

## About Sunny Hill

Sunny Hill Health Centre for Children is a provincial facility offering specialized services to children with disabilities, their families and communities throughout British Columbia. Using a family-centred approach, Sunny Hill helps promote the healthy development of children and youth by supporting families and community service providers in their efforts. It is also a resource for educational services and information about disabilities. Services are delivered close to home in a child's community, or on site at Sunny Hill, located in Vancouver.

## How To Contact Us

**Sunny Hill Health Centre For Children**  
Positioning and Mobility Team Leader  
3644 Slocan Street, Vancouver, BC V5M 3E8  
Phone: (604) 453-8327  
Fax: (604) 453-8309  
[www.bcchildrens.ca](http://www.bcchildrens.ca)  
[www.seatingandmobility.ca](http://www.seatingandmobility.ca)

*Promoting Better Health for Children with Disabilities  
through Clinical Services, Education and Research*



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## About The Positioning And Mobility Team

The Positioning and Mobility team provides positioning and mobility services to meet the needs of British Columbia's children with neuromotor disabilities.

The team performs assessments, provides equipment and follow-up services, and conducts educational, research and development activities. Clinical and technical services are available at Sunny Hill, and in the children's home communities.



2. **BC Brain Injury Association**  
218-6th Street  
New Westminster, BC V3L 3A2

Telephone: (604) 520-3221 or 1-800-510-3221  
After Hours Emergency Telephone: (604) 589-3174  
Fax: (604) 520-3206

The BC Brain Injury Association's services include a support group for people who have a brain injury, as well as their family and friends. The association provides support, advice, education and friendship. You can call them for information about group meeting times and locations within the Lower Mainland.

3. **BC Coalition of People with Disabilities**  
204-456 West Broadway  
Vancouver, BC V5Y 1R3

Telephone: (604) 875-0188  
TTY: (604) 875-8835  
Fax: (604) 875-9227

This coalition is a self-help, province-wide umbrella group representing all people with disabilities. Through the Advocacy Access Team, it provides group and individual advocacy, information and referrals. It also sponsors self-help projects. You may want to subscribe to its Transition Magazine, available at a cost of \$10 for an annual subscription of ten issues.

4. **Advocacy Access Team**  
*Address as above*

Telephone: (604) 872-1278 or 1-800-663-1278  
Fax: (604) 875-9227

This team assists people with disabilities to apply for BC Disability Benefits. Advocates also work with clients on appeals and other disability-related issues including housing and equipment. The team is funded by the Law Foundation of BC.

## Support And Advocacy Groups For Adults With Developmental Or Other Disabilities

There are many support and advocacy groups in the community that can help your child during and after the transition into adulthood.

You'll find that every group has its own philosophy. That's why it's a good idea for you and your child to explore a number of groups to make sure you find one that matches your own ideas and goals. If the first group you contact doesn't meet your expectations, don't worry – you can always try another.

The following is a brief listing of groups that specialize in services and advocacy for individuals with disabilities.

### 1. BC Association for Community Living (BCACL)

300-30 East 6th Avenue  
Vancouver, BC V5T 4P4

Telephone: (604) 875-1119

Fax: (604) 875-6744

E-mail: [info@bcacl.org](mailto:info@bcacl.org)

Website: [www.bcacl.org](http://www.bcacl.org)

BCACL is a nonprofit association which advocates for people with developmental disabilities and their families. The association acts as a resource for local associations throughout BC that provide educational workshops, publications, resources and advocacy services.



**Sunny Hill Health Centre** is committed to ensuring that your child's transition from child to adult positioning and mobility services is smooth and efficient. This booklet provides useful information to families whose children are nearing the time when they will make the transition from child-centred to adult-oriented positioning and mobility services.

## What Are The Goals Of Transition?

We will work with you and your child to ensure that:

- There are no gaps in service as your child matures into a young adult
- All vital information is transferred from child services to adult health care providers
- You and your child will receive all the help and guidance you need at every step along the transition process

## What You Will Find In This Booklet

- A timeline of key milestones in the transition process
- A guide to changes in equipment funding when children become adults
- A list of community agencies that provide positioning and mobility services for adults
- A list of support and advocacy groups for adults with developmental or other disabilities

## The Transition Timeline

The following timeline is designed to show you exactly what service transition events occur as your child matures into adulthood.

### Age 15

- The transition process begins. Sunny Hill sends a letter to you and your child on his or her 15th birthday.
- Two months later, Sunny Hill will make a follow-up phone call, to ensure you received the letter.
- At the first appointment after the 15th birthday, a Sunny Hill therapist will discuss the transition process with both you and your child. Personal and living goals that your child expects to reach by age 19 will be discussed.

### Age 17

- Your child applies for a social insurance number (SIN) and BCID card.
- All positioning and mobility arrangements should be thoroughly reviewed. If it appears that a wheelchair will need to be replaced or alternative positioning devices will be needed within the year, the process should start now, as it is easier to secure funding as a child.
- At age 17 years, 8 months, your child will apply for Disability Benefits. There's more information on how this works later in this booklet.



### 3. Access Community Therapists

4412 West 12th Ave.  
Vancouver, BC V6R 2R2

Telephone: (604) 943-0207

E-mail: joanne@accesstherapists.com

Website: www.accesstherapists.com

**Contact:** Jo-Anne Chisholm

ACT has a province-wide contract to provide services for clients who are followed by Health Services for Community Living (HSCL). It has a limited contract for clients followed by Continuing Care. You'll need a referral to ACT from an HSCL therapist or nurse, or a Continuing Care therapist or nurse. ACT will also see clients on a private fee-for-service basis. If a client has a trust fund (through ICBC, WCB or a medical malpractice settlement) they can contact ACT directly to set up a contract.

### 4. G.F. Strong Rehabilitation Centre

4255 Laurel Street  
Vancouver, BC V6R 2R2

Telephone: (604) 737-6291

Website: www.vanhosp.bc.ca/rehab

**Contact:** Admissions Coordinator

- G.F. Strong requires a doctor's referral for clients who want to be seen in their seating clinic
- Clients must be adolescent or older, and have a physical or neurological disability

## Community Agencies That Provide Positioning And Mobility Services For Adults

Adult services can be accessed through the following community agencies:

### 1. Continuing Care

Look under “Health Authorities” in the Blue Pages of the telephone book for the Continuing Care office in your health region.

- Continuing Care sees clients who are 19 years of age or older, with an IQ of greater than 70
- Continuing Care therapists provides services themselves, or in some areas of BC they may refer clients to Access Community Therapists (ACT)

### 2. Health Services for Community Living (HSCL)

In some areas, HSCL is located in the Continuing Care office. In other areas, it is in the Community Health Centre office. The location of both of these offices in your region can be found in the Blue Pages of your phone book.

- HSCL sees clients who are 19 years or older, have a developmental disability and an IQ of 70 or below
- A number of HSCL therapists provide services themselves, or they may refer requests for more complex seating and mobility equipment to Access Community Therapists (ACT)



## Age 18

- Your child will begin receiving Disability Benefits.
- Funding for your child’s equipment now occurs through a Financial Assistance Worker (FAW).
- Your child’s Sunny Hill therapist will contact an adult positioning and mobility therapist to set up a meeting.
- Your child’s Sunny Hill therapist will write a discharge summary, containing a brief medical history and information about the seating systems, wheelchairs or other positioning equipment your child uses.

## Age 19

- Your child is formally discharged from Sunny Hill.

## Funding For Equipment

When your child turns 18, funding for equipment will change. Your child will no longer receive funding through governmental children's services such as the At Home Program, but instead will receive funding through adult services.

You must remember that **this funding change does not happen automatically**. You and your child need to apply for new funding. If you do not do this before your child turns 18, then there may be a delay in the funding you need for equipment, medical supplies or other health services.

The adult benefits program is called Disability Benefits. To make an application, your child must have his/her own social insurance number (SIN). This can be applied for at age 17. Look in the Blue Pages of the telephone directory under "Government of Canada – Social Insurance Numbers" for more information.

Your child will also need to get a BCID card. This can be applied for with parental consent any time after age 12. The card costs \$35 and can take several weeks to process. Your child will need to have two pieces of identification, including a birth certificate or other proof of Canadian citizenship or residency. BCID cards are issued at any Driver Licensing Office – they're listed in the Blue Pages.



Four months' prior to your child's 18th birthday, he or she can apply for Disability Benefits. The forms are available at the BC Ministry of Social Development and Economic Security – Employment Benefits Centre. Again, consult your Blue Pages for the Centre nearest you.

Once your child has been accepted into the Disability Benefits program, he/she will receive a letter stating who his/her Financial Assistance Worker (FAW) will be, and where they can be contacted. All requests for equipment and medical supplies are sent to the FAW.

Most children seen at Sunny Hill will qualify for Disability Benefits, but there are a few exceptions:

- Children who have received an ICBC settlement
- Children who have won a medical malpractice settlement
- Children who have received a WCB settlement

In these cases, requests for equipment made after the child turns 18 will continue to be sent to the public trustee who manages the child's trust fund.