



News Digest

December 2016, Issue No. 39

Message from the President

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Holiday season. It is important to ensure we recharge and enjoy the time off with family and friends in this very hectic year. The transformation agenda continues to be rolled out and I want to provide you with a heads up on some of the initiatives being released over the next couple of months. OASIS appreciates the open dialogue we are able to have with the Ministry and the ability to give input to their many projects that are currently underway.

The Ministry is working on a Performance Measurement Framework that needs to be in place by April 1, 2017. This framework will be an overarching mechanism to look at data by community, region and province in order to identify weaknesses that prevent individuals from achieving meaningful outcomes as well as gaps that prevent systems from delivering effective supports to facilitate those outcomes, whether DS in nature or not (i.e. – data could reveal weakness in health, housing, education, community resources, etc). This is intended to complement, not replace or usurp the current quality improvement frameworks that organizations have embraced, most notably through accreditation. The ministry is exploring how that data will be collected and will be consulting with agencies in this regard, hopefully, alleviating the concern that this will be another agency monitoring tool.

On November 24, Kevin Flynn, Minister of Labor, announced the creation of the Gender Wage Gap Working Group. The Provincial Network was chosen as one of the four employer representatives who will participate as one of the fourteen members who make up this working group: [MOL News Release - Ontario Working to Close Gender Wage Gap](#). While OASIS is disappointed that they were not named as a participant on the committee, we continue to advocate for a place at the table to ensure that the OASIS message is heard. Janet Noel-Annable, chair of the Provincial Network, Christian Horizons, and OASIS member, was chosen by the Ministry of Labour to represent the developmental services sector. Janet has reached out to the OASIS representatives to bring forward the work that OASIS has done on this issue .

The OASIS Board of Directors is currently undergoing an RFP process to engage a consultant to work with us to develop a new Strategic Plan for April 2017 - March 2020. Interviews will be occurring in early December and OASIS will be reaching out to member agencies for feedback early in the new year.

Krista Haiduk-Collier represented OASIS at the Housing Forum on November 30, 2016. The forum was a unique opportunity for people from all over the province who currently have a wide range of housing roles in their community to participate in a solution focused agenda. Minister Jaczek set the tone for the day stressing the need for everyone to

work together to find a solution to a waitlist that is getting longer. She stated that there would be no more institutions, and no 'one size fits all' for housing solutions. The Hon. Chris Ballard, Minister of Housing and Minister responsible for the Poverty Reduction Strategy then spoke about a new supportive housing framework and how they want to ensure they are investing in the right way. He spoke about the goal of enabling people to live independently and ensure that 'no one is left behind'. There was a very informative panel discussion that shared best practice in communities. The afternoon was an opportunity for those in attendance at the various sites to share ideas in response to questions: [Developmental Services Housing Forum Programme](#). The strength of the day was bringing people together from different perspectives to share ideas and experiences. Discussion was facilitated by the Housing Task Force Members, and all responses were recorded and submitted directly back to the Ministry staff. The closing remarks were made by Deputy Minister Janet Menard who spent the afternoon participating in one of the round table discussions.

The time for nominations for the OASIS Board, scholarships and the Annie Oliver and Leadership Awards is nearing. Please give some thought to nominating someone and watch for the forms that will be released in January.

Just a reminder to members that Strategic Investment Program Fund is open for applications until January 6, 2017. There is approximately 7.4 million dollars available for distribution. It was mentioned at the Partnership Table that only one application has been received so far. More details can be found at:

http://www.mcsc.gov.on.ca/en/mcsc/programs/developmental/strategic_program_investment.aspx. Application Process:

http://www.mcsc.gov.on.ca/en/mcsc/programs/developmental/spif_notice_application.aspx

The next meeting of the OASIS Board of Directors will take place on January 11-12, 2017 in Hamilton. Assistant Deputy Ministers Karen Chan and Erin Hannah will be joining us on January 11. Members are welcome to attend Board meetings, please contact Amanda Brown administrativesupport@oasisonline.ca to let us know you will be in attendance and we will provide you with the meeting details. 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 705-645-6290.

Sincerely,
Ann Kenney
President, OASIS

Collaboration Matters

Head's Up Memo from OASIS to the Sector about the DS TPA Data Collection Project

In the coming days the Ministry of Community and Social Services will be distributing an action request through their regional offices to all ministry-funded developmental services transfer payment agencies. The purpose of the action request is to collect client-level financial and service data from a majority of DS-funded agencies to:

- support DSCIS Service Connections, and
- support a service delivery review of Community Participation Supports (detail code: 9131), Respite (detail code: 9130) and Host Family (detail code: 9111).

Timelines:

In recognition of the amount of time and effort required to fulfill an action request of this size, the ministry is providing agencies with approximately three months to complete it. We encourage each agency to consider their day-to-day operating requirements, particularly in quarters 3 and 4, when planning on how to fulfil this request. Some agencies may find the work simple and straightforward while others may find it more complex.

Consultation:

Over the past several months OASIS has been meeting with the ministry to discuss direct funding and individualized budgeting. OASIS is committed to ensuring there are choices for families while also preserving the sustainability of agencies as the developmental services sector moves towards a modernized service system.

A committee of agencies from the OASIS Business Resource Committee and Developmental Services Finance Group is working on developing tools and templates to assist families and agencies in tracking and reporting this funding for the future. The Provincial Steering Committee on Individualized Budgeting reports to OASIS, the Provincial Network, as well as the Ministry.

As an initial step in the process of moving to individualized budgeting, client-level financial and service data is being collected for the detail codes identified above. This information will also support internal ministry program review initiatives and policy development. OASIS, Community Living Ontario and the Provincial Network on Developmental Disabilities have endorsed this data collection exercise.

Agency Orientation and Support:

To support agencies throughout the course of the data collection exercise, the Ministry will be offering videoconferencing orientation sessions in December and January for interested agencies. Program supervisors will also be a key source of information and support. More information will be provided in the ministry communication.

OASIS Contact:

If you have any preliminary questions about the data collection, you may contact Flavian Pinto, Chair of the Developmental Services Finance Committee at (647)729-1196 or email fpinto@cltoronto.ca.

Save the Date – Conference 2017



Links Included in this Issue...

Basic Income Pilot Consultations: [Ontario Basic Income Pilot](#).

OASIS Labour Relations Information Session – January 19, 2017: [LR Information Session](#)

PSHSA OASIS Affiliate Page Web Tutorials: [Safe Driving Web Tutorial](#)

OASIS October Board Meeting Minutes: [Board Meeting Minutes - October-26-27, 2016](#)

OASIS Four Pillars: [Four Pillars](#)

OASIS Board and Executive Meeting Schedule for 2016-2017: [Meeting Schedule 2016-2017](#)

OASIS Strategic Work Plan 2013-2016, Updated May 17, 2016: [OASIS Strategic Work Plan 2013-2016](#)

OASIS 2016-2017 Board of Directors Contact Information: [OASIS Board of Directors 2016-2017 Contact Information](#)

Current OASIS Membership List: [OASIS Member Listing](#)

Strategic Program Investments (SPI) - Notice of Application: [SPI - Notice of Application](#)

Government of Canada Consultation – [What Does an Accessible Canada Mean to You?](#)