

TELEHEALTH PROGRAM

EVALUATION REPORT ON TELEHEALTH SESSION

Dyslexia

February 13, 2007

Kelly Howarth, M. Ed., Dpl. Ad. Ed., Program Evaluator
Jo Ann Jones, R.N., M. Ed., Community Support Coordinator

The second Telehealth Session of the winter season was *Dyslexia*, with Desiree Chaker, Family Life Educator. This 2-hour session was held Tuesday, February 13, 2007, from the Montreal Children's Hospital. The session was hosted by COASTERS and was moderated by Kelly Howarth. The session followed an interactive format, with regular question periods throughout.

Important to note is that due to inclement weather, CAMI of the Magdalen Islands joined in by speakerphone, and this went very well.

The following are highlights of results:

- Communities: 6 communities, including 7 sites: CAMI, COASTERS, MCDC, and Townshippers' Association
- Number of participants: 55 people
- Number of professionals: 3 from healthcare and 30 from education
- Number of completed evaluations: 94%
- Positive comments: centered on how the speaker clearly and concisely presented the information and the handouts, and that she was forthcoming in sharing her personal story around dyslexia. One participant cited the "open conversation" of it and the fact that the presentation was given by someone with dyslexia.
- Level of satisfaction: People agreed (on a scale of 4/5) that the presentation was helpful, interesting, met their expectations and that the resources were useful.
- New Partnerships: Neighbors established partnership with CSSS, Vision Gaspé Perce Now has made contact with the Cancer Foundation and is sharing information about their services with the community, and Townshippers' established new partnership with local college for the videoconferencing facility, and COASTER's Association established more contact at the local clinics in the remote villages.
- Future follow-up actions: Neighbors is looking into a support group based on an identified need in its community and CAMI plans to use the recording of this session to hold a session with the Homecare Class.

When asked, "*What did you learn that is worth remembering for a lifetime?*" participants cited the following memorable quotes:

"...that any child has a means/way to learn under any circumstance/difficulty. Everybody learns differently."

"Not to bring the child down, to make the child a real partner in his/her learning."

"Believe students when they say 'I don't understand'...take them at their word."

"Technology that is available to help dyslexics."

“If you are determined, you can.”

“Boosting self-esteem tips, seating arrangements, timer for reading, tell them in advance what to read.”

“Diagnosing at an early age is not beneficial.”

“Accept and encourage learners.”

“That a child with dyslexia has a normal or above average intelligence.”

“That dyslexia is a learning disability, not an intellectual deficiency.”

Constructive feedback centered on:

- The technology – some technological glitches, time it took to get the mikes set up at sites, etc.
- Having all the questions at the end of the presentation

The question and answer format went smoothly, with each community asking questions such as: What signs to look for in young children, practical strategies for dealing with dyslexia, how teachers can deal with students in multi-level groups, and what scarred the presenter most while she was growing up with dyslexia.

Future topics requested by participants include: Downs Syndrome, dysphasia, caring for an elderly parent, auditory discrimination problems, hyperactivity, learning in general, dyscalculia, and Asperger’s Syndrome, to name a few.

Asked what more could be done in their communities around the issue of cancer, participants cited the following:

- A lot of publicity and visibility about literacy
- Organizing English support groups
- More local resources
- Public education and awareness
- Explained LD to students in class. Explain as to why they get support and extra help.
- More parental/professionals/specialists’ involvement
- That materials such as reading software be available for schools

The next Telehealth Session (selected by COASTERS), *Diabetes Type One: Children and Adolescents*, with Anne Bossy, Nurse, and Evelyne Pytka, Nutritionist, is scheduled for March 6, 2007.