

Daily Briefing Note April 6, 2020

Attendees from PN; OASIS; CLO: Michelle Brooks; Ann Bilodeau; Brad Saunders; Bryan Keshen; Carolyn Morrison; Chris Beesley; David Cohen; David Ferguson; Dean Johnson; Eugene Versteeg; Helene Fournier; James Duncan; Janet Noel-Annable; Lorrie Heffernan; Lisa Holmes; Geoff McMullen; Jo-Anne Demick; Don Walker; Jonathan Bradshaw; Steve Finlay; Ann-Marie Binetti; Christine Dubyk

Attendees from MCCSS: Rupert Gordon, Laura Summers; Christine Kuepfer

Opening remarks:

- Michelle asked for consideration to hold the PN Briefing Calls 3 times a week (M;W;F)
- This week would be M; W due to the long weekend. Emergency Calls can take place if/when needed.
- Next weeks' meetings will be Tues; and Thur next week.
- ***All on the call are in agreement and MCCSS agree that this will work better at their end. Rupert assured the group that MCCSS continues to be supportive and committed to regularly touch base every week to 10 days with this group.***

1) Updates from MCCSS and progress reports on take-aways:

Emergency Order: What are people's responses around the Emergency Order that came out on the weekend and is there anything to consider. Many of our usual 'take-aways' will have been addressed with this order.

- Dave F. – appreciated the order and believe this is what we have been asking for. However, this does not address the employee 'childcare'. Hearing from OPSEU that this does not apply to agencies unless there is a 'positive' testcase in the homes. Dave said that specific to the Emergency Order, his position is that this is effective now and taking the approach to continue talking with the bargaining units. OPSEU is sending a memo to employees about types of 'exceptional' funding and is saying that 'wage enhancements' is allowable with the announcement of the recent 'order'. It is understood by the group that this is not the case.
- Bryan – fabulous announcement and very much appreciated; provides more confidence and have only good things to say toward this. Continuation on the work to have 'childcare' issues the same as Health and LTC would be a very worthwhile asset.
- Will circle back with OBRC on the numbers and how the \$40M will align with "real" costs related to COVID-19.
- Michelle asked if agencies share these MCCSS announcements with their labour workforce? Most confirmed that they do share this information.

- Rupert shared some points around the Order:
 - ✓ MCCSS details of the anticipated announcement/correspondence regarding the Order were shared with both OPSEU and CUPE reps over the weekend as they were with Michelle. Overall they have been quite receptive.
 - ✓ For the 'childcare' access, MCCSS continues to leverage conversations on behalf of the sector. Minister Smith and Minister Lecsee have continued to meet to discuss, however nothing to update today.
 - ✓ There is still a real supply chain issue and working on greater clarity and the issue of growing supply of service.
 - ✓ The announcement of the \$40M back on March 24th; it is important to understand that organizations also receive greater than \$3M of operating funds within their budgets. Flexibility of that resource is a pretty important part of this toolkit and it is encouraged that people review this.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE – Supply Chain)

- Bryan – There is a need to start drafting something in terms of potentially being low and/or being able to modify alternatives for PPE that are appropriate to our settings. We need functional models to our sector and should try to get this done ASAP. Do not believe we are in the same triage of equipment and resources as health and LTC, therefore need minimal standards to get things moving. MCCSS feels this is fair and if we open this around reasonable and/or modified standards it is a start. MCCSS is trying to find a way to use resources more broadly and fill in the near-term gap. There are a couple of promising ideas that could be relevant, however will circle back on this.
- Michelle suggested that Eugene go forward to the EOC with this, however we will await for MCCSS to check in with Health first.

Members thanked Rupert and staff for their ongoing efforts and work. Rupert shared that the thanks is with the Minister, Cabinet, Etc.

KPMG Planning Opportunity

- There are 2 KPMG working groups: Workforce and Alternate Housing
- Christine K – the Workforce group had first meeting on Friday and this consists of a small group: Michelle; Jo-Anne and Ann B. Initial meeting was to try to hone in on objectives and the ideal of what can be done around models to help address staffing shortages and how to go about using this model at both agency and community levels. 1 on 1 interviews taking place today and trying to move as quickly as possible. Also have staff from Regional Offices that are on this group. Once the creation and heavy lifting is done, will bring it back and do testing and validation with the broader group. There are some linkages with the work that Laura has been leading and will be connecting with a few agencies that are already living this.
- Christine updated on the Real Xchange repository- She and Ann-Marie have a call tomorrow with RXC.
- Laura S - updated on the 'Alternative Residential' KPMG group. The objective is to establish a cross over between both KPMG groups and with the 'emergency order' that came out over the weekend, hoping to have something to share over the next day or two with the group for next steps.

- Janet shared that she was impressed with the KPMG process and the overview; not sure how the groups will work together and would really encourage Laura to come up with a plan and then invite the group in. From a DS perspective conversation got to a really good place in the thinking.
- Brad – in isolation sites/alternative housing, a concern that needs to be raised is the linkage with PH and hospitals and to ensure this is tagged and added to the work of these groups. Janet did mention this on one of the calls with KPMG, and the point of integration and leveraging this. Brad is happy to help on this group if needed.

2) Updates on take-aways from the Committee Members:

Needs assessment survey for Ontario DS – Don W.

- Forwarded the survey as a courtesy to the PN Chair.
- In conjunction with TDSA and through an earlier meeting in March, looked at some coordinated planning and developed 4 different work groups. The research and education group put forward a survey to Toronto Service Providers. The survey is similar to survey monkey and can be rolled up.
- Some questions around: physical distancing; supports and resources needed; do families have access needed for Passport; etc.
- The question is: ***Would this be of benefit to release provincially and wanted to see how this group feels. This is being done in Toronto and as part of the linkage and materials, have connected with Ann-Marie B.***
- Helene: What will happen with the information once received. Don said each of the 4 groups have identified priorities and will be prepared to gather information, reviewing to see how this could benefit us now, and also to help develop future thinking on how to approach down the road.
- Don will share with Christine to circulate broader and beyond Toronto.

SSAH and Messaging to Families

- Laura will check to see where this stands. As of Friday, the official letter to families was in for approval.

Essential Status

- This is resolved to a certain extent with the 'Emergency Order' and we will remove this from the agenda going forward.
- Jo-Anne asked if our workers are deemed 'essential' would this give us different access to PPE. Members do not believe this would make a difference with us or Health at this time. This may be something to look at tapping into in the future. This is where we tap Dave F. and his group via ECC and OASIS LR Committee. Will circle back on this for a deeper discussion in the future.

Planning for Alternate Residential Settings

- There have been some conversations around individuals living at home and staff that do not want to go back to their own homes when supporting people at risk, etc.
- Ann B. had hotels set up and these are now being trumped by hospital staff. Reaching out to people that have trailers and where they can support family members this way. Continue to engage with Universities, however being told that these are also for Health.
- Michelle asked if there is any thought of what we do in circumstance if employee gets sick and can not return back home? Bryan is looking at placing mobile units for his staff on their agency sites as 'command centres'. If someone is ill, they either need to go home, or hospital, however, have not contemplated what can be provided for those who can not/do not want to go home.

Frontline Experiences

- Brad/Bryan – staff tested positive over weekend and the question was can they return to work as 'essential'? workers can self-isolate while at work if a-systematic by his PH. Bryan had the same call made. More staff have been deemed positive and team and union have been positive and working together. Looking to expand a project site to be completed within 4 months and has the backing of the Premier. Having a conversation with he Mayor, etc. Also looking at 'shadowing'.
- Janet – is it possible to have Ann-Marie easily collect / create a repository of infection rates and to provide a sense of how big this is. Could a few people look at this and get a sense of how organizations are handling. ***Laura can pull this from SORs for confirmed and suspected. Looking for a way to mine the SOR data with catchwords and to pull at a provincial level and will follow up and share with us.***

3) Significant Decisions: *Based on Recommendations from Take-Aways & Today's Conversations*

Chris B. will work at putting out a 'summary' from last weeks briefing calls.

Chris B. – ARCH Letter: Triage Protocols for people with cognitive disabilities could be pushed back for triage. Unfortunately, this is not just Provincial, also Federal and could be another open letter. Thank you to those who have supported this so far.

Next Briefing Call: Wednesday April 8th, 2020 at 2:00PM