



Daily Briefing Agenda March 31, 2020

Attendees from PN; OASIS; CLO: Michelle Brooks; Ann Bilodeau; Lisa Holmes; Bryan Keshen; Carolynn Morrison; Chris Beesley; David Ferguson; Dean Johnson; David Cohen; Eugene Versteeg; James Duncan; Don Walker; Peter Sproul; Terri Hewitt; Ann-Marie Binetti; Christine Dubyk

Attendees from MCCSS: Laura Summers; Christine Kuepfer

Opening remarks

Michelle welcomed all on the call. The conference call that was to take place with KPMG today from 1:00pm-3:00pm is cancelled due to 'other' Provincial items. The KPMG call will take place tomorrow, April 1st, 2020.

Top Issues for Discussion

- EOC – Eugene has a call at 2:30pm today as an outcome of this mornings EOC call. As a result of a question from Eugene pertaining to connection with the DS sector, a follow up call was offered. A few people will discuss with EOC and share the sector concerns and needs around the differences within LTC, Health Care and DS with the focus on; essential workers; priority and expedited testing and results; in-home testing; PPE; Childcare, etc. Eugene shared this information with Laura/MCCSS and will share outcomes of the discussion to see how this all fits together.
- Essential Status - Peter S. asked about staff in essential critical services in the supported individual living (SIL) environment and does the 'priority' cover these staff as well. ***Laura will go back and raise this with the MOH on the SIL accommodations and dealing with vulnerable people.*** This would likely mean that the 'Public Health' form would need to be updated and this is a process in itself.
- Guidelines for Group Homes - Eugene informed that a number of guidelines are being put out for other sectors including group homes. As a sector we would benefit from being part of these discussions, specifically around the choice of working at LTC and the unintended consequences, etc. Laura said priority testing is captured in the guidelines and states that DS is priority and she suggested to take these guidelines with us to hospital if needed for clarification purposes.
- PPE - Laura informed members that there will be a program rolled out around PPE and the exercise to obtain funds related to COVID-19 purchases via a sector-based platform. An active discussion across the entire government is taking place.
- Laura updated that 'daycare' is an active conversation and getting direction from the Minister's Office and the Minister of Education. If Ministry gets direction for frontline workers around daycare, this has to be done by amending the daycare 'order'.
- Chris B. thanked MCCSS for hearing us and wants to flag that this is all in preparing for COVID kicking off. Expect that people at home will start to get volatile over the upcoming weeks and parents will be requiring, and calling for supports to their local associations, Ministries, etc. and we need to address the need for

increased staffing for people to stay within their homes. The need for PPE and essential worker status are the 2 most important issues at this time. This is the same issue in any staffing environment; however, we need to extend this to home situations. Christine K. suggested that this be brought forward to the KPMG meeting to discuss.

- Michelle: how do we determine a legitimate and fair request to work. If not concrete, employees will pontificate on this. Laura will check to see if anything done to date removes the right and or clarifies the circumstances for 'work refusal' in clearer-objective terms that can be enforceable and easily understood.
- SSAH: Michelle inquired about families not tied to agencies and how they will be/have been informed of the funding continuing for SSAH? Where we understand that existing recipients' renewals will happen, how does this information get to families if not coming out via regular correspondence (not all families receive SSAH through agencies). **Laura will pass this onto her SSAH colleagues of how informing is being done. Terri H. said messaging on this could also be posted on the DSO website, etc. Laura stated that she would see if a statement could be created for DSOs to use.**
- KPMG Alternate Housing – Laura waiting to hear from the lead on this initiative and a webinar/teleconference will take place today for a 'launch' call. This will bring together Child Welfare, DS, Indigenous, VAW. Today's call is introducing the opportunity and what the task and approach will be with and initial brainstorm session.
- Michelle asked about the broader discussion on roles & resp. on probable vs. confirmed cases. If looking at alternate sites to house people, this would touch on the health's responsibilities. Looking into modular/alternative housing that could assist with more intensive supports and had a call with James D. and Dean J. Require clarity on how health can assist with this and a commitment and collaborative way to deal with this. Laura said health typically does not get involved unless it is in hospital. Otherwise, people stay at home and are cared for from home. The idea that James and Michelle discussed is that someone with more intensive behavioural issues would do better in a separate space with nursing assistance. James said this will assist with taking pressures off of health care but cannot put this all back on us/DS. **Laura will take this forward for consideration. These alternate housing units would be in close proximity to hospital(s) and clinical workers. Will talk to this at the KPMG table and invite James Duncan on the call.**
- Ann B. – heard that colleges and universities have been shut out of working for DS and can only work with Healthcare. Hotels are telling Ann that they cannot house anyone that is sick. Having some success with a few hotels, however very limited. Homeless are taking over the hotels at a cost that is quite exorbitant. **Laura heard this about Universities and College residences. Also heard 4 hotels have been taken up for homeless in Toronto.**

Meeting adjourned: 2:50pm