



News Digest

September 2014, Issue No.18

Message from the President

In our recent meeting with ADM Karen Chan and Director Sal Marrello, it was made abundantly clear that MCSS is fully committed to expanding their presence in our communities to provide assistance as the new funding rolls out and changes to Passport are introduced. As you are no doubt aware, regional meetings are being scheduled around the Province to help agencies prepare for the changes that are coming. In addition, OASIS is planning for a late fall, early winter 2014 consultation in order to share with our members how you may best organize yourself and your agency for the impending changes. Our expectation is that MCSS will participate and that valuable information will be shared therein, enabling you to take advantage of the many opportunities that will be forthcoming.

Change is inevitable and how we do business as agencies is about to change drastically over the next few years. In order to respond to the needs of our communities, it will be necessary for us to more actively market our services and supports. We will need to reach further into the community than we have ever done before and we will need to develop mutually beneficial relationships with the Regional DSO that places agencies in the forefront of available service providers. We have the training, the accreditation, the quality control, the health and safety standards and the commitment to the people we support to enable them to achieve the best possible outcomes.

You do not need to go through this alone. Agencies should, as they have previously, turn to their peers, colleagues and associates in their region to investigate their collaborative capacities, celebrate their leaders of change, and draw upon the facilitators and/or assistants who can help in the creation of networks. All of which will help meet the demands of a new system responsive to the continuation of the transformation of services and the introduction of the new funding mechanisms. This could include menus of service, billing systems, marketing materials and social media exposure that would create a level playing field for all partners in your community and a potential single point of access for families to choose the service and/or supports that best meets their needs. You are only limited by your imagination, as to what will work best for your agency.

We at OASIS expect to consult with you our members to find the best means possible to continue to build strong, resourceful, effective and efficient agencies. We will do this by investigating and sharing with you any opportunities and all options that present themselves.

The next meeting of the OASIS Board of Directors will take place on October 29-30, 2014 in Woodstock. 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

Will You Be Ready?

With many updates and much change “coming down the pipe” it is important that we take the time to make sure that our communications and updates reach the necessary target audiences.

As such we are asking our members to assist in the following ways;

- Revisit your agency profile on our website to ensure that the names and contact information included there is current and inclusive of all key persons from within your agency
- Include and/or update your information for the following list serves;
 - Board list serve should include your Board Chair’s contact information
 - Finance list serve should include your Finance person’s contact information
 - HR list serve should include your Human Resource person’s contact information
- Please share and circulate the Digest with your Local Planning Tables, Boards of Directors, Senior Staff
- Plan to attend one of our upcoming Board of Director Meetings to learn firsthand about the efforts and work being done
 - share your local challenges, successes and feedback
 - keep current and familiar with trends, risks and advancements within the sector
 - network and build your social capital
 - find out how you can offer your expertise to help us help the sector

Your Feedback is Needed

A small task group led by OASIS Board member, Allan Mills, will be established to review and update the OASIS website. This task group is yet to be created. We would like to hear from you suggestions for improvements to the OASIS website. Please forward these to amills@christian-horizons.org.

Interim Deputy Minister

Following the retirement announcement of Deputy Minister Marg Rappolt, Bohodar Rubashewsky has been appointed as Interim Deputy Minister of MCSS effective October 8, 2014. Mr. Rubashewsky has served as Assistant Deputy Minister with MCSS in a range of capacities for the past 14 years, and is a proven champion of service innovation and is a strategic change leader. We look forward to working with him in the near future.

September Board Meeting Highlights

Meeting with Assistant Deputy Minister, Karen Chan

Several members of the Board of Directors had an opportunity to meet recently with Assistant Deputy Minister, Karen Chan and Director, Service Delivery & Supports, Sal Mareello. A summary of the third Operating Pressures Survey report was discussed, along with the new direct funding, the Employment Modernization fund, and Workforce Stability.

Every Canadian Counts

The Every Canadian Counts working group will be travelling around the province to meet with stakeholder groups and concerned citizens to discuss the future of disability supports in Canada. A meeting will take place in the Greater Toronto Area on Thursday, October 23, 2014 from 6:00pm – 8:00pm. Another will take place in Kitchener on October 28, 2014 from 6:30pm – 9:00pm. To attend the session on October 28th, please register by going to <http://eccwrmeeting.eventbrite.com>. This event is free of charge and is open to agencies, families, individuals with disabilities, community groups, concerned citizens - anyone who wants to learn more about Every Canadian Counts, an emerging coalition for a national solution. If you are interested in having the working group meet in your region, please send your coordinates (name, town/city, email address) to info@everycanadiancounts.com.

Members are also encouraged to visit the ECC website and take the pledge to be a Supporter of Every Canadian Counts. Please spread the word to your staff, families, stakeholders etc. You could also add the link (<http://everycanadiancounts.com/>) to your agency website.

Labour Relations

The Labour Relation Committee continues to participate in Workforce Stability discussions, and has requested meetings with the new Minister of Labour to discuss Pay Equity, and Minister Yasir Naqvi to discuss Fire Code ramifications. The final revision of the third Operating Pressures Survey report will be available for distribution in the coming weeks.

Communications and Public Relations

The Communications and Public Relations Committee is working with Edelman Public Affairs (formerly the Devon Group) to develop next steps for increasing brand recognition and heightening the profile of OASIS and its members with government.

Welcome New Members

The Board of Directors welcomed a new member at the September meeting, Sunbeam Residential Support Centre in Kitchener. This brings the current membership to 177 organizations.

OASIS Conference 2017

Coinciding with OASIS' 20-year anniversary and in conjunction with Canada's 150th birthday, the 2017 OASIS Conference will be held in the nation's beautiful capital – Ottawa.



Introducing OASIS Board Member, Michelle Marshall

Michelle Marshall has worked within the Developmental Disability sector for greater than 20 years in a variety of settings and regions throughout the province. Michelle is currently serving as the Executive Director at the Participation House Project (Durham region) and has held this position for the past 11 years.

In addition to providing leadership in her MCSS appointed role as Regional Co-Chair of the Central East Region Planning Table, Michelle has committed to provide extensive hours of volunteerism on a Provincial level to help do her part in shaping and transforming the sector. Michelle has carried out these efforts as part of the OASIS Board of Directors Team for the past 4 years, with her most current positions of Vice President-Executive Director for OASIS, Chair of the OASIS Communications and Public Relations Committee and member of the Provincial Network's Communications Committee.

On a personal note, life balance is of utmost importance in helping her to manage the demands of her career and job, so close and regular connection with friends and family is always a priority. This priority is a challenge in-and-of-itself given that she is the parent of two busy, expensive-teenagers who enjoy their hockey and outdoor sports. Michelle's "taxi" can usually be located at one of your local hockey arenas so keep your eyes peeled and if she is spotted be sure to join in and help cheer on her teams!

OASIS 2015 Conference

OASIS will be holding their 18th Conference and Annual General Meeting, which will be held May 6 – 8, 2015, at the beautiful Sheraton Parkway North Hotel located in Richmond Hill, Ontario. The Faith & Culture Inclusion Network (FCIN) is your host of this year's OASIS conference. FCIN is composed of people from faith based agencies across Canada supporting individuals with developmental disabilities. They are committed to engaging faith and cultural organizations, families, government, and community leaders towards accessibility and innovation by promoting inclusion for people with developmental disabilities in all walks of life. The 2015 Conference will be an opportunity to learn, grow, and develop new skills, and of course, network with your colleagues in the developmental sector! Expand your knowledge base, share insight and best practices that will inspire and motivate members of your staff and empower the people with special needs at the heart of your organizations. Save the Date and stay tuned for more reasons why you should attend OASIS 2015!



Call for Presentations

FCIN is committed to engaging the most relevant, interesting and informative presenters for OASIS 2015 as well as exciting and exhilarating entertainers. The goal is to educate, inspire and stimulate the “movers and shakers” of agencies across Canada who work towards making that important difference in the lives of the individuals that they support.

We invite you to submit your proposal for sharing your valuable expertise with your colleagues by following the submission process outlined here:

<http://oasionline.ca/uncategorized/oasis-conference-2015-call-for-presentations/>.

Submission deadline: October 15th 2014

Invitation for Sponsorship

OASIS (Ontario Agencies Supporting Individuals with Special Needs) is pleased to invite your firm to participate in the 18th Conference and Annual General Meeting, which will be held May 6-8, 2015. As Ontario’s pre-eminent event for senior executives in this service sector, the OASIS conference brings together the province’s leading organizations.

Approximately 350 CEO’s, Executive Directors, Senior Managers and Board Members will participate in this event and Annual General Meeting. Join us as a Conference 2015 partner. See our Sponsorship levels and Exhibits Prospectus here: <http://oasionline.ca/top-stories/oasis-conference-2015-prospectus-and-exhibit-program/>.

