



FAMILY COUNSELLING SUPPORT SERVICES PARENT/CAREGIVER HANDBOOK

FEBRUARY 2025

Table of Contents

BC Centre for Ability (BCCFA) Ethical Guidelines	3
How to Reach Us	4
Contact Information.....	4
About Our Services	5
What We Do	5
Who We Serve.....	5
Where and When We Provide Services.....	5
Duration and Frequency of Services.....	6
Funding.....	6
Fees	6
How to Refer	6
How We Work with Your Family	7
Family-Centred Practice.....	7
Waitlist Management	7
Consent	7
Shared Responsibilities.....	9
Expressing Concerns & Providing Feedback	10
Ongoing Feedback Opportunities.....	10
Feedback Surveys and Evaluations	11
Who Might Be on Your Team	12
Service Providers from Community Agencies	12
Resources for Your Child/Youth and Family	13
Library.....	13
Parent Education Opportunities at the BCCFA.....	13
Interpretation Services.....	13
Our BCCFA Website.....	13
Annual Events.....	13
Family Networking	13



BC Centre for Ability (BCCFA) Ethical Guidelines

- We respect the dignity of all persons.
- We uphold the rights of individuals and families to be treated with care and respect.
- We respect the uniqueness of each individual and his/her family in their values, culture and beliefs.
- We work as partners with individuals and/or their family. Our service delivery is based on person-centred, family-centred and inclusive practice.
- We propose, facilitate and implement interventions and services that are accepted by experts in our fields of practice.
- We provide complete information to individuals and/or their families to enable them to make informed decisions about our proposed interventions and services.
- We respect the rights of individuals and families to confidentiality and privacy.
- When providing services, we ensure the safety of clients, staff, service providers and volunteers.



How to Reach Us

- ❑ **Mail or Visit:** 2805 Kingsway, Vancouver, V5R 5H9 (Moss & Kingsway, next to Purdy's Chocolate Factory). BCCFA regular office hours are from Monday – Friday, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm. A Burnaby satellite office (4460 Beresford Street, Burnaby) is also available to meet with families.
- ❑ **Telephone:** 604.451.5511 for Reception or you may dial directly to the program staff through their direct extension as listed below. All program staff have personal confidential voice mail that you can reach 24 hours a day. Messages are returned within 1 business day wherever possible.
- ❑ **Fax:** 604.451.5651.
- ❑ **E-mail:** Each program staff has an individualized e-mail address (see below). For your security, please do not send us identifying information about your child/youth or family by e-mail.
- ❑ **BCCFA website:** www.bc-cfa.org

Contact Information

Program Director: Emma Gauvin, MSW, RSW
Director of Psychosocial and Adult Services
Telephone: 778.828.8512
E-mail: Emma.Gauvin@bc-cfa.org
Days of Work: Monday – Friday

Family Counselling Support Services: Brandon Burke, MSW, RSW
Program Coordinator
Telephone: 778.887.3010
E-mail : Brandon.Burke@bc-cfa.org
Days of Work: Monday – Thursday

Program Administration: Jaqueline Mackay-Finn
Administrative Assistant, Psychosocial and Adult Services
Telephone: 604.451.5511 Ext. 1360
E-mail: Jaqueline.MackayFinn@bc-cfa.org
Days of Work: Monday – Friday



About Our Services

Welcome to B C Centre for Ability (BCCFA). Our aim is to work together with you in areas you identify as needing assistance. We aim to enhance your ability to continue providing positive support to your child and family through counselling, education, and skills that build confidence and provide tools to maximize quality of life. The following outlines the different services offered through our Family Counselling Support Services Program (FCSS).

What We Do

Direct service to child/youth and family. Examples of direct service include:

- Counselling on the impact of a new diagnosis on you and all the family members, working through grief and loss, managing stress, isolation, disrupted family functioning. Our goal is to support and enhance your family's wellbeing and functioning.
- Resource Information
- Linkages with community agencies
- Group Workshops and Education
- Parent Support & Networking Opportunities
- Skill development groups for children/youth and parents/caregivers

Who We Serve

Children/youth under age 19, and their families/parents who:

- Are referred by your CYSN Social Worker
- Live in Burnaby, New Westminister, or Maple Ridge/Tri-cities area.

Where and When We Provide Services

Families/caregivers receive services in their home community at locations that are most accessible for them. These could include the family home, school, community centres, the BCCFA office, or other sites in Burnaby, New Westminister, and Tri-cities area.

FCSS are provided Monday to Thursday (*Program staff work part-time). Family appointments, groups and workshops, and Family Together Nights may be scheduled outside of regular working hours as required.



Duration and Frequency of Services

Families referred to the program can access the support services for up to 6 months. This can include counselling, information on promoting your child's social emotional development, networking opportunities and other events.

Eligible to remain in the program until age 19 or when the 6 months of service expires, whichever comes first.

Funding

Funding for the FCSS comes from the Ministry for Children and Family Development. The BCCFA also provides funding and other support.

Fees

There are no fees for this program which is funded by CYSN at Ministry for Children and Family Development

How to Refer

CYSN Social Worker must initiate the referral on behalf of the family. An online referral form will be completed by CYSN Social Worker with the checkbox specifying "Guardian aware of and agreed to referral" marked off to show that family wants services from the Program.



How We Work with Your Family

The BC Centre for Ability provides services based on the principles of family-centred practice.

Family-Centred Practice

Family Centred Practice means:

- Parents are key members of the intervention team and know their child best. BC Centre for Ability team members work together with children, youth and parents to make collaborative decisions. Services are based on family concerns, goals and priorities.
- Families are given complete and unbiased information in order to help them make decisions about the services they will receive.
- Children, youth and parents are asked for input and feedback to ensure that services meet their needs, and that recommended strategies fit the family's lifestyle, priorities and routine.
- Supports and services take into consideration the needs of the whole family, including parents, siblings, and members of the extended family.

Waitlist Management

After you are accepted into a BCCFA program there could be a wait for our services, depending on the size of the Program Coordinator's caseload at the time. We always attempt to be fair and equitable in deciding how to allocate limited resources. The Program Coordinator may give you information on other resources that may be of benefit to you while you are on the waitlist. You might also be interested in attending one of our education workshops or enrolling your child/youth in a group designed to develop specific skills.

Consent

Consent to Provide Services

This is signed at the start of services and is considered perpetual once signed (i.e. does not need to be renewed on an annual basis). If your child/youth is enrolled in multiple programs at BCCFA, a consent must be completed for each program.

1. This consent authorizes the FCSS Program to provide:
 - a. Intervention services to children/youth and parents/caregivers.
 - b. SMS Text messaging and email consent to children/youth (if deemed applicable) and parents/caregivers.
 - c. Consent to Virtual Care
2. The enrolling family is highly encouraged to complete this consent via the Salesforce consent link that is emailed to them by the Administrative Assistant as part of the welcoming process.
3. Should there be an issue with accessibility, an alternate paper process is available to support you with this step.



Consent to Obtain and Release Information

This consent is signed at the start of services and is valid for one year from the date of signing. If your child/youth is enrolled in multiple programs, a consent is only once and applied across all programs. You will be contacted annually to renew this consent by the representative responsible for BCCFA.

1. This consent authorizes BC Centre for Ability to
 - a. Obtain and/or release medical and educational information regarding the child/youth receiving services with selected individuals and organizations nominated by the legal guardian.
 - b. Collect and share information in compliance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA), and Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (PIPEDA).
2. If the scope of services is to be intended for the parent(s) and/or sibling(s), this consent has to be completed for the child/youth associated to the referral.
3. The enrolling family is highly encouraged to complete this consent via the Salesforce consent link that is emailed to them by either the Key Worker or Social Work Admin as part of the welcoming process.
4. Should there be an issue with accessibility, an alternate paper process is available to support you with this step.

There are also other **optional** consent forms that the Program Coordinator could discuss with you.

Emergency Consent - Group

This Consent is signed by the parent/caregiver for children/youth participating in Program groups/events where the parent/caregiver is not on site. It contains emergency contact, health, and safety information as well as actions that the Program will take in the event of a medical issue involving the child/youth. It also has guidelines for dropping off/picking up children/youth from BCCFA Groups/Events where parents/caregivers do not remain on site, as well as any other precautionary alerts that staff should be aware of regarding child/youth. This is valid for one year from the date of signing.

Consent to Photograph/Film

This consent authorizes BCCFA to photograph/film your child/youth while participating in FCSS activities. These photos/films could be used for client records, peer consultation/education, FCSS website, brochures, newsletters, or presentations. Parents/caregivers authorize which of these (if any) they consent to.



Shared Responsibilities

The BC Centre for Ability (BCCFA) staff, program leaders, Board of Directors, clients, and families honour their shared responsibility to create a positive and courteous service environment that is family-centred and respects the needs and preferences of clients. These commitments are the core of our relationships and guide our interactions.

As clients/families/caregivers you have the right to:

- Be treated with compassion, dignity, and respect, without discrimination of any kind
- Receive evidence-based services from qualified staff
- Make decisions about yourself and/or your children
- Refuse any treatment(s) or service(s)
- Access your and/or your child's BCCFA documentation
- Withhold or grant access to BCCFA to gather and/or communicate relevant information to/from other sources (i.e. hospital, school)
- Confidentiality, privacy, and transparency
- Report your concerns and complaints regarding BCCFA services

As partners in care, clients/families/caregivers and BCCFA staff and program leaders have a shared responsibility to:

- Treat each other with compassion, dignity, and respect, without discrimination of any kind
- Keep each other safe
- Be honest, transparent, and clear about any information that could affect care or service goals
- Promptly cancel and reschedule appointments
- Communicate openly and respectfully
- Follow BCCFA Client Complaint Reporting Guidelines for submitting concerns and complaints

If you have concerns with the BC Centre for Ability and/or our staff not meeting these commitments we encourage you to report your concern. Please report your concern or complaint by calling 604-451-5511 and speaking directly with your service provider.

Visit our website at <https://bc-cfa.org/about-us/financials-reporting/> for our BCCFA Client Complaint Reporting Guidelines, also available in Chinese (simplified – for Mandarin speakers), Punjabi, Filipino (Tagalog), and Spanish.



Expressing Concerns & Providing Feedback

Ongoing Feedback Opportunities

We are committed to providing you with quality services. Let us know how you are feeling about our services at any time through:

- Open dialogue with your Program team. This is always welcome and encouraged.
- Compliments, concerns or complaints can be made either verbally or in writing by letter or e-mail.
- Feedback surveys are sent to all clients and families annually.

IF YOU ARE NOT SATISFIED with the services received from any BCCFA Programs, you have the right to tell us about your concern or complaint. If decisions are made about your family's services that you do not agree with or cannot accept, you have the right to appeal such decisions.

The services you receive will not be reduced or taken away because you give us feedback. In fact, we appreciate it when you let us know if you are not satisfied with your services. Your feedback helps us continue to improve the way we work with our clients and families.

a) *First Step...* If your concern involves a specific staff member, we encourage you to talk directly to that person. Very often, issues and problems can be resolved quickly at this level. You may also wish to outline your concerns in writing either by sending an email or writing a letter to the staff.

b) *If There is Still a Concern ...* If talking to the staff does not resolve the situation to your satisfaction within a week, or if your concern relates more to the overall Key Worker Support Services, please contact the Program Director:

Emma Gauvin, Director of Psychosocial and Adult Services

Telephone: 778.828.8512

E-mail: Emma.Gauvin@bc-cfa.org

The Program Director will look into your concern which may include:

- Talking to you on the telephone and/or meeting with you in person
- Talking to the staff member(s) involved
- Reviewing relevant information
- Looking at your child's record
- Asking for the input of the Centre's Medical Consultants and/or Executive Director
- Holding a team meeting to come up with a workable solution

c) *If The Problem Still Isn't Solved ...* If you still are not satisfied with the outcome, the Centre's Executive Director will work with you and the staff members involved to resolve the issue.

Joshua Myers, Executive Director

Telephone: 604.451.5511, ext 1260

E-mail: Joshua.Myers@bc-cfa.org



The Executive Director will look into your complaint and work with you to come up with a solution by:

- Talking to you on the telephone and/or meeting with you in person
- Reviewing the process that has already taken place to try to resolve the issue
- Talking to the staff member(s) involved and the Program Director
- Reviewing relevant information
- Looking at your child's health record
- Holding a team meeting to come up with a workable solution
- Asking for the input of the Centre's Medical Consultants
- Asking for the input of the Centre's Board of Directors

d) *If You Are Still Dissatisfied ...* *If talking to the Executive Director does not resolve the situation to your satisfaction within five weeks of the original complaint, the Executive Director will provide you with the contact information for the Ministry of Children and Family Development.*

IF YOU ARE SATISFIED

Positive feedback is always appreciated and helps us to build on our strengths in meeting the needs of your child/youth and family. For example, we would like to hear if our groups and workshops are meaningful and useful to you, or if you have been provided with outstanding services (e.g. has our training or service helped to improve your child/youth's quality of life or has it helped strengthen your family relationships).

Feedback Surveys and Evaluations

In addition to the ongoing feedback that you provide to us, BCCFA will also ask for your input at other times during your involvement with us as you use the various services provided. We will do this by asking you to complete a short questionnaire or evaluation following:

- your attendance at a BCCFA workshop or event
- your child/youth's participation in any of the "Group" opportunities offered by BCCFA; or,
- other times throughout the year to find out about your experience with the BCCFA programs

We believe it is very important to evaluate our services on a regular basis. Feedback that we have received in the past has enabled us to make changes that have improved the quality of BCCFA programs. Therefore, we hope that you will provide us with open and honest feedback when we contact you. Your assistance with this is most appreciated.

BCCFA conducts annual Coaching and Development Performance reviews of its entire staff. Feedback is gathered from a variety of sources in order to obtain a comprehensive picture of each staff's overall job performance. Families are one of these sources, and they may be asked to provide feedback about a certain staff member. Families are contacted to provide feedback because a particular staff person has indicated them to be a source of feedback. The Program does not randomly call families to obtain information about staff performance.



Who Might Be on Your Team

Service Providers from Community Agencies

With your consent, BCCFA Program Coordinators can work in partnership with other professionals in the community who are providing support and services to your child/youth and family. Very often, your child/youth may receive services from a team consisting of members from several different agencies to make sure that all his/her needs are being addressed. These could include:

- School Teams (e.g. principal, teacher(s), educational assistants, and district resource staff)
- Ministry of Children and Family Development
- Children & Youth with Support Needs
- Child & Youth Mental Health
- Key Worker
- Early Intervention Therapy Program*
- Key Worker Support Services*
- Supported Child Development (Burnaby & Vancouver)*

*There are many separate and distinct programs at the BCCFA. They all have their own referral and consent processes. We do not share information between programs without your consent.



Resources for Your Child/Youth and Family

Library

BCCFA has a variety of resources on topics related to supporting children/youth with complex developmental behavioural conditions. These are available for families and community service providers and include hand-outs, pamphlets, articles, books, and videos. Some are available for individuals to take and keep while others are available on an “on loan” basis. Please speak to the staff for more information on resources that may best suit your needs.

Parent Education Opportunities at the BCCFA

BCCFA Psychosocial Programs provides a variety of workshops and training opportunities throughout the year. We organize them to help meet the needs that families have identified. For example, advocating for your child, talking to others about your child, school planning, etc.

Interpretation Services

We can bring in interpreters and translation services when needed. They can attend appointments and meetings with your team or help you understand our written documents. These services are provided at no cost to families.

Our BCCFA Website

Our website contains great information, updates, articles, etc. We encourage you to check it out at www.bc-cfa.org.

Annual Events

The BCCFA hosts an annual fun fair for families. This gives families an opportunity to come out and participate in fun activities and socialize with others.

Family Networking

It can sometimes be helpful to talk to another family who has experienced a similar situation. We can help connect you with other families.

