

Daily Briefing March 24, 2020

Invitees from PN; OASIS; CLO: Michelle Brooks; Ann Bilodeau; Brad Saunders; Brian Davies; Bryan Keshen;Carolynn Morrison; Chris Beesley; David Cohen; David Ferguson; Dean Johnson; Eugene Versteeg; Helene Fournier; James Duncan; Janet Noel-Annable; Jo-Anne Demick; Don Walker; Jonathan Bradshaw; Peter Sproul; Terri Hewitt; AnnMarie Binetti; Christine Dubyk

Invitees from MCCSS: No Representative(s) in Attendance

Opening remarks

Michelle has a call with Rupert Gordon after this teleconference. MCCSS did forward an email with updates on take-away issues and as provided below.

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

- Bill 124 - Treasury Board (whose Minister has the authority for the legislation) is assessing the impact of the Bill in this pandemic environment and what action they might recommend their Minister take. Until they complete this work and get direction from their Minister, MCCSS will not have information to share. They are absolutely aware of the time sensitivity around this.
- EOC - Have circled back and there is an MCCSS ADM identified who will be sitting at that health table and able to carry and convey the message and concerns of the DS Sector. MCCSS will be able to share this information out more broadly soon.
Who is the MCCSS ADM that will be at the EOC table? Michelle will inquire with Rupert on today's call after this meeting.
- PPE - Continues to be a huge issue. You may have seen in the news they are working to bring in manufacturers who can tool their plants to support new production. I think it's important (and the MOH guidelines for group homes etc. will help bring clarity) that people understand the instances in which PPE is actually necessary. Is there any conversation happening across the sector about who has PPE and whether an inter-sector sharing might happen if a home finds itself in the case of having a presumed\confirmed case and don't have any PPE? MCCSS understands that people want their own supplies, but is there planning that is happening across agencies while MOH is working to address supply chain issues?

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

Compensation Discrepancies: Dave F. – No updates as yet. Recommendations were forwarded by committee to OASIS. Follow-up has occurred with Darren Connolly, OASIS awaiting perspective and will confirm with him.

Frontline Experiences: Joanne D. followed up with the 'fast tracking' of COVID-19 testing at labs and was informed it takes 6-7 days for test results to come back. Specific requirements for fast tracking per feedback from health indicates that an underlying condition needs to be documented by the doctor and in order for the lab to fast track. This should be shared with staff at agencies and so in future if supported individuals are being tested, indicate to the doctor to fast track. Now quickly running out of PPE and until any positive results are confirmed. Is there something that can be provided to the sector on 'lessons learned'?

Jo-Anne will compile a lesson(s) learned to share with the sector. Specific to issues around essential services. Clarify the ESA interpretations of limits and expectations of employees/ employers once deemed essential. Michelle has reached out to Cheryl Willes Poorhan on this and will share 'legal' feedback once received.

Michelle will discuss with Rupert and request for clarity to help address challenges of essential and the interpretations of this when stated by way of Premier vs. Public Health Officer. Also would be very helpful to receive some DS specific guidelines around when to use PPE it can help manage and direct demand issues.

- Janet N-A – in normal and typical times we depend on Health and Justice and now being informed that police involvement will not be provided at this time.
- Brad – Health and protocols – staff was not able to accompany a supported person into the hospital.
Dean, James, Terri and Bryan (CNSC and GLS) were looking into this for our Thursday Call and if recommendations and messaging to be shared then.
- Thank you, Ann-Marie B. with all the assistance on the Social Media work. Ann-Marie is working with the team at ConnectAbility and we will see things have been ramped up.
Feel free to share with our teams and please share any 'other' agency-specific ideas with Ann-Marie so that she can add to the site.

Draft Letter to Minister Todd Smith - Bryan discussed 'draft' letter shared with this group to Minister Todd Smith. The letter has not gone out. Wanting to ensure alignment around other items discussed and feedback/comments appreciated before speaking up and moving this forward.

- ***Michelle will raise this point with Rupert again around a commitment. Eugene put in a request to sit at the EOC table and no response to date.***
- ***Letter is 'on hold' until confirmation received as to whether this communique should be from the three organizations (CLO/OASIS/PN).***
- ***There is acknowledgement that every system in every sector in every Ministry is completely overrun and do not want our messages to get diluted. Don't think Gov't is ignoring us and that it is the degree of information coming in and obtaining clarity.***
- ***The group agreed however stressed concern around what is priority and relevant, and at this time, Bill 124 should not be at the forefront.***

- ***Understand this crisis is overwhelming but we all have issues to handle and resolve. There is a lot of misinformation out there on what is critical, and a list of our top items would be beneficial, such as: PPE; Staff Shortages; Essential Services Clarification***

- Dave F. informed that DS was left out on the 'Daycare for healthcare workers'.

Cascading Framework: Bryan did a walk-thru based on assumption ratio of 1% overall and knowing the number of touchpoints in group homes are higher:

- In 3 weeks from now, 9K staff will not be coming to work due to suspected infected, infected, isolated
- 100K masks, gowns, etc.
- \$30M for 3 weeks for staff wages
- Key issues are: Staff; PPE; Alternative Locations; Transportation

This will be more fully developed for discussions on Thursday. Bottom line there are factors that we can not handle. What have we as an agency looked at and via our community tables? What is the best way and use of our time and giving the right asks to Government?

Will circle back to prior letter around specific asks (see attachment shared with this briefing note). Michelle will take for the message of importance of Rupert being at the Thursday PN meeting via BlueJeans and to having someone on these daily calls.

- Don W. – TDA and Partnership doing some work on consolidating information and will link in on this. Connect with Ann-Marie B.
- Joanne D – would like to thank OASIS for their sharing of information for pandemic planning and crisis communication training arranged through IVEY.

3. Issues/ Risks:

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

- Members agree to continue having these calls daily and revisit next week.
- Janet N-A – there is a growing wealth of resources coming in from organizations. Is there a way to create a repository for sharing within communities?
Ann-Marie B. will oversee via the HR website and will post and will inform our networks. Don shared that TDA and Partnership are doing some work on consolidating information and will link in on this with Ann-Marie.
- Michelle shared that In Durham there was a call today and PPE was discussed. Social Media will be sent out requesting businesses that have PPE to share to please donate/drop off to a central repository.
Michelle will share the 'social media' posts with this group