



OASIS Board Highlights

As a companion to our ongoing publications, we have launched a new feature that will be emailed to members and posted online on OASIS' website after each Board of Directors meeting. It covers some of the key highlights and presentations made at its meetings. If you are interested in or have questions about these items, please contact a Board Member (see Board list) or Monica Zeballos-Quiben, Executive Coordinator Consultant.

The functions of the Board of Directors are as follows:

- To articulate the mission, vision, values, principles, strategic priorities and overall direction of OASIS
 - To develop policies to establish a framework for the actions and decisions of OASIS
 - To monitor the effectiveness, quality, efficiency and financial stability of OASIS as a means of ensuring accountability to the OASIS members
 - To promote the needs of its member agencies and the developmentally disabled
 - To promote effective governance through board recruitment, orientation, development and evaluation
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The Board of Directors met on:
December 6-7, 2017 in Hamilton, ON

Next meeting:
January 17-18, 2018 in Hamilton, ON

Membership Update

OASIS supports a total of 196 member agencies. To view a list and member agencies map, click [here](#). Children's services agencies have expressed an interest in OASIS membership. The Board has agreed to expand membership to include children's agencies as many of the issues are similar and many of our existing members provide children's services. This would be a value add to the organization.

OASIS Go Local Campaign

Through the use of a multi-pronged approach that has been created in consultation with our subject experts at Edelman Public Relations and with input from the Provincial Network Ad-Hoc group and Community Living Ontario we are calling on agencies to come together, participate and strengthen our UNIFIED voice. Phase 3 of the GO Local campaign is calling on ALL agencies to seek out meetings with their local politicians, provincial, municipal, elected officials and candidates to raise awareness of the 4 Critical Issues debilitating our sector and as they relate to the 3 Pillars: [Community Agencies Matter](#), [People Matter](#) and [Collaboration Matters](#). The [GO Local toolkit](#), [materials and presentations](#) shared at November 22 information session have been posted to the OASIS website for your review and information.

Social Media Campaign

Back in November we initiated a social media campaign. The message of this campaign is to SHARE #DevelopmentalServicesMatter as a call to action. To broaden the reach and provide families, employees and people with developmental disabilities the opportunity to SHARE in this awareness campaign we have created social media posts on the [OASIS Facebook](#) page and [OASIS Twitter](#) account. Please go to

these pages, LIKE, RETWEET or SHARE the post then SHARE your story. Your story will strengthen the message by providing a face to the need and help create a ground swell of necessity for a response from Government that is appropriate and that meets our needs. If you have videos and testimonials that highlight why developmental services matter or statistics that highlight how multiple years of underfunding have effected your agency this is where you SHARE them.

Look out for our next media posts on January 15 and 18, 2018

OASIS 2020 – Strategic Goals and Priorities

We are pleased to present OASIS 2020 to our member agencies and other stakeholders. It is OASIS' path forward to a more focused and sustainable future. We will continue to collaborate with all stakeholders – our members, our partners, and government ministries – to discuss our value and our shared future supporting people with special needs in Ontario. The strategic report can be found on the website ([click here.](#))

Funding Announcement

Over the past month, OASIS, Community Living Ontario and the Provincial Network have been advocating for funding related to the costs of implementing Bill 148. On December 21, 2017, we announced that the government heard our concerns and have made a significant investment in the sector for the fourth quarter of this year. The Ontario Government will be investing \$24.3 million in 2017-18 to support the community and developmental services sector. This will be base funding for agencies as well as a top up for those receiving Passport or Special Services at Home.

This announcement is only the beginning of the investment related to Bill 148 with additional phases in April 2018 and January 1, 2019. The impacts of Bill 148 are a government responsibility as identified by the Ministry and the Ministry will continue to work with OASIS and others to assist in addressing the ongoing pressures we all face. A letter was sent to the Partners regarding this funding announcement and can be viewed [here](#).

We would like to thank the Minister for listening to our concerns and for the initial investment which will enable agencies to commence implementation of Bill 148. We recognize and appreciate their efforts but further discussions are needed to determine how investments get allocated. The investment is a first step in addressing the real costs created by Bill 148 but the reality is community agencies continue to face critical issues:

1. No increase in base funding for 9+ years
2. Pay equity is a broken system and the lack of resources has resulted in reduced services, created financial liabilities and still leaves many agencies with outstanding pay equity plans.
3. New legislation (Bill 148/Bill 145) without funding will create further reduction in available supports for individuals and families while reducing local employment opportunities.
4. People continue waiting for service
5. Over 100 agencies will be entering labour negotiations as contracts end March 31.

Our community agencies are committed to the individuals and families they support but do need an effective partnership and realistic funding from Government. At the end of the day, we want these investments to strengthen our sector to build capacity for people who are receiving services, and for those who are on waiting lists.

Submission to the Standing Committee on Finance

Consultation dates have been established the week of January 15–19/18 for submissions to the Standing Committee on Finance prior to the release of the 2018 Provincial Budget. OASIS is coordinating messaging with Community Living Ontario and the Provincial Network and we will submit a written submission by the deadline of January 19, 2018. The submission will be posted on the website next week.



Game Changer is theme for OASIS 2018 and co-hosts, Community Living Essex County and Community Living Windsor are asking that you mark your calendars and pack your jeans and jerseys! OASIS Game Changer 2018 will be held at Caesars Windsor, May 2-4, 2018 and will bring together innovators, thought leaders and experts that will focus on ideas that effect a significant shift in the current manner of how we think and about the developmental services sector. Registration for the conference will open at the end of January 2018.

We hope you find this issue useful. As we continue to develop and grow the newsletter, your continued support and feedback is welcome. Feedback can be provided through this link: <https://goo.gl/forms/75FzMQsNUffZECAC2>



2017-2018 Board of Directors

We have Board Representatives in your community and invite you to contact us if you have any further questions

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Vice-President Executive Director: Michelle Marshall

Member Agency: Participation House Project (Durham Region)
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