



**Canadian Family Advisory Network (CFAN)
Background
May 2009**

Who is CFAN?

CFAN is a national network of 16 family advisory groups across Canada. These groups are associated with hospitals, hospices, health regions and rehab facilities. Members are either family representatives or staff liaisons for the councils.

Our Steering Committee is composed of a Chair, Vice-Chair (Communications), Secretary (Membership), Treasurer, Past Chair and three Directors.

Our membership is free and open to any group or individual that has an interest in family centred care. If you are not associated with a formal advisory group, you are welcome to join as an Associate Member. We are supported through a partnership with Canadian Association of Pediatric Health Centers (CAPHC).

What is our role?

CFAN's mandate is to:

1. Provide a means for the otherwise quite isolated groups to **share information and advice** about recruitment, retention, reporting relationships, family participation in patient safety initiatives and the education of professionals and trainees.
2. Ensure that the **voices of families are heard in discussions and debates** in national, provincial, and regional arenas about the health of children and youth and about the healthcare services that are (or should be) available to them and their families.
3. **Serve as a resource** to any organization that wishes to collaborate with families in projects aimed at improving the health of children and youth.



When and where do we meet?

Our Steering Committee meets quarterly via conference call. CFAN members are all welcome at our annual workshop, which occurs each October in conjunction with the CAPHC conference.

In between workshops, we keep in touch with a monthly email to the members from the chair, and also by our website, which is updated regularly.

How do we make our mandate a reality?

CFAN is involved in many projects. In particular, our Steering Committee is busy with:

1. **Advising advisory groups** as requested – for start up, renewal, or rebuilding.
2. Being involved in **national advocacy initiatives**, such as the Child and Youth Health Coalition.
3. **Working with CAPHC** to ensure a family voice is represented at the CAPHC workshop.
4. **Sharing information** about education opportunities in family centred care – in Canada and the United States - on the CFAN website.
5. **Hosting the annual CFAN workshop**, to share information, challenges and achievements amongst the member groups.
6. **Encouraging family representation** at all levels in the health sector, and making recommendations for family candidates.
7. **Sharing stories**, and being involved with media opportunities about family centred care.

For more information, or to inquire about membership:

Contact Sue Robins, CFAN Chair, at sue.robins@shaw.ca

Visit our website: http://www.caphc.org/partnerships_cfan.html