

Aboriginal Practice Standards Redesign Project
Quarterly Update
Project Lead Activities
October 1 to December 31, 2010

The primary activity during this quarter was development of a draft framework for redesigned practice standards.

Activity Category: Meetings/Admin

- *Working Group Meetings* – Working group meetings were held monthly, by teleconference.
- *Steering Committee Meeting* – We met with the Steering Committee on December 9th to present an update on progress to date on the draft Practice Standards and to seek direction with respect to the second round of community meetings. At that time we also sought approval to hold a face-to-face working session in early 2011 with the Working Group. The purpose of that meeting is to work through the Draft Practice Standards and to obtain direction and feedback for continued refinement of the Standards.
- *Partnership meeting* – The Project Lead team attended a Partnership meeting on December 8th to provide an update on progress on the draft Practice Standards.
- *Meetings with CFNCS* – The Project Lead team met with CFNCS staff to review the draft Practice Standards and discuss proposed strategies for community feedback meetings.
- *Hiring of Research Assistant* – We advertised for a Research Assistant to help organize community meetings and to update the literature/background material for the Practice Standards document. Given the number of excellent candidates, we hired two, one to organize the community meetings and one to update the literature review. Both have begun work and were introduced to the Working Group and at the Partnership meeting.
- *Supervision of Research Assistants* – Following from above, we meet regularly in person or via teleconference, with the two Research Assistants to provide direction and support for their work.
- *Attend Partnership Quality Assurance Working Group* – The Project Lead team now participates on this Working Group in order to ensure that the newly designed standards and the quality assurance process are closely linked. A member of the Project Lead team attended QA Working Group meetings in September and November

Activity Category: Drafting practice standards

The [Draft] Practice Standards Framework was completed and includes Overarching Principles, Principles for Practice, and Outcomes. Once we had confirmation from many sources (e.g. CFNCS; Working Group; Steering Committee; Partnership Committee; MCFD) that the framework was ‘going in the right direction’, we began work on developing the actual standards. We have held working sessions at CFNCS and invited staff there to join in the discussion and have been meeting weekly to continue fleshing out the standards. We conducted research on child welfare/protection practice standards in other jurisdictions, seeking as much as possible to

base this research on Indigenous child welfare practice and experience. We interviewed Michael Hardy from Tikinagan Child and Family Services in northern Ontario about their experiences of introducing an Indigenous model of child welfare practice and also obtained a yet to be released article about child welfare reform in Manitoba by Brad McKenzie and Corbin Shangreaux titled: *From Child Protection to Community Caring in First Nations Child and Family Services*. Finally, we ordered and each reviewed a DVD on Signs of Safety, by Andrew Turnell, a style of practice currently in use by Ktunaxa Kinbasket Child and Family Services.

As we draw nearer to being ready to return to communities for a second visit, we have been considering what type of information to present and in what format. Several members from the Working Group and Steering Committee have advised that the information should be presented as much as possible in a visual format. We have been working with this idea and drafting different kinds of presentations.

Anticipated activities for next quarter

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

- Confirming the agenda for community information exchange visits
- Create visual presentation of the information
- Plan and facilitate a day long face to face meeting with AOPSI Redesign Working Group
- Meet with Steering Committee
- Conduct second round of community visits
- Continue writing the Draft Practice Standards
- Attend Partnership Quality Assurance Working Group meeting in February
- Attend specific training sessions related to child welfare practice
- Continue researching practice standards