



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Partnering for Change (PFC) Stakeholder Symposium #3 - March 4, 2010

- 48 stakeholders participated in a day-long symposium to review progress, share emerging insights and develop preliminary strategies to ensure the effective rollout and uptake of research findings
- The day was productive and focused on 5 main areas: (a) Project Update, (b) Maintaining the Momentum, (c) Action Planning, (d) Expectations and Commitments and (e) Moving Forward

The following is a summary of some specific ideas and key messages raised by the stakeholders:

(a) Project Update:

- 8 occupational therapists (OTs) are currently working in 11 schools in 2 school boards as part of PFC; on-line training modules for OTs were created to enhance OT knowledge
- Great strides and many successes have been accomplished in this research project that is currently testing a different model of OT service delivery to school-aged children
- As a result of this instructional leadership there has been improved student achievement, enhanced teacher capacity and empowered families; everyone is excited by the progress

(b) Maintaining the Momentum:

- Early intervention is critical to help children with motor challenges be successful, so there is a significant need to continue to build and enhance community capacity
- Break out groups were asked to identify environmental factors that would facilitate uptake of the PFC service delivery model and forces that might potentially prevent the model from being rolled out provincially
- PFC model is indeed successful with lots of positive feedback from participants and stakeholders but more funding, more multidisciplinary involvement, and higher governmental priority on children's issues were identified as needs
- A powerful visioning exercise generated a long list of what could in fact be possible if this model were to be adopted province-wide

(c) Action Planning:

- Suggestions were generated of initiatives that might contribute to the sustainability of the project
- Discussion was held around how to measure and report model outcomes and highlight as "best practice" and how to provide sustainable and stable funding for School Health Support Services (SHSS)

- Stakeholders self-assigned to 7 working groups to crystallize action plans regarding: (1) funding, (2) increase awareness, (3) education, (4) advocacy, (5) multidisciplinary, (6) program integration and (7) policy.

(d) Expectations and Commitments:

- Participants then worked in groups according to their stakeholder role and outlined what they are prepared to give or contribute to the sustainability of the model and what they expected to receive if the model were sustained

(e) Moving Forward:

- Participants individually outlined what they would perceive to be compelling evidence of success of the model for their stakeholder group
- The current climate of change in the education and healthcare systems presents tremendous opportunities and we need to capitalize on these opportunities in order to allow children with motor challenges the possibility of being active participants and successful students
- There is a need for overall increased public awareness of DCD and dissemination of PFC's evidence-based health promotion model

The research team of PFC is very pleased with the outcomes of this successful symposium and to all participants for their wonderful work, time, enthusiasm and commitment. We look forward to continuing to work together to enhance the educational experiences of children with DCD and to improve their quality of life in order to ensure they grow into productive citizens who are able to successfully contribute to society.