

### *Message from the President*

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the 2017 Planning Committee for hosting a wonderful Conference and Annual General Meeting in Ottawa last month. We were proud to have representatives from the six founding member agencies and Past Presidents George Braithwaite, Judy Reid, Jane Joris and David Barber in attendance to help us celebrate our 20th Anniversary at the Thursday evening gala event. Watch for the E-blast with highlights of the conference and award winners to be released in the next week or so. I would like to thank Karen Chan for representing the Minister at the Gala Award evening and handing out certificates of congratulations on behalf of the Minister to the Scholarship and Award Winners.

In March OASIS commenced recruitment for an Executive Coordinator Services Consultant. OASIS has grown from an original membership of six (6) agencies to one hundred & ninety (190). During that time, the stature of OASIS as a well-respected provincial organization within the developmental services sector has grown, and so has the workload of the Board of Directors. During OASIS's infancy, member agencies banded together to provide the support necessary to ensure that members were kept up to date on current trends, took an active role in advocating for positive change for the developmental sector with the Government and peers, and being visible to the members. With the growth in membership, it has become exceedingly difficult to carry out the work of OASIS with only volunteers. Given the activities and responsibilities of OASIS, there is now a need to establish consistency of process to ensure that the administrative and communication to member agencies and others are addressed in a different manner. In May, OASIS welcomed Monica Zeballos-Quiben, as the new Executive Coordinator Consultant, to our fold at the Annual Conference. Monica's primary responsibilities will be to address the needs of our member agencies, addressing OASIS communication needs including the website, and assisting the Host Committees with Conference Planning. Should you require assistance or have any website or membership inquiries, please contact Monica by email at [executivecoordinator@oasisonline.ca](mailto:executivecoordinator@oasisonline.ca) or by phone at [647-533-1269](tel:647-533-1269).

The Board of Directors will be meeting the afternoon of June 14th to review the feedback of our member agencies and external stakeholders that will guide the development of OASIS 2020 Strategic Plan. Sixty-one member agencies took the time to complete the survey and an additional twenty-four interviews were held with internal and external stakeholders during this process. A communication and implementation plan will be developed by the Board of Directors and shared with our members in the near future. Only with your input can we advocate on the issues that are most important to our members.

Flavian Pinto, and Ministry representatives Sal Marrello, Joe Passerati and Cindy Accardi will also be joining us on June 14th to update the Board on the Individualized Budgeting Project and Program Review. The next meeting of the OASIS Board of Directors will take place on June 14-15, 2017 in Hamilton. Members are welcome to attend Board meetings, please contact Amanda Brown [administrativesupport@oasisonline.ca](mailto: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](mailto:president@oasisonline.ca) or by phone at [705-645-6290](tel:705-645-6290).

**News Digest**  
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Sincerely,  
Ann Kenney  
President, OASIS

***Our New Board Members***

As with every Annual General Meeting it is a time of transition for the Board of Directors. It is with sadness that we celebrated Donna Britten's last meeting as a member of the OASIS Board of Directors. Donna was a valuable asset to the board bringing her unwavering support for agencies and the voice of parents to our discussions. She will be missed. We also welcome two new additions to our Board.

David McCoy, will join the OASIS Board as a Volunteer representative and is a board member of Reena. David recently retired and has facilitated strategic planning and evaluation processes, and implemented organization development initiatives in the private, public and voluntary sectors. As an executive coach, he has worked with senior professionals in medicine, law, nursing, accounting, financial services, business and government. He has extensive senior management and leadership experience as a Managing Partner in the private sector, a Director in the Ontario government, and an Executive Director in a community not-for-profit organization. He is a board member of several not-for-profit organizations.

Brad Saunders, will join the OASIS Board as an Executive Director Representative and is the Chief Executive Officer of Community Living Toronto. Brad brings a wealth of experience to the Board having previously been a Regional Executive Director with Community Living Toronto, a program supervisor with both the Ministry of Children and Youth Services and the Ministry of Community and Social Services. He was also the Executive Director of the Bob Rumball Association for the Deaf, for thirteen years prior to working for the Ministries.

***Ministry of Labour Announces Plans to Revise Employment Standards Act***

Ann Kenney received a telephone call from Karen Chan to advise that the Ontario Government has announced plans to introduce reforms to legislation in the fall that will see significant changes to the Employment Standards Act. If passed these changes may have significant impact on agencies, including g simulated working environments or sheltered workshops. Under the proposed changes, sheltered workshops would no longer be exempt from the Employment Standards Act and if passed will come into effect January 2019. This means the elimination of Sheltered Workshops by that date.

The Ministry of Community and Social Services did advocate to have no date attached to the proposed changes to sheltered workshops but were unsuccessful in their attempts to do so. Karen informed me that MCSS regional staff would be reaching out to agencies to follow-up with more specifics this week.

The OASIS Board will be discussing this at their June meeting, and how OASIS can assist agencies with providing information, training, and advocating member concerns. Please let us know how you may be impacted and areas you would like to see OASIS address on this issue.

Please follow the link to review the release that was shared by the Ministry.  
<https://news.ontario.ca/mol/en/2017/05/proposed-changes-to-ontarios-employment-and-labour-laws.html>

**COMING FALL 2017...OASIS Grass Roots Provincial Awareness Campaign - We Will Need YOUR HELP. In the interim, we encourage you to review the Four Pillars and begin to think about how they relate to the challenges in your local community/agency for discussions with your MPPs.**

#### **List Serve Etiquette**

- Information posted should not be for personal gain of the individual posting the information.
- Post questions on the OASIS Discussion Board and send out email to members letting them know you have posted a question and that responses are to be made on the Discussion Board. This will enable responses to be gathered in one place including attachments if policies, etc., are provided and is available on a permanent basis.
- If offering congratulations for accreditations, or agency achievements please REPLY ONLY TO THE PERSON who provided the information, not to the entire list serve.
- If you would like to reference OASIS material please contact Amanda at [administrativesupport@oasonline.ca](mailto:administrativesupport@oasonline.ca) for the link to the website rather than redistributing material.
- [OASIS Discussion Board - ED Performance Appraisal](#)

#### **Links Included in this Issue...**

PSHSA OASIS Affiliate Page Web Tutorials: [Kitchen Hazards](#)

OASIS March Board Meeting Minutes: [March 2017 Board Meeting Minutes](#)

OASIS Four Pillars: [Four Pillars](#)

OASIS Board and Executive Meeting Schedule for 2017-2018: [Board Meeting Schedule 2017-2018](#)

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

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

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

Provincial Network March Meeting Minutes - [April 2017 PN Meeting Minutes](#)