



An Update on the Developmental Services Sector in Ontario

A Message from Minister Dr. Helena Jaczek



This edition of Spotlight is intended to share our progress with you, our valued partners in the developmental services sector.

Let me begin by saying that I am encouraged

by what we have accomplished to further our goal of transforming developmental services in Ontario and, most importantly, what we've done to make a meaningful impact in the lives of the individuals and families that we serve. But even with this progress, there remains so much more we need to do to realise our vision of an inclusive, individualised and person-centred approach to serving Ontarians with a developmental disability.

Working with you—the individuals, families and our many community partners—we are making

important progress in reaching our goals. Our new **LifeShare pilot campaign**, our **Multi-Year Residential Strategy**, our Developmental Services **Housing Task Force projects**, the work underway with the **Intentional Community Consortium** (ICC), and the **Housing Forum** we hosted in November are but a few examples of the efforts underway towards providing families with greater flexibility and choice towards the goal of inclusion.

I also continue to engage other cabinet colleagues across government, including the ministers of Health and Long-Term Care, Children and Youth Services, Community Safety and Correctional Services, Education, Housing, and the Attorney General to find ways we can all work across ministries to support individuals with developmental disabilities.

Since beginning my tenure as Minister, I've met incredible leaders and champions in the

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developmental services sector who have accomplished outstanding work in furthering our common goals. Our greatest asset in tackling the challenges ahead are the partnerships we've forged with those who share our vision of providing greater choice and flexibility for individuals and their families.

Our shared responsibility requires a shared commitment to create innovative solutions and models of service that will support people in reaching their full potential and achieving greater independence and inclusion. Following the Housing Forum in November, I've heard from many families who were thrilled to be part of the

larger conversation and are eager to be part of the solutions for supporting their loved ones, because they know they also have a role to play.

I would like to express my gratitude to all of the individuals, families and community partners, who have contributed and provided feedback to myself and the ministry, in so many ways. Together, with continued efforts, I know that we will continue to make further progress.

I encourage you to visit our **Transforming Developmental Services in Ontario** web page to learn more about the work the ministry has underway. ■

Ministry Launches New Web Page on DS Transformation



The Ministry of Community and Social Services has been hard at work on our transformation agenda and our commitment to ongoing change and improvement of the developmental services sector to improve outcomes for adults with developmental disabilities.

In order to capture all our work on these initiatives, we've launched the **Transforming Developmental Services in Ontario** web page that lists the supports we provide and the work we have underway to support the 42,000 adults with

developmental disabilities living in Ontario.

The new page lists everything from the launch of our new **ReportON** phone line and email service for reporting witnessed or suspected abuse of adults with developmental disabilities; to our new **LifeShare pilot** campaign to promote the expansion of family-centred housing supports—and much more.

Bookmark the new page and check back occasionally as we update content with our latest developments in the DS sector. ■

Ontario Eliminates the 2014 Passport Waitlist One Year Ahead of Schedule

Last month, the province announced the elimination of the 2014 Passport waitlist. This move will provide new direct funding for 13,000 adults with developmental disabilities by the end of March.

One of the government's top priorities is to help those we serve to live, work and participate in a range of community-based settings. Eliminating the 2014 Passport waitlist contributes to that goal by supporting as many people as possible to benefit from this program.

When the program was first launched in 2006, it served only 1,700 people. Today, the program supports approximately 19,000 individuals and will support approximately 24,000 recipients by the end of March.

Elimination of the waitlist was originally scheduled to be completed by the end of 2017/18. Ontario will reach this goal by the end of 2016/17, one year ahead of schedule.

Although we are pleased with the progress we have made, we know there is more we need to do. As the demand for Passport grows, we continue to prioritize individuals on the waitlist so that as funds become available, they go to those who need them most.

“By expanding services to thousands more individuals with developmental disabilities, we are providing them with more choice, more independence and more inclusion in our communities.”

— Dr. Helena Jaczek, Minister of Community and Social Services

If you are interested in learning more about the Passport program or to read about **developmental services**, please visit our **website**. ■

Ontarians Share Insights on Housing Solutions for Adults with Developmental Disabilities

This past November, Minister Jaczek and her colleague The Honourable Chris Ballard, Minister of Housing, hosted the **Development Services Housing Forum** at the Artscape Sandbox in Toronto.

The goal of the Forum was simple: to encourage people to share their ideas on how best to eliminate barriers, improve opportunities and support innovative and inclusive housing for adults with developmental disabilities.

Ontarians seized on this opportunity to make themselves heard on the topic. Across the province people attended one of the satellite forums in Chatham, Ottawa, Orangeville and Thunder Bay; or participated by hosting their very own local sessions; by leaving comments on the ministry website; and submitting feedback to the DS Transformation email address; and engaged on Twitter using the hashtag #DSHousingForum.

Several key themes emerged during the discussions—the majority agreeing on the need for more ongoing dialogue and input from families and communities.



“There isn’t a one-size-fits-all solution to housing,” Minister Jaczek acknowledged. “To identify truly innovative solutions, we need to work together to create sustainable options for individuals to support greater social inclusion of people with developmental disabilities.”

All of the Forum’s findings have been summarized as part of our **“What We Heard”** report. The knowledge that the ministry gathered will help to build a foundation for better housing solutions in the future.

As part of our ongoing conversation on housing solutions for people with developmental disabilities and their families, Ontarians are encouraged to continue to provide feedback to the ministry by email at

dstransformation.css@ontario.ca ■

Ontario Improves Services and Support for those with Complex, Multiple Needs

The province is working to make services better for those who need them most. This spring, Ontario will introduce three new measures to improve the supports and services for adults with developmental disabilities who have complex and multiple needs.

A refreshed mandate for the **Community Networks of Specialized Care** (CNSCs) will help agencies across the province coordinate services for people with developmental disabilities. These agencies will bring together professionals in various fields—including health, and justice—to coordinate access to quality services for these individuals. The refreshed mandate includes a specific role for complex support coordinators, who will focus on addressing the needs of these adults.

Second, a new **Dual Diagnosis Framework** will address the need for greater coordination of health and developmental services supports for individuals with a dual diagnosis. The release of the framework will be followed by cross sector engagement.

And finally, **guidelines for long-term care homes** are being developed to support adults with developmental disabilities. The guidelines will assist individuals when applying for, transitioning into and living in a long-term care home. The changes are geared towards improving

“Our government is taking action to address gaps and challenges in the developmental services system to protect adults with developmental disabilities that also have complex and multiple needs. These initiatives also reflect our overall approach to our vision of an inclusive, individualized and person-centred approach to serving some of the province’s most vulnerable people.”

— Dr. Helena Jaczek, Minister of Community and Social Services

knowledge, planning and service coordination between the developmental services sector and the long-term care home sector.

Minister Jaczek emphasizes the province’s efforts to ensure people are receiving the quality care and services required to meet their needs. She wants Ontarians to know these changes and initiatives reflect the province’s overall approach to our vision of an inclusive, individualised and person-centred approach to serving some of the province’s most vulnerable people.

The government will provide more information on these initiatives in the months to come as these initiatives develop—stay tuned. ■

Taking Action to Provide Better Support for Adults with Developmental Disabilities in the Court System

The province is taking steps to better serve vulnerable people, who are in conflict with the law, specifically those with a mental illness, and/or a developmental disability or a dual diagnosis.

Over the next two years, the province will work to add 40 new mental health court support workers into courts across the province.

Mental health court support workers play a critical role in connecting people in need to mental health and addiction supports and services.

With this initiative, the government is expecting to achieve a number of positive outcomes:

- Increasing the number of adults with a mental illness and/or developmental disability who receive appropriate and timely support and treatment while involved with the criminal justice system;
- Reducing the number of people with a mental illness and/or developmental disability

considered to be low-risk who are incarcerated in correctional facilities; and

- Reducing criminalization and stigmatization of people with mental illness and/or developmental disabilities experiencing mental illness in contact with the criminal justice system.

The initiative is made possible by collaboration between the Ministry of Community and Social Services, the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services, and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. ■

“This initiative is about getting mental health and addictions and developmental services supports to those who need them most, while they are also involved in the province’s court system.”

— Dr. Helena Jaczek, Minister of Community and Social Services

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