

Accessing Financial Housing Support for Adolescent Parents:
Issues and Challenges
September 29, 2009

A Big “Thank You!” to Marymount for providing a venue for the APIN September Lunch ‘n Learn. More than 60 people were in attendance to listen to our panel discuss how adolescent parents can access the programs they offer. It was a great start to the program year for APIN.

Thank You to our panellists Caitlyn Heinrichs and Pamela Dyck from Employment & Income Assistance, Cees deVries from the Manitoba Child Care Program, Shawna Wilson from the Child Care Subsidy Program and Rick Menard from Child and Family Services. The handouts and presentations provided our audience with the information needed to access the tools that are available to adolescent parents. A lot of information and resources were shared in a short amount of time!

Attendees were shown how to utilize the online tools to find openings at Manitoba’s licensed child care facilities by visiting www.manitoba.ca/childcare and advised to always phone the child care facility that their client is interested in to enquire about new openings that may not be posted on the website yet.

Many questions were answered in the presentation provided regarding the Child Care Subsidy program. What is the Child Care Subsidy? Who can apply? What eligibility criteria need to be met? What is the application process?

Caitlyn and Pamela provided the audience with valuable information regarding the procedures followed and the services and financial support that can be accessed through Employment & Income Assistance. Topics addressed include home visits, financial supports available to cover the costs of moving out, purchasing cribs, beds and bedding, pharmaceutical coverage and how to access it, battling bed bugs and paternity tests to mention only a few.

Rick addressed the issues of safety and the challenges faced by adolescent parents that want to live on their own. Based on the financial supports available, finding a safe place to live and having the means to provide healthy meals can be challenging. There was a lot of discussion around the increased cost of living and the fact that the financial supports available are not increasing.

Our panel addressed many questions from the audience and a lot of great discussion came out of the presentations. Contact information was shared with the hope that programs and benefits can be accessed easier.

Copies of the powerpoint presentations are now posted on the APIN website at www.apin.org.