

Synopsis of Daily Provincial Network meetings April 20th & April 23rd

The Provincial Network met twice last week. We continue to look at the overarching issues of the sector and provide a coordinated approach to providing information, resources and collaboration between our networks and government.

Our Key Priorities remain:

- Maintaining staff and morale:
 - Need essential worker status and to be treated like health and LTC staff, including access to childcare.
 - Critical to have access to Personal Protective Equipment (PPE);
- Funding to meet the needs due to the pandemic;
- Look several weeks out for potential trends and impacts on people, families and supports;
- Resources for people and families;
- Create and sustain clear channels of communication with MCCSS and the government's Emergency Operations Committee (EOC).

Here is some key information and outcomes from these meetings:

With regular ministry participation on our calls, they continue to hear, ask questions and bring forth our concerns to the Minister, and he in turn, to cabinet.

From Government/MCCSS:

- We were successful in getting temporary changes to Passport/SSAH guidelines which will allow for the purchase of technology, sensory/exercise equipment, transportation for prescriptions/food, etc.
- Continuing to work with MCCSS on an order re. one employer (said order has since been issued).
- MCCSS stats as of April 22nd: 100 residents positive in DS; 130 staff positive.
- Government issued a letter in response to the open letter from ARCH Disability Law, regarding concerns about the draft triage protocols that de-prioritized people with "cognitive disabilities". The response letter did not completely rule out the adoption of these protocols should they wish to do so.

Other Issues & Outcomes:

- Coordination and consistency among Public Health agencies and ministries is still an issue regarding use of PPE, cloth masks and access to testing;
- The agency resource hub for COVID-19 is now housed on the Community Living Essex RealXchange site: <https://realxchange.communitylivingessex.org/covid-19-resources/>
- There's a need to coordinate with local health units and Public Health around collaboration/access to testing and mobile testing for all staff/people supported in congregate settings. Flattening of the curve and easing of restrictions is contingent on wide-spread testing, especially in our sector.
- Through participation on the Emergency Operations Committee we've collaborated on revised guidelines to the ones issued April 1st. Expect to see these any day now.
 - Continue to raise the issue of essential visitors when people are admitted to hospital;
 - We're also working on relevant documents for people/families to have if hospital admission is required.
- On April 21st, the PN issued a message from Michelle Brooks, which lists some of the collected learnings and wisdom shared thus far. Contact a committee member if you have not seen it.

Stay strong, Stay Healthy, Stay connected.

The Provincial Network.