

Aboriginal Practice Standards Redesign Project
Quarterly Update
Project Lead Activities
January 1 to March 31, 2011

The primary activity during this quarter was drafting the first two sections of the practice standards for presentation at a face-to-face Working Group meeting.

Activity Category: Meetings/Admin

- *Working Group Meetings* – Working group meetings were held monthly, by teleconference. As well, a face-to-face meeting was held February 23 to go over the first two sections of the draft practice standards. Members from all regions attended the meeting; the discussion was fruitful and confirmed that the practice standards reflect practice realities. Revisions were made to both sections, based on the feedback from that meeting.
- *Steering Committee Meeting* – The Project Lead met with the Steering Committee on March 10, 2011. Recommendations from the Steering Committee included:
 - That the layout of the final standards includes space for individual delegated agencies to insert their agency specific procedures for following the standards. If this could be accommodated it would mean that workers would have the standards and agency procedures integrated in one binder.
 - That new graphics be created for the new standards, e.g., symbols or pictures or logo. Some thought will need to be given to a process for developing these new graphics.
- *Partnership meeting* – The project Lead also gave a brief update regarding the Practice Standards redesign, the review process with the Working Group and the community information exchange session.
- *Research Assistants* – the two RAs hired in the previous quarter continued to assist with the project. One is responsible for contacting and making all arrangements for community sessions and the other is working on adding to the initial literature review.
- *Supervision of Research Assistants* – We met several times with the RA responsible for adding to the literature review, to go over progress to date, provide direction, and review written material. The RA responsible for organizing community meetings needed less supervision time, as that task is more straightforward.
- *Attend Partnership Quality Assurance Working Group* – Sharon Hume represents the Project Lead Team on the Partnership QA Working Group and as such attends the QA meeting. Two members of the Project Lead team took part in a two-day QA visioning session in early February. Quality assurance practices have a bearing on the draft practice standards and vice versa, hence it is important that the two initiatives remain connected.
- *Attend specialized training*: One member of the Project Lead team attended a 3-day training on Custom Care and the Home Valuation tool/process used in assessing custom

care homes provided by the Yellowhead Tribal Services Agency, offered at Lalum'utul Snun'eem; this training provided information regarding YTSA's custom care program, custom care adoptions, and home valuation processes. The training offered an example of how one Indigenous community has evolved their child and family service practices to reflect their community's traditions and culture.

Activity Category: Drafting practice standards

The primary focus of activity for this quarter was drafting the first two sections of the [Draft] Practice Standards. Our progress in this regard is good but also tempered by numerous factors including that this is new territory and we are cognizant of maintaining an Aboriginal worldview while paying attention to current practice realities, words of wisdom from community members and Delegated Agency staff, literature, existing AOPSI standards, and relevant practices in use elsewhere. As well, we did not want to get too far ahead without having feedback from the Working Group to ensure that we were on the right path. Thus, the focus was on drafting the first two sections for presentation to the Working Group at the face-to-face meeting held in February.

The initial draft of the final two sections of the practice standards will be completed by June 30 at which time a second face-to-face meeting will be held with the Working Group to review the draft standards.

Activity Category: Community meetings

We began the process of returning to communities for a second visit to present our work to date so that community members can see what we have done with the information they provided us and to confirm that this is a direction that makes sense to them. As well we are asking for communities to provide feedback on implications for practice. To date, we have visited the following communities/Delegated Agencies:

- Cranbrook (Ktunaxa Kinbasket) in January (20 participants)
- Williams Lake (Denisniqi/Knucwentwe) in February (
- Merritt (Scw'exmx) in March (30-35 participants)
- Prince George (Carrier Sekani) in March (8 participants)

Anticipated activities for next quarter

We anticipate that for the next quarter (April to June, 2011), the focus will be:

- Continue researching practice standards
- Meet with Lise Haddock at LS
- Continued attendance at QA meetings
- Completion of second community site visits as follows:

Usma	Asked to hold meeting late April/early May
Carrier Sekani	May 16 th , Burns Lake
Gitxsan	April 8 th
Métis	Planning for April – no date confirmed. Will include Surrounded by Cedar
Northwest Internation	Planning for April – no date confirmed
Haida	Planning for April - no date confirmed
VACFSS	Planning for late April/early May