

CDSCSCL Newsletter

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JULY 2005

CDSCSCL Seeks Accreditation

CDSCSCL has been going through a long process over the last year to become an accredited service provider. This endeavor began with a mandate from the Ministry of Children and Families for all service providers to people with developmental disabilities to be accredited by the end of 2005. In order to be accredited by one of two authorized accrediting organizations, organizations need to demonstrate that they are providing a high level of care to individuals using a person centred philosophy. This will be accomplished by following a set of standards based on accepted "best practices" in the sector, which have been formulated over the last number of years and continue to change on a yearly basis in order to improve the level to which organizations must achieve. Although this is a mandated process, we have found that a number of the new policies and procedures that have been put in place over the last year have both directly and indirectly improved the service that CDSCSCL provides to individuals it supports.



Joan at the 10th Avenue Day Program—one of the service areas to be surveyed under the "Community Inclusion Program"

We had two consultants help with this process over the last few years and had formed an Accreditation Committee to study the standards and develop strategies for this organization to comply with the requirements. Preparations for the survey were very labour intensive and included developing new manuals for Policy and Procedures, Emergency Response Plans, Health and Safety, Board Orientation, Staff Orientation and Volunteers as well as new Program Handbooks and Personal Binders. Every aspect of the organization was examined in light of the standards and many changes were made, especially in regard to Action Plans. Emergency Preparedness and the consistent recording of information.

In December 2004 a mock survey was performed and it was recommended that we proceed with plans for a full survey in 2005. Surveyors from our accrediting organization CARF, will visit the CDSCSCL office and program sites from September 12th to 14th, 2005. Wish us luck!

CDSCSCL to Acquire Pioneer Villa

In February 2005, CDSCSCL submitted an initial letter of interest in providing services at the Pioneer Villa to a working group that was established to investigate ways to maintain a 50-bed facility in Creston despite the decision by the IHA to close it down. Our proposal was met with enthusiasm and was presented to MLA Blair Suffredine. As announced in the Creston Valley Advance in March, the Pioneer Villa property has been donated to BC Housing with the idea that CDSCSCL will eventually obtain title of the property and develop, manage and maintain services for people in need in the Creston community and Kootenay region.

(See CDSCSCL Exploring Options... on Page 3)

Therapeutic Riding Program



More than just a pony ride!

eight weeks. Sessions have been held every Wednesday at Canyon Park since May 25, 2005. The last session wraps up on Monday July 25, 2005. Three children and four adults with various disabilities participated in the program, taking lessons once per week.

More than just a pony ride, therapeutic riding is a unique program that uses horses as therapists.



Alan at the Demonstration on July 1st

While learning riding and horsemanship skills adults, youth and children with developmental, cognitive, mental, physical, emotional and social challenges gain a host of benefits. We have seen participants in the program improve in such areas as self-confidence, balance and coordination as well as learning a new skill and getting exercise in the process.

Therapeutic riding is a volunteer intensive activity—some riders may need as many as four volunteers—one to lead the horse, one on each side and one behind. We have been fortunate to have a number of very dedicated volunteers who have been essential to the success of this trial run.

Prior to the first session, Jane James, Program Director for the Cowichan Therapeutic Riding Association performed an inspection of the site and program and gave a workshop for volunteers and medical professionals. As a result of this visit, the Therapeutic Riding Program has achieved Canadian Therapeutic Riding Association (CanTRA) Provisional Member Status. To achieve this status the Program had to meet stringent safety standards regarding the facility, horses, volunteers and instruction.

After running for six weeks, the Therapeutic Riding Program held a demonstration event in front of a small crowd on Friday July 1st at Canyon Park. The audience watched the participants and volunteers go through a sample session with two riders, one adult and one child. It was a very entertaining and educational experience to see the kinds of things the riders were learning.

“More than just a pony ride, therapeutic riding is a unique program that uses horses as therapists.”

The success of the program to date is largely attributed to Program Director/Instructor Sarah Schmidt. She has done a wonderful job developing policies and procedures, compiling the Volunteer Manual, recruiting volunteers, providing the instruction and overseeing the entire program. It is truly amazing at how much we have achieved in so short of a time. The program will take a break for the summer with possibly one or two events during July and August. The hope is that this program will be in full operation this fall, running ten-week sessions for as many as sixteen individuals.

However, in order to continue, CDSCL needs to acquire ongoing funding for the program. “The future of therapeutic riding in the Creston Valley is limited only by the financial support we are able to gather” says Sarah Schmidt. “We have wonderful volunteers and horses, CDSCL is totally committed to the program and are receiving more and more applications from riders”. Fundraising initiatives include a “Garage Sale with Attitude” on August 06, 2005 and a barn dance in September. We have also received various donations of equipment, services and monies. However, we need to secure a steady stream of funding to continue providing this beneficial program to children and adults with disabilities in the Creston Valley.



Cowboy John Rides Again

For more information on Therapeutic Riding or to make a donation to the program and/or the Garage Sale, contact Sarah Schmidt at 250-428-3938 or 250-428-2296 or e-mail at sschmidt.cdsc@shawlink.ca.

CDSCL Exploring Options for Pioneer Villa

CDSCL is committed to making the providing of services at Pioneer Villa a community based initiative and our wish is to develop services that can truly respond to the needs of the community. Based on surveys that have been conducted and feedback from members of the community we believe that there are a number of needs that are not currently being met and others that will not be met once Pioneer Villa ceases to be a Senior's facility. These include the following:

- Room & Board for low income members of the community including Seniors
- Assisted Living Beds
- Short Term Care for individuals on the waiting list for Long Term Care
- Care for individuals with Alzheimer's and Dementia
- Care for people with Brain Injuries
- Palliative Care
- Short Term Emergency Care (i.e. for people recuperating from surgery or an injury who have no or little supports at home)
- Respite beds for people with various disabilities or needs
- Residential support for aging individuals with developmental disabilities who are not able to access generic services and who are no longer able to live independently
- Space for CDSCL offices and a Day Program for individuals with developmental disabilities



Pioneer Villa, Creston BC

The services that could be provided by CDSCL would offer a continuum of care ranging from low needs to higher needs with an emphasis on short-term care. Pioneer Villa currently has 50 rooms each with a toilet and sink. Ten of these rooms are in a recently constructed self-contained wing especially designed for individuals with Dementia. Although there are 50 beds available, the plan is to gradually develop services as per the needs of members of the community and as funding becomes available. Costs would mainly be covered by user fees and rent, but could also come from the appropriate

Ministry or Authority such as Health, Community Living and

"The services that could be provided by CDSCL would offer a continuum of care ranging from low needs to higher needs with an emphasis on short-term care."

Mental Health. The main goal is to fill in the gaps for service left by the reductions in funding from Health and Community Living especially due to the termination of services at Pioneer Villa. In keeping with the philosophies of this organization, we hope to build services around the needs of the individuals as much as possible.

A Pioneer Villa Development Advisory Committee comprised of people from the community with various backgrounds and expertise has been formed to provide input to the Board regarding the usage of Pioneer Villa and the development of programs. In order to determine the viability of pursuing this endeavor, CDSCL has contracted with Bill Mackie to complete a community health needs assessment, to assist CDSCL in determining best services to provide through Pioneer Villa to met the needs of specific members of the community including the physically and mentally disadvantaged and to determine possible funding sources to allow Pioneer Villa to truly respond to the needs of the community.

Any input regarding ideas for services that could be provided at Pioneer Villa would be appreciated. Call 250-428-2296 or email office.cdscl@shawlink.ca.

CDSCL embarked into new territory in May 2005 with a trial Therapeutic Riding session lasting for

New Board Members Needed

CDSCL is looking for volunteers for the Board of Directors. If you are interested in serving your community and feel you have gifts that can benefit this organization, or if you know of someone who fills this description, please contact the CDSCL office at 250-428-2296.

COMING EVENTS

Monday July 11, 2005 7:00 pm
CLBC Transition Information Meeting
KSCL—Castlegar 2224 6th Avenue Castlegar BC

Tuesday July 12, 2005 7:00 pm
CLBC Transition Information Meeting
CSCL 1402 1st Street South Cranbrook BC

Monday July 25th, 2005 6:30 pm
CDSCL Annual General Meeting
223 10th Avenue North Creston Lower Floor
Refreshments Served at 6:00 pm. Everyone welcome!

Saturday August 6, 2005 9:00 am—1:00 pm
Garage Sale for Therapeutic Riding Program
Hot Dogs/Coffee/Pop/Goodies for Sale
102 33rd Ave North Creston BC

September 12-14, 2005
CARF Accreditation Survey at CDSCL

September 23-25, 2005
KRACL Annual Fall Conference & AGM

**We're on the
 Web! cdscl.com**

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CHECK IT OUT!

Go to skiacrosscanada.com to check out our Board Chairman Alex Nilsson as he travels across Canada - on roller skis! He is raising money for Diabetes education. Everyone at CDSCL wishes him well!



Annual Fall Conference Rides the "Winds of Change" into Creston September 23—25/05

CDSCL, in conjunction with Cresteramics, will be hosting the annual Kootenay Region Association for Community Living (KRACL) Fall Conference from September 23rd to 25th in Creston. The conference is shaping up to be an awarding event for self-advocates, family members, friends and service providers alike. The conference theme is "The Winds of Change", a very timely theme considering the amount of changes "in the air" with the transition of services for community living from MCFD to CLBC. Keynote speakers will be Hugh and Joanne Wiley who will give us tools to deal with changes in all areas of our lives. Topics for other sessions include assertiveness techniques, guardianship & representation agreements, the transition to CLBC and estate planning/planned giving. There will be fun workshops and informational sessions especially for self-advocates.

The Friday evening entertainment features members of the Kindness Crew. Music for the dance and Saturday will be performed by CDSCL employee Rick Potyok and his students. The KRACL AGM will be held on Sunday morning July 25th. For a copy of the brochure or more information, call 428-2296.

Community Living BC Takes Over July 1st

The new Authority taking over services for community living from the Ministry of Children and Family Development, Community Living British Columbia (CLBC) was officially instated on July 1st, 2005. Rick Mowles, interim CEO for this crown corporation says that there will be no essential changes immediately. From July to December 2005, efforts of CLBC staff will be to establish a Transition Plan. Part of this work will involve a tour across the province to meet with individuals, families and others to discuss the transition. Board Chair Lois Hostedt, Vice President of Quality Services Carol Goozh, Vice President of Community Planning & Development Doug Woollard and Rick Mowles will host meetings in more than 20 communities during July. There will be meetings on Monday July 11th in Castlegar and Tuesday July 12th in Cranbrook. The transition itself will take place from January to March 2006 one community at a time. More information is available at their website at communitylivingbc.ca.

