



December 08, 2009

Andrea Kowaz , Registrar
College of Psychologists of BC
404-1755 West Broadway
Vancouver, BC V6J4S5

Dear Dr Kowaz:

It was a pleasure to meet with you to discuss the recent amendment to the Community Living Authority Act and how CLBC can work with the College to ensure your members are well informed regarding these changes.

On January 31, 2010 a new regulatory amendment will take effect, expanding the current Community Living BC (CLBC) eligibility criteria. The change creates a new set of criteria focuses on a different group of adults with support needs. The improved eligibility criteria use a comprehensive approach that assesses issues of significant limitations in adaptive functioning.

Adults with a diagnosis of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) or a diagnosis of a Pervasive Developmental Disorder (PDD) plus significant limitations in adaptive functioning will be eligible to receive services through CLBC. The criteria were developed with the assistance of psychologists such as Michael Joschko, head of neuropsychology at Queen Alexander Children's Center.

Beginning February 1, 2010, CLBC will review requests from new applicants and from people who have been previously denied service. Applicants will be requested to ensure assessments are accompanied by an Assessment Summary Form completed by a qualifying practitioner. This form will be available on CLBC's website at www.communitylivingbc.ca.

Eligible individuals must have a diagnosis of FASD OR PDD PLUS significant limitations in adaptive functioning.

The diagnosis of FASD must be made by a registered practitioner and a medical practitioner in accordance with current Canadian Guidelines¹. The diagnosis of PDD must be made by a

¹ "Fetal alcohol spectrum disorder: Canadian guidelines for diagnosis" by A.E. Chudley, J Conry, J.L. Cook, C. Looock, T Rosales and N. LeBlanc, published in the Canadian Medical Association Journal, Volume 172 (5 Supplement), pages S1- S21 in 2005.



registered practitioner, psychiatrist, or paediatrician using criteria of DSM-IV for Pervasive Development Disorder.

Assessment of social-adaptive functioning must also be completed by a registered psychologist, psychological associate or psychologist certified by the British Columbia Association of School Psychologists using one of the following:

- (a) the Scales of Independent Behaviour, Revised, published by Riverside Publishing Co. in 1996
- (b) the Vineland Adaptive Behaviour Scales, Second Edition, published by American Guidance Services Publishing in 2005
- (c) the Adaptive Behaviour Assessment System, Second Edition, published by The Psychological Corporation in 2003.”

To be eligible under the new criteria, the assessor is requested to attest that the individual has significant limitations in adaptive functioning that are not primarily due to sensory deficits (e.g. impaired vision or hearing) mental health problems, environmental deprivation, physical health problems, cultural factors, ESL, or socio-economic factors. Significant limitations is defined in the regulations as having a global composite score of 3 standard deviations below the norm.

CLBC has issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Specialized Suppliers List Registry for Services for Adults with FASD or PDD. This RFQ is a comprehensive call for service providers and consultants, including practitioners who may wish to provide assessment or consultation. The RFQ can be viewed at www.bcbid.ca.

We would appreciate your forwarding this information to your members. For further information, I can be reached by email: Jacinta.eni@gov.bc.ca or telephone: 604-664-0824.

Yours Truly,

Jacinta Eni, Project Lead
Community Living BC