

**Attachment Network of Manitoba Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, October 23, 2008 at Aulneau Renewal Centre**  
**1:30-3:30pm**

**Present:** Joanne Brown (chair, New Directions), Marge Chomoway (treasurer, Wpg CFS Foster care), Irmie Nickel (board member, Aulneau Centre), Dave Berry (Aulneau Centre), Patti Sutherland (board member, Elizabeth Hill Counselling Centre), Rhonda Chegus (Family Centre), Sally Tully and Valerie Bighetti (MB Foster Family Network), Sue Morison (Child Development Clinic), Heidi Wiens (Children's Special Services), Shawna Matthes, (WISH), Mary Warmbrod (Aurora, private practise), Judy Linton (LRSD)

1. With regret, Yvette Preston has stepped down as chairperson of the Network to devote her time to a new position with WRHA. Yvette has been instrumental in the development of the Network from the initial Diane Benoit presentations, to seeing us from a group who met at brown bag lunches to discuss attachment applications to the Network that currently exists. Yvette's leadership has helped us develop a mission statement, goals, bylaws, a Board, and now incorporation. She led the way in last year's position paper the Network presented to the Changes for Children team regarding the differential response the province has been looking for from the clinical community. Yvette will remain involved as past chair and assures us that she will continue to promote healthy attachment wherever she goes! We wish her success in her new position and thank her for all that she has done for our Network.

Joanne Brown now moves up to be the interim chair, and Laurie Marcella was chosen by the Board to be the vice chair.

2. **Circle of Security Training-** Sept 8-12/08. Dr. Bill Whelan, colleague of Bob Marvin, trained 17 individuals from 9 agencies in the coding of the Strange Situation. This is viewed as phase one in the Circle of Security training. Joanne is seeking funds from Winnipeg Foundation and Community Services Council to continue with phase two, the intervention phase. Bill has agreed that he or Bob would return to teach this should funding be available. This would be open to those who participated in phase one.

**3. Foster Parent/Adopting Parent Support---**The Network is exploring having Bill Whelan or Bob Marvin return to Winnipeg, possibly in the spring of 2009 to offer a one day workshop to foster parents and adopting parents to discuss issues that typically present as problematic for this group, and to offer, through the Circle of Security model, ways to understand and to respond to these struggles. The hope is that the presenter would stay on for a second day to offer the professional community a presentation on the similar topic. The fees raised by the professional community would offset the costs for the attending foster/adopting parents. Both Bill and Bob have worked extensively with this population in their practise in Virginia.

**4. Parent Access Centre workshop-** The Toronto and North York Children's Aid Societies have a program that is attachment based and is showing strong promise in helping parents whose children are in care understand and respond to their children, and is offering a way of determining if reunification will be successful. This was written up in an edition of IMPrint magazine not long ago. Kathy Duncan, who is involved with it, is available to present to our community on how this program works, and the data and research they have accumulated. We are looking into perhaps a half a day presentation with management of the 4 child welfare authorities and policy makers, and a half a day presentation to workers who are interested in learning about this model.

**5. Finance-** We have \$30,300 in the bank, and \$8500 of that is money raised from last fall's Maternal Depression and Attachment Conference, which will be given to an initiative overseen by the WRHA Mental Health Program. The Network is now taking over our own banking and thanks to Monique Hutcheson and the Aulneau Centre for being our "bankers" these last few years. We donated just under \$6000 to the Circle of Security training, and Healthy Baby donated \$10,000.

**6. Incorporation-** we are now officially the Attachment Network of Manitoba, Inc. and are going to seek charitable donation status which would enable the Network to apply directly for grants from charities for initiatives of our discretion.

**7. Toddler programming-** Sue and Laurie have been meeting with a group and they decided they would like to seek funding for another dvd, this time

featuring the toddlers who often have challenging behaviour. The thought is to do a voice over for what the toddlers might be thinking, but also do a voice over for what the parent might also be thinking or feeling.

**8. DVD Launch-** We have not yet properly launched the dvd, *Listening to Baby*, and we decided to roll out the launch over several months and formats. We will have a booth at the Healthy Child Parent/Child Coalition conference Nov 13 &14. We will put together an electronic newsletter, so if anyone belongs to any other networks or affiliations and could send this onward, please do so. We will also be preparing a press release and hoping to have coverage in the media. We have had great feedback about the dvd, and believe it is also a wonderful thing to give a new mother, just to reassure even the best of us! The Network will participate in APIN's western Canada conference in May/09 and we hope to showcase it there too.

**9. Newsletter and website-** Karen Johnston and Julia Wellwood will be preparing a newsletter beginning in the spring. If you have any submissions, please have them to them by March 31/09. You may submit a resource on attachment you have found, an article describing something you're doing around attachment, an upcoming event, etc. This is not a journal, but a newsletter, so please feel free to participate. We will be distributing this at our first AGM in May/09. Electronic submissions can be made to our email at [attachmentnetwork@shaw.ca](mailto:attachmentnetwork@shaw.ca). Please keep checking the website and contributing to it if you have links or resources.

**10. Roundtable Discussion/next steps**

People expressed interest in continuing to offer more of the Circle of Security to those who could not participate in the training.

Suggestion for the network to be a presence at conferences held in Manitoba, such as theraplay workshops (October and April) or the Foster Family Network conference in The Pas in June.

**11. Next meeting will be Monday, Feb 2, 2009 from 1:30-4pm hopefully at the old St. Boniface City Hall building at Aulneau and Provencher.**