



ACR NEWS BULLETIN

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Vol. 1-4



To: Family Councils and Members of ACR

** Please circulate this Bulletin among your networks of those interested in residential care in BC. **

This Bulletin includes:

Upcoming events:

Tuesday, October 28th (Penticton)

ACR Family Council Workshops (2 sessions) will be held in Penticton! (participation by videoconference optional).

Wednesday, November 5th 7-9pm (Vancouver)

Who's Minding the Store? – The privatization of long-term care and what it means for care quality?

(Sponsored by the Canadian Doctors for Medicare, BC Health Coalition and BC Association of Geriatric Care Physicians.)

Other:

Nintendo Wii Gaming System - a rehabilitation and recreation tool for residential care?

And, some reminders:

Residential Care Aides - We're seeking your thoughts on just 'what' makes a good Residential Care Aide!

Our 'New' *BC Family Council Network* – has your Family Council joined, yet?

Penticton - Tuesday, 28 October

ACR Family Council Workshops (2 sessions) will be held in Penticton! (participation by videoconference optional).

**Session 1 10:00 – 11:30: Penticton Regional Hospital
4th Floor Board Room
550 Carmi Ave., Penticton**

**Session 2 1:30 - 3:00: Penticton Health Centre
Multipurpose Room #138
740 Carmi Ave., Penticton**

- The Workshop has been arranged by the Interior Health Authority (South Okanagan).
- If you are interested in attending or would like more information, contact:

Natalina Araujo, Administrative Assistant to Cindy Regier, Director, Residential Services, South Okanagan, Penticton Health Centre
Phone: 250-770-3440 Email: natalina.araujo@interiorhealth.ca

Wednesday, November 5th 7-9pm *Free Public Event*

***Who's Minding the Store? – The privatization of long-term care and what it means for care quality?**

Speakers:

Charlene Harrington, professor and researcher
Dr. Margaret McGregor, family physician and health services researcher
Lyne England, advocacy activist from Victoria

Location: Unitarian Church, 949 West 49th Ave, Vancouver BC

For more information email: coordinator@bchealthcoalition.ca or call 604-681-7945.

*Sponsored by the Canadian Doctors for Medicare, BC Health Coalition and BC Association of Geriatric Care Physicians.

Nintendo Wii Gaming System - a rehabilitation and recreation tool for residential care?

An article in the National Post (September 29, 2008) described the use of the Nintendo Wii Gaming System at the Yorkview Lifecare Centre in North York, Ontario and their participation in the Wii Senior's Olympics event held that week in care homes across Toronto. The Wii Senior's Olympics included bowling, tennis and golf.

The benefits of Wii as a rehabilitation and recreation tool are unfolding. It seems that not only, and importantly is it fun, but also an economical and effective means to help strengthen muscles, help eye-hand coordination, endurance, balance and motor-skills; a tool that seems to have great potential for both rehabilitation and recreation in residential care facilities.

According to the National Post article (September 29, 2008), in 2007 the Mayo clinic endorsed the concept behind Wii and Edmonton's Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital was the first to use the Wii technology to treat patients with movement and balance issues. In May 2008, the University of South Carolina established a Health Games Research Center to find benefits of such games as Wii Sports and in September 2008, the University of Medicine and Dentistry in New Jersey published research showing the benefits of the Wii on a teen with cerebral palsy.

We're seeking information on the use of the Nintendo Wii in residential care facilities in BC. We'd love to hear from Family Councils, family members, and staff of residential care facilities about their experience in using Wii in residential care facilities in BC. Our intention is to share this information with other facilities through our website and/or Newsletter and Family Council Network.

Together we can work towards improving the quality of care and life in residential care in BC.

Send us an email at info@acrbc.ca, drop us a note at ACR, 3348 West Broadway, Vancouver BC V6R 2B2 or leave a message at 604-732-7734.

“REMINDER” What characteristics make a great Residential Care Aide?

We've all come across the wonderful Residential Care Aides who seem so very well suited to their work and who we would love to clone. Here's your chance to share your experience, thoughts, observations and recommendations.

At our AGM (21 June 2008) we spent some time in dialogue with those present on the general subject of residential care. The session, kindly facilitated by Dr. JoAnn Perry, ended with her invitation for all present to send us their thoughts on the 'characteristics' that make a good Residential Care Aide. We hope to use this information for an ACR Position Paper. To participate simply send us an email (info@acrbc.ca) with your thoughts and observations on the characteristics that make a good – maybe even 'great' Residential Care Aide! ***Please indicate RCA in the subject line!***

We look forward to hearing from all who are interested in Residential Care: residents, family, friends, staff (Nurses, RCA's, Rehab Staff, etc.). And, we especially invite Family Councils to consider a “Family Council” submission.

“REMINDER!” Has your Family Council signed up for the * NEW* BC Family Council Network, yet?

Ever wondered what other Family Councils do? What challenges they face and what successes they have had? Perhaps you wonder just how they are organized and how they got started? Perhaps you've read the **ACR Family Council Handbook** (available from www.acrbc.ca) and attended an **ACR Family Council Workshop** and would like to connect with some other Family Councils. Well, now there's a new way to connect with other Family Councils. See the ACR News Bulletin Sept 4, 2008 Vol 1-2. archived on our website for further information www.acrbc.ca

Not yet a Member of ACR- Advocates for Care Reform?

Consider joining us in working for the development of family councils in residential care facilities and advocating for improved quality of care and life for those in residential care facilities in BC. We can't do it without you!

Membership and donation forms are downloadable from the ACR website (www.acrbc.ca).

ACR is a non-profit society and registered charity.

Disclaimer

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