

Family Services Coordinator AGM 2021 Report Notes

June 12, 2021

Our year began with an Extended Intervention Program, as we had excess funds due to Covid-19 hitting us just when our Spring Intervention Program 2020 was to start! The Extended IP continued until May 30, 2020. The Summer IP 2020, Winter IP2020 and Spring IP2021 statistics did not change much from the previous year, even with us being in the middle of a pandemic – mostly due to the creativity and dedication of our Intervenors and the families they support.

Extended Intervention Program 2020

21 children total

- 2-5 yrs. 0 months: 2 children
- 5-19 yrs.: 19 children
- Vancouver Coastal: 1
- Fraser: 11
- North: 1
- Interior: 1
- Vancouver and Gulf Islands: 7

Employed 24 Intervenors

Summer Intervention Program 2020

51 children total

- 2-5 yrs. 0 months: 7 children
- 5-19 yrs.: 44 children
- Vancouver Coastal: 6
- Fraser: 24
- North: 8
- Interior: 4
- Vancouver and Gulf Islands: 9

Employed 54 Intervenors, as well as one summer student Office Assistant (through a Canada Summer Jobs Grant).

Winter Intervention Program 2020

31 children total

- 2-5 yrs. 0 months: 0 children
- 5-19 yrs.: 31 children
- Vancouver Coastal: 4
- Fraser: 15
- North: 2
- Interior: 2
- Vancouver and Gulf Islands: 8

Employed 35 Intervenors

Family Services Coordinator AGM 2021 Report Notes

June 12, 2021

Spring Intervention Program 2021

32 children total

- 2-5 yrs. 0 months: 1 child
- 5-19 yrs.: 31 children
- Vancouver Coastal: 4
- Fraser: 16
- North: 2
- Interior: 3
- Vancouver and Gulf Islands: 7

Employed 38 Intervenors

Virtual Recreation Program – We developed a new way to network, create, educate and have fun! We began this program in Spring of last year in order to keep in touch with our families and offer some enjoyment and connection during the pandemic. Our newly developed Intervenor Resource Team met regularly to plan, coordinate and then debrief throughout the year, as this program continued weekly through the summer and then seasonally for the remainder of the year. The Team consisted of an ASL Interpreter, presenters and co-presenters, a musician and a moderator.

Some of the activities we enjoyed were:

Bread people, salt dough picture holders, an ocean in a bottle, bean planting, stained glass, a summer campfire, pumpkin decorating, popcorn trees, cinnamon ornaments, snowman lights, butter and ice cream and flying saucers. We also learned many corresponding signs, as well as fun songs.

Youth Transition Program

PATH: Due to the pandemic the PATHs that were

Transition Meetings: I have supported 6 youth moving through the transition phase to adult services, 3 of which are completing school this month. I am also included in the school team meetings for Kindergarten transitions and school IEPs.

Intervenor Training

Our Intervenor training occurs during the Virtual Recreation Program activities, as it allows us to offer consultation and direction 'in the moment'. We also conducted Intervenor staff meetings during the summer months last year and this year we will be continuing with this through the summer months and adding more instructional virtual sessions.

HISP/RISP

Only 1 youth accessed our Hospital Intervention Services Program this past year.

Professional Development and Conferences

There have been many opportunities to attend conferences and webinars, due to the new virtual world we have entered as a result of COVID – almost to the point of needing to hire an employee just to view and attend the virtual conferences!

- ACT: Autism Community Training – What Can I Do with my Child All Day?
- BC Navigation Summit
- CDLS Foundation (Cornelia de Lange Syndrome Foundations)

Family Services Coordinator AGM 2021 Report Notes

June 12, 2021

- CTEBVI Conference (California Transcribers and Educators for the Blind and Visually Impaired)
- CVI Lecture Series (Cathy Williams, Harvard)
- Deafblind International (DbI) – CHARGE Network and Communication Network
- Holding Space Discussions
- New England Regional CHARGE Syndrome Conference
- NY Deaf-Blind Collaborative
- POPDB Online Learning Series
- PRCVI – Multidisciplinary Perspective on Reduced Visual Fields
- SUITCEYES: Living Through Touch
- TSBVI Texas Symposium on Deafblind Education
- UBC Interprofessional Continuing Education
- UBC Paediatric Update Symposium
- Understanding CHARGE Syndrome

Projects

- We were fortunate to be accepted to present at the Texas Symposium on Deafblind Education. We were happy to share all that we have learned about virtual programming through our newly developed Virtual Recreation Program. Linda Mamer and I created a presentation that was presented virtually. We were then invited to create a similar presentation for CDBA National.
- We have a 'new and improved' website – A collaborative effort, for sure!

Practicum Students: 3 students

Douglas College EA/Community Care Worker program

Booklets/Documents were created

- HOH vs. HUH
- Intervenor vs. Interpreter
- Optometrists vs. Ophthalmologists
- Congenital vs. Acquired
- What is Deafblind Intervention?
- CVI

Spring 2021 Newsletter

Collaborations

- POPDB
- National Deafblind Awareness Month Committee
- Shared Vision BC
- Inclusive Education Partners Group
- DbI CHARGE Network
- Deaf-Blind Planning Committee
- US-Canada Connection
- Council of Service Providers
- Inclusion BC ED Network
- DbI Network of the Americas/Texas School for the Blind Conference Advisory Committee
- PATH Facilitators Group

Family Services Coordinator AGM 2021 Report Notes

June 12, 2021

Summary

We are so very grateful for the funding we continue to receive from the Ministry of Children and Family Development. This past year has been chaotic, frustrating, disheartening, and yet there were still positive highlights. It just goes to show us what can be done when we pull together!

Many thanks to our staff and Board of Directors for their continued support and to our CDBA National staff and Board of Directors who have been so very supportive of all we do here in BC.

And we must not forget to mention the children and youth with deafblindness and their families. We continue to be amazed and impressed by your diligence and hard work every day and will continue to learn from the many accomplishments and successes, no matter how big or small. We are so very grateful to be working alongside you and enjoying this journey together.