



FEMAP House

January 2010 marked the 1 year anniversary of FEMAP's move to its new location at 860 Richmond Street. This time has brought many new and exciting project developments as well as much anticipated additions to the FEMAP team. What a great year!

Clinical Care Update

Clinical referrals to FEMAP continue to grow. We are actively enrolling in our health care services delivery project involving evaluating and tracking referrals in order to accurately find the most appropriate care setting for clients. We are inviting clients to participate in a computerized evaluations process at intake in order to improve FEMAP services, identify gaps in treatment options and utilize community services more effectively.

The FEMAP team has been active collaborating with the Thames Valley School Board (TVDSB) in outreach activities. In the spring of 2010, we ran a poster contest in the area high schools. This project was implemented in February—Mental Health Month. Students were asked to create a poster to promote awareness of FEMAP as a source of help for youth with mood and/or anxiety concerns. Several posters were selected as finalist from the entries and each of six winners in two categories was awarded gift certificates as prizes. With the help of LHSC Communications, the winning posters will be used for FEMAP promotional activities. We hope to increase FEMAP's visibility among youth with this venture.

FEMAP is currently working closely with the London Health Sciences Foundation writing and submitting grant applications for funding to facilitate in the development of a resource room. The resource room at the FEMAP house, if funded, will provide clients and families with up-to-date literature and audio-visual resources about mental health and addictions issues in a friendly and comfortable environment.

The FEMAP website is now completed. We are excited about providing our clients and potential clients and their families with access to online information about our program, our services and much more. Visit us at www.femap.ca

In order to better meet the needs of youth with mood and/or anxiety problems, we have been working with our community partners (area high schools and the University of Western Ontario) to form "Youth Advisory Groups". One group has formed, comprised of university students and met several times before classes ended in the spring. We hope to also develop a group of high school students in the fall to get feedback and advice on all our outreach initiatives.

FEMAP has been collaborating with the Ivey School of Business at the University of Western Ontario. Undergraduate students worked with the FEMAP team to compile data and create a strategic business plan to assist us in better reaching our goals. These data will be utilized to support our initiatives for policy change at the Government level for regular Ministry funding for FEMAP. The Ivey report is being sent to our stakeholders with this newsletter.

Research

The FEMAP research team is hard at work actively recruiting for several studies. We have been working closely with the neuroimaging groups at the Robarts Research Institute and the Lawson Research Health Institute to implement our studies.

A variety of projects are underway involving healthy youth as well as youth with mood and/or addiction concerns. We always welcome any interested calls so if you or someone you know is between the ages of 16 and 25 and may be interested in participating in FEMAP research please call JoAnne for more information at **519-646-6000 ext. 65196**.

Dr. Osuch, JoAnne DePace and Bradley Ross recently had the opportunity to present preliminary findings from our study involving brain function in youth who self injure at a conference in Chicago. Dr. Osuch and the team are currently in the process of writing articles for publication on these findings.

Our new study on differentiating Bipolar and Unipolar Disorders has been among 3 studies selected as finalist for the Lawson Innovation Prize. The winning study will be selected for funding in September 2010. Go FEMAP Go!

Staff Updates

Since our last newsletter, we have added new members to the FEMAP team: Dr. Katherine Macdonald, M.D., child and adolescent trained psychiatrist; Mary Jane Millar, MSc., substance abuse counselor; Erin Ross, Ph.D. candidate, Research Coordinator; Bradley Ross, BSc., Research Assistant; Andrew Wrath, Research Assistant; and Darlene Lounsbury, Receptionist.

Erin has been coordinating our community project involving the implementation and evaluation of a novel mental health system approach for youth with mood and/or anxiety concerns in London. Erin is completing graduate studies in clinical psychology.

Mary Jane brings a wealth of experience in community addictions counseling to FEMAP. Mary Jane is with us one day per week and supports the clinical team in providing addiction services to our clients. Mary Jane's expertise in addictions counseling and in the London community is a much needed addition to our clinical team and a great support to our clients.

Bradley has been involved in all aspects of study implementation as well as with data analysis working for FEMAP for over a year now. Bradley is a graduate in genetics from the University of Western Ontario and has been accepted to medical school at Western this fall.

Andrew is a 4th year psychology honors student at the University of Western Ontario. He is involved in assisting in numerous FEMAP research initiatives as well as on our resource room and website development projects.

Darlene is our new, much needed, receptionist. Darlene addresses phone queries related to our program services as well as supports the administrative functions of the intake process and two of the program psychiatrists. Darlene always greets our clients and staff with a smile and we are pleased she is part of the FEMAP team.

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