

Ministry of
Community and
Social Services

Ministère des
Services sociaux
et communautaires



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December 24, 2010

Ms. Judy Reid
President
Ontario Agencies Supporting Individuals with Special Needs
c/o 339 Centre Street
Box 1210
Petrolia, Ontario N0N 1R0

Dear Judy:

Thank you for your letter of November 22, 2010 concerning the transformation of intervenor services and, more specifically, the proposed funding model. I understand that you also had a conversation with Carol Latimer, Director of the Community and Developmental Services Branch, about OASIS members' concerns.

As you know, the Ministry of Community and Social Services is working to transform intervenor services so they are fairer, more transparent and financially sustainable. The intervenor services transformation is a long-term undertaking that would not be possible without the significant input from people who are deafblind, service providers, and researchers.

We recognize that intervenor support is a vital support service, helping individuals who are deafblind to acquire and maintain life skills to prevent isolation. However, intervenor services are not an entitlement program. Funding for intervenor services is finite. The ministry – and service agencies – must work within available resources.

The ministry's focus is on the needs of individuals receiving intervenor services. The proposed funding model is one of the elements of the transformation that will help to create a more equitable service system that is sustainable within available resources.

As you may know, my staff and I met with members of the Intervenor Services Advisory Group on October 19, 2010, to provide a technical briefing on the proposed funding model, and on November 23, 2010 to seek input from members on how to adjust the proposed funding model. The ministry offered a technical briefing on October 25, 2010 to intervenor services agencies that are not part of the ISAG.

As Carol mentioned in her call with you, the proposed funding model is still being finalized and has not yet been implemented. There is no immediate impact to individuals' current level of funding for intervenor services. Once the model is finalized, we will take a long-term approach to implementation so that we can work together to develop plans, and allow for a period of adjustment.

As we move forward, and work towards finalizing the model, we remain committed to consulting with intervenor services agencies, as well as our consumers. Meetings will be scheduled in this regard in the New Year.

We look forward to continuing this dialogue to help make intervenor services more equitable, accountable and sustainable for the people who use them.

Thank you again for writing, and please accept my best wishes of the season.



David Carter-Whitney
Assistant Deputy Minister

c. Carol Latimer, Director, Community and Developmental Services Branch