



Strengthening Developmental Services Ontario

In the February 2014 issue of Spotlight, the government committed to working with Developmental Services Ontario (DSO) to support the important work it does with individuals and families across the province.

Since its creation three years ago, DSO locations around Ontario have provided individuals and families with a single point of access to apply for provincially-funded adult developmental services.

Developmental Services Ontario is a key element of our overall transformation plan. The nine DSO offices support fairness, equity and consistency in our developmental services sector by ensuring that all individuals applying for services and supports have their eligibility confirmed using the same criteria, and have their service and support needs assessed the same way across the province. This increased fairness and consistency helps protect the integrity of our adult developmental services system.

(cont'd p2)



The ministry is now working closely with DSO offices to better support individuals and their families through the application process.

Our work with DSO is focussing on:

- **Improving the assessment process** to reduce the length of time that individuals and families wait to complete an assessment. Providing more information to families and individuals about the supports and services available in their communities, both those offered to people with developmental disabilities and services offered to everyone.
- **Ensuring consistency** in how individuals are connected to available developmental services and supports.
- **Improving the quality of information** in the database used by DSOs. This will support better planning and forecasting for developmental services for every community.

DSO offices and service agencies are also collaborating to better connect individuals and families to the information and supports they need.

“Developmental Services Ontario is a key element of our overall transformational plan”

Many thanks to the DSOs for their accomplishments over their first three years and for the work they are doing to improve the experience of individuals and families.



Did you know?

Since being introduced in July 2011, DSOs have completed more than 15,000 assessments with individuals applying for provincially funded developmental services.



Preparing for life as an adult

Making the transition to adulthood can be a challenge for many young people. Integrated transition planning helps young people with developmental disabilities prepare and plan for adulthood, including planning for future living arrangements, education, employment, finances and community activities.

This fall, the Ministries of Children and Youth Services, Community and Social Services, and Education, along with community and school board partners, have worked to implement protocols for integrated transition planning to guide the process locally.

A single integrated transition plan informs educational planning and helps the young person with a developmental disability transition from secondary school and child-centred services

to adulthood, and help to prepare parents or guardians and other family members for changes.

The young person is an integral part of the integrated transition planning process so that the final plan reflects their goals for work, further education and life in the community. The written plans will be clear and easy to understand.

Integrated transition planning involves principals, teachers and other school staff, families and others who support the young person with a developmental disability, such as community agencies and health care providers. Please contact your school or your local office of the Ministry of Community and Social Services/ Children and Youth Services for more information on integrated transition planning for your child with a developmental disability.



Questions and Answers

When can integrated transition planning start for young people with developmental disabilities?

Integrated transition planning should start at age 14.

Who is responsible for starting the integrated transition plan?

The children's agencies and the school individual education plan lead will connect to begin the integrated transition planning process.

Who is eligible to receive integrated transition planning?

Integrated transition planning is for young people who meet the definition of having a developmental disability under any of the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Community and Social Services and Ministry of Children and Youth Services legislation frameworks or agency criteria.

Car dealership a perfect fit for Royce

Just a few years ago, some people looked at Royce Rinne's developmental disability as a barrier to employment in the community. Today, Royce is a valued employee at a Honda car dealership.

Royce's amazing story began when [LiveWorkPlay](#), an Ottawa organization championing community inclusion for people with developmental disabilities, reached out to car dealerships in the Ottawa area as possible employers for their members. At Dow Honda in Ottawa's Little Italy, the idea found open doors and open minds.

Dow Honda General Manager Andrew Bearss immediately saw beyond Royce's disability label. He realized that an individual with a developmental disability could excel at an important task in his car service centre:

Counting and cataloging their immense inventory of spare parts.

Andrew decided to give Royce a chance. "Royce is reliable, very detail-oriented, and he enjoys patterns and routines. He's turned out to be the perfect guy for this," he says. "It's saved us tremendous amounts of money by having him here."

Royce quickly proved that the trust in him was well placed. His outstanding work performance soon surpassed their highest expectations. After a brief trial period, he was offered a part-time position as an Inventory Analyst. In fact, Andrew's high esteem for his employee even inspired Dow Honda's two partner dealerships and an Ottawa Volvo dealership to hire LiveWorkPlay participants.



“Royce is reliable, very detail-oriented, and he enjoys patterns and routines. He's turned out to be the perfect guy for this ”

“Being paid well and living on my own – that makes me very happy,” says Royce.

Thank you LiveWorkPlay and Dow Honda for sharing this wonderful story! [Watch Royce's video here.](#)

“Building possibility” through Person-Directed Planning

A guest article by Community Living St Catharines

Community Living St. Catharines has embarked on an exciting service recognizing the unique strengths, accomplishments and contributions of the people and families we support. We’ve transformed our Adult Planning program from a service-based model to a more inclusive planning process.

Previously, our program concentrated on helping people access funding, respite and clinical supports. But services alone did not help to fully enhance quality of life, nor did they help us achieve the vision of an inclusive community.

Person-directed planning was the spark that shifted our priorities. By giving people more control over their independence, we’re now better able to assist them with exploring their dreams, achieving goals and helping them become included members of the community.

Based on the life vision and goals of the individual, each person-directed planning process focusses on the individual to reflect and enhance a person’s unique life circumstances. The planning process focusses on a holistic picture of the aspirations, strengths, gifts and accomplishments of an individual and can include several strategies, such as identifying individualized supports and resources, preparing for life transitions, crisis planning and forecasting future needs.



PDPs are helping Joe Sapielak, Amy Vaughan, Melinda Ibbotson and Jeff Wall realize their goals and dreams.

The process of Person-directed planning also promotes community inclusion by assisting in the development of support circles – involving the people who are important in an individual’s life and inviting them to participate in the planning process.

When we started on this journey, we had no idea what our service would look like at the end of the transformation process. We’re only just beginning to scratch the surface when it comes to “building possibilities” through person-directed planning. But with each plan, we see the potential to make a positive impact and help to improve the quality of life of the people that we support.

Virtual Town Hall on Health Care Access

The Health Care Access Research and Developmental Disabilities (H-CARDD) research project invites people across Ontario to join virtual discussions on health care access for individuals with developmental disabilities.

The first is on Transition Age Youth with Developmental Disabilities.

During the interactive town hall session you can learn about new research findings and share your thoughts on:

- How individuals with developmental disabilities use health services between the ages of 14 and 24, and;
- How the transition age for youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder differs from youth without ASD.

Presenters will be Barry Isaacs, Director of Research, Evaluation and Education at Surrey Place Centre and Jonathan Weiss, Clinical Psychologist and Associate Professor at York University.

Participation is free and possible via videoconference and live webcast.

Health Status and Service Use in Transition Age Youth with Developmental Disabilities

When: December 11, 2014 – 1:00 to 3:00 pm

To register, please use the following link:
training.clhmidland.on.ca/surveys/index.php/357984/lang-en.

If you are unable to connect by videoconference, you can view the town hall via live webcast.

Go to webcast.otn.ca/, Private Events: login with username=cns1 and password=network1



H-CARDD is a research program that aims to enhance the overall health and wellbeing of individuals with developmental disabilities.

Upcoming H-CARDD Town Halls:

Women and Mothers with Developmental Disabilities: Priorities for Action

January 19, 2015 – 12:00 to 2:00 pm

Gaps in health care for individuals with Dual Diagnosis-plus (developmental disability plus either mental health or addictions issues)

February 12, 2015 – 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Aging and Developmental Disabilities: Frailty, Home Care and Long-term Care

February 19, 2015 - 1:00 – 3:00 pm

For more information on these upcoming town halls, visit the H-CARDD website at hcardd.ca or contact Yasmin Munoz at Yasmin.munoz@camh.ca or 416-535-8501 x 37819.



Family caregiver leave now in effect

New legislation came into effect on October 29 that allows caregivers to focus their attention on what matters most – providing care to their loved ones without fear of losing their jobs.

Family caregiver leave, one of three new job-protected leaves, provides up to eight weeks of unpaid leave per calendar year per specified family member. Family caregiver leave may be taken to provide care or support to a family member who has a serious medical condition, which may include a developmental disability. A certificate from the family member's doctor, registered nurse or psychologist stating that the family member has a serious medical condition is required to qualify for family caregiver leave.

“Family caregiver leave may be taken to provide care or support to a family member who has a serious medical condition, which may include a developmental disability.”

To learn more about family caregiver leave and to download a certificate for your family member's doctor, nurse or psychologist, visit the Ministry of Labour's website: ontario.ca/byig

To learn more about Ontario's new job-protected leaves, read the Ministry of Labour's news release: ontario.ca/byii

Ministry of Community and Social Services
Community Supports Policy Branch

Tel: 416-327-4954 ▪ Fax: 416-325-5554 ▪ Toll-free tel: 1-866-340-8881 ▪ Toll-free fax: 1-866-340-9112

Email: DStransformation.css@ontario.ca ▪ Read more about developmental services at ontario.ca/community

Connect with us



twitter.com/ONSocialService



facebook.com/OntarioSocialServices



youtube.com/OntarioSocialService