



Synopsis of Daily Provincial Network meetings: March 30th through April 3rd

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues here in Ontario, the Provincial continued its daily meetings. 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 this past week:

With ministry participation on our daily calls, they have heard and brought forth our concerns to the Minister, and he in turn, with cabinet. The result was last Friday's Emergency Order covering:

- Slowing the spread of the coronavirus and keep people from needing hospitalization;
- Supporting critical services and use existing resources flexibly, as enabled in the March 24, 2020 memo that communicated key financial supports and flexibilities;
- Focusing on maintaining the health and safety of people and the staff who support them;
- Working collaboratively with employees and their bargaining representatives to achieve these objectives.

Other Outcomes:

- Access to PPE continues to be an issue, but local sources are being developed and MCCSS will be having some more information on this soon. Clarity from Health on standards for masks, gowns, face screens would be helpful.
- Flexibility in the use of Passport funding is being worked on so that it might be used for things like technology, data plans, transportation of prescriptions and food.
- Access to emergency childcare for staff is still needed. Some municipalities are allowing DS staff access, others either are not, or don't have any emergency capacity at all.
- It is recommended that staff carry with them, a letter attesting to their essential status and that they and people they support have access to priority testing:
http://www.ontariodevelopmentalservices.ca/sites/ontariodevelopmentalservices.ca/files/sample_letters_for_staff_-_cl_parry_sound.pdf
- Sub-working groups of the Provincial Network are working with KPMG and ministry officials in planning for alternate residential settings and workforce maintenance.
 - Workforce/supports also extends to home situations where many families are struggling at this time.
- Dr. Yona Lunskey has updated the HCARDD website with COVID-19 specific materials:
www.hcarddcovid.com/info
- Messaging sent out to families receiving SSAH funding regarding status-quo continuance for those already receiving it, as well as funding for 4700 more children.

Stay strong, Stay Healthy, Stay connected.

The Provincial Network.

