



Central Region Data Collection

The IDSN Research Survey is currently underway. We are asking adults (19 years of age and older) living with an intellectual disability in the Central Region of Nova Scotia about their current and future health and social service needs, as well as their satisfaction with current services. Alliance members have been discussing the survey at local, national and international conferences focusing on the health and well being of persons with intellectual disabilities.

To date, over 100 individuals have participated in the survey. We continue in our efforts to reach additional people who are currently receiving services within the Central Region, as well as those who are on waiting lists and those who are not accessing services.

Thank you to the individuals who have participated in the survey to-date, as well as to the following organizations for their hard work in recruiting participants and administering the survey: **Anchor Industries Society, Dartmouth Adult Services Centre, Gerald Hardy Memorial Society, New Leaf Enterprises, and Regional Residential Services Society**. The success of this project is dependent on support from persons with intellectual disabilities and their families/caregivers, as well as local advocacy and service organizations.

If you are an adult living with intellectual disability in the Central Region and would like to participate in the survey, please phone our office at 457-6218 or email us at thepowerofknowing@msvu.ca.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to Community Groups

Thank you to the **Nova Scotia Residential Agencies Association** and the **DIRECTIONS Council for Vocational Services Society** for their recent financial contributions to the project. Donations support the Alliance in a variety of project-related activities, including data collection and analysis, stakeholder consultation, and ongoing sharing of results and activities. The Alliance is currently seeking additional support for operational and dissemination costs, as well as sustainable funding to support ongoing access to up-to-date data.

A Profile of Alliance Members

DIRECTIONS Council for Vocational Services Society, Community Partner



Cathy Deagle Gammon is a community partner on the Alliance representing the DIRECTIONS Council. Cathy, an MSVU graduate, is the Executive Director at the Dartmouth Adult Services Centre (DASC) and has over 29 years experience working in both residential and vocational services. During her career, she has held various board positions with the DIRECTIONS Council of Nova Scotia and was President for six years from 2000-2006.

DIRECTIONS Council for Vocational Services Society is a not for profit organization representing twenty-eight member agencies throughout Nova Scotia. The Council's mandate is to assist and support member organizations in the delivery of services that promote the abilities and inclusion of persons with disabilities in the everyday activities of their community. DIRECTIONS member agencies provide program services for 1800 participants within the province including educational opportunities, provincial staff benefits, networking, advocacy, leadership and a variety of vocational resources.

"DIRECTIONS is pleased to be an Alliance member and as Executive Director of DASC I join them in realizing the importance of this work. We have a responsibility to research who is needing service, what service they require, and what manner in which they would like it provided so that we as advocates, educators, service providers and policy makers can shape a future that is responsive to those needs." (C. Deagle Gammon)

Gordon Flowerdew, DSc., Co-Investigator

Gordon Flowerdew is an Associate Professor in the Department of Community Health & Epidemiology at Dalhousie University and a Co-Investigator on the research project. He holds a Masters degree from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and a Doctor of Science from the Harvard School of Public Health.

Gordon's expertise lies in the field of biostatistical modeling. In addition to teaching graduate-level biostatistics at Dalhousie University, he is actively engaged in several research activities. He was previously involved in the project entitled *Age Related Transitions: Older Parents Caring for Adult Sons/Daughters with Lifelong Disabilities* which served as the foundation for the current project.



Adele McSorley, Associate



Adele McSorley is an associate on the Alliance. She is currently the project coordinator for "Collective Care for the Children We Share," an Aboriginal Health Transition Fund project geared at improving mental health outcomes for children and their families in Mi'kmaq communities.

"Many of the service issues that concern adults with disabilities also affect children and their families. A database which identifies the number of adults with intellectual disabilities and their service needs may have benefits for children at a younger age and their families". (A. McSorley)

Adele completed her undergraduate education at West Chester State University and holds a Master of Science from Emerson College. She has extensive experience in several research areas including policy focusing on early support services for children and families, child care, parents and professionals information needs when caring for children with disabilities, and training needs of early childhood educators. Additionally, she has taught at elementary, high school, and university levels.

October 2009 Stakeholders' Workshop



On Thursday October 15th, the Alliance hosted a stakeholders' workshop. The purpose of the workshop was to present preliminary survey results, to elicit feedback from all stakeholders regarding the IDSN survey, and to discuss future directions for the project. In attendance were representatives from organizations across the Central Region including service providers, clients, and family members. Workshop participants offered insight and encouragement for ongoing survey processes and strategies for reaching targeted populations and refining research questions.



Thank you to everyone who participated in this day-long event and to Anchor Industries and New Leaf Enterprises for their great food & professional catering services.

In the Community

August 2009

Dr. Deborah Norris, principal investigator, recently participated in the *World Down Syndrome Congress, Lifelong Living and Learning*, held in Dublin, Ireland from August 19th to 22nd.

September 2009

The International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual Disabilities Health Issues Special Interest Research Group Conference was held in Kingston, Ontario from September 8th to 10th. Dr. Brian Hennen, co-investigator on the project, was in attendance.

October 2009

Dr. Deborah Norris, Dr. Brian Hennen, and Erin Power presented preliminary survey results at the annual *St. Amant Conference on Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities & Autism* on Oct. 9th, 2009 in Winnipeg, Manitoba. These results were also presented at the 4th annual *Tools for Life Conference & Exhibit* in Greenwich, NS.

Thank you to all the individuals and organizations who have offered their financial support, in-kind support, assistance, or interest to the Alliance.

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