

Continued from page 72

next to the mattress, I heard a knock at the door. I went downstairs and was confused to find one girl's father at the door. Somehow, she had maneuvered her Apple watch under the sheets to conceal the light and sent an emergency sleepover pickup SOS text. She later described to me how the process was additionally complicated when she learned that her mom "had gone out with the ladies for sushi, so she knew she'd be drinking sake, so she also had to text her dad." With ninja speed, the little girl came down the stairs, bag packed, and was out the door.

"Okay! Bye! I'll bring your cookies to school on Monday!" I called after her.

"There's no nuts allowed at school," she promptly reminded me, and closed the car door.

When I asked my daughter if she thought I was a good mom for hosting a sleepover, she told me I was "pretty okay." In her experience, the best of the moms was the one who let them push the cart at Ikea before they got to lick envelopes and put the stamps on Christmas cards. It appears that the MOTY competition is fierce this year. I am thinking of buying a puppy. ■

—Caitlin Dunne, MD, FRCSC

References

1. Dunne C. Does working part-time mean I've failed as a feminist? *BCMj* 2023;65:277.
2. Dunne C. Gratitude—the Christmas gift that keeps on giving. *BCMj* 2022;64:420.
3. FakeNewsPapers.com. Fake newspaper article: Local mother wins "mother of the year." Accessed 22 February 2024. <https://fakenewspapers.com/products/fake-joke-newspaper-article-local-mother-wins-mother-of-the-year>.

Letters to the editor

We welcome original letters of less than 500 words; we may edit them for clarity and length. Letters may be emailed to journal@doctorsofbc.ca or submitted online at bcmj.org/submit-letter and must include your city or town of residence, telephone number, and email address. Please disclose any competing interests.

Re: Stop, collaborate, and listen

Thank you, Dr Chahal, for your editorial "Stop, collaborate, and listen" [*BCMj* 2024;66:5]. I would suggest that many of us in family medicine and beyond have been doing this for many years, and now that we have the Longitudinal Family Physician Payment Model, we can dust off some of the projects we've dreamed about for years that stalled and failed due to inadequate remuneration.

Here in Victoria, we have been collaborating and listening since the formation of the Victoria Division of Family Practice 13 years ago. We started with great excitement and ambition, and our community benefited enormously from the new collegiality. How many meetings did I attend in which family physicians were paid by the Ministry of Health to sit down to collaborate with each other, our specialist colleagues, and our health authority? Unfortunately, as the years rolled by, it became apparent that many of the wonderful ideas and projects that we created could not be sustained. The basic element of remuneration to sustain the time to communicate was missing, even if we painstakingly (and expensively) managed to make changes to the system to enable this communication. There was no investment in sustainable action.

For example, my colleagues and I created a care transitions committee 13 years ago to address the communication gaps our patients experience as they transition into and out of acute care. For the last 8 years we have worked with our health authority and EMR vendors to create the primary care provider patient summary, a

document created by primary care physicians and uploaded into the hospital EMR. To incentivize the work, our Shared Care Committee funder paid family physicians a modest fee to create these thoughtful documents. The summaries flowed for three iterations over 7 years, and we collected good data, which showed their value to patient care.

The bad news is that, despite our best efforts, we could not find a way to sustain remuneration of this work under the fee-for-service model. When the money dried up, the summaries stopped flowing, and they currently remain at a trickle. The new Longitudinal Family Physician Payment Model has given us hope, and my colleagues and I are working with BC's Digital Health Strategy to create a provincial system that will allow this sort of information exchange for everyone.

I imagine there are many collaborative projects around BC that can now be dusted off, revitalized, and hopefully sustained. I look forward to hearing what they may be!

—Lisa Veres, MD
Victoria

Doctors Helping Doctors 24 hrs/day, 7 days/week

If something is on your mind, give us a call at 1-800-663-6729 or visit www.physicianhealth.com.

