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PPTC Quarterly Update **March 2009**

This is a 'quarterly report' from the Office of the Provincial Paediatric Therapy Consultant. The intent is that this update will increase awareness amongst stakeholders involved in paediatric therapy services in BC of the activities of this Office. Feel free to contact the Provincial Paediatric Therapy Consultant for further discussion or clarification regarding the content of this update. This is the final quarterly report for the 2008-2009 fiscal year.

Main Initiatives:

Therapist Assistant Project

- The funding allocated for this initiative has been used up, and the documents produced through this initiative will be maintained on the therapybc website (http://www.therapybc.ca/ta_use.php). The documents include the following:

- Researching the Role of Therapy Assistants to Support the Delivery of Paediatric Therapy Services in British Columbia
- Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the Use of Therapist Assistants in Pediatric Settings
- Sample Tasks and Activities Performed By Therapist Assistants in Pediatric Settings
- An Employer's Guide to Hiring a Therapist Assistant
- Five 'Practice Profiles' posted by BC agencies currently utilizing therapist assistants in their service delivery model

Promoting Manageable Workloads

- The primary resource created in the past fiscal year related to the Promoting Manageable Workload initiative is the document 'Preferred Practice Guidelines for BC Paediatric Therapists.' This document should prove to be a useful resource for all stakeholders to assist in promoting manageable workloads for therapists, and is located on the therapybc website (http://www.therapybc.ca/promoting_manageable.php). Additional work to support manageable workloads for employers and therapists is continuing in the form of an 'eLibrary.' The purpose of this eLibrary is to provide workload management resources such as referral management systems and waitlist prioritization methods. This eLibrary will allow employers and therapists to easily access sample tools and forms that can then be adapted for use in their own facilities. The first

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phase of this eLibrary should be available to employers and therapists by the summer of 2009.

Paediatric Update Symposium

- The 2009 Paediatric Update Symposium proved to be a tremendous success. 225 paediatric OTs, PTs, and SLPs benefitted from presentations by renowned speakers from the paediatric therapy field. There were also more than 30 posters submitted by BC therapists, demonstrating the commitment to research and innovative practice in our province. Work has already begun on preliminary planning for another Paediatric Update Symposium in 2011. If you are interested in participating on the planning committee for the 2011 Symposium please contact Jason Gordon at consultant@therapybc.ca.

Education Support

- The Office of the PPTC was able to provide a significant amount of financial support for continuing education in 2008/2009 thanks to funding remaining from prior One-Time-Only grants and some budget carry over from previous years.

- The 'New Graduate/New to Paediatrics Education Fund' provided approximately \$11,000 to 38 therapists new to paediatrics
- The 'Education Grant Award' initiative provided a total of \$17,400 to 30 therapists from across the province to support their attendance at a continuing education opportunity of their choice
- The 'Regional Education Session' initiative supported continuing education sessions in Prince George and in Kamloops. Funds from this initiative also assisted Island therapists travel to the Update Symposium, and assisted in subsidizing the overall costs of the Symposium for all therapists in BC.

The current fiscal climate has resulted in little funding for such education initiatives and support from the PPTC for the rest of 2009. However, we are working on cost-effective approaches to ensuring BC paediatric therapists continue to receive the continuing education and networking opportunities they value to ensure job satisfaction and retention.

eLearning Initiatives

- Funding is available to support BC therapists and agencies utilizing technology to access continuing education opportunities. Funds to assist in the costs of continuing ed. via videoconferencing, telehealth/tele-CDR, etc. all qualify. Application forms and further details available at: http://www.therapybc.ca/clinician_elearning.php

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eMentoring Project

- The PPTC is currently collaborating with the author of the eMentoring online training modules and Sunny Hill Health Centre to develop a proposal that we feel will help implement an electronic mentoring program for BC therapists. Further details will be available in late spring/early summer 2009.

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- A new system of tracking job postings will be implemented this spring. It will require very little time from employers, and will help us provide reports to our funding sources that are more detailed and accurate. We look forward to working with employers registered on the therapybc site during this implementation process.

- Make sure your colleagues and employees are registered in the therapybc database (http://www.therapybc.ca/clinician_register.php). Therapists who have registered their email information with the site and have chosen to receive updates from the PPTC will ensure they are informed of any new initiatives generated by this Office.

- There is now a 'continuing education/upcoming events' box on the therapybc homepage. Submit details to the PPTC to have your event posted on the site (no charge for this service), and visit the site regularly to keep aware of any upcoming events in your area. Therapists may also select the 'receive email notification' option for upcoming events when registering their email information with the site.

- We have added an 'Aboriginal Resources' menu to the site. This section of the website should assist therapists and agencies in locating services to support aboriginals in BC. The PPTC looks forward to continuing to evolve and expand this menu.

Student Initiatives

- UBC OT, PT, and SLP job fair is taking place on Thursday May 28th from 3-7pm at the Thea Koerner House - Graduate Student Centre on UBC Vancouver campus. The Office of the PPTC will be there to represent all agencies delivering paediatric therapy services, but don't let that stop you from attending as well (I could use the company)!

- The UBC OT Capstone Conference takes place on Friday August 28th from 8:30am to 4:45pm. The Capstone Conference is an opportunity for the 2009 Master of Occupational Therapy graduates to present their research to their upcoming colleagues and promote discussion amongst both professionals and students. This year's conference is taking place at the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts at UBC -- 6265 Crescent Road, Vancouver, BC. Register at the following site: <http://www.chd.ubc.ca/ot/capstone>.

- The PPTC will be attending an Aboriginal Career Day hosted by Okanagan College, the Ki-low-na Friendship Society, UBC-O, and Columbia Power. This career fair takes place on May 7th at UBC-O.