

WILLOW WINDS SUPPORT NETWORK NORTHWEST (NEE NWC FASD)

1st Quarter (January, February, March)

Yes, we are now Willow Winds Support Network. However, for government and financial purposes we will still be known as NWC FASD until our Accreditation and our Casino are completed this summer and our website will not change until that time.

We have an exciting year ahead of us. Three of Willow Winds team members are heading to the International FASD Conference in Seattle in April. We are also looking forward to participating in the Provincial FASD Conference hosted by Lakeland in Edmonton this fall. Please know these conferences are available for any interested person to attend and all perspectives, particularly lived experience, are extremely valued.

The Prevention Conversation program is hosting a strategic planning session in May in Edmonton and two, possibly more, of our facilitators will be able to receive some wonderful professional development, participate in the planning of the next year and do some valuable team building.

Willow Winds is piloting Pediatric Complex Needs Clinics in 2024/25, for those with no Prenatal Alcohol Exposure Confirmation, PAE. 2024/25 Clinics: 26 Pediatric, 30 Adult Regional, 70 In Reach Total 126 clinics

Lakeland FASD Network Summer Camp – Thanks to Healthy Families Healthy Futures FASD Mentor Valerie Chisolm-Head for arranging for five kiddos to attend this amazing summer camp.

Next Leadership Team meeting will be a hybrid of virtual and in person at Star of the North in St Albert, April 26, 2024.

Annual General Meeting will be June 6, 2024 from 9-10 am at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88567194879>

Restorative Practice “is a social science that studies how to improve and repair relationships between people and communities”

Willow Winds sent 11 people to receive training from Central FASD Network ED, Julie Nanson, on Restorative Practices and Restorative Justice Circles, through the International Institute of Restorative Practice February 12, 13 & 14 in Red Deer. We will host a continuation of this amazingly relevant training on May 6, 7 and 8th in St Albert with more Restorative Practices and Peacekeeping Circles.

To bring RJ to our zones we have created partnerships with local organizations and invited them to participate in these trainings. North Zone partnership - WJS/Youth Justice, West Zone partnership – Hinton Employment and Learning Place and eventually Victim Services, and Central Zone partnership – Healthy Families Healthy Futures/Victim Services.

Edmonton partnership – WWSN/Mediation and Restorative Justice Centre, MRJC

Willow Winds has recently entered into a research project with the University of Calgary and Fort Saskatchewan Penitentiary to distribute, train staff and offer inmates the opportunity to use a *technical reader pen* to increase their academic outcomes while in facility. Research has shown these pens have the potential to seriously boost literacy rates, increase self-esteem and reach goals, which decreases recidivism and increases individual success. We are grateful to be included in this groundbreaking project and hope to continue and expand with our partners using these devices as well as other technology that may come forward with the potential to increase positive outcomes for our population.



Gladue Reports – These valuable reports are available to First Nations, Metis and Inuit people who have been charged with a crime and may spend time in prison or custody. The individualized Gladue Report “tells the judge the story of the Indigenous person’s life, and the impacts that racism and colonization have had on them”.

Willow Winds strives to ensure our Indigenous clients with diagnosed/possible FASD facing criminal charges have access to an FASD informed Gladue Report. We have two staff trained in Gladue Report Writing who meet monthly with Alberta’s Gladue Report Writers offering counsel to inform their reports and themselves on behalf of our and all Indigenous clients with diagnosed or possible FASD.

In order to qualify for Persons with Developmental Disabilities, PDD, individuals must have IQs 70 or under and undergo a Capacity Assessment. This assessment is done by a certified capacity assessor and includes an in person interview with a long list of questions. Our clients with FASD often struggle to focus for long periods and may easily misunderstand the questions. Without someone who FASD and/or Brain Domain Challenge informed our clients often present as more capable than they are mitigating their chances of getting the help they need. Donna Kristiansen, WWSN, has taken the training and is in a position to assist any of our clients in need of a capacity assessment or guide their mentors on how best to support. If you believe you need this type of service for your client or are currently having a client assessed please reach out to her directly at 780-305-8757, donnak@wwsn.ca



Second Annual Network & Contract Agency Workshop

On the heels of the well-received, enjoyed and successful workshop we hosted last year for all network and contract agency staff we are doing it again this year. On May 9 and 10 at The Star of the North in St Albert we will get together to team build, refresh some training and do annual cultural sensitivity.

May 9 AM – PCAP Refresher Training by Alaina Thursby

May 9 PM – Prevention Conversation Refresher with Jennifer Willes

May 10 AM – Metis Cultural Training by Robbie Seale of Metis Nation

May 10 PM – Restorative Justice by MRJC Edmonton