



Rajani FASD Assessment & Diagnostic Clinic Training Services

LINKS: A Newsletter for Alberta FASD Diagnostic Clinics

The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members.

Coretta Scott King

One of the things I enjoy most about my role with the Rajani Clinic Training Project are the opportunities to communicate with clinic coordinators and other team members, and to hear about new initiatives and projects that impact the important work they do.

For a few reasons, I feel it is important for training and events to occur in communities across Alberta. One is to hear first-hand the successes, and perhaps challenges that clinics face. Some of these are common to many clinics, while others are unique to the geographic regions they serve. Over the past 7 years, this project has completed many surveys. While important feedback and information can be gleaned from the surveys, having personal, face to face conversations and meetings helps us to gain a deeper level of understanding of issues clinics face.

Over the past 6 months, clinic coordinators have made the following requests:

- Facial recognition software training as some clinics are purchasing this software for use in their clinics.
- Instruction on caseload management and tracking models which is especially relevant for clinics experiencing long wait lists.
- Establish list of Occupational Therapists and Speech Language Pathologists who work with FASD clinics. An email was sent to all clinic coordinators, asking them to forward this request to their OT's and SLP's to obtain permission to share their contact information with peers. Most of the clinics responded and this list will be shared over the next few weeks.

Planning is underway to meet these training requests at the next provincial clinic coordinator meeting, or before.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

- ◆ Neurodevelopmental Domains– Motor
- Database Update
- links & such
- Leader in Diagnosis– Rory Stafford
- March 13-14 Clinic Training Summary
- Clinic Contact Information

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Neurodevelopmental Domains: Motor

Submitted by: Leah Rasmuson, BScOT; Erin Branton, MScPT; Danielle Johnston, BScOT
Occupational and Physical Therapists, Camrose Pediatric Specialty Clinic

Motor skills are integral for independence in daily living activities, social interaction with peers and participation in physical activity. "I move, therefore I am", Haruki Murakime.

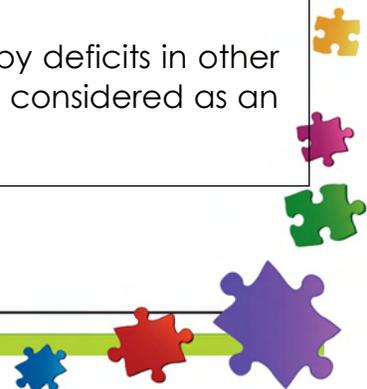
Motor skills can be classified into two major categories: fine motor, typically assessed by an Occupational Therapist (OT), and gross motor, typically assessed by a Physical Therapist (PT). Fine motor skills are necessary for independence in daily tasks such as dressing, eating, and hygiene activities; academic and work skills including printing, typing and using scissors; and participation in leisure activities. Gross motor skills involve strength, balance and coordination and impact an individual's ability to perform physical work, participate in sport and leisure activities, and move confidently through their environment. Individuals with FASD and their caregivers often report difficulties with these types of tasks. Difficulties with motor skill acquisition have been shown to negatively impact level of physical activity, attention, self-regulation, self-esteem, mental health and learning.

According to the Canadian Guideline for diagnosing FASD, an impairment in the motor domain is present when a total motor score or multiple subtest scores are 2 standard deviations below the mean in the areas of fine motor, gross motor, grapho-motor or visual motor integration. Evaluation of motor skills includes standardized assessments, observation and information provided by the client, family and school staff. Information obtained from a physical and neurological exam may supplement the formal assessment findings. It is also important to explore functional abilities. Printing samples, information about activities of daily living and clinical observation help to guide functional recommendations. We have found it valuable to involve both an OT and PT to gain a comprehensive view of the motor domain.

Motor abilities amongst individuals with FASD vary, however research suggests that complex fine or gross motor skills that involve multiple areas of the brain are more likely to be affected. "Complex skills" are not simply more difficult but also require higher level components such as motor learning and problem solving. Choosing appropriate assessment tools that evaluate more complex tasks is therefore imperative in order to ensure accurate diagnosis of a motor impairment. Difficulties with these complex motor skills may impact lifelong choices for independent living and vocation. For example, a career in mechanics or hairdressing would be challenging for a person with fine motor deficits.

Difficulty in the motor domain can sometimes be overshadowed by deficits in other domains, however the impact on daily functioning dictates that it be considered as an important piece of the FASD puzzle.

*Our Vision~ We envision a region with no new FASD births
and where currently affected individuals are well supported.*



Leader in Diagnosis: Rory Stafford

Submitted by Rory Stafford, Occupational Therapist
Northwest Health Centre, High Level, AB

Good Day!

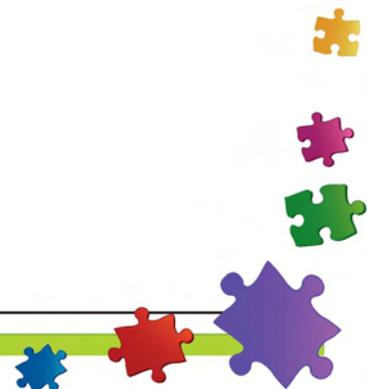
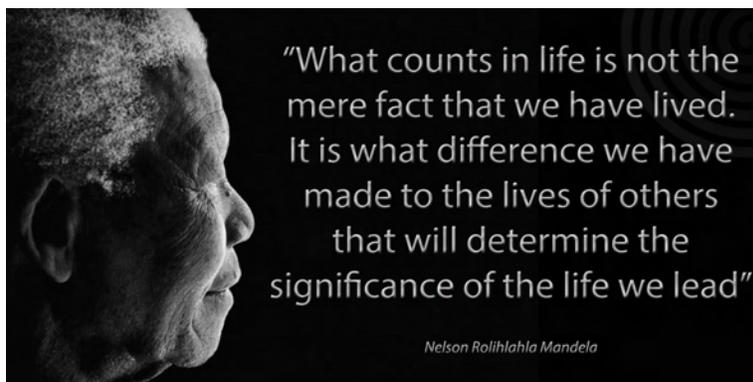
I'm Rory Stafford, a general Occupational Therapist, living and working in the High Level area. I've been a part of the Northwest Primary Care Network FASD Diagnostic team since 2010 when I was hired by Alberta Health Services (AHS). My role on the clinic team has given me a lot of exposure to assessing paediatrics and collaborating with other team members. More often than not, I have the "easy" test (BOT 2, Shore) which underpins the child's strengths such as coordination or overall physical strength. Using caregiver/teacher questionnaires to evaluate sensory function (SP2) is an area of weakness in my practice as English language abilities of some of the parents that bring their children through clinic can be challenging. Nevertheless, a semi structured chat with the parent about the child's function at home and school can provide other clinic practitioners a fuller view of the child's abilities if no sensory values are available.



Ice Bridge to Fox Lake
Photo Credit: www.calp.ca

I really enjoy participating on the diagnostic team. Dr. Leigh Wincott, Brent Symes, Cheryl Cunningham-Burns, Shawnalee Jessiman, and the educators that often join us bring humour to the table but that doesn't diminish the important work that we do. The child always comes first. We work closely with the school representatives that join us to ensure our recommendations support the school to accommodate our client's needs. Indeed, living in the North has its challenges; our clinic coordinators, FASD Society staff, and client families spend many hours traveling and arranging travel for assessments. At times, families may have to drive 3 hours one-way in the dark over winter roads for assessment – their contribution should not be diminished.

One thing I've tried to keep up with is to give a gift bag to each child that comes to our clinic. The bag contains play dough, crayons, a sticker book, etc. Many of our clients travel 3 hours over the worst roads in the province to come see us, so it's a nice way of saying thanks and provides a little fine motor practice at home too.



Database Project Update

CanFASD Research Network's National FASD Database is the only one of its kind in the world. The purpose of the National FASD Database project is to gather data related to functional deficits and their patterns, co-morbidities, other prenatal factors, secondary issues, and interventions that are associated with FASD and the FASD-related diagnostic process. This database represents an integrated and coordinated approach to identifying functional disabilities and recommendations within the FASD spectrum. These data reflect the pan-Canadian FASD diagnostic clinical experience and can be used to inform best practices and policies that address gaps in service delivery, as well as to provide information about trends and evidence about the Canadian population of individuals with FASD.

The Universal FASD DataForm:

- ◆ Provides a structure for active communication and collaboration among all clinical programs in Canada that provide FASD diagnoses
- ◆ Provides real-time information on the difficulties, challenges, and needs of those who present for an FASD-related diagnosis
- ◆ Captures type of diagnosis, recommendations for interventions, specifics of assessments, and demographics
- ◆ Provides the first accurate spectrum of functional diagnoses and actual treatment plans



Issues Currently Being Experienced by Individuals with FASD	
Current Issues	% Experiencing Issue
Employment problems	42.3
Teachers assistant prior to diagnosis	39.8
Needs help living on own	28.8
Legal problems: Offender	20.4
Needs assisted or sheltered housing	14.9
School expulsion/suspension	11.7
Legal problems: Victim	7.6
Custody issues/family court	5.5
Incarcerated	5.5

Clinic & Coordinator Training

Calgary, March 13th & 14th

The Rajani Clinic Training Program, in partnership with the Calgary Fetal Alcohol Network (CFAN), presented Assessment and Diagnostic Clinic Training in downtown Calgary on March 13th and clinic coordinator training for new coordinators on the 14th. Mustard Seed, CUPS, Alpha House and The Alex not-for-profit groups participated in this training opportunity. These agencies help meet the basic needs of shelter, food, clothing, medical and other services for men and women experiencing poverty, and work with them to find sustainable housing and employment. Monty Nelson, Ph.D., Reg. Psychologist and Dr. Mansfield Mela, Forensic Psychiatrist, SK, delivered the one day training, with a focus on adult assessment and diagnosis.

On March 14th, a small group of newly hired clinic coordinators met to learn and discuss clinic process; Prenatal Alcohol confirmation, forms for clinic and case scenarios to work through.



links & such

Top Articles of 2017

Please visit the CanFASD Blog for a highlight of work published in 2017 in the field of FASD. Over 520 papers were published, CanFASD Staff, Researchers and Family Advisory Committee members narrowed this to the top 35.

What constitutes the 'top'? Consideration was given to: generalizability to Canadians, influence on practice or policy, novelty, scientific rigour, and media attention.



[Document PDF File.](#)

Article

Alcohol Consumption and FASD

Dr. Hasmukhlal (Hasu) Rajani, MBBS FRCP(C), Pediatrician, Edmonton; Professor, Dep't of Pediatrics, University of Alberta

Article

Determining Prenatal Alcohol Exposure for a Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Diagnostic Clinic

Dr. Leigh Wincott, B.Sc.(Hons) MD FRCP(C), Pediatrician, Edmonton; Glenrose Pediatric FASD Clinical Services; Associate Clinical Professor, Dep't of Pediatrics, University of Alberta

FASD Sessions 2018

Advocating & Accommodating

Saskatoon, SK March 27-28



Focusing on a theme of "Advocating & Accommodating," attendees will learn how to advocate within complicated systems to gain needed services for clients while discussing approaches to supporting individuals and examining accommodations to meet the needs of people with FASD.

[SASKFASDNETWORK](#) to Register \$175/person

Welcome Aboard

- Diane Plouffe joins the Glenrose Pediatric Team as their coordinator while Lisa is on leave.
- Jessica Harper is the coordinator for the Onion Lake Health Board while Jolene is on maternity leave.
- Christine Johnson is a clinic coordinator for Medigene Services.
- Jennifer Vanderkooij is a clinic coordinator for Lethbridge Family Services.

Fare Thee Well

- Lisa Driscoll, clinic coordinator with Glenrose Pediatric FASD Clinic Services is on leave for one year to pursue an exciting opportunity at the Stollery Children's Hospital.
- Amber Bell, Clinic Coordinator with Prairie Central Network's adult team is no longer with the network. Best wishes to Amber in her future endeavours. She will be missed at our provincial meetings and other events.
- Jolene Gramlich, clinic coordinator with the Onion Lake Health Board clinic is on Maternity leave as of February 2018.
- Shandy Tilley is no longer with Medigene Services in Calgary, although she is still very involved with FASD, both as an Assessment and Diagnostic Council member and, in her nursing position at AB Children's hospital mental health ER.
- Pam Carpenter is no longer with Lethbridge Family Services FASD program, De Capo Services.



FASD Assessment & Diagnostic Clinic

Contact List

Updated: March 2018

C | Child Clinic A | Adult Clinic

Cumulative Risk Diagnostic Clinic [C]

Child Development Centre
Alberta Children's Hospital
2888 Shaganappi Trail NW
Calgary, AB T3B 6A8
[P] 403.955.5878
Coordinator: Bernadette Jesse
Bernadette.Jesse@ahs.ca

MediGene Services, FAS Diagnostic Clinic C | A

Foothills Professional Building
Suite 110, 1620-29th Street NW
Calgary, AB T2N 4L7
[P] 403.571.0450
Program Manager: Suzanne Johnson
medigen@telus.net

Central Alberta FASD Network Adult Clinic [15-adult]

#5-3608-50th Ave.
Red Deer, AB T4N 3Y6
[P] 403.342.7499 ext. 2
Diagnostic Services Coordinator: Trina Kennedy
tkennedy@fasdca.ca

Lakeland Centre for FASD C | A

P.O. Box 479
Cold Lake, AB T9M 1P3
[P] 780.594.9905
Diagnostic Services Manager: San Downs
sdowns@lcfasd.com

Pediatric FASD Clinical Services [C]

Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital
10230-111 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5G 0B7
[P] 780.735.8278
Coordinator: Diane Plouffe
Diane.Plouffe@albertahealthservices.ca

Glenrose Adult FASD Assessment Clinic [A]

Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital
10230-111 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5G 0B7
[P] 780.735.6166
Coordinator: Bernie Mallon
Bernie.Mallon@ahs.ca

Canadian FASD Diagnostic & Training Centre C | A

316 Kingsway Garden Mall NW
Edmonton, AB T5G 3A6
[P] 780.471.1860
Coordinator: Ojas Joshi
Drdonmassey@dvmassey.com

Centrepoint Young Offender Program [C]

Suite 701, 10242-105 Street
Edmonton, AB T5J 3L5
[P] 780.428.4524 ext. 227
Social Worker: Roxanne Pereira
Roxanne.Pereira@ahs.ca

Northwest Primary Care Network [C]

Children and Youth FASD Diagnostic Clinic
Northwest Primary Care Network
11202-100 Avenue
High Level, AB T0H 1Z0
[P] 780.841.3253
Social Worker/Coordinator:
Cheryl Cunningham-Burns
Cheryl.Cunningham-Burns@ahs.ca

Northwest Regional FASD Society [A]

Mackenzie Network
Box 3668
High Level, AB T0H 1Z0
[P] 780.926.3375
Coordinator: Caroline Gavin
clinic.fasdsociety@telus.net

Alberta Health Services/NEAFAN C | A

600 Signal Road
Fort McMurray, AB T9H 3Z4
[P] 780.750.6678
Diagnostic Assessment and Clinic Lead:
Marguerite Fitzpatrick
Marguerite.fitzpatrick@ahs.ca

NW Alberta FASD Clinic C | A

P.O. Bag 4000, 10205-98th Street
Grande Prairie, AB T8V 6V3
NW Alberta
[P] 780.357.4996
FASD Clinic Coordinator: Vanessa Norris
FASDDiagnostics@cityofgp.com

If there are changes to your clinic contacts (address, ph. number, coordinator changes), please email clinictraining@lcfasd.com. This clinic contact list is maintained and updated, and is in each Links newsletter. It is frequently sent to AB government stakeholders, CMC, upon request to research and other projects, such as the common data form project. Having your correct information is important to us. Please check your clinic contact information in this issue. Thanks!



FASD Assessment & Diagnostic Clinic

Contact List

Updated: December 2107

C | Child Clinic A | Adult Clinic

Northern Association for FASD C | A

P.O. Box 3334
Lower Level, 5001-49th Street
High Prairie, AB T0G 1E0
[P] 780.523.3699
Coordinator: Charlene McLay
nafasd@telus.net

North West Central FASD C | A

Assessment & Diagnostic Team
Box 5389
Westlock, AB T7P 2P5
[P] 780.284.3415
Coordinator: Sharon Pearcey
sharonp@nwcfasd.ca

Pediatric Specialty Clinic [C]

Children's Rehabilitation Services-Central
Zone
#300 Professional Centre
5015-50 Avenue
Camrose, AB T4V 3P7
[P] 780.608.8622
Coordinator: Lorraine McPhee
Lorraine.McPhee@ahs.ca

Siksika FASD Clinic [C]

Box 1130 Siksika, AB T0J 3W0
[P] 403.734.5687
Coordinator: Vanessa Buckskin
vanessab@siksikahealth.com

Prairie Central FASD Clinical Services [A]

4838-49th Street
Camrose, AB T4V 1N2
[P] 587.386.0186
Amanda Lindholm
a.lindholm@prairiecentralfasd.ca

FASD Assessment and Support Services C | A

Bridges Family Programs
477 Third Street SE
Medicine Hat, AB T1A 0G8
[P] 403.526.7473
Coordinator:
Rebecca Robertson robertson.bridges@memlane.com
Connie Edler cedler.bridges@memlane.com

Lethbridge Family Services-DaCapo Services C | A

FASD Assessment & Diagnostic Clinic
1107-2nd "A" Ave. N.
Lethbridge, AB T1H 0E6
[P] 403.320.9119
Children Coordinators:
Jennifer Vanderkooij, jvanderkooij@lfsfamily.ca
Nadine McGill nmcgill@lfsfamily.ca
Adult Coordinator:
Krista Tittlemier ktittlemier@lfsfamily.ca

Alberta Hospital Edmonton

Turning Point Program [12-21yrs]

17480 Fort Road, Box 307
Edmonton, AB T5J 2J7
[P] 780.342.5002
Sherry Muscat, Registered Psychologist
sherry.muscat@ahs.ca

Foothills FASD Assessment & Diagnostic Clinic C | A

Box 5146
101, 520 Macleod Trail
High River, Alberta
T1V 1M3
[P] 403.652.4776
Contact: Kathy Lambourn
Kathy.lambourn@foothillsfas.com

Thanks to  Government
for their support

Our strength will grow through community

