

Synopsis of Daily Provincial Network meetings April 6th & April 8th

The Provincial continued 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) which is in short supply;
- Funding to meet the needs due to the pandemic;
- Look 3 weeks out for potential 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 ministry participation on our daily calls, they continue to hear, ask questions and bring forth our concerns to the Minister, and he in turn, to cabinet.

From MCCSS:

- While the emergency order does not address the need for emergency childcare for staff, Ministers Smith and Lecce continue to discuss;
- MCCSS is working on supply chain issues with respect to PPE;
- MCCSS will connect with MOH re. minimal standards for third part and/or home-made masks as the sector is moving quickly to implement for all support staff as a preventative measure;
- Members of the PN and MCCSS are working with KPMG around workforce stabilization and alternate residential options including hotels, RV's, modular, respite sites;

Other Issues & Outcomes:

- Triage Protocols: ARCH Disability Law put out an open letter to the Premier and Minister Elliott, asking to amend triage protocols that could see people with cognitive disabilities de-prioritized in extreme circumstances, on the basis of disability. The letter was circulated quickly with over 200 organizations and 4300 people supporting it. It was sent to the Premier and Minister on April 8th.
- We continue to work from multiple angles to get permission for families to use Passport funding for technology/data/transportation for food and medication;
- Requested that the ministry pull together provincial stats on infections occurring in both people supported and staff. They agreed to pull these stats and provide them, based on SOR's;
- Requesting priority testing be done within group home/congregate settings rather than having people leave their homes and that all be tested;
- Need to address the issue of staff working for multiple agencies and the need to have them working for only one agency in order to limit potential exposure;
- We're working with Community Living Essex and their Real X-Change site as a repository for tools and information. Should be complete by next week.

Stay strong, Stay Healthy, Stay connected.

The Provincial Network.