no", no explanation needed, thank you. But when time allows, I do enjoy getting to know the people I work with. People have very interesting lives. They have done some amazing things, survived some astounding things, and are caring for a tremendous amount of things. One day, maybe I'll get a chance to know you better. Especially since you now know all about me.

Connie Buck

Hi! My name is Connie Buck. I am the new Community Based Victim Service worker having started in December of 2005. I started this job after working at the Mizpah Transition House for over 10 years. In my victim service work, I work with clients who have been sexually assaulted, physically or emotionally abused. I assist clients who are going through the court system as victims of crimes.

In my spare time, I play volleyball, bowl, go for walks, bike and at this time of the year, I like to garden a lot! I also like to travel, play baseball and go camping. I like to read and my treadmill is a favourite piece of equipment for exercising.

I have a husband, 2 teenagers and a dog. I volunteer at the Canadian Cancer Society, enjoy visiting my "grandma" at Rotary Manor and have a great love of animals.

Brain Teaser

Can you read this? Only 55 % of people can.

I cdnuolt blveiee taht I cluod aulacly uesdnatnrd waht I was rdanieg. The phaonmneal pweor of the hmuan mnid, aoccdrnig to a rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it dseno't mtaetr in waht oerdr the ltteres in a wrod are, the only iproamtnt tihng is taht the frsit and lsat ltteer be in the rghit pclae. The rset can be a taotl mses and you can sitll raed it whotuit a pboerlm. This is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the word as a wlohe.

Azanmig huh?

PRP Update

The PRP program has been busy the last few months. Several of the agencies have been putting on workshops. PRP itself hosted the Person Centered Thinking workshop in May. An excellent turnout showed up for the 3 day course and people came away from the workshop with some great ideas, and were eager to put them in place. All in all, the workshop was a huge success with minor glitches such as the lunches, and crowded venue due to the increase in last minute people attending. In my view however the crowded room only meant that the workshop extended itself to more people which is never a bad thing.

We will be bringing back the Wills and Estates workshop again sometime in September or October. We look forward to having Haldor back with his extensive knowledge in this area.

The program is also hoping to have some great ideas in place to celebrate Community Living month.

Remember if you have a workshop you would like brought into our area, please feel free to get in contact with me at 784-9174 ext: 236 or email me at whamilton@spcrs.ca.

Submitted by Wendi Hamilton

RC Residence

Over the last few months RC had the re-decorating bug and did a lot to pep up his apartment. First he painted his bedroom and picked out a new bed. With curtains and posters picturing dragons, his favorite topic, he made the room truly his own. Ron was on a roll with his re-decorating ideas and decided to paint the living room also, picked out new loveseats and purchased a glass cabinet to display his numerous dragon figurines. Besides all that Ron, as always, works hard at his recycling and lawn mowing jobs. With the purchase of a brand new self propelled lawn mower he is able to do the work even faster! Ron was busy as a member of the Special Olympics bowling team and received several awards which he proudly shows to everybody. During summer RC is touring garage sales in town and goes for bike rides and walks around the neighborhood. At the moment he is looking forward to attend Camp Aim Hi in July, where he had lots of fun last year. Enjoy the good weather and summer fun!

We welcome Jamie, Whitney, Michael and Jessica to our team. It's good to have you on board.

Submitted by RC team