



FASD Network News

FASD SUPPORT NETWORK
OF SASKATCHEWAN INC.

February 2012—Issue 31

A Note to our Readers

Greetings,

Let me begin by saying what an honour and privilege it is to be working at the FASD Support Network of Saskatchewan. I have only been in the Executive Director position for a couple of months. During this time, I have seen the admirable commitment of the Board of Directors, parents, family members, volunteers and service providers working in the field.

I had the chance to witness this commitment just a few short days ago. The Network hosted the FASD Here and Now Conference February 14th and 15th. The response to the call for participation was overwhelming. You answered our call and an impressive 320 people from across the province registered. The time and effort that is invested in understanding the complexities of FASD and building circles of support is astounding. I thank you for the opportunity to engage in this important work.

Over the coming months I look forward to discovering more ways to work with you. I welcome your calls and meetings so we can work together to meet the needs of children, youth, adults and families living with FASD in our province.

One promising activity already

underway is in the area of adult assessment and diagnosis. Dr. Gerald Block will be providing Adult FASD Psychologist Assessment Services through his independent practice. Services will be available to those in the Heartland, Prairie North, Kelsey Trail, Prince Albert, Mamawetan Churchill River, Keewatin Yatthe, Athabasca and Saskatoon Health Regions.

Dr. Gerald Block is employed as a staff Psychologist at Calder Centre, Mental Health Services and Addiction Services, Saskatoon Health Region. He also works in an independent practice and practices within the areas of Clinical Psychology and Neuropsychology. He provides psychological assessment, treatment, consultation, and rehabilitation services to adults, youth and children with addiction as well as other psychological and medical disorders. These disorders include FASD, alcohol and drug dependence, depression, anxiety, trauma and relationship conflict.

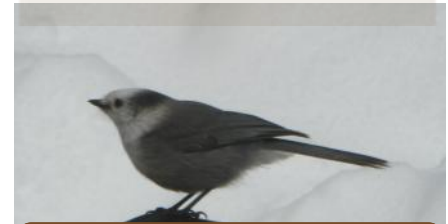
Dr. Block can be reached at g.block@sasktel.net or (306) 373-3110.

Until next time,

Lisa Mooney

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Updates from around the Network Offices

FASD Family Support Program

In January, on what was likely the coldest night of the year, the FASD Family Support Program hosted a special evening of support. A number of families from Saskatoon and area began the evening with visiting and a delicious meal. Following that, several agencies offered short presentations about the programs and services they offer. Family members then had the chance to meet with staff from the Cognitive Disabilities Strategy, Catholic Family Services, CLASSIC (see below for more information), Saskatchewan Association for Community Living and Community Living Association Saskatoon Inc.

Family members took the time to ask questions, view displays and learn more about services and support from each agency. One family member commented she not known of some of these services before and this was a good way to learn about services. Even though it was -38° outside, the evening was a great success. Families went home feeling warm and supported.

The next two Family Support Meetings are February 22 and March 21. Meetings are held 7:30 pm. at the Shaw Centre on Bowlt Crescent. Call Toll Free **1-866-673-3276** or contact the Family Support Workers to learn more about the program and the possibility of gaining family support.

Allana Dziarski (306) 975-0881
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Spotlight on a Community Agency

HOURS OF OPERATION

CLASSIC WALK-IN CLINIC
MONDAY:
1:00PM - 5:00PM
WEDNESDAY:
1:00PM - 5:00PM

LEGAL ADVICE CLINIC
TUESDAY:
1:30PM - 4:00PM
5:30PM - 8:00PM
THURSDAY:
1:30PM - 4:00PM
5:30PM - 8:00PM

Call 657-6100 to make an appointment

One of the groups at the most recent Family Support Meeting was CLASSIC, Community Legal Assistance Services for Saskatoon Inner City Inc. CLASSIC is a non-profit and charitable organization. They provide free, professional and confidential legal services for low-income members of our community who cannot otherwise afford legal advice or representation. CLASSIC works with other community organizations through mutual referrals to best resolve clients' legal and non-legal issues.

Classic may be able to offer you and your family support with a legal matter. Call their offices for more information.

CLASSIC is holding an information session on criminal law March 7th, 2012.
Visit their website www.classiclaw.ca or call for more information.



FASD Here and Now

As Lisa shared in her message on page one, the FASD Here and Now conference was a great success. Honestly, around the Network office we are still catching our collective breath.

Minister Draude made opening remarks and brought greetings on behalf of the provincial government. Minister Draude once again demonstrated her commitment to some of the most vulnerable people of our province. Her words set the stage for the many good things to come over the two-day event. We are so grateful for the ongoing commitment of Minister Draude and her office.

Following opening comments, local and national presenters captured the attention of the audience with fascinating descriptions of brain functioning, sound approaches to supporting individuals and families living FASD and effective models of community support.

Those at the conference were also prompted to consider the power of presence. Guest presenter, Raven Sinclair, helped participants to understand that the “secrets and riches in life are in the moment.” She helped us to understand that our “clever, crafty and powerful minds”

either aid us to be in the moment, take us into the past or skip ahead to the future. Because of our busy minds, being in the moment can be hard work. Raven urged the audience to have the courage to be ourselves and be imperfect in our ability to live in the present.

As a closing to the conference, Raven Sinclair shared a reading of the book *The Three Questions* by Jon Muth. She wished us well and sent us away with much to think about.

If you are interested, PowerPoint presentations for several of the sessions have been added to the Network website. Simply click on the Community Events tab and you will find the handouts.



Executive Director, Lisa Mooney, pictured with Minister Draude.

Upcoming Conference

Mark your calendars for FASDlive 2012: Expanding our Vision. This conference will take place September 12-14th, 2012 in Saskatoon.

Learn about current research and new developments in the field of FASD

Increase knowledge of FASD, a complex, brain based, lifelong disability

Value and support individuals with FASD and their families

Expand circles of prevention and support

Call for Abstracts is now open.

Visit the Network website or follow this link to download the **Call for Abstracts form**
<http://www.skfasnetwork.ca/main/2012/02/call-for-abstracts-fasdlive-2012/>

FASDlive 2012 brought to you in partnership by:



saskatchewan
preventioninstitute
our goal is healthy children



**Saskatchewan
Ministry of
Health**



Canada
Northwest
FASD
Partnership



Newly Launched Network Website

Have you visited the Network website lately? If you have, you likely noticed a brand new look. For many people, a website is the first introduction to an unfamiliar issue or an organization. Visitors to our site will notice hardy and cheerful sunflowers featured against a backdrop of weathered boards. When you visit our website, we want you to feel welcome, comfortable and at home.

But a welcoming website is not enough. We know people visit our website with questions. They are looking for reliable information about a complex disability. With this in mind, we have created a user-friendly website with drop down categories to organize information. Past users of the Network website will notice familiar content like the popular *FASD Tips for Parents and Caregivers* and issues of *Living with FASD*. There is also a handy search bar if you are looking for something very specific.

Along with familiar content, new sections have been added. The Programs and Activities tab will take you to the FASD Family Support Program or describe Network activities like Prevention and Awareness in Academic Settings. There is a section titled *For Parents* and a section just for people with FASD called *I Have FASD*.

Visit often to keep up to date with regular news posts that appear on the home page. We hope your visit to the Network website will answer your questions and guide you in your next steps as you learn about FASD.



Our Thanks...



The FASD Support Network of Saskatchewan would like to thank local businesses who have supported our organization in recent months.

Many thanks to PickNic's Catering. Your generosity helped us host a very successful meeting.

Thank you also to the Canadian Tire. Your donation will help families and guests to our offices feel most welcome.

A few pictures from FASD Here and Now...



Kim Skidmore wowed the audience with her humour and wisdom.

Board Member, Anna Niessen, introduced Deb Rutman.



Thanks to great help registration was a breeze!

