

TELEHEALTH PROGRAM

EVALUATION REPORT ON TELEHEALTH SESSION

Learning Disabilities – Part 2

November 14, 2006

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

The fourth Telehealth Session of the fall season was *Learning Disabilities – Part 2*, with Peter Gantous, Clinical Psychologist. This 2-hour session was held Tuesday, November 14, 2006, from the Montreal Children's Hospital. The session, which was hosted by The OHSSN, and moderated by Peter MacGibbon of The Quebec Learners' Network. This was the first time we had a remote moderator and the session followed the interactive format, with regular question periods throughout.

The following are highlights of results:

- Communities: 7 communities, including 11 sites, involving 3 of the 4 pilot sites (CAMI COASTERS, MCDC) and 3 new communities (Townshippers' Association, OHSSN and Neighbors
- Number of participants: 71 people
- Number of professionals: 8 healthcare and 22 from education
- Number of completed evaluations: 96%
- Positive comments: centered on how the presenter clearly and concisely answered questions, the question and answer format of the session and the effective teaching strategies presented
- 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

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

- “To recognize the efforts, not the marks of students who have learning disabilities.”
- “Having this disability doesn't change your worth as a person.”
- “Be consistent and reward children for what they can control, not final product.”
- “Assessment is key to understanding child development issues.”
- “The age a diagnosis can be made and how to get an assessment. How to avoid behavior problems.”
- “Children who do not have attention problems but may be hyper should never be on ADD and ADHD meds.”
- “Boost the confidence and esteem of those afflicted.”
- “Confirmation that working with adults, their responsibility requires tools and acknowledgement of disability.”
- “The necessity of professional help for early assessment.”
- “Parents, teachers, psychologists have to adapt a solution/strategy before giving medication.”
- “Self-esteem is the most important thing you can instill in a child.”
- “Practically all that Peter Gantous had to offer in such a limited time.”

Constructive feedback centered on:

- The challenge inherent in viewing *The Learning Puzzle* over videoconference.
- The need for specific resources to hand out to participants. Overall, people wanted more resources in their hands.
- The fact that it took a lot of time for equipment checks prior to the start of the session.

It is important to note that the presenter did encourage all participants to access *The Learning Puzzle*, either via CD or online at www.TheLearningPuzzle.net.

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

- Incorporating *The Learning Puzzle* website into parent-teacher interviews
- Receiving the CD for their schools, so that this information is widely available to parents
- Creating support groups for parents with learning disabled children
- Hearing motivational testimonials of learners who have achieved and how they managed their learning disabilities
- The need for more resources about the topic in order to create greater awareness

The next Telehealth Session (selected by Townshippers'), *Drugs and Alcohol*, with Hugh Fraser of The Fraser Recovery Center, and invited guests, is scheduled for November 21, 2006.