

Devlin, Allan (CSS)

From: Espina, Aida (CSS) on behalf of Wiener, Myra (CSS)
Sent: December 3, 2004 10:08 AM
To: Beekenkamp, Sara (CSS)
Cc: McKnight, Susan (CSS)
Subject: FW: Transforming Services in Ontario for people who have a developmental disability

-----Original Message-----

From: Melanie Kitchen [mailto:makitchen@rogers.com]
Sent: December 2, 2004 10:11 PM
To: Sandra Papatello; Myra Wiener; Keith Powell; Jan Burke-Gaffney; Helen Dionne; Ernie Parsons
Subject: RE: Transforming Services in Ontario for people who have a developmental disability

We hope that it is not too late for our response to "Transforming Services in Ontario" to be considered by the Joint Ministry/Developmental Services Partnership Table.

Sincerely,

Community Explorers Family Group

**June, John & Ashley Ferguson
 Janet, Bill & Matthew Tataryn**

**Faye, Mike & Alayne Schofield
 Melanie, Ron & Melissa Kitchen**

RE: Transforming Services in Ontario for people who have a developmental disability

The following response is a submission from a family group in Durham. We are a group of five families who have been meeting regularly for the past two years. We come together in order to support one another to plan for the next major transition in the lives of our sons and daughters; moving out of the family home into homes of their own. Our sons and daughters are meeting together as well so that they may explore home-style options, in a peer-support environment where they are supported to share their concerns and discoveries regarding this next step in adulthood.

- 1. What should be the roles and responsibilities of different parts of society in supporting individuals who have a developmental disability?**

Just like all people in our society, we all have responsibilities toward one another. Citizenship should be universal. Persons who are labeled with a disability should be effectively supported to participate fully in their role as a community member and citizen.

- 2. What strategies and resources would help individuals receive seamless supports throughout their lives, including points of transition?**

The ministry should endeavor to provide universal, full and individualized support, as needed. Full support should be equitable and available to all individuals and families. Extra support should be easily and readily available during all major life transitions and any crisis. All support should be individualized, adequate to each person, flexible and portable.

The type of disability should not be of any relevance as it is only support requirements that need to be addressed. We should not have to address yearly applications but only as needed as per significant changes. We prefer that Agencies work with families over a lifetime and when that is not available, that there be smooth transitions between services from one agency to the next. Assistance from agencies should be there as

requested by families, not as a driving force in someone's life. That is the jurisdiction of families and others who love and care for the individual.

3. What supports and services that are currently available work well and should be built on for the future?

Special Services at Home is an individualized program that works very well because each family is providing support as directed by the needs and interests of the family member. This is the kind of individualized and portable support that has made a big difference in supporting persons to be fully functioning citizens and community members. This kind of support should be available to individuals who live away from the family home. Individualized funding is most cost-effective and has the greatest potential for best supports.

ODSP: some parts of this system work and can be worked upon. For example, the Employment support program often works well because it allows for increased personal choice. ODSP does not work because it keeps people in poverty.

4. How should a reasonable level of government funding be determined for an individual?

It should be based upon an individual plan for the person as determined and defined by family, the individual, close friends, and other interested parties.

We expect to be in partnership with an agency to ensure accountability issues concerning individualized funding.

5. Services are changing in Ontario for people who have a developmental disability. What would you like to see happen?

We would like to see an increase in support dollars so that a person can afford to hire supporters who have comparable wages and benefits in relation to similar and compatible positions.

6. What do you think are the priorities the government should address?

All services and supports are individualized, adequate, flexible and portable.

7. Is there anything else you would like to say about the ideas in the discussion paper, or ideas not included in the paper that you feel are important?

Housing is a priority in view of the trend of the growing numbers of the population seeking independent living situations. We believe that today's adults with disabilities, who have grown up in the family home, going to neighbourhood schools, who lived and played in the community should have more options than traditional group homes, long term facilities, or associated family models. (Those are not true options because of the long waiting lists.) Our children should be fully and adequately supported to acquire and maintain living situations outside the parental home that is reflective of their choice

**Community Explorers Family Group
Durham Region, Ontario**

June and John Ferguson with Ashley
1017 Moorelands Cres., Pickering ON L1W 3K3
905-509-1511 fergusonjjak@sympatico.ca

Maureen and Eugene Gmitrowicz with Sue
7183 Ashburn Rd. N., Brooklin, ON L0B 1C0
905-655-8915 eugeneg@durham.net

Melanie and Ron Kitchen with Melissa
696 Bessborough Ave., Oshawa ON L1G 4H3
905-723-4818 makitchen@rogers.com

Faye and Mike Schofield with Alayne
3030 Ritson Rd. N., Oshawa, ON L1H 7K4
905-655-3134 mschofield@idirect.com

Janet and Bill Tataryn with Matthew
54 Farrow Cres., Ajax, ON L1S 4W6
905-427-6115 tataryn.wrt@rogers.com