



News Digest

August 2014, Issue No.16

Message from the President

The budget has been passed and no changes have taken place in the \$810M commitment to our sector. The Select Committee on Developmental Services has submitted their final report and it remains to be seen what the Ontario government will do to implement its recommendations. The Drummond Report was an economic road map commissioned by the Ontario government that came to many conclusions that they did not agree with and which have not been implemented. The Select Committee consulted with individuals, families and stakeholders. In some respects, the directions identified in the provincial budget reflect the concerns arising from the report including our own focus at OASIS, which has been about ending the waiting list. However, the balance of the recommendations contained in the report is a reflection of the dissatisfaction being experienced with respect to the directions being taken within the Transformation Process.

Therefore, it becomes incumbent upon the Ministry of Community and Social Services to take into consideration one of two choices in order to ensure that they are adequately meeting the needs of our community. The first being to re-examine the priorities previously identified prior to the budget and before the Select Committee Report as to the timing and allocation of resources from the \$810M commitment. The second, having been provided evidence in the report that the understanding of MCSS arising from the consultations in 2007 and 2008 and their interpretation of those discussions, is not in accord with the expected outcomes identified by individuals, families and stakeholders, it would behoove MCSS to take a moment, pause, reflect and once again consult with the community to determine if the steps they have taken so far need to be re-examined and are the priorities they have identified going forward, shared with the community.

In particular, I draw to your attention that the Select Committee on Developmental Disability stated emphatically that all of their recommendations needed to be implemented within a one year window as the need and the urgency is dire. In addition, they stated that the matter concerning Pay Equity was one that had dragged on for far too long and that the government of the day must find the courage and the imagination to deal with this most pressing issue which hangs like a millstone around the neck of every TPA in Ontario.

It is my understanding that representatives of each of the three political parties who participated in this exercise are keenly interested in meeting with the Minister of Community and Social Services to press home the importance of their recommendations.

The next meeting of the OASIS Board of Directors will take place on September 10-11, 2014 in Ottawa. 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?

In follow up to our previous digest discussion re: “Will You be Ready?” we once again reach out to our members to ensure that they are aware of the opportunities and demands for their services on the not so distant horizon.

With the budget having been passed and the promise for the \$810 million investment being realized by our sector, regional offices are gearing up to roll out the funding related to Passports and SSAH. Previous reports had stated that the timelines for eliminating the associated waiting lists would occur over a period of multiple years. Current reports and messaging from regional offices indicates a much more aggressive implementation plan that will see Phase 1 of the roll out beginning by mid-to end of August and Phase 2 beginning in October whereby the majority of the waiting lists will have been resolved by January 2015.

A few of the Challenges for Agencies and their Boards of Directors related to this infusion of funding could be;

- Readiness to provide services on a fee-for-service and/or blended-fee basis
- Education of Families to the quality assurances related to services provided through publicly funded transfer payment agencies
- Community, DSO, Passport Delivery Agency awareness of services you have to provide
- Transition to a transformed service models that is provided in partnership with other businesses/sectors, prevents duplication of services and where they are fully inclusive and community based
- Workforce stability due to current contract negotiations
- Timely intake/orientation of new participants and hiring of direct support professionals due to the erosion of administrative infrastructures over the past 5 years

Some suggestions on how you can prepare yourself to respond;

- Meet with your local MPPs asking that they advocate for investments into the infrastructure of service delivery agencies; ensuring that they understand the challenges highlighted in the OASIS Report Operating Pressures Survey <http://oasisonline.ca/top-stories/operating-pressures-survey-report-2013/> and the current number of agencies in negotiations

- Request, Share and Celebrate innovative models that have been created in line with the Priorities set out by the Transformation Agenda and where they have incorporated the recommendations of the Drummond Report for a blending of Public and Private services
- Encourage collaborative conversations at your community Planning Tables and create communication strategies that will educate, engage and promote your services to your surrounding communities, businesses and DSO/Passport Delivery Agencies

To view the Individualized Funding Worksheet for Agencies and User's Manual developed by the OASIS Business Resource Committee click this link and scroll to the bottom of the page <http://oasisonline.ca/orbc-resources/business-resource-documents/>

Select Committee Final Report

The Final Report of the all-party Select Committee on Developmental Services, Inclusion and Opportunity: A New Path for Developmental Services in Ontario, is the culmination of an intensive process of consultations and deliberations. The Committee was created in October 2013 and members came from all three of the province's political parties. They heard from more than 140 presenters at 14 public hearings across the province and received over 300 submissions.

The Committee's Interim Report, tabled in March 2014, summarized the hearings and discussed some of the challenges experienced by persons with developmental disabilities and their families. Above all, the Committee heard repeatedly that individuals and families who need developmental services and supports are in crisis. The Committee's members believe that everyone has the right to full social inclusion, and to receive the services and supports they need without delay. The Final Report makes 46 recommendations aimed at moving people out of crisis.

The Committee's central recommendation is that a new Inter-Ministerial Committee on Developmental Services (IMCDS) be created with the mandate of implementing the recommendations in the Final Report. The Minister of Community and Social Services should be answerable for the progress of the IMCDS and the implementation of the recommendations in the Final Report. The IMCDS should also make regular progress reports to the Legislative Assembly.

The first task of the IMCDS is to eliminate all waitlists for developmental services and supports within 12 months.

Other key recommendations include:

- an integrated provincial strategy to build capacity and coordinate services in primary and dental care for people with developmental disabilities and/or a dual diagnosis through the lifespan, from early diagnosis to geriatric care;
- coordinated provincial strategies to address Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD);
- programs to promote the employment of people with developmental disabilities;

- innovative housing solutions for people with developmental disabilities and/or a dual diagnosis;
- support for more locally-based programs and services especially in northern, Aboriginal, and remote communities; and
- the elimination of funding and service gaps that currently occur when a young person leaves school or turns 18.

The full report can be found at http://www.ontla.on.ca/web/committee-proceedings/committee_reports.do?ParlCommID=9005&locale=en

June Board Meeting Highlights

Operating Pressures Survey

The third Operating Pressures survey closed on June 13, 2014. A draft report is underway and will be ready by early summer or mid-July.

Election Campaign

Aligning with Community Living Ontario and the Provincial Network to establish a common hashtag contributed greatly to the success of the election campaign. A social media review showed over 150 tweets using #EndTheWait, compared to 30 tweets during the last social media campaign.

Post-Election Strategy

The post-election strategy will include meeting as soon as possible with the Ministers of Labour, Community and Social Services and Children and Youth Services to hopefully be part of the budget allocation process.

Every Canadian Counts

The Every Canadian Counts website has been established and provides information on what the program is about and the benefits of a national disability insurance program. The site also includes a pledge for people to sign up and be a Supporter of Every Canadian Counts. <http://everycanadiancounts.com/>

OASIS - Queen's Leadership Program

A second session of the OASIS Queen's Leadership Program will take place this year in November. Priority registration will be given to CEO/ED's and Directors who have not attended the program previously.

Director at Large

Robert Mitchell, Board member for the Ottawa Carleton Association for Persons with Developmental Disabilities (OCAPDD) was elected as the Director at Large for the OASIS Board of Directors.

Introducing OASIS Board Member, Heather Bruce

Heather is a Registered Nurse with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree, as well as a Master of Arts degree in Leadership. In addition to her academic credentials, Heather has



extensive experience in both hospital and community-based settings as a manager and a leader with impressive results.

Heather has worked as an Executive Director, Senior Director and Director of not-for-profit healthcare. She is currently the Executive Director of both The Equestrian Association for the Disabled, a not-for-profit provider of therapeutic riding, and CHOICES, a not-for-profit provider of residential supports, day programs and life skills for the developmental disabilities sector.

Heather has led a health care organization to achieve full 3 year accreditation with Accreditation Canada and now CHOICES to a 4 year accreditation. Heather has experience managing in a unionized environment and has consistently demonstrated an active commitment to employee safety and quality of work life.

Working in the healthcare field and now in developmental services, Heather has first-hand experience of managing through large-scale public policy and organizational change. Her commitment is to the development and maintenance of a leadership culture that insists on evidence-based decision making, continuous improvement, systems thinking and a focus on client care and safety, staff support and self-mastery.

