

Synopsis of Provincial Network meetings July 8th & July 22nd

The Provincial Network met twice during the past 3 weeks. 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 are some key information and outcomes from these meetings:

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

From Government/MCCSS:

- MCCSS assures members to not be concerned with the expiration of Emergency Orders due to the tools the government has in place. Bill 195, *The Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act*, would provide possible continuation of some aspects, and the renewal of 30 days as opposed to the current 14-day.
- There has been excellent collaboration with the sub-groups around: advice on re-opening, IPAC, transitioning from Emergency Orders and the hierarchy of controls. These conversations have helped to consider new things, provide us with advice and ideas on how to work together and collaborate alongside Ministry of Health.
- QAM-
 - The state of thinking on this is that it will be more about the resumption of some interaction of compliance team and agencies. The Government is stepping back in this space at large and will probably begin by the end of July.

- It will be slightly different than QAM, less focus on documentation, head office/paperwork focus and more about work on the ground level, and to help prepare if there is a second wave.
- MCCSS is aware that there is a lot going on for agencies, and do not want to heighten anxiety, so there will be some written communication before hand.
- Where there is work that needs to be done, there will be a reasonable, thoughtful approach to get there.
- MCCSS suggests to refer to the document posted <http://qamtraining.net/> as much as possible for a better understanding of what is being assessed.

Other Issues & Outcomes:

- KPMG held their workshops with Provincial Network members based on lessons learned and advancements achieved during the pandemic. Information gathered from the workshops will be shared with members when available from KPMG.
- The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) is currently conducting a study to learn about the experience of front-line staff who have supported individuals with developmental disabilities during Covid-19. The link to participate in the study can be found at the following: <https://is.gd/DSstudy>.
- Additionally, drop-in staff sessions are also being hosted by CAMH and held every Thursday and Friday morning for the next few weeks. These sessions are intended to be a means for DS front-line staff to connect with their peers, share information and discuss emerging issues. You can register for the **Drop In Sessions** by following this link: <https://dspdropin.eventbrite.ca>. It is strongly encouraged to share with members of your staff who might be interested in participating.

Stay Strong, Stay Healthy, Stay Connected.

The Provincial Network.