



News Digest

October 2015, Issue No. 29

Message from the President



Michelle Marshall, Ann Kenney, Jocelyne Paul and I attended the OASIS Queens Park Information Day on Tuesday, October 20, 2015, to discuss with MPP's the issues most important to OASIS member agencies; chief among these being the strengthening of agencies, identifying the need for additional resources to meet the expenditures associated with the proposed Ontario Defined Benefit Pension Plan, formation of an inter-ministerial working group as recommended in the final report of

the Select Committee on Developmental Disability and lastly, pay equity. We were acknowledged in the house by MCSS Minister Jaczek whom we met with later in the day along with her Parliamentary Assistant, Soo Wong. Other meetings included the Minister Responsible for Women's Issues, Tracey MacCharles, who indicated that one of her top priorities was to work to resolve the pay equity issue. Senior Policy Advisor Treasury Board Secretariat Camille Gordon focused on achieving the right outcomes for people and reminded us that we should be preparing submissions for pre-budget consideration. NDP Critic for MCSS, Monique Taylor, was very supportive of our four position posters which we will be providing copies of for your use in your community when speaking with your local MPP. These are extremely effective communication tools that explain our major positions in a clear and concise manner with space for you to insert your name and contact information. Look for these to become available within the immediate future and look for photos of the day on our Web Site over the next week or so.

Our last meeting prior to our open house reception where we met our new MCSS Deputy Minister Janet Menard, was with PC Critic for MCSS, Randy Pettapiece, who is new to our sector but is fully aware of the challenges faced by families seeking services and supports and he is very interested in seeing how the budget allocation of the \$810M is being rolled out. We had a number of MPP's, Cabinet Ministers, aides and others attend the reception where Minister Jaczek was kind enough to share opening remarks. This was a very successful event and I expect that we will continue to do this on an annual basis.

This has been a very active month for OASIS as the Ministry has established three working groups in response to the Guy Mitchell inquest recommendations with respect to the Host

Family Program. OASIS has appointed Krista Haiduk-Collier (Community Living South Muskoka) – Broader Policy Issues , Judy Pryde (Community Living Burlington) – Technical Group and Michelle Marshall (The Participation House Project Durham Region) - Abuse and Harassment, to represent us on each of the three committees.

OASIS has been invited to participate in the Gender Wage Gap Consultation and insofar as this matter will significantly impact progress on the pay equity portfolio, we have appointed Bob Butella to participate on our behalf.

OASIS membership continues to grow and we are now approaching 190 OASIS Member Agencies. I am on the downward side of my Presidency here at OASIS and I can tell you that the time has flown by. The amount of work that we have accomplished and the tremendous contributions made by Volunteers and ED's is staggering. We are being approached on a monthly basis with more and more opportunities for our members to be active in decision making with government, to be participants in community programs designed to create work opportunities for supported individuals via the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, to be consulted and engaged as announcements are made with respect to new housing initiatives and to creating exciting opportunities to plan our future together via the DSAG.

The OASIS name is becoming synonymous with creative, imaginative, exciting and dynamic changes within the Developmental Services Sector. We are leading the charge and pressing for transformation that will benefit you and your agency in your local community. There is much work to be done and there are many areas that cry out for our attention but we believe we are making progress and that with your continued support there is much more that we will do, together.

The next meeting of the OASIS Board of Directors will take place on October 28-29, 2015 in Stratford. As always, members are welcome to attend 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 president@oasisonline.ca or by phone at 1-800-961-9144.

Sincerely,
L. David Barber
President, OASIS

Abilities Connect Fund – Interactive Webinar

Join us on October 26th from 1:30pm – 2:30pm EST for an interactive webinar hosted by the Ontario Chamber of Commerce to learn more about how The Abilities Connect Fund can benefit your organization.

The Abilities Connect Fund is an Accessibility Works pilot program, supported by the Government of Ontario, that aims to create a more integrated Ontario labour market and improve the career trajectory of persons with a disability.

We are lucky to be partnering with the designer of the Fund itself, the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, to get an inside perspective on the program's goals and your organization's eligibility for funding under both program streams: Valuing Abilities Employment, and Valuing Abilities Workplace Solutions.

Please RSVP by emailing Matthew Beck at Matthew.Beck@edelman.com

WHMIS 2015 eLearning

As you may be aware, Ontario is in the process of updating regulation 860 (WHMIS) to reflect the Global Harmonized System (GHS). The new system, known as WHMIS 2015, is being introduced to align Ontario's requirements for controlled products to the requirements of many countries around the world. Some of the changes WHMIS 2015 will bring include replacing symbols with pictograms and adding new pictograms, and replacing MSDS with Safety Data Sheets.

A significant component of GHS will be training. In order to help you comply with this requirement, PSHSA has just released a WHMIS 2015 eLearning program. This program can either be accessed through PSHSA's website or installed on your own Learning Management System (LMS). This eLearning is designed for all employees at all levels across all sectors. The training provides information on the new WHMIS 2015 standard as well as WHMIS 1988. This design aids learners in identifying the new requirements and changes from their previous WHMIS training while achieving compliance for both. By completing this course, Ontario workers and supervisors will be able to:

- Describe what WHMIS 2015 is and why it is important to workers
- Describe what GHS is and how it affects WHMIS 2015
- Identify the WHMIS 2015 hazard classes and symbols
- Identify the types of information covered on supplier and workplace labels
- Describe the purpose, content and function of a Safety Data Sheet (SDS)
- Describe the hazards associated with controlled products
- Describe legal rights and duties under WHMIS 2015

eLearning @ PSHSA always includes:

- User-friendly interface
- AODA compliance
- Audio narration
- Responsive design
- Built-in evaluation
- *Reporting capabilities
- *Certificate generation

*LMS driven

PSHSA is pleased to offer three convenient and reasonable pricing options, summarized below.

Option 1: \$15/user on PSHSA's Learning Management System (LMS)

Option 2: License the course for delivery on your LMS for up to 500 learners - \$2,500 one-time fee (no renewals required)

Option 3: License the course for delivery on your LMS for an unlimited number of learners - \$5,000 one-time fee (no renewals required)

Please feel free to pass this information on to your broader communities. For more information, please visit <http://www.pshsa.ca/product/whmis-2015-elearning/>.

OASIS Board Meeting Highlights – September 9-10, 2015 – Hamilton, ON

New Board Member

We are very pleased to welcome Norma Lamont as the newest member of the OASIS Board of Directors. Norma, who is also a Board member of the Ottawa Carleton Association for Persons with Developmental Disabilities (OCAPDD), brings more than 40 years of combined experience in government and healthcare to the table and will be a valuable resource for OASIS and its members.

Presentation on Frontline Workers Addressing Complex Medical Issues in People with Developmental Disabilities

Dr. Ruth Morris from the Hamilton Family Healthcare Network joined the Board meeting to discuss her experiences as a family doctor with a developmentally disabled family member, and dealing with hospitals and medical professionals. Topics of discussion included communication, rights and responsibilities, patient centred care and next steps.

Rotman School of Management

The Ministry has approved another course at the Rotman School of Management to start on October 19th, 2015 and run until October 19th, 2016. Once again, the registration fee of \$12,500 will be covered by the Ministry of Community and Social Services. We are most grateful to the Ministry for their support of this valuable education opportunity.

Developmental Services Advisory Group

One of the key deliverables from the Developmental Services Advisory Group (DSAG) is a Comprehensive Compensation Survey which will be funded by the Ministry. A sub-Committee has been established to work on development of the Survey and the Call for Proposals.

Governance Webinar Series

OASIS is working with a Consulting firm to develop a 5-part Governance Webinar Series for members. It is anticipated the first module will be available in January 2016 and will culminate with a final bonus webinar for agency Board Members and Executive Directors to take place at the 2016 Conference in Niagara Falls.

Looking for Committee Members

The OASIS Communications Committee is seeking 2 volunteer members who have a keen interest in sharing their skills to help us raise the profile of the developmental sector. Together this committee helps OASIS create empowering messages and provides

timely responses to industry announcements etc. As a successful applicant you would bring working knowledge with social media, possess strong written skills and have demonstrated experience in creating and implementing strategic communication strategies. If you would like to find out more about how you can volunteer and join this committee please forward your expression of interest to Amanda Brown by end of business on Monday, November 9th, 2015.

