



APPROPOS

BATSHAW YOUTH AND FAMILY CENTRES



LOOKING AFTER CHILDREN (LAC) APPROACH: INITIAL RESEARCH RESULTS

Hedy Taylor, Program Manager, Implementation of LAC, DCFS

In 2003, Batshaw Centres and with three other youth centres, and in partnership with the ACJQ, were named pilot sites for implementation of the LAC Approach Project in Quebec. The four youth centres, also participated in a 5-year research project from 2003-2008.

On April 22nd, Marie-Claude Simard, Ph.D., co-researcher for the project, presented initial results to Batshaw staff.

The final report of results and recommendations will be presented to staff by Marie-Andrée Poirier, Ph.D., researcher, on Wednesday, October 28th, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., in the Auditorium at 6 Weredale Park. Everyone is invited to attend.

Synopsis of the Presentation:

Batshaw Social Workers' Characteristics: 81% of the social workers who took part in the research project were women; 61% worked in the child welfare field for over 4 years. 95% have a bachelor's or master's degree.

Batshaw Foster Parent's Characteristics: 91% of the foster parents who took part in the research were women; 49% came from the same ethnic/cultural background as the child in their care; and 72% have been providing foster care to children and youth for over 4 years.

Batshaw Youth Characteristics: 55% of the youth taking part in the research were boys (5-9 years old) and 45% were girls (ages 10-17 years old); 76% of youth ages 10-17 years old were present when the AAR was completed by the worker.

Health Characteristics of Clients:

- 75% of clients ages 5-9 years do not have long-term conditions or health problems that limit their activity; 21% take a psychotropic or behaviour altering medication; and 96% receive all necessary preventative health care;
- 95% of clients ages 10-17 years do not have long-term conditions or health problems that limit their activity; 20% take a psychotropic or behaviour altering medication, and 95% receive all necessary preventative health care;
- Over 95% of clients ages 10-17 years old reported never smoking cigarettes or marijuana; 75% reported they never drank alcohol.

Educational Characteristics of Clients: 95% of clients 5-9 years old, and 75% 10-17 years old have not repeated a grade at school; 67% of clients' educational performance in both age groups matches their ability.

Identity Characteristics of Batshaw Clients: Over 50% of clients in both age groups have some ability to relate to their ethnic and cultural background, and also identify with and are proud of their racial/ethnic background; 74% of clients ages 5-9 years, have usually a positive view of themselves and their abilities; and 40% ages 10-17 years reported to have high self esteem.

Family and Social Relationship Characteristics of Clients:

- 48 % of clients 5-9 years old and 61% 10-17 years old have a clear knowledge of their family of origin;
- 98% of clients 5-9 years old and 88% 10-17 years old have had much continuity of care (no change of placement in the previous 12 months); 96 % of clients 5-9 years old and 88% of 10-17 years old are attached to at least one foster parent or other adult caregiver.

Emotional and Behavioural Characteristics of Batshaw Clients:

66% of clients 5-9 years old and 70% 10-17 years old have minor or no emotional behavioural problems; 76% 5-9 years old and 71% clients 10-17 years old don't need treatment or receive effective treatment for persistent problems.

Children's point of view on the LAC Approach: In general, the youth responded that the AAR allows them to speak about subjects that they don't normally raise; also it gives foster parents and case workers a chance to learn more about them. It brings self-awareness and also shows the progress they have made.

Caseworker perceptions: Caseworkers found the AAR ensured a more systematic evaluation of the child; provided more knowledge of the child and foster family; and strengthened teamwork and their relationship with the foster family. It also facilitates Intervention Planning.

To attend the presentation of the final report and recommendations of the LAC Research on Wednesday October 28, RSVP Sandyha Karnick by e-mail or telephone local 1711.

2009 BBQ: A WONDERFUL SUCCESS!

Darlene Job, Educator, Tobin House, and Camp Services

The 9th Annual Batshaw BBQ was another success despite the rain. We would like to thank all those who came out to support the cause. Once again the people who make this annual event happen are to be commended. This year we were treated to a new and equally competent BBQ crew. Ted once again kept us hopping in the auditorium with all the prizes! Maintenance was great at the setting-up and cleaning-up of all the equipment. The Resource team, drivers, Information Services, DRTSA and all the others who volunteered - you did an amazing job! We would also like to thank those of you who were generous with your donations of money, prizes and Canadian Tire money. Without the effort and support of all our "helpers", this event would not happen. This year we were able to raise over \$4400 in just one lunch hour!!!!

Looking forward to our 10th anniversary next June 2010. Hope you're there to help celebrate this milestone with us.

UNE ROUTE SANS FIN

Daina Girard, Educator, Bridges, Prévost Campus

On May 30th Batshaw participated in the 5th annual "Une Route Sans Fin" event for the second year in a row. Fifty educators and social workers rode 900 kilometres to help raise visibility for youth centres in Québec. Ten clients who had attended our practice runs rode in the rain for 68 kilometres to represent Batshaw Centres during the Montréal leg of the journey. Our youth were accompanied by 13 staff members who volunteered their time for this cause, whose participation made a huge impact on this year's success. From staying after work to ride with the clients, to helping sell bracelets and chocolates for our fundraiser, to helping manage the day of the event and much more. Our staff went above and beyond to make this year's event a positive experience! Participants received t-shirts and water bottles supplied by our sponsor "Bicycle Quillicot" who also helped out with bike repairs. We also organised a get-together, and over food and reminiscing over pictures from the event, which allowed the clients to paint their "Une Route Sans Fin" experience on a canvas that will be part of history. Their canvas will be included in an international project that will culminate in canvases from youth worldwide being wrapped around an Egyptian pyramid for a year! The participants were also able to distribute thank-you cards to all the staff who helped out. Sonia Beckhofer-Fialho and I had the pleasure of riding 900 km in 9 days across Québec to represent Batshaw Centres with colleagues from youth care centres. This event has created a positive visibility for our youth and a motivation to be part of such a successful event. A special 'thank you very much' to all those who supported and share the same passion I have for this event. Last year my goal was to do a fundraiser, find a sponsor, and find motivated staff. Mission accomplished! My new goal is to make Batshaw Centres even more bike friendly and continue increasing physical activity in our youth so they can experience all the benefits of an active lifestyle.