

## **FEEDBACK**

**“Transforming Services in Ontario  
for People who have a Developmental Disability:  
Preliminary Discussion Paper  
October 2004”**

**Community Living Huntsville  
November 26, 2004**

- 1. Vision:** (page 8) speaks of a segregated portion of community. Consider something simple such as:

**“We ALL thrive”**

- 2. Principles** to include statements such as:
  - o **Children**, regardless of the severity of their disability, need families and enduring relationships with adults in a nurturing home environment. The quality of life of children with developmental

disabilities, their families and communities is enhanced when the children are cared for in their own homes. Children benefit by growing up in their own families; families benefit by staying together and communities benefit from the diversity provided when people of varying abilities are included.

- **Adults**, regardless of the severity of their disability, can make decisions for themselves, can live in typical homes and can contribute as citizens to the communities where they live.
- In order to make good decisions, people with developmental disabilities and their families need **complete information** about the availability and choice of supports and services, the cost, how the decision making process works and how to participate in that process.
- People with developmental disabilities, and their families, cannot make good decisions unless they have **meaningful choices** about how they live and the kind of supports they receive.
- Supports must be **geographically available** so that people with developmental disabilities and their families are not required to move to gain access to needed services, thereby forfeiting natural community supports.
- Effective supports **foster community participation** and personal relationships with other members of the community. Community participation is increased when people with disabilities meet their everyday needs through resources available to all members of the community.
- People with disabilities have differing abilities, needs and goals. Thus, to be effective and efficient, **funding and supports must be flexible** and to accommodate individual capacities, needs and values.
- Agency delivered supports to be administered by **public/not-for-profit organizations**. This adds to publicly accessible community capacity while providing an accountability measure to ensure that allocations remain within the sector.

*(Vermont System of Care Plan, July 1, 2004)*

## #1 **What should be the roles and responsibilities of different parts of society in supporting individuals who have a developmental disability?**

**1.1 Governments** – federal, provincial and municipal – should assume leadership role in changing societal perceptions/understanding re: population we serve

I.e. social marketing re: inclusion & natural supports as was done to promote anti-smoking and recycling

Piggyback on other initiatives re: human rights i.e. bullying

Increased awareness = increased community capacity & responsiveness

**1.2 Agencies**/formal supports should be point of last resort after natural and community supports have been accessed.

**#2 What strategies/resources would help individuals receive seamless supports throughout their lives, including points of transition?**

- 2.1 Reliable, mandatory, life-long, person-specific, portable funding
- 2.2 Elimination of arbitrary age criteria which create barriers to access i.e. Family support funding limited to those under the age of 18
- 2.3 If the need is there, supports & services should be available regardless of age, stage or place.
- 2.4 Service providers need to stop rationalizing services behind the scenes
- 2.5 <sup>3rd</sup> party planning and facilitation across ages and stages would lead to increased reliance on community/natural supports
- 2.6 Fund activities to assist people with disabilities to develop capacity to self-manage and serve as employers

**#3 What is working well?**

- 3.1 SSAH – in principle
- 3.2 <sup>3rd</sup> party planning and facilitation
- 3.3 APSW – in principle
- 3.4 Supported Independent Living – in principle
- 3.5 Individualized Funding
- 3.6 From pre-school sector – elements that are working include: flexibility, portability, “in community” RTs as enablers
- 3.7 Supported inclusion/Inclusive school culture works where it exists
- 3.8 Community development - where appropriately resourced

**#4 How should a reasonable level of government funding for an individual be determined?**

- 4.1 Remove the word “reasonable” from the question – vague, controversial, arbitrary – food for the lawyers and litigation.
- 4.2 **Competency based:** Determination should be based on **competencies** NOT deficits. See research presented by MCYS in support of new early childhood directions
- 4.3 Based on citizenship – therefore ODSP etc. **must** be above poverty level
- 4.4 Eliminate disincentives to independence – work, family support, sharing with another reduces eligibility

**#5 Services are changing in Ontario for people who have a developmental disability. What would you like to see happen?**

- 5.1 Shift from systems perspective to individual perspective
- 5.2 Shift from a perspective of benevolence to one of human rights
- 5.3 Real choices provided from funding options to range of supports consistently available throughout the province

**#6 What do you think are the priorities that government should address?**

- 6.1 3<sup>rd</sup> party planning & facilitation re: person driven/directed support plan
- 6.2 government leadership re: social marketing with other ministries re: citizenship & diversity
- 6.3 Global funding/budgeting process to increase agencies ability to respond to needs/demands
- 6.4 Ensure that people have the option of individualized funding
- 6.5 Mandatory, reliable and portable funding
- 6.6 Supports for those who are aging
- 6.7 Evidence –based best practices
- 6.8 More funding
- 6.9 Inter-ministerial collaboration
- 6.10 Human rights approach to funding

**#7 What else?**

- 7.1 “Transformation” is NOT about one-time policy and funding opportunities – must be sustained through time.
- 7.2 Quality of life as a middle class citizen be reflected in the “transformation” discussion as a baseline: i.e. ODSP levels; housing, dignity & respect
- 7.3 Individual is driving force = accountable to people first then system
- 7.4 Individual focus + choice = new, personalized way of serving
- 7.5 Mechanism(s) to enable people and their families to manage and live their choices – including mechanisms to ensure supports for the most vulnerable