

Child and Youth Care Worker's Association of Manitoba

2012 report for Canadian Council of Child and Youth Care Associations

CYCWAM has had a productive year. Our association is currently growing in numbers; we have 115 members and 12 corporate sponsors. For the first time CYCWAM held a lunch meeting with representatives (mostly Executive Directors) from CYCWAM's Corporate Members. Discussed were:

- Active partnerships between Corporate Sponsors and the Association, Sharing ideas for the direction of Youth Care in this province.
- Ideas on how to promote membership within agencies and how the association can better provide support to agencies.
- What the working group for the residential treatment recruitment and retention report needs further. They will follow up with the government, to inquire what is needed more from the report. The association will then follow-up with national connections to provide this information to the working group.
- Many agencies do not have money for training employees. The association will look into connecting with trainers and resources to see if we can meet this need.
- Certification was discussed and how this is a shift in most other provinces in which Manitoba agencies may need to consider. The North America model was discussed and how the association will discuss and promote certification and accreditation provincially in the future.
- Current benefits the association offers were discussed to the agency representatives. As well as benefits we are hoping to provide in the future.

CYCWAM has been looking at the importance of physical health for our membership. We have begun to meet those needs. We are pleased to announce that we now have a corporate membership arrangement for our members at Image Fitness for Women. While it is a woman's only gym, the rate of \$25 a month is open to all female CYCWAM members, as well as all female friends and family members of all CYCWAM members. The association also offers job postings on our website, 10% off at Mark's Work Warehouse, a lending library which is an invaluable resource for everyone to learn more about how to employ best practice in our work environments. We are also looking for donations of appropriate books or textbooks to continue the growth of the CYCWAM library

CYCWAM has revised its bylaws with the help of a subcommittee put together of CYCWAM members. The new by-laws are based on Alberta's with some revisions based on the state of Manitoba's Association needs. These will be presented at CYCWAM's AGM. As a result of the committees hard work our bylaws will allow us to move forward as a professional Association that is more accountable to the members it serves.

We are pleased to announce CYCWAM will be hosting Charlie Applestein, Author of "The Gus Chronicles" and "No Such Thing As A Bad Kid", as he presents a 2-day workshop on November 27 and 28. The workshops entitled, No Such Thing as a Bad Kid: The Power of a Strength-Based Approach in

Reshaping the Lives of At-Risk Children, Youth & Families, promises to be a powerful learning experience. Members have the opportunity to attend at a reduced rate.

Our AGM will also be held on November 27th at the Viscount Gort. It will begin after the first day of workshop for Charlie Applestein. As this year we will be having a wine and cheese at the start of the AGM. CYCWAM's yearly report will be distributed along with financials. The new By-laws will be presented and voted on if quorum is present. The 2012 provincial nominee will be awarded as well.

The association is excited to now have an official office. This became possible with the very generous offer from B&L Resources for Child Youth and Families, one of our corporate sponsors. The space is rented at a reduced rate and it is where our lending library is located. We are currently looking into getting a sign for the outside of the building, this should be happening shortly.

For child and youth care workers week, we decided to give \$5 Tim Horton's gift cards to all our members with a letter of appreciation for all the hard work that CYC's do. The letter was circulated within corporate sponsored agencies, and only positive feedback has been expressed.

Cherie Smith former Treasure to CYCWAM and the Council of Canadian Child and Youth Care Associations has been arrested and charged with fraud. CYCWAM is unaware of court date. Jessica Lusk (CYCWAM president) will most likely be subpoenaed when needed for court.