Rajani FASD Assessment & Diagnostic Clinic Training Services

LINKS: A Newsletter for Alberta FASD Diagnostic Clinics

"What the New Year brings to you will depend a great deal on what you bring to the New Year"

Vern McLennan

As is the case every December, the Rajani Clinic Training project takes time to reflect on the passing year and is already planning for training, events, activities and projects for 2020. The process of anticipating and planning for FASD clinic training, resources and other identified needs is a bit like the "Gretztky Method": not going to where the puck is, but where the puck is going to be. This past year has seen training requests from teams across Alberta; rolling out pilot projects that can enhance current clinic practice and options for assessment and diagnostic service in rural/remote communities; and a Community of Practice meeting that saw almost 100 clinicians attend from FASD clinics across Canada (held at the International FASD conference, Vancouver-March 2019).

An update on **Assessing for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD): A National Survey of Assessment Measures Used by FASD Diagnostic Clinics in Canada** is in this Links Newsletter. So many clinicians took the time to complete the previous survey of assessment measures used by FASD diagnostic clinics in Alberta; this national survey will provide data and results on the use of assessment tools used by clinics across all jurisdictions in Canada that have FASD assessment and diagnostic clinics. It will be an interesting read, and hopefully, will be published over the next few months.

Also, a "one pager" for those coordinators/clinics who are interested in using the University of Washington's Facial Software program for facial measurements of clients is in this edition. Amber Bell has prepared a useful "links and important resources" document in an effort to "demystify" and share some TIPS she has learned from using the University of Washington program with the Telehealth Pilot project.

Best wishes over the holiday season and Happy New Year!

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Ask a Team Member

Submitted by: Lisa Swan
FASD Outreach Supervisor, Lakeland Centre for FASD (LCFASD)

I have been the Outreach Coordinator for the past 2 years. The outreach coordinator role is to support individuals with FASD. We ensure that supports are set up for individuals and they receive the supports needed to be healthy, happy and successful, and also support them through struggles and successes.

Role at the Clinic Table: The Outreach Coordinator has an important role with the multi-disciplinary team. We learn important details about our clients, including their areas of strengths and needs; assist with developing achievable recommendations and assist clients post diagnosis, to attain these goals.

Post Diagnostic: **Children-** FASD outreach coordinators meet with families and caregivers shortly after the clinic day and help them understand the specific diagnosis looks and how it impacts their child. Coordinators support the child's school with strategies, attend school and teacher meetings; provide staff training to achieve a better understanding of FASD. We assist with connection to SLP and OT services, and Family Support for Children with Disabilities programs.

Youth- Supports for youth help to make the transition from childhood to adulthood and assist with bridging that difficult gap, which is difficult for most of the children with FASD. Supports can connect them to a transition coordinator; help in navigating the justice system; programs and services that foster a positive peer group (healthy lifestyles, healthy relationships); assistance with AISH and PDD forms; mental health and school supports.

Adult- There are a range of programs aimed at helping an adult with FASD. Outreach coordinators can identify and make referrals to services available in their community. We help with AISH; Revenue Canada, and PDD paperwork, mental health supports, and navigating the justice system.

Family /Caregivers- Coordinators work with families and caregivers to help them understand the diagnosis. We provide strategies to help deal with everyday life situations and future preparations. LCFASD offers caregiver support groups in the region, connecting them with others in similar circumstances.

Community- Coordinators can provide specifically designed training and presentations to groups of all sizes, from frontline workers, parent groups, self help groups, service providers as well as college or high school students.

It is so important for individuals to be connected to services as soon as they can. Should an individual not receive an FASD diagnosis, there may still be other diagnoses, issues or significant findings in reports. A coordinator would provide support, and connect them to the specific agencies or programs.

We help client understand their diagnosis, help work through the list of recommendations made at the time of clinic and connect the client to community supports. It is our goal to complete these tasks within 6-12 months. However, our client files are always open, and we will continue to serve and support over the lifespan as needed.

Telehealth Pilot Project
De-Mystifying the FAS Facial Photographic Analysis Software

Background:
The Washington State Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Diagnostic & Prevention Network (FAS DPN) began as an FASD diagnostic clinic at the University of Washington in Seattle in 1993. One of the major accomplishments of the FAS DPN includes development of the FAS Facial Photographic Analysis Software.

Is the FAS Facial Photographic Analysis software accurate and empirically validated?
The software was developed by Susan Astley Hemingway, PhD in 2003 (and updated in 2012 and 2016) for use by health care and research professionals. It has been used to accurately measure the full continuum of expression of the FAS facial phenotype in thousands of individuals, birth to adult, and has been evaluated in the FASD screening and diagnostic programs.

How does the software work?
The software is designed to measure the magnitude of expression of the 3 key diagnostic facial features (short palpebral fissure lengths (PFL), smooth philtrum, and thin upper lip). The software scores the outcomes of these facial measures using the 4-Digit Diagnostic Code.

The FAS DPN site has developed a number of online resources to assist with navigating the software:

Visit the FAS Facial Photographic Analysis Software webpage.

Watch a 5-minute video introduction of the software in use (demonstrates PF measurements, lip circularity and philtrum ranking): Introduction to the FAS Facial Photographic Analysis Software

Access detailed instructions and animations demonstrating how to take the 3 facial photographs accurately.

Tip: Taking photos requires practice to ensure correct alignment and angles. Taking many photos is recommended, along with having the subject look "up" with their eyes only (not move their head).

To assist with accuracy in picture taking, be sure to purchase pre-cut stickers in standard ¾ inch size.

To purchase the software, fill out this Order Form. Payment **must** be in the form of cheque, money order, purchase order number or electronic payment ie. wire transfer. Credit Card payments are **not** accepted.

Telehealth Pilot Project
De-Mystifying the FAS Facial Photographic Analysis Software
continued

Technology Considerations & Tips:

FAS DPN provides recommendations for computer operating systems, digital camera and image resolution requirements, along with software installation instructions via this link: Computer and Camera Specifications

The software download is a Microsoft Windows application. The software **will not** run in the MacIntosh operating system. Some users have been successful splitting their Mac OS and running the software in a virtual Windows OS.

Other users have been successful using smartphones to capture the facial images. Images must not be saved in HEIC, HEIF or other incompatible formats. Accepted image formats are .jpg .tif .bmp

Frequently asked question: Is the Canadian normative data available for calculating PFL Z-Scores?

Canadian norms (Clarren et al., 2010) can be selected for calculating PFL Z-scores. The patient's frontal image is used to calculate PFL. Here the user selects the most predominant race of the patient. Four racial selections are available in the latest version of the software: Caucasian (Hall et al., 1989), Canadian (Clarren et al., 2010), Scandinavian (Stromland et al., 1999), African American (Iosub et al., 1985).

Outcomes:

The Rajani Clinic Training Telehealth pilot project has experienced great success using the software! A detailed Analysis Report is generated for each patient. Check out a sample report here.

*Source: University of Washington FAS DPN website: http://depts.washington.edu/fasdpn/

Correctional In-Reach Project
North West Central FASD Network

The North West Central (NWC) FASD Network initiated the In-Reach Project in the spring of 2018, with one correctional facility (Edmonton Remand Centre). In- Reach is a justice focused FASD awareness, prevention, assessment and support program for staff and inmates of Edmonton's correctional facilities. The program is culturally sensitive and flexibly designed to meet the needs specific to each facility 's culture. This program was created by the NWC FASD Network, and is financially supported through grants from The Status of Women and Edmonton Community Services.

In- Reach provides FASD education, awareness, and supports for individuals in Edmonton correction facilities. Since its development, this project has grown to accommodate the needs of 5 facilities in the surrounding Edmonton areas (Buffalo Sage; Fort Saskatchewan Correctional Facility; Edmonton Institute for Woman; Edmonton Young Offender Centre; Edmonton Remand Centre). We are currently working on providing these services to additional facilities. Sharing Circles, FASD 101, and prevention conversation sessions take place on a monthly basis with individuals within these facilities. Beginning in 2020, we will be branching out to provide FASD prevention and support information to the male population in a few facilities.

The NWC FASD Network had applied for and gratefully received a grant of $50,000 to complete assessments for ten indigenous individuals who are incarcerated. We are very excited to have this opportunity to reach out to the individuals currently needing our assistance in completing applications and supporting them through the clinical process. NWC FASD Network also received a $40,000 grant from Edmonton Community Services to assess male and female inmates.

Submitted by: Jennifer Pasic, Adult FASD Clinic coordinator/Pediatric clinic support; Yvette Kraychy, Central zone key worker- NWC FASD Network

FASD NETWORK | Northwest Central Alberta

Training Highlight

Forensic Adolescent Program
Alberta Health Services
Calgary FASD Clinic Training

On October 21 and 22nd, Rajani Clinic Training Services provided FASD Assessment and Diagnostic Clinic training to the Forensic Adolescent Program (FAP), Alberta Health Services in Calgary. Dr. Mansfield Mela (Forensic Psychiatrist) and Monty Nelson, Ph.D. (Registered Psychologist), presented a comprehensive overview of the Canadian diagnostic guideline, as well as co-leading and mentoring two onsite diagnostic clinics of referred youths. The FAP staff includes 3 Psychiatrists; 3 Psychologists who do court ordered assessments; and Social Workers who assist with the court ordered assessments, sex offender specific treatment and case management and treatment.

Welcome New Baby

Alexis Mae Wincott Neufeldt was born October 21 and held by proud Grandfather, Dr. Leigh Wincott, Pediatrician. (Glenrose Rehab Hospital FASD Pediatric Clinic, Lakeland Centre for FASD Clinic, Mackenzie FASD Region). Alexis was born in Winnipeg and welcomed by her parents Mae and Mike.

Assessing for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder:

A National Survey of Assessment Measures Used by FASD Clinics in Canada

The current Canadian diagnostic guideline (2015) outlines a list of test measures for assessment; however, little research has explored which specific measures are being used in clinical practice. An earlier survey of clinics in Alberta (October 2016 – January 2017) gathered information on testing measures used by clinicians involved with FASD assessment and diagnostic clinics. Those results were published earlier this year. You can read more here: Survey of 23 FASD clinics in Alberta.

We have been hard at work writing up the results from our national survey, conducted earlier this year. The goals for the national survey of assessment measures were to:

1. Ascertain the range of measures that Canadian clinics are using to evaluate brain domains in FASD assessment across the lifespan
2. Examine the commonalities between the measures used by different clinics across the country
3. Explore the extent to which clinics are using the measures suggested in the 2015 Canadian guideline
4. Identify measures that are commonly used beyond those suggested in the guideline

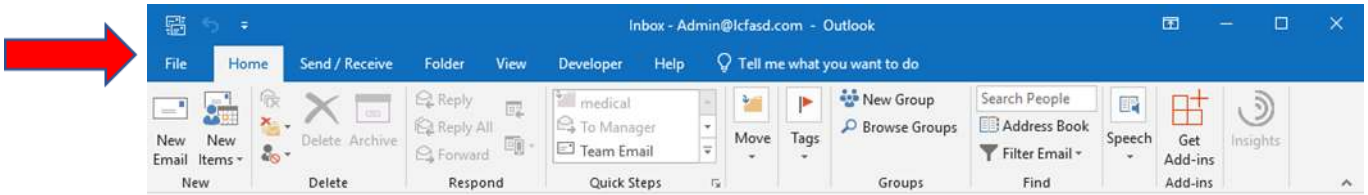
The survey was sent to 59 diagnostic clinics across Canada. 44 clinics responded (75% response rate), including at least one clinic from each province and territory in Canada that had a diagnostic clinic at the time of data collection. Clinicians reported using a wide range (n = 228) of measures to evaluate the ten brain domains involved in FASD assessment. The highest number of assessment measures used were reported in the Language domain (n = 50) and the lowest number reported in Academic Achievement (n = 8).Many tests were used to assess functioning across multiple brain domains. There was significant overlap of measures used across clinics. Most of the commonly used measures aligned with those suggested in the Canadian guideline. However, there were many additional commonly reported measures outside of those suggested in the Canadian guideline.

This recent survey of Canadian clinicians will hopefully identify a comprehensive, reliable, and usable testing battery for FASD assessment to improve the clarity and accuracy of the diagnostic process and to facilitate advancements in the field. Details of the publication will be included in the next Links newsletter.

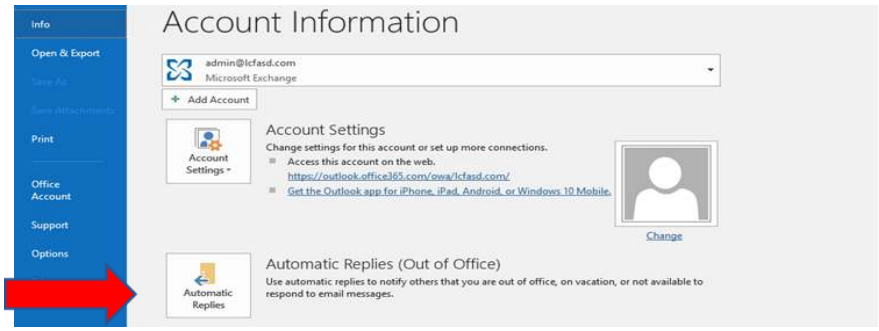
Crystal's Miracle Minute Tips

Automatic replies (Out of office replies)

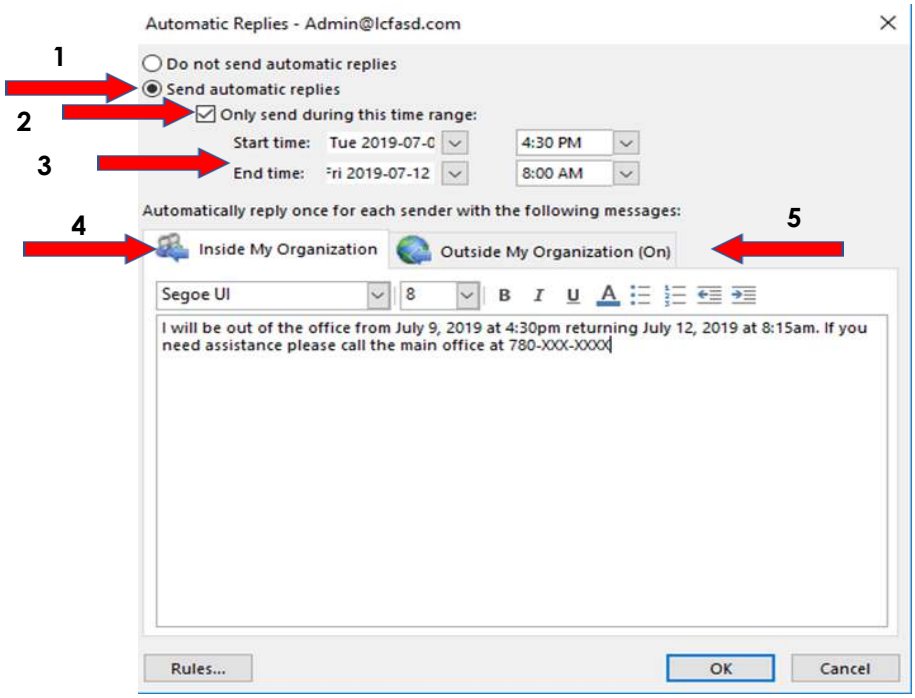
Select file



Select Automatic Replies



1. Anew window will open (see below). Select Send Automatic Replies
2. Check - Only send during this time range
3. Select start time and end time of when you will be out of the office.
4. Type message under "Inside my Organization" stating dates and times you'll be away and who to contact and how in your absence.
5. Select "Outside my Organization" and repeat the same message.
6. Hit ok



Links & Such

Disability Tax Credit Application Guide for Physicians

What is the DTC? This is a non- refundable tax credit that helps people with disabilities or their supporting persons, reduce the amount of income tax they may have to pay. This link will be useful for physicians on your FASD clinic team who may be filling out the application for those with an FASD diagnosis.

https://estore.canfasd.ca/fasd-for-school-staff-level-ii

FASD for School Staff Level II is an advanced training course intended for all educators working with students with FASD including all administrators, teachers, educational assistants, ECE's, office admin, board personnel and bus drivers.

Towards Healthy Outcomes - CanFASD

To help support intervention approaches across the lifespan, the Healthy Outcomes model has been developed to help support intervention approaches across the lifespan. This model embodies this perspective, and provides us with a roadmap that can help to think carefully and proactively about healthy pathways.

The 9th International Research Conference on Adolescents and Adults with FASD:

Review, Respond and Relate – Integrating Research, Policy and Practice Around the World

April 22, 2020 - April 25, 2020
The Hyatt Regency
Vancouver, BC, Canada

FASD Assessment & Diagnostic Clinic
Contact List
Updated: December 2019
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Glenrose Adult FASD Assessment Clinic [A]
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Centrepoint Young Offender Program [C]
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Northwest Primary Care Network [C]
Children and Youth FASD Diagnostic Clinic
Northwest Primary Care Network
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Northwest Regional FASD Society
Mackenzie Network [A]
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Diagnostic Assessment and Clinic Lead:
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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. If there are changes to your clinic contacts (address, ph. number, coordinator changes), please email clinictraining@lcfasd.com
Please check your clinic contact information in this issue. Thanks!

FASD Assessment & Diagnostic Clinic
Contact List
Updated: December 2019
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Our strength will grow through community