



CFAN Annual Report November 2008 – October 2009

CFAN Steering Committee

This past year has been one of rejuvenation for the CFAN Steering Committee. The members of the Steering Committee assumed more defined roles, and met three times this past year via teleconference.

Frank Gavin moved to the Past Chair position, and Sue Robins was elected the new chair. The Steering Committee changed from 'members' to specific positions – Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and three Directors.

The CFAN Steering Committee consisted of:

Sue Robins – Chair

Lisa Hawthornthwaite – Vice Chair, Communications

Frank Gavin – Past Chair

Lisa Rosati-White – Secretary, Membership

Angie Christman – Treasurer

Ruth Hartanto – Director

Robin England – Director

Sherri Wuetherick – Director

Since all eight Steering Committee members have signed on for another year of their two year term, we have a full slate of members. Some positions may be up for election in 2010.

Communication Strategies

Lisa Hawthornthwaite led the communication initiatives for CFAN. First off was the creation of the new CFAN logo, for visual identity purposes. Thanks to Melissa Clulow, CAPHC webmaster, for her graphic design skills:



Lisa also worked closely with Melissa to revise and expand the CFAN website. New this year is a greatly expanded CFAN site, and the addition of a 'members only' site that contains valuable information like local group information (terms of reference, pamphlets), contact information for CFAN members, family faculty presentations and information about family support programs.

Membership Consolidation

Lisa Rosati-White, Secretary and Membership Coordinator, sent out a request to current members to confirm their CFAN membership. More members were recruited over the year, leading to a membership list of 45 individuals associated with 20 different organizations.

CFAN Workshop 2009 Organization

Robin England coordinated the CFAN Workshop in Halifax this year. This involved negotiating logistics, speakers and restaurant bookings, and working with her local Family Leadership Council to involve the family representatives in the planning and speaking for the day.

CFAN Budget and Timesheet

Angie Christman, the CFAN Treasurer, collected information via Survey Monkey about how local groups were funded. We unfortunately did not have a big response to our survey, so Angie also collated information from CFAN Steering Committee members about what budget items were required for CFAN.

The CFAN Steering Committee is truly a working group. Recognizing the value of volunteer work is important to the committee, and we will start recording the time we spend on CFAN work via a timesheet. This will document how much volunteer time is put into CFAN, and will be helpful in recruiting new Steering Committee members and securing sustainable funding.

CFAN – published articles

Frank Gavin

Paediatrics and Child Health, the journal of The Canadian Paediatric Society, published an article by Frank Gavin, "An Imaginative Partnership: Parents and the Doctors Who Care for Their Children," in its May-June issue. A great many parents associated with CFAN member groups responded to surveys and participated in interviews and discussions from which the article was mainly drawn.

Sue Robins

After a rejected query to Today's Parent magazine, Sue was determined to get an article about family centred care published. London Health Sciences Centre came to the rescue, with a story idea and willing interviewees. A piece was written about a family's experience with the Cystic Fibrosis clinic and services at the hospital, and was published in the hospital internal newsletter for staff and physicians. The article highlighted best practices in family centred care, and celebrated the successes from a family member's point of view.

CFAN – presentations

Frank Gavin gave the keynote speech at an innovative teamwork symposium that the Canadian Health Services Research Foundation organized in December. And in May Frank joined Juliette Schlucter who spoke at CFAN's 2008 workshop in a presentation about partnering with families at the annual conference of The Association of Administrators in Academic Pediatrics in Philadelphia.

In her capacity as CFAN Chair, Sue Robins presented to the Western Canadian Children's Heart Network family committee in May 2009. She spoke about CFAN and its national initiatives, and invited the Network to join CFAN as members.

CFAN – provincial advocacy

Sue Robins wrote a letter as CFAN chair to the newly formed Alberta Health Services (the 'one health region' now in place in Alberta), asking for family representation on their provincial 'Person Centred Care Committee'. While this committee has since been dissolved, Sue has met twice with the staff in the 'Patient Experience Portfolio' to advise on family engagement in the pediatric world.

National Initiatives:

Canadian Child and Youth Health Coalition

This was the second year of CFAN's membership in the Canadian Child and Youth Health Coalition (www.ccyhc.org) which links ten national organizations. Sue Robins and Frank Gavin participated in monthly Steering Committee teleconferences and in the Coalition's annual two-day retreat in Montreal.

Child and Family in the Health Care System Project

This is a multi-year Coalition project for which CFAN is taking the lead. In the past year we have established a working group of three parents, three youths, four hospital staff members, the CEO of CAPHC and the Coalition's National Coordinator, created a work plan, and made real progress on the first two priorities: parental presence at induction and in recovery and the transition of the adolescent patient from inpatient to "real life."

Maximizing Health Human Resources: Valuing Unregulated Health Workers Symposium

Ruth Hartanto, CFAN Steering Committee member, took part in this symposium in Ottawa that occurred on March 5 and 6th. It was organized by the Canadian Nurses Association.

CFAN and Parenting Matters! Research Project

In 2007 the principal investigators of a proposal to investigate what affects the parenting of children with neurodevelopmental conditions and what such parenting affects, then in its early stages of development approached CFAN to help in the further development of the proposal, to write letters of support and to participate as advisors if the proposal were to be approved. This past spring The Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) did approve the proposal for the multi-year project. Three "CFAN parents" (Joanne Ganton, Frank Gavin, and Sue Robins) are now acting as advisors for the clinical portion of the research.

CFAN and Mental Health

Frank Gavin has represented CFAN on The National Infant, Child, and Youth Mental Health Consortium, particularly in its first symposium. The coming year should see more opportunities for other CFAN individual members and groups to become involved, especially given the ongoing work of the Mental Health Commission of Canada.

Child Health in the 21st Century: The Role of the Paediatrician in an Interprofessional Environment

Frank Gavin has represented CFAN on the Steering Committee of this project that has published and is now tracking the implementation of a series of far-reaching recommendations: www.caphc.org/partnerships_21century.html Several of the recommendations highlight the value, actual and potential, of the education programs many CFAN member groups offer.

CAPHC Conference Planning

Frank Gavin has represented CFAN on the CAPHC conference planning committee, especially in planning the world cafe session. Frank has also served on the conference's poster committee.