

Calgary Fetal Alcohol Network

Annual Report

June 1, 2010 – May 31, 2011

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Calgary Fetal Alcohol Network (CFAN)

2010-2011 Year in Review

“Change always comes bearing gifts.” (Price Pritchett). This quote embraces in many ways the theme of CFAN’s Year. Upon reflection, CFAN’s shifting landscape brought many gifts and opportunities that began with the intent to complete the list of focus areas identified in the 2009-2010 CFAN Annual Report. The support and dedication of the membership to CFAN created the platform that was needed to move the agenda forward. The Leadership Team sincerely thanks the entire membership for holding us accountable, keeping the work relevant and most importantly, reminding CFAN that the work needs to be focused on the client and the challenges that they face and how the Network can help the membership with that work.

In 2009, the Conference Board of Canada produced a report that compared Calgary to 22 other cities around the world. Calgary was ranked number one for overall economic prosperity. The concluding statement of that report states that, “Calgary must continually strive to enhance its prominence as a global centre where quality of life and economy converge in support of overall prosperity of its residents, and its businesses.” (Calgary: A Global Scorecard on Prosperity, 2009). It is interesting to note that there were a number of elements linked to urban prosperity and quality of life, including income inequality that was not benchmarked in this study. In the FASD world in Calgary, many of our clients who are residents of Calgary and area do not have a quality of life that leads to overall prosperity. CFAN is committed, with the strength of its membership base, to strive toward inclusivity for all.

This year, the Leadership Team, finalized the CFAN Network Operations Model that outlines CFAN’s accountability structure, articulates the core business and functions of the Network, describes roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders and outlines the major process involved in the Network’s operations. This living, foundational document will guide CFAN’s work and focus the Network. CFAN four core businesses are to:

1. Assess Needs and Promote Collaboration
2. Fund Services and Assure Quality
3. Education and Awareness
4. Enhance Service Coordination

With planning, clearly defined operations and strong performance management the Network is well placed to continue fulfilling its current mandate as well as take on new opportunities and challenges.

A new Terms of Reference which is an extension of the Network Operations Model was also finalized. It describes the purpose, objectives, goals and deliverables, membership, reporting responsibilities and accountabilities of the Leadership Team, the Executive Committee, the Granting Committee and the Empowerment Committee. The Leadership Team will be asking the membership to ratify these Terms of Reference at the Year in Review Meeting on June 22nd,

2011. This working document will provide a basis for making future decisions and will confirm a common understanding among all stakeholders on how to move the Network forward.

In October, the membership assembled to review CFAN's Vision, Mission and Beliefs. The session entitled "Affirming our Foundation ... to move Ahead!" examined how we wanted our community and clients to be different because of CFAN and what would that look like. The following is the outcome of that session and helps to define CFAN's fundamental purpose:

Mission:

Working together through innovative action to prevent and respond to FASD across the lifespan.

Vision:

An aware and knowledgeable community that encourages a healthy response to FASD.

Belief Statements:

- *CFAN believes that all people are deserving of respect, empathy, inclusiveness and dignity.*
 - *CFAN believes in working together through honoring diversity.*
 - *CFAN believes in the importance of education, prevention and awareness.*

The 2010 Strategic Planning session identified 5 goals to guide the Network in the next 1-3 year period. The goals were developed to ensure that CFAN meets the member's needs, effectively conducts its core business and is positioned where it should be to move ahead. This year the Leadership Team worked with the membership to identify the barriers/challenges to achieving these goals, the action required, who should take the lead role and who should be involved in the doing the work, what is the time period for doing the work, what resources will be required and how to measure success.

The Leadership Team, guided by CFAN's membership will strive to ensure that all decisions and activities are true to our fundamental purpose and the goals. In 2010-2011, the following activities were carried out in alignment with the stated Goals

Goal #1: CFAN will be a source of information, resources and best practices.

- CFAN invited guest speakers (i.e. Inform Alberta, Casey Eaglespeaker (Hull), Momentum)
- CFAN is regularly represented at the FASD Youth Justice Committee and the Network on Prostitution
- The CFAN Coordinator has joined the Community Action Committee of the Calgary Homeless Foundation
- CFAN is engaged in a provincial evaluation process specific to the FASD-CMC funded area and is exploring embarking on an entire Network evaluation process

Goal #2: CFAN will have an effective communication strategy.

- The Calgary Fetal Alcohol Network is in the beginning phases of developing a communications policy, strategy and plan that will provide information about itself as an organization in an effort to better manage the focus and information available about CFAN and FASD in the general public, with stakeholders and potential donors.

Goal #3: CFAN will have regular meaningful meetings.

- CFAN engaged the membership in a dialogue around the Vision, Mission and Beliefs
- CFAN explored how to achieve its goals with the membership
- Name tags were distributed to members
- Professional Knowledge & Resources and Prevention & Awareness working groups continue to meet to work on CFAN activities such as website updates, organizing the FASD Day celebration and FASD run
- Guest speakers were invited to the monthly meetings from various community agencies
- Introduction of collaborative case conferences to the agenda

Goal #4: CFAN will increase community awareness

- CFAN Run FASD has become an annual event in July. In 2010, 225 runners and walkers raised \$10,000 before expenses. In addition, there were 18 volunteers from within the membership.
- FASD Day is held annually on September 9th. In 2010, we held the annual BreakFASD with a theme of “Encouraging, Empowering, and Educating”. Over 100 people attended this very successful event.
- The Christmas “Present Campaign”, introduced by the Foothills Fetal Alcohol Network and shared with CFAN was adopted by the University of Calgary
- CFAN in partnership with the Foothills Fetal Alcohol Network received funding through the Government of Alberta’s Community Initiatives Program (CIP) to increase prevention and awareness within Calgary
- CFAN extended a funding agreement with the United Way of Calgary and Area to continue work on this goal

Goal #5: CFAN will be a well-respected funder.

- CFAN granted \$907,677 to 8 different agencies in 2010/11 as well as coordinated the access to services delivered as a result of the funding and managed the contract deliverables. This funding comes from the Government of Alberta’s FASD Cross Ministerial Committee with the goal of providing individuals and families with an organized and centralized resource that will assist them in seeking supports and services
- Through P-CAP enhancement funding in the amount of \$147,726.00, McMan Youth, Family and Community Service’s Parent-Child Assistance Program (P-CAP), The Foothills Fetal Alcohol Society (FFAS), and The Parent Support Association (PSA) collaborated to support and impact the lives of aboriginal women who have been exposed or are at risk of exposure to alcohol during pregnancy, both in rural and urban centers
- CFAN granted \$3,727 in 2010/11 through the Empowerment Fund for activities such as homeschooling, Bow Valley College, Mount Royal and driver’s education. The Empowerment fund is a sustainable fund created to provide financial bursaries to individuals and families living with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder in order to increase

and promote their opportunities for growth. The committee is made up of network members.

- CFAN entered into an arrangement with the Burns Memorial Fund to manage the granting and banking responsibilities for CFAN

Support staffing retention at CFAN was a challenge this year. CFAN said goodbye to Robyn Richardson, the part-time Community Support Worker in January. Her organizational abilities and enthusiasm are missed. Administrative assistance was acquired initially through a temporary placement agency to fill the gap. Funding of an on-going support position was not readily apparent so it was decided to hire a part-time administrative assistant. The position was filled and then vacated. In light of the success of the CIP funding application, it was decided to hire a full-time Community Response Worker that will combine the roles of both part-time positions into one. The focus of the position will be on community development, administration, as well as planning and organizing involvement in various community special events bringing awareness and prevention about FASD. While the CIP funding will end March 31st, 2012 CFAN is hopeful that we can demonstrate the value of this position to funders and find on-going sustainable funding.

The Leadership Team also saw a change with Co-chair, Candace Windisch departed on maternity in May. Pam van Vugt has stepped in to take her place. The Leadership Team developed a job description and actively recruited Leadership Team members as per the new Terms of Reference and the Network Operations Model. The CFAN membership will be asked at the Year in Review meeting on June 22nd, 2011 to elect the newly recruited members along with those continuing on the Leadership Team. The remaining Leadership Team members in 2010-2011 were Jacqui Patterson, Danna Ormstrup, Michelle Clarke, and Leslie McMechan.

On April 1st, 2011, the Calgary John Howard Society (CJHS), after 7 ½ years as the CFAN banker, passed this role on to the Burns Memorial Fund in order to be compliant with the FASD-CMC Network Guidelines. CFAN would like to thank CJHS for its support and guidance. The Burns Memorial Fund (BMF) has transitioned well to this role and CFAN looks forward to working with the staff at the Fund in a dual capacity as banker and grant manager. Michelle Clarke, Executive Director of the BMF will sit on the CFAN Leadership Team.

CFAN and the work that it does would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of Erin Palashniuk, the CFAN Coordinator. The Leadership Team would like to sincerely thank Erin for everything. CFAN is well positioned to launch into another year and under her competent direction, the goals and fundamental purpose of CFAN will continue to be realized.

Collectively, the Leadership Team is looking forward to another busy, eventful and satisfying year moving CFAN's Vision and Mission forward throughout Calgary and area.