



News Digest

November 2013, Issue No.4

President's Message - Board Meeting Highlights

The last meeting of the OASIS Board of Directors was held in Toronto on October 30-31, 2013. The Executive Committee took part in media training and looked at how to manage crisis, and how to approach some of the challenges faced by the sector. There will be resources available to share with members in the coming weeks.

To help develop an Election Readiness Campaign, a brief survey will be sent out asking members to review a set of key messages and prioritize them in order of importance. Those messages include:

- More than 60,000 Ontarians with developmental disabilities depend on the stability of services provided through OASIS member agencies.
- It is estimated that more than 20,000 Ontarians with developmental disabilities are on waiting lists for the services provided through OASIS member agencies.
- Legislative changes can positively impact services at little cost to the government/taxpayer.

On November 13th, Board representatives will meet with Karen Chan, the newly appointed Assistant Deputy Minister of the Community & Developmental Services Division of the Ministry, to talk about our Operating Pressures Survey report.

Thanks to everyone who registered for the sold out Labour Relations Committee Information Session on November 21st in Toronto. Session topics are:

- Pay Equity
- Operating Pressures Survey Results
- MOL & PSHSA Initiative
- Labour Relations Secretariat Employer Tools
- Shared Leadership

In conjunction with the Information Session on November 21st, the Operating Pressures Survey Report will be made public, and OASIS will issue an MPP Bulletin and Press Release focusing on the Report.

The Transformation Partnership Table met in September and the Residential Housing Study Report "Ending the Wait" was presented. To read the Report, go to <http://oasisonline.ca/top-stories/ending-the-wait-an-action-agenda-to-address-the-housing-crisis-confronting-ontario-adults-with-developmental-disabilities/>

The Queen's Leadership Program will take place again in Spring, 2014. Look for details closer to the date.

The OASIS Strategic Priorities Review Committee met on October 18th to continue refining the key priorities and to develop a workplan. The Committee will continue to meet on an ongoing basis.

At the last Provincial Network meeting it was agreed that Ministry representatives will be invited to a future meeting to discuss how many agencies will soon be going into union negotiations, the implications and possible labour disruptions, and to determine if they are open to working collaboratively.

Members are always welcome at Board meetings. We welcome you to join us or contact me prior to the meeting to share your ideas and concerns. I can be reached by email at tjoris@execulink.com or by phone at 519-786-2151 ext. 5502.

Sincerely,
Jane Joris
President, OASIS

Office of the Fire Marshal

The Office of the Fire Marshal has requested feedback on two proposed regulations: *Registry and Inspections of Vulnerable Occupancies*, and *Inspections of all Buildings upon Complaint or Request for Chief Fire Official Approval*. The deadline for feedback is December 16, 2013. For further information, go to <http://oasionline.ca/top-stories/fire-marshall-seeking-feedback-on-two-proposed-regulations/>

Select Committee to Hold Public Hearings

The Select Committee on Developmental Services intends to hold public hearings, where those interested are invited to make an oral presentation to the Committee. Written submission are also welcome. For more information, click <http://oasionline.ca/top-stories/select-committee-to-hold-public-hearings/>. Members of the OASIS Board of Directors will be participating in the work of the Committee and would appreciate receiving copies of any presentations made by member agencies. This will ensure that OASIS Board member presentations are aligned with and reinforce those messages.

Provincial Network Communications Forum

The Provincial Network on Developmental Services is hosting a Communications Forum on Wednesday, November 20, 2013 in Toronto. For more information and registration form go to <http://oasionline.ca/top-stories/provincial-network-communications-forum/>

OASIS Website

The agency information on the OASIS website is extremely useful in the advocacy work of OASIS on behalf of our member agencies, their employees, and the people they support. It is particularly important that data regarding annual budgets, number of people using services and number of employees is accurate. In some cases there are member listings that show a budget of \$1, (1) person supported and (1) employee. It would be appreciated

if you would take a moment to verify your agency's information by logging in to the site and clicking the "Edit Your Agency Listing" on the right side of the page.

OASIS Scholarships

In recognition of the philanthropic/voluntary contribution of OASIS leaders, three scholarship funds were established: the President's Scholarship, the George Braithwaite Scholarship and the Gerry Sutton Scholarship. We encourage individuals in OASIS member agencies to apply for these bursaries, which will be awarded at the 2014 Conference in London. For more information and the application form, go to <http://oasisonline.ca/research-resources/scholarships/>

Discussion Board

As always, we encourage members to add their questions and comments to the Discussion Board by logging in at <http://oasisonline.ca/login-page/> and clicking the Discussion Board link on the right side of the page.

Social Media

OASIS has both Twitter and Facebook accounts. For those who use social media, we encourage you to click the links below and follow and/or friend us. It will help us to share information and raise interest from media centres, especially leading up to elections etc.

