



# OASIS

## focus

A PUBLICATION OF ONTARIO AGENCIES SUPPORTING INDIVIDUALS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS · FALL 2012

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It has been a busy few months for the OASIS Board. We travelled to Peterborough in June where our meeting was hosted by Community Living Peterborough. At the meeting it was decided that the OASIS logo would be registered and a policy developed for its use, and that \$10,000 would be provided to work with Navigator to support the work on the Pay Equity issue in the sector.

The Executive met in August to review the results of the OASIS Operating Pressures Survey and to review the roles and responsibilities of the positions on the Board.

OASIS obtained a legal opinion from Hicks Morley on whether Bill 55 and/or the Minister of Finance letter to the Broader Public Sector Employers would prevent OASIS member agencies from providing wage increases to non-union employees in 2012. A letter was sent to Assistant Deputy Minister-Operations, David Zuccato in response to the letter from the Minister of Finance. ADM Zuccato requested a conference call with the members of the Provincial Network after receiving the letter from OASIS. There was no new information shared on the conference call and although we did get correspondence acknowledging our letter no further clarity has been received.

Sudbury Developmental Services hosted the September meeting when the Board did some further planning on a training program that we are hoping to initiate for Executive Directors and Boards.

Allan Mills, Vice President Executive Director, and David Ferguson, Chair of the OASIS Labour Relations Committee

and I attended a meeting with Assistant Deputy Minister David Zuccato on October 15, 2012. Ironically, this was the same day Premier McGuinty announced his resignation. There is further information about this meeting in this newsletter.

This issue of the FOCUS compiles for members a variety of important topics that have been circulating in recent weeks and requests for information from members.

OASIS was pleased to hear of Christine Elliott's Private Member's Bill and disappointed that this will be put on hold or lost with the prorogue of parliament.

We are interested in hearing from member agencies who are planning to hold events recognizing the United Nations' International Day of Persons with Disabilities on December 3, 2012. This year's theme is "Removing barriers to create an inclusive and accessible society for all".

We would encourage you to invite your local MPP's to your events. It is important to keep them focused on the interests and needs of their constituents who have developmental disabilities and their families (and all those who support those people) at this time. Despite the proroguing of parliament we need to keep our message out there.

In the next couple of weeks we will equip our membership with key messages building on last year's One Message, Many Voices materials, supplemented with information from the OASIS Operating Pressures Survey.

Your Board will be updating our strategic work plan at the January meeting at the Abilities Centre Centre in Whitby and we anticipate welcoming MPP's to a portion of that meeting as well.

Jane Joris, *OASIS President*

# BOARD MEMBER PROFILE

## DAVID BARBER – VICE PRESIDENT VOLUNTEER



In 1957 I moved in with my Uncle and Aunt and their six year old daughter Laurie and four year old daughter Lynn, in North Toronto. Laurie had an intellectual disability. Her mother stayed at home with Laurie and did her very best to raise us all. Around 1968 it became apparent that the family had lost the capacity to continue to provide for Laurie and she was admitted to Huronia Regional Centre in Orillia. Several years later she became attached to Simcoe Community Services in Barrie, in their Supported Independent Living Program. My Uncle and Aunt retired to Elmvale, a small town just outside of Barrie on Orr Lake, where they maintained a strong relationship with Laurie. When they passed away, I was asked by our extended family because of my early involvement with Laurie and since I had other interests in Barrie, to check in on her. I did and have never looked back. Laurie subsequently moved to Calgary, Alberta to be with her sister Lynn, around 2007.

I became President of Simcoe Community Services in Barrie and from there, I became President of Community Living Ontario. I was elected to the Board of OASIS two years ago and I am pleased and proud to serve as the current Vice President. In addition, I serve as President of Ideal Child Service Group, a not-for-profit group of day care centres in Toronto. I am past President of The Independent Financial Brokers of Canada.

I have received the Ontario Medal of Citizenship and the Community Action Award from the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario and the fifteen year pin for volunteer service from the Government of Ontario.

For recreation, I serve as President of East Side Players in Toronto (a community theatre group) where I was pleased to be part of the company that received the Theatre Ontario Award for Best Comedy for Tartuffe in 2008 and Laughter on the 23rd Floor in 2009. I trained in the Martial Arts, Matsubayashi Shorin Ryu and the use of Ancient Weapons including the sword, for twenty-five years. I was privileged to spend valuable time training with Grand Master Shoshin Nagamine in Japan, in 1995.

I live in Whitby with my wife and two Tibetan Terriers, Gibson and Jake. My daughter and son-in-law live one block over from me with my two granddaughters and my son and daughter-in-law live in Edmonton with my two grandsons.

The Barber Family motto is, "We persevere, we prevail." I bring this commitment to the Developmental Disability Sector along with my extensive business experience and I am pleased to be of service.

### CHRISTINE ELLIOTT'S PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILL FOR A STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

OASIS was very happy Christine Elliott's Private Member's Bill for a Standing Committee on Developmental Services passed and had written a letter to her offering our support and involvement. After Provincial Parliament was prorogued, the following appeared on Christine Elliott's website:

"As a result of this decision (to prorogue parliament), all legislative business has come to an abrupt end, cancelling all bills and resolutions, including my Private Member's Resolution to strike a Select Committee to develop a comprehensive developmental services strategy. To say that this is very unfortunate is an understatement, given the urgent needs of individuals and families from across the province. Since bringing this resolution forward, I've been contacted by families across Ontario, who are finding it increasingly difficult to cope with their children's needs, without necessary supports....Although the Legislature will not be sitting for at least a few months, I want you to know that I remain committed to working with you to advocate for the change we need to ensure that all Ontarians are able to live their lives with dignity and purpose, and that parents will know that their children will always be cared for and valued."

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### Board of Directors

December 12-13, 2012  
Barrie

January 16-17, 2013  
Whitby

February 20-21, 2013  
Kitchener

IDEAS & ARTICLES ARE WELCOMED

Please contact  
Mary van Delft, OASIS  
Administrative Support,  
[mvandelft@lcds.on.ca](mailto:mvandelft@lcds.on.ca)

## OASIS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jane Joris, President  
Judy Reid, Past-President  
David Barber,  
Vice President Volunteer  
Allan Mills, Vice President  
Executive Director  
Lu-Ann Cowell, Treasurer  
Donna Britten, Secretary  
Bonnie Dinning, Director at Large

### Directors:

Mal Coubrough  
Steven Finlay  
Michelle Marshall  
Jocelyne Paul  
Don Seymour

## OASIS

To facilitate the sharing of ideas, resources, systems and information, OASIS will liaise with government on behalf of member organizations with the goal of improving the development of cost effective quality supports for individuals with developmental disabilities.

# MEETING WITH ASSISTANT DEPUTY MINISTER, DAVID ZUCCATO

Jane Joris, Allan Mills and David Ferguson met with Assistant Deputy Minister David Zuccato, to update the Ministry on the Operating Pressures survey and to review the results of the survey with them. Nancy Lytle, Director – Services and Supports, Carol Latimer, Director – Community & Developmental Services and Linda Henry, Director – DS Implementation Project Office also attended on behalf of MCSS.

Ministry representatives were not surprised by the results of the survey, certainly seemed aware of the pressures and believe that leaner times are coming. The Assistant Deputy Minister paid particular attention to the “Innovations” section of the report, which he appreciated. The Ministry did indicate to us that if we had some innovative ways to provide services in a more “efficient” manner they might be able to put some resources to those ideas. We had some discussion about how some flexibility in the system might help us and we will be discussing this further at upcoming Board meetings. The Assistant Deputy Minister indicated he would like to attend our Board meeting (likely February) to discuss our ideas regarding potential efficiencies and projects they could support for initiating these innovations for systemic efficiencies.

## UPDATE ON LR COMMITTEE

The OASIS Labour Relations Committee Information Session on November 22nd, 2012 at the Holiday Inn Toronto Airport is SOLD OUT. The agenda for the day includes:

- Pay Equity – An update & next steps discussion
- Operating Pressures Survey Results
- MOL Blitz
- MOL reporting

## WEBSITE UPDATE

The OASIS website is in the process of a major rebuild incorporating ideas shared by our members through the recent website survey. The site will be much more user friendly, easy to navigate from a computer or handheld device and incorporate discussion forums to host, organize and archive many of the discussions which currently happen via the listserves. The new site will be launched late fall 2012.

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# FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE – TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

OASIS was invited by the Fire Marshal's office to participate in the Technical Advisory Committee – Vulnerable Occupancies. OASIS was represented by David Ferguson of Ottawa-Carleton Association for Persons with Developmental Disabilities with Marion Peck of Simcoe Support Services as alternate. Meetings were held in the summer, with the last meeting being September 19th. We had anticipated further discussions and were also surprised by the release of the Fire Marshal's Communique announcing the release of a new guideline entitled “Staffing Levels for the Emergency Evacuation of Residents in Care Occupancies” prior to the end of this process. We have since shared our concerns and follow-up discussions are underway with both Al Suleman, Assistant Deputy Fire Marshal (Acting), lead for the project and with Jim Chisholm, P.Eng., M.Eng., Fire Protection Engineer, Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services, Office of the Fire Marshal, Technical Services. We will keep you posted with updates regarding the outcome of this work and its relevance for developmental services.

# OASIS CONFERENCE 2013!

Are you tired of waiting for the other shoe to drop? Of filling someone's shoes? Are you ready to put your best foot forward? And are you ready to click your heels together for a fun filled 3 day event? If you are, we are ready to blow your socks off!!!

The National Capital Region 2013 OASIS Conference Committee is busy planning a super charged conference that you will **NOT** want to miss. Book your calendar now for **Wednesday May 8, 2013 – Friday May 10, 2013**. At the 2012 Conference, we kicked open the doors to 2013 with a catchy little jingle and video. If you haven't seen it yet, or want to see it again, go to the OASIS website and click on the graphic "Save the Date".

As for the conference itself, well, we can't give all the secrets away yet. ☺ However, here is what we can tell you: Wednesday evening will bring you an event not yet experienced before at an OASIS conference; Thursday will be a day filled with 'laughter, learning and letting loose'; and, by Friday it will have felt like you have walked a mile in another's shoes with all that you have experienced!

Excited yet? We are!!! We can't wait to show off our beautiful National Capital Region. You will be staying at the Ottawa Westin, right in the heart of downtown Ottawa next to the Rideau Canal – a UNESCO World Heritage Site and with Ottawa's famous Byward Market only a few steps away. The Tulip Festival will be in full bloom. There are a number of historic sites in and around Ottawa for you to see, as well as world class shopping just out your front door, in the Rideau Centre. In addition, we will have a lineup of activities for you to choose from on Wednesday if this is your preference.

I promise you, by Friday afternoon, you will be ready to put your feet up! I know we will! ☺ We look forward to "Putting Our Best Foot Forward" for you!!! See you in Ottawa next May.

On behalf of the National Capital Region 2013 OASIS Conference Committee,

Jocelyne Paul  
Ottawa-Carleton Lifeskills  
Chair, 2013 OASIS Conference



## MCSS CALL FOR INPUT

OASIS members are encouraged to provide feedback to MCSS on Draft Person-Directed Planning Guide by **Friday, November 30, 2012**.

**By mail:** Attention: Sarah Campbell  
Community and Developmental Services Branch  
Ministry of Community and Social Services  
4th Floor, Hepburn Block  
80 Grosvenor Street  
Toronto, ON M7A 1E9

**By email:** sarah.campbell@ontario.ca

**By phone:** (416) 327-4977

**By fax:** (416) 325-5554

The OASIS Board encourages members to review the final report to the government of Ontario from The Commission for the Review on Social Assistance in Ontario "Brighter Prospects: Transforming Social Assistance in Ontario" at <http://socialassistancereview.ca> which includes suggested changes to ODSP.

To ensure that the Board is aware of members concerns and so that OASIS messages and communications to the Ministry reflect members' opinions, please copy your responses to OASIS President, Jane Joris at [tjjoris@execulink.com](mailto:tjjoris@execulink.com).

## The Developmental Services Human Resource Strategy Steering HR Forum February 6th & 7th, 2013

In collaboration with the Provincial Network, the Developmental Services Human Resource Strategy Steering Committee is pleased to announce that an HR Forum will be held February 6th and 7th, 2013. This HR forum will serve as an opportunity to connect with the HR Networks from across the province as well as highlight the integration of direct support practices with the revised DSW program standards and college curriculums.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Steve Finlay, or our project coordinator Holly Duff ([hollyduff@sympatico.ca](mailto:hollyduff@sympatico.ca)) or Bob Butella, our conference chair.

## OASIS SCHOLARSHIPS



PRESIDENT'S SCHOLARSHIP

GEORGE BRAITHWAITE  
SCHOLARSHIP

GERRY SUTTON SCHOLARSHIP

Information on the application process for the new OASIS Scholarships is now available on the OASIS website. A separate application must be completed for each scholarship applied for. All completed applications must be received by OASIS on or before **January 31, 2013** in order for consideration. Final selections will be made at the Board meeting on February 21, 2013 and announced at the Annual Conference in May.

# REXALL SPECIALTY PHARMACY THE SOLUTION FOR YOUR GROUP HOME

## PROVIDING:

- **FREE** prescription delivery
- Health and wellness programs for supported individuals and family members
- Expertise in the management of health conditions such as diabetes
- Continuing education programs for staff
- Medication system audits
- Pharmacists available 24/7/365 for emergencies

*"One year ago Sudbury Developmental Services (SDS) and Rexall Specialty Pharmacy embarked on a new Medication Administration System. In one short year, SDS is very pleased to share that; medication incidents decreased, some homes have seen a reduction in medication usage of up to 37%, and staff confidence in medication administration increased. We value their support, commitment to continuous quality improvement, in-service and expertise."*

**Mila Wong, R.N. - Executive Director**



For more information, contact Shane Blanchard,  
[sblanchard@rexall.ca](mailto:sblanchard@rexall.ca) or 905-502-5965 x 6395