

Provincial Network Briefing Notes
September 30th, 2020
2:00PM – 3:00PM via BlueJeans

Welcome – *Michelle B., PN Chair* welcomed all to the PN Briefing Call of September 30th, 2020

Budget Consultations – All

- Discussed ‘key themes’ agencies are considering around budget consultations.
- Chris and Shawn shared that they will be presenting, however wanted to connect with PN members to consider common messaging. One of the items they would like to specifically include is pertaining to the barriers for people on ODSP and poverty.
- Members agree to include the announcement on the \$52M for the Health and LTC sectors in relation to; where does the DS sector fit in here, if at all?
- On behalf of Dave F., Janet shared that the messaging he had prepared included:
 - ✓ Pride in the people we support and the success we had in managing the pandemic.
 - ✓ 15K on the Waitlist
 - ✓ Appreciation for CRRF and funding provided through Pandemic Pay
 - ✓ Sectoral Compensation
 - ✓ Emergency Orders and One Employer; Workforce Challenges such as wage disparity and recruitment
- Janet will be including similar to Dave and around:
 - ✓ Request a wage bump to a minimum of \$25.00 for all DS workers
 - ✓ Support for an inclusive affordable housing initiative
 - ✓ Fix the Pay Equity Legislation to achieve good outcomes, not continuing to punish workers/people supported

Ontario Investing \$52.5M to recruit, retain and support Health Care Workers

- Chris B. shared that further to yesterday’s announcement re: \$52.5M investment, the Ministry is appealing for families to become caregivers in LTC facilities. This will now create yet more overlap in our sector and add to the already existing challenges around Visitor Guidelines. How do we address this and where do we stand with this?
- Jo-Anne shared that she thought there was a provision within the guidelines to have ‘designated visitors’ that included congregate settings and will check on this.
- Ann B. received an email from MCCSS with correspondence from Rupert during our call and will share re: QAM and Visitors. Will send to Christine to circulate.

- Michelle said the original plan to assist our sector with staffing shortages was to utilize school employees available through the portal created for BPS, however with schools back how does this play out? Would be interesting to see the outcomes of the survey around 'Staff Challenges' that the Ministry did as it may help strengthen our messaging, specifically the experiences of agencies around recruitment and vacancies etc.
- Michelle said in the past with such announcements there was an open conversation with the Ministry and the 3 Provincial organizations. This should likely take place and to ensure our concerned are heard prior to the roll out and for DS not to miss out.
- Members agree for Chris B., Geoff and Michelle to schedule a call with Rupert and/or the Minister.
- Chris B. would like to include discussions around Passport Funding and how to bring this along. Members agree to collect more statistics on the Passport information.
Action: Michelle will connect with Rupert on this to try to coordinate a meeting for the 3 organizations to have a conversation (CLO, OASIS, PN).
- Geoff shared that the OASIS Engagement Sessions showed that 'recruitment and retention' was identified as very challenging. OASIS will be revisiting Rob Hickey's report on this and there is concern that the Health Sector is going to move so far ahead of us.
- Jo-Anne asked if there is a way to confirm the reference in the announcement around 'Home and Community Care' and would this include Congregate Care?
- Lorrie was informed that under the health envelope that there will be a PSW incentive program to receive a \$5K signing bonus.
- Peter S. reiterated that the pandemic has clearly shown the issues in our sector. We have to move forward with some kind of funding formula as it is quickly approaching a crisis.
- Members all agree that we are on the 'Sidelines' and a 'Forgotten Sector' and excluding our sector could lead to 'Unintended Consequences'. Lorrie shared that we need to align with who/how we compete as we support hospitals and LTC by what our sector does in way of supports.
- Dean was under the impression that Kaitlyn Guthrie was going to be attending the PN meetings. Michelle and Christine will check the minutes referencing attendance from Passports.

Next Steps

- **To Inform Budget Messaging**
 - ✓ Passport Statistics – Lorrie and Dean will gather this information for the East and Central Regions
 - ✓ Recruitment and MCCSS Survey – Michelle
 - ✓ Rob Hickey's numbers around recruitment and retention – Ann B. and Ann-Marie
 - ✓ Yona's Report would also be beneficial – Releases on October 4th, 2020
- **Discussion with Rupert**
 - ✓ Michelle will reach out to Rupert re: Visitation and Recruitment

Updates on take-aways from the Committee Members

- Moving Away from Emergency Orders- *All Members*
 - EOC Update: Thank you Eugene for continuing to share the COVID reports. Eugene is following up on conversations around understanding flu vaccines. ***Will put on agenda for next weeks' Briefing Call.***
 - In-House Health Expertise for DS Continued Conversation: Lorrie said there is some confusion on what the Network is looking for around this. There is currently the Ontario Health Teams, Health Counsel, Health Links, etc. and not sure what is being requested. Lorrie and Bryan will be connecting further on the Ontario Health Teams discussions and sees areas where the sector can play a role and many that are starting to work with Health Teams.

Dean shared that CNSC is not as broad as they used to be and is more specific to referrals and one-offs.

Michelle said we have distinctive groups doing similar and/or supporting work and feels it would be good to request a meeting with David Remington, Rupert Gordon and Laura Summers to get clear messaging on what would be helpful to them.

Action: Lorrie will reach out to Rupert and arrange a call for further discussion

- Differed Items for Next Weeks' Call
 - ✓ SPPI – Don W.
 - ✓ Labour Challenges / Union Discussions – Dave F. – OASIS Labour Relations
 - ✓ PN-HR Committee -Eugene

Next Meetings:

- PN ***Briefing call*** is October 7th, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.
- PN ***Full Meeting*** is October 22nd, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.