



Canadian First Nations International Guest Speakers in Aotearoa New Zealand

Alcohol Healthwatch is very pleased to be able to bring to Aotearoa New Zealand, Jenelle & Jordan McMillan. Jenelle is a community educator and counsellor from Canada who specialises in the topic of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD). During her 2009 visit, Jenelle will share her extensive knowledge and experience of FASD from the perspective of an educator skilled in the teachings of Canadian First Nations, and her personal journey as a birth mother of a son born affected by prenatal alcohol exposure. Jenelle's son Jordan, now 18 years of age, will also be presenting on his experience of living with a FASD.

Among Jenelle's extensive professional experience are:

- FAS Counsellor/Program Director for the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre (1995-2002)
- Hey Way Noqu Healing Circle for Addictions FAS Counsellor/Educator (2000 – 2002)
- First Nations Urban Community Society FASD Community Support Worker (2002 – 2003)
- Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centre's special report titled "Aboriginal Approaches to FAS/FAE" (2002)
- Manitoba Youth Centre, Workshops for the youth.
- Educating Youth on FASD presentations to students 10 – 18 years of age 60 – 80 workshops per year (2005 – 2009)
- Author of a Prevention Series for school aged children.
- Author of a training Manual for the Association of BC First Nations Treatment Centre's and Community Health Associates of BC (2005)
- Author of a manual for FASD strategies for Aboriginal Headstart Programs (2007)
- Author of the Training for Trainers FASD Manual and Student Handbook, pending publishing via Health Canada (2008/2009).
- FASD introductory and training presentations for Frontline Workers and private consultations.

The hui/workshops with Jenelle McMillan will have a focus on Whanau ora. They form part of the continuing efforts to raise community awareness and action to more effectively prevent the harm associated with alcohol use during pregnancy. The series of hui lead up to International FASD Awareness Day (FASDAY) which is marked around the world on the 9th of September every year. In Aotearoa New Zealand the community gets behind the efforts of the Fetal Alcohol Network New Zealand (FANNZ) to bring the issue to the attention of the general public. FANNZ is coordinated by Alcohol Healthwatch to provide a communication and information network for people with an interest in FASD www.fan.org.nz

“Alcohol & Pregnancy and Its Implications for Whanau Ora”

Jenelle & Jordan McMillan.

Several seminars/workshops have been planned for Jenelle’s visit. These include:

Thursday 30th July 9.30 – 3.30pm: A one day community hui at the Kai-a-Te-Mata Marae, Morinsville in association with Ngati Haua o Tainui. For further information and registrations contact Ngaire Dixon Te Ahu [Tel: (07)8893457, Email: ngaire.teahurei@xtra.co.nz]

Friday 31st July 12.30pm – 3.30pm: An afternoon meeting at the Western Community Centre, 46 Hyde Ave, Nawton, Hamilton, for families affected by FASD and the service providers they engage with. No registration necessary.

Mon & Tues 3-4 August: A two day workforce skill workshop at Whare Wananga O Otago, 10 Foyle Street, Waitati, Otago, in association with Mirror Counselling Services [Tel: 03 4792 970, Email: mirror.counselling@xtra.co.nz]

Thursday August 13th 9.00am – 4.00pm: A one day community hui at Manurewa Marae, Findlayson Ave, Manurewa, in association with Raukura Hauora O Tainui. [For further information and registrations contact Todd Bell at Alcohol Healthwatch 9137547, Email: todd@ahw.org.nz]

Tuesday August 18th 9.30am – 3.30pm: A one day community hui at Kingston House, Hone heke Road Kerikeri Bay of Islands in association with Northland District Health Board. For further information and registration contact Dave Hookway Tel: 09 430-4101 ext 7895, Email: Dave.Hookway@northlanddhb.org.nz

Who should attend: This presentation/workshop will be suitable for anyone in the community with an interest in reducing alcohol-related harm and in particular the prevention of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASDs). Primarily however, the event is aimed at increasing the awareness and knowledge of those in the health and social services workforce working alongside individuals/whanau and tamariki so they may better recognize and respond effectively to the risk and outcome from prenatal alcohol exposure.

Cost: No Charge. Alcohol Healthwatch Trust is sponsoring Jenelle and Jordan to New Zealand and together with local organizations hosting the hui, costs will be covered.

RSVP: Essential as capacity is limited.

If you would like further information contact Christine Rogan, Coordinator of the Fetal Alcohol Network New Zealand 09 520 7037 or email christine@ahw.org.nz or refer to the Alcohol Healthwatch website.