

# ABORIGINAL CHILD & FAMILY PRACTICE STANDARDS REDESIGN

QUARTERLY REPORT  
OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2011

October to December 2011

*The primary activity during this quarter was completion of the first draft of the practice standards. Several meetings and discussions occurred with various parties to the Standards to hear their feedback. These meetings took time but were very helpful in alerting the project team to ways in which the Standards are meeting expectations and/or revisions that were required in order to meet the legislative requirements.*

## **Activity Category: Meetings/Admin**

### *Working Group Meetings*

Monthly working group meetings continued to be held by teleconference. We prepare the agendas and other information related to the practice standards.

### *Partnership meeting and Steering Committee Meeting*

We attended the Partnership and Steering Committee meetings in December to discuss strategies for completing the Standards and having them approved. It is apparent that asking the SC to approve the Standards at a regularly scheduled meeting would be difficult without them having an opportunity to thoroughly review the Standards beforehand. Another challenge is that MCFD is undergoing a period of rapid introduction of many changes to their practice standards and this is consuming much of the delegated

agencies attention because of the implications for their own operations and practice.

In December a discussion was held with the FN Directors' HR Committee regarding timing and best approach to completing the Standards and getting them approved. Two options were discussed: hold a two day meeting with SC members in order to go through the draft Standards in detail and then have the SC recommend the Standards to MCFD; or, prior to meeting with the SC, the Project Lead, CFNCS and a Working Group member hold regular meetings with MCFD in the new year to review the Standards in a structured format in order to identify places of "rub". That information along with the Standards would then be reviewed in a face-to-face meeting with the SC in March. An analysis of the "rub" points would be

part of the information discussed with the SC.

As the Executive Directors of the agencies have a lot of meetings scheduled during the first quarter of 2012 their guarded preference was for the latter - with the caveat that changes would not automatically be made to the Standards, but would be duly noted and brought back to the SC for further discussion.

### *Quality Assurance Meeting*

We continue to participate on the Partnership Quality Assurance committee and attended the December meeting where discussions about decisions made by MCFD regarding use of Structured Decision Making Tools, Complaints Process, and Reportable Circumstances all have a bearing on the development of Standards.

**Activity Category: Community meetings**

We had several meetings with different parties to gather feedback. In early October we met with M. Czink - MCFD Quality Assurance Analyst - for her feedback and thoughts.

We also met with Sara Maloney from the Public Guardian and Trustees Office regarding the evolving role of the PGT with children in care.

We then met with Bunny LeBlanc from VACFASS to talk about possible practice stories that might be useful to include in the Standards.

In November we met with Aboriginal Services staff along with MCFD practice analysts and others working on revising practice standards for MCFD and on the integrated case management project. This was a meeting that was set up for internal purposes but it made sense for us to attend to hear the discussion, which indeed was helpful but also highlighted some differences in world views and understanding of practice in Aboriginal communities.

We also attended a traditional decision making committee meeting to get a clearer understanding of traditional decision making practices in the context of families.

In December we met with the management team at Lalum’utul’smun’eem to go through the draft Standards in detail. Again, this was very helpful as it afforded us an opportunity to talk about the Standards from the standpoint of practitioners.

**Activity Category: Drafting Standards**

We completed a preliminary draft of the Practice Standards during this quarter including the introduction and glossary. While a final draft is close to being completed, a number of factors has slowed the process. Foremost has been the numerous changes and decisions being made within MCFD regarding their practice standards, use of standardized tools, and integrated case management system. As answers to some questions were clarified, more questions were raised. Hence, at the suggestion of CFNCS, the Standards are designed to meet legislative standards and requirements.

We have also continued to review the Standards with a view towards ensuring they are compatible with the views expressed during the community

sessions and with best practices in First Nations agencies.

**Activity Category: Anticipated activities for next quarter**

We anticipate that for the next quarter (January to March 2012), the focus will be:

- Monthly Working Group meetings to complete the review the final drafts
- Initiate a Communication Plan to communicate the Standards with the SC, WG, and community members, including biweekly updates and a power point presentation for the CFNCS web site
- Regular meetings with MCFD staff to review the draft standards
- Face to face meeting with SC members to finalize the Standards
- Identification of art work for the standards
- Preparation of the final draft of the Standards for presentation to MCFD
- Wrapping up