



OASIS

focus

A PUBLICATION OF ONTARIO AGENCIES SUPPORTING INDIVIDUALS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS · JULY 2010

JUDY REID ELECTED PRESIDENT



Judy Reid was elected to the position of the OASIS Board President at the Annual General Meeting held in Collingwood in May, 2010. For the past six years Judy has been a member of the OASIS Board, holding the positions of Director and Vice-President. During those six years Judy has brought a strong and pragmatic voice to Board discussions and in her discussions with various sector stakeholders. She has gained a well-earned reputation as a person who seeks to build bridges and consensus on behalf of OASIS member agencies.

After 30 years as an educator in Niagara, Judy retired from teaching in 1998 and moved into the not-for-profit sector. Continuing her passion for youth and community, Judy is presently the Manager, Labour Force Development of the Business Education Council overseeing project work that includes the community alliances of Early Years Niagara and Niagara Prosperity Initiatives.

Judy's strong commitment to the Developmental Services Sector has grown through years of social responsibility to community. Her leadership skills have broadened through experience on a number of community boards, specifically Judy joined the Niagara Support Services Board of Directors in 1999 and is the current past president. She also has been a member of the NTEC Board of Trustees and Board of Directors of Niagara Employment Agency and continues to serve as Chair of the NSS-NTEC Joint Board Alliance Committee.

Judy has become President of OASIS during a particularly challenging time for the Developmental Services Sector. Judy's passion and expertise will be invaluable in continuing the OASIS Vision "strong, viable, accountable agencies who have the resources and professional competencies to provide quality supports and services to people with special needs".

CQL INTERNATIONAL IS STRONG AND VIBRANT IN ONTARIO

In our last Focus newsletter, an article cited that The Council on Quality and Leadership (CQL) was not practicing in Ontario because it had claimed bankruptcy. The following statement contains the correct, most up-to-date information and was issued by CQL in response to our article:

"Earlier this year, while CQL Canada was in bankruptcy proceedings, legal constraint prevented CQL from direct communication with Ontario organizations and this may have led to some uncertainty and misinformation. I want to assure you that CQL, now celebrating its 40th year of operation, remains a strong and vibrant entity. We are dedicated to an active and engaged presence in Ontario and across Canada."

Albert Van Kleeck - Director of Accreditation
CQL | The Council on Quality & Leadership



UPCOMING OASIS BOARD MEETINGS:

September 15-16, 2010
Brockville

November 3-4, 2010
London

December 8-9, 2010
Oshawa

FOCUS is published quarterly. Ideas and articles are welcomed.

Please contact
Corey Allison
callison@lcds.on.ca

OASIS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Judy Reid, President
 Brian Young, Past President
 Jane Joris, Vice President
 Volunteer
 Ann Kenney, Vice President
 Executive Director
 Lu-Ann Cowell, Treasurer
 Donna Britten, Secretary
 Bonnie Dinning, Director at Large
 Directors:
 L. David Barber
 Denis McClelland
 Michael Humes
 Steven Finlay
 Jocelyne Paul

OASIS

OASIS provides leadership through sharing ideas, information and knowledge, and interacts with government and other organizations on issues affecting its members.



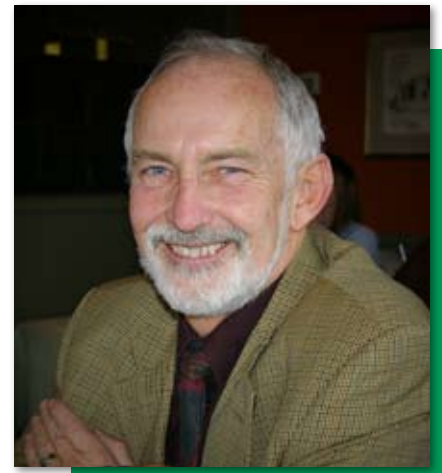
ANNIE OLIVER AWARD WINNER 2010 - COMMUNITY LIVING TORONTO

Community Living Toronto has demonstrated innovation and leadership in the Developmental Services Sector. They are an agency that willingly shares their expertise and knowledge to help other agencies succeed. Playing an integral role in developing the new agency pricing tool, they shared their system, provided staff support and technical expertise as needed. Community Living Toronto has also taken the lead on many areas of concern to the Developmental

Services Sector including the aging parent initiative and provincial strategies regarding websites and Connectivity.

They have demonstrated their perseverance and determination and have assisted OASIS in achieving their identified goals. Greatly appreciated, is their willingness to extend their connections to Ministry speakers including Ontario Buys and Vendors of Record information. Community Living Toronto is an asset to our sector and a deserving recipient of the 2010 Annie Oliver Award.

ANNIE OLIVER AWARD WINNER 2010 - GEOFF MCMULLEN



Geoff McMullen is chair of the Provincial Network and has spent many hours working with provincial umbrella groups to ensure that the Developmental Services Sector spoke to government and other stakeholders in a more consistent and coordinated way.

Geoff has been Executive Director of Developmental Services of Leeds and Grenville in Brockville since September of 1984. His Brockville location has required that he spend uncounted hours travelling between his home and Toronto to work on behalf of the sector.

Geoff's unflagging commitment to the Developmental Services Sector, through his work leading the Provincial Network, has made him a worthy recipient of the Annie Oliver Award.

2010 CONFERENCE PHOTOS



OASIS SENSORY PARTNERS

There are few agencies in the province of Ontario who are able to adequately address the needs of individuals experiencing “sensory loss”. People who are Deaf or Deafblind require supports and environments which are sensitive not only to physical and communication needs, but which are also sensitive to unique cultural values and issues. Staff are required to develop highly specialized skills in language, communication, cultural norms, and mobility in order to address these needs.

The OASIS Sensory Partners is a partnership of OASIS members who are service providers and other relevant stakeholders, with a shared purpose of developing common ground on which to ensure a comprehensive, community based service system for sensory impaired children and/or adults. The OASIS Sensory Partners came together from across the province and were formed in May of 2008. They were formally recognized as a sub-committee of OASIS in May 2009.

Highlighted below are some of the accomplishments and ongoing work of the OASIS Sensory Partners and partnering agencies.

In the fall of 2009 the Partners developed a coordinated response to the Ministry of Community and Social Services’ “application entity” stakeholder forums held throughout the province. The document highlighted the need for identifying Deaf and Deafblind individuals requiring supports and services provided by a manual language environment at the application stage of entering the developmental services system to ensure all options and choices are provided to individuals and families. The paper also included a proposed referral system for these individuals. To date, the OASIS Sensory Partners have received positive feedback from several regional offices of the Ministry including the policy branch.

Proudly hosting the 2012 OASIS Conference and participating in the 2011 OASIS Conference as host of the hospitality suite and delivering a sensory workshop.

Members of the OASIS Sensory Partners participated in the creation and development of Standards of Excellence for People Who Are Deafblind. Before commencement of this project, there were no standards that evaluated services and supports within the Deafblind sector. With the help of a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the new standards focus on, Governance, Human Resources, Financial Accountability, and Direct Service. By taking a holistic approach to evaluating service delivery, organizations can better ensure excellence, innovation, consistency and accountability to the people who use Intervenor Services.

TOUCH (Training Ongoing Unique Committed Holistic) is a specialized training model developed by the DeafBlind Ontario Services Team, which is inclusive to four levels of training. TOUCH addresses the role of the Intervenor, the impact of sensory loss and covers communication, including methods and adaptations for people who are Deafblind or people with sensory loss.

REACH is a program supported by DeafBlind Ontario Services. REACH provides specialized expertise and support for adults who are congenitally Deafblind at their current residences and individuals with a sensory loss who have a communication need. The REACH team consults with families, caregivers, Intervenor and other professionals in order to develop a customized plan that meets the needs of each individual in their own environment.

The OASIS Sensory Partners look forward to another year of collaboration in our continued efforts to support the unique needs of individuals who are Deaf or Deafblind in the Developmental Services Sector.

OASIS SENSORY PARTNERS AGENCIES

DeafBlind Ontario Services Systems
Roxanna Spruyt-Rocks, Executive Director
17665 Leslie Street, Unit 15
Newmarket, ON L3Y 3E3
P: (905) 853-2862 Ext. 222
C: (416) 505-1714
E: execdir@deafblindontario.com

Bob Rumball Associations for the Deaf
Karen Chambers, Executive Director
P.O. Box 338
Milton, ON L9T 4Y9
P: 905-878-4932 Ext. 207
TTY: 905-875-4368
F: 905-878-4934
E: kchambers@bobrumball.org

Total Communication Environment
Karen Belyea, Executive Director
203 Colonnade Road South, Unit 5
Nepean, ON K2E 7K3
P: 613-228-0999

TTY: (613)228-8669
F: 613-228-1402
E: karenbelyea@tceottawa.org

Community Living South Muskoka
N. Ann Kenney, Executive Director
15 Depot Drive
Bracebridge, ON P1L 0A1
P: (705) 645-5494 Ext. 232
F: (705) 645-4621
E: execdir@clsm.on.ca

Community Visions & Networking
Lynn Grimmon, Manager of Support Services
265 Charles Street
Belleville, ON K9N 3M7
P: (613) 966-8485
F: (613) 966-0724
E: lgrimmon@kos.net

Peterborough Communication Support
Des Penalagan, Executive Director
P.O. Box 2078
Peterborough, ON K9J 7Y4
P: (705) 748-6680
F: (705) 876-9247
E: penalaganpcss@yahoo.com

Bob Rumball Centre for the Deaf
Christine Geobey, Director
2395 Bayview Avenue
North York, ON M2L 1A2
P: 416-449-9651 ext.145
TTY: 416-449-2728
F: 416-449-8881
E: cgeobey@bobrumball.org

Lions McInnes House
Joan Brintnell, Executive Director
170 Henry Street
Brantford, ON N3S 5C7
P: (519) 752-6450
F: (519) 752-9049
E: lionsmcinneshouse@rogers.com

TELCI
Pamela Johnson, Executive Director
25 Tower Road
Ottawa ON K2G 2E4
P: (613) 226-6237
F: (613) 226-9650
E: pjohnson.telci@rogers.com

OUR VISION

To be Canada's premier multi-employer Benefits Trust

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

To set new standards through flexibility, creativity, effectiveness and honesty; offering a clearly unique and distinctive model of consistent service and competitive price.

OUR VALUES

- Honesty
- Integrity
- Consistency
- Transparency
- Respect
- Commitment

For our customers, our staff, our suppliers and our trustees

"Together we really can do more"



515 Consumers Road, Suite 300
Toronto, Ontario, M2J 4Z2
Phone: 416-443-9223
Toll Free: 877-766-7823



The OJTBF was established in 1996 as a not for profit multi-employer benefit trust fund, offering employers and their staff access to comprehensive and affordable Group Life, Disability, Health & Dental benefit programs. **We provide large group pricing and service** to over 140 small to mid-sized not for profit organizations in the Broader Public Service sector, including long standing partnerships with many *Community Living teams*.

WHY IS OUR MODEL SO UNIQUE?

We are a not for profit benefits trust fund owned by those we insure, which means our only vested interest is to provide top quality pricing and service to our clients. This contrasts with the typical group insurance arrangement where a 'for profit' broker charges high rates of commission with large profit margins built into the rates you pay. Our fees cover the costs to operate the Trust – period.

Our unique approach ensures program surpluses are reinvested back into our plans, instead of being retained as profit by the insurer. Our size allows our clients to secure significant discounts and flexibility from our insurance partner that are typically only available to larger organizations.

Health and Dental claims for OJTBF clients are paid by our partner up to 50% faster than the competition, using a team of dedicated adjudicators exclusively assigned to our block of business. This means claims for our clients get processed quickly and accurately!

We can responsibly lower overall group benefit costs, while avoiding the all too familiar industry practice of buying business at unsustainable rates, only to have them increase substantially in future renewals. Our goal is to provide low pricing and rate stability to help your organization better manage budgets from year to year. Our purchasing power ensures low insurer expense factors, a 'hands on' service delivery model, value added consulting services and plan design improvements at no additional cost.

REDUCE YOUR COSTS AND GET BETTER BENEFITS

We provide all of our clients with the following **at no additional cost**:

- A Pay Direct Drug Card for all Health plans
- Trip Cancellation coverage of \$5,000 per trip
- Enhanced Out of Country coverage of \$5,000,000 per trip
- A four-tiered Management Assistance Program offered through our EAP provider

It's time to regain control of your group plan. Let us show you how we can reduce your benefit costs and provide a level of service a cut above what you have come to expect. Contact us today to get a no cost, no obligation group benefits quotation.

To obtain a quote, please contact our *non-commissioned* Group Sales Representative, Robert Miller, at robert.miller@ojtb.ca, (416) 443-9223 x. 128 or toll free at 1-877-766-7823, or visit our website at www.ojtb.ca to learn more about our value proposition.