

OASIS Business Resource Committee (OBRC)

Annual Report

April 2012– March 2013

For 2012-13 the OBRC had two major areas of focus

1. Agency networking and information sharing and
2. Ministry Networking and providing information/constructive feedback through OASIS

As part of agency networking and information sharing, OBRC sponsored and engaged with Developmental services Finance Group (DSFG) which is a provincial grass roots finance and administration group for agencies in the DS sector. As part of the sponsorship OBRC donated funds from its meeting fund to DSFG to cover their meeting costs. As part of engaging with DSFG, it provided information on the projects it was working on sought feedback and information back from DSFG for its projects

OBRC has through DSFG promoted best practices and sought feedback to provide constructive feedback to the ministry through OASIS on finance and administrative issues. It has also presented at OASIS conference on looming financial liabilities as a result of regulatory changes

Some of the best practices promoted related to

- Ongoing updates and additions to the best practice manual
- Focus on the purchasing directive and development of templates for contract management
- Development of collective strategies to manage cost pressures – one example has been working to connect the DS sector with back office purchasing groups from other sectors (health/education) so that their Vendor Of Record (VOR) could be used sparing the small DS agencies resources while at the same time providing access to group purchasing power

OBRC also developed a comprehensive report related to business issues which agencies faced from both internal and with external funders

As part of information sharing OBRC started to post its information and DSFG information on the OASIS website on the open section under OBRC resources – this has been very popular across the DS sector.

As part of networking with the ministry and providing constructive feedback, OBRC invited Ministry representatives to provide information on funding models, and VOR. CRA representatives were invited to provide information on application of HST.

OBRC tracks the various financial and legislative changes that apply to the DS sector and analyzes their financial and administrative impact. It then works with the ED representatives to turn this information into constructive feedback that OASIS can take to the senior ministry and government officials.

There was concern within the sector that utilization of RDSP was extremely low. The OBRC assisted in a project to raise awareness of the RDSP initiative, and provide assistance to the sector regarding the process for accessing RDSP. Those who could provide consent and had willing family members to act as plan holders were quickly linked to established expertise. The issue for those who can provide consent but have no plan holders is more challenging and is being looked at by the group. A legal opinion has also been sought to help guide a strategy.

As part of the Work Plan for 2012/13 OBRC undertook a review of the use of Reserves in different ministries and found that there are inconsistencies, even within the same ministry. OBRC has presented this to the OASIS Board who, in turn, advocated to MCSS on behalf of the sector. At this point the ministry has not expressed an interest in pursuing such a possibility.

In the 2012-13 fiscal year, one member departed and two new members were welcomed to the committee. A new chair was also appointed.

Rick Vander Ley of Community Living South Muskoka filled the vacant position in the North East. Linda Karnas from Community Living Chatham-Kent took over as the chair, and Rhonda Stone from Community Living Algoma, who represented the Northern region, resigned from the committee after several years of service. She was replaced by Lynn Brandt from Community Living Manitoulin. Many thanks to Rhonda for her many years of service!

With those changes the committee membership is listed below

2012-2013 Business Resource Committee Members

REGION	MEMBER	AGENCY
North	Lynn Brandt	Community living Manitoulin
North East	Rick Van der Ley	Community Living South Muskoka
Central East	Margaret Patrowicz	New Leaf
Central west/provincial	Angelica McKay	Christian Horizons
Eastern	Zull Chaggan	Kerry's Place Autism Services
Hamilton Niagara	April Papineau	Community Living Haldimand
Toronto	Flavian Pinto	Community Living Toronto

South East	Darlene Ryan	Community Living Prince Edward
South West	Linda Karnas (Chair)	Community Living Chatham-Kent
OASIS Board	Lu-Ann Cowell	Community Living Chatham-Kent
OASIS Board	John Bedell	Woodstock & District Developmental Services

OBRC is developing its work plan for 2013-14 and looks forward to another year of supporting OASIS and the Developmental Services sector.

Linda Karnas, CGA
Chair