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**INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** SECTOR LEADERS

**FROM:** MICHELLE BROOKS,  
CHAIR: PROVINCIAL NETWORKS ON DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

**SUBJECT:** CALL TO CHAMPION LOCAL MOBILIZATION RESPONSES

**DATE:** FRIDAY JANUARY 14, 2022

**CC:** LOCAL PLANNING TABLE CHAIRS

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Good afternoon Colleagues,

As part of an ongoing commitment to support service continuity and the implementation of proactive, responsive covid interventions, MCCSS and the Provincial Network on Developmental Services are working in partnership to improve support to local organizations during the Omicron surge of the pandemic and through outreach from your Regional Office.

Our current efforts to compile a resource guide that builds on concrete examples of collaborative best practices in the sector has been guided by your identified pressure points. While we recognize that implementation of new tactics will still require front line effort, there is immediate value in tools and tips that help reduce duplication of efforts, and serve as a go-to resource to help you to think differently if you have exhausted your existing back-up plans.

For both government and sector partners, the first instinct is often to act cautiously and avoid risk. However, this moment calls for action supported by courage and urgency and aligned with the values common to our sector and reflected most recently in Journey to Belonging. As you attend and participate in the creation of your community plan, and natural leaders step forward to champion the various tactics, it is important to keep this trusted foundation to guide how you proceed. Working together as a planning table to create solutions and resources that can assist in implementing a community approach/understanding is the shared priority – one that everyone needs to own in lieu of generating and forwarding your questions to those who have “stepped-up.”



As a valued member of your community, your active contributions at the local planning table are key to helping mitigate the risk to your own agency and to helping to ensure that no agency gets left behind. To be effective, community plans must harness a shared approach that is fluid and can be transferable from centers/agencies that are stable to those who are in crisis.

**To help support local agencies we have been holding conversations with the joint sector and Ministry Co-Chairs, Planning Tables in the following areas:**

1. Assess, with the support of Ministry Regional staff, whether local planning tables have considered and coordinated a collaborative approach for responding to the following areas:
  - Communicating with Public Health and Coordination of local DS Vaccination/PCR Clinics
  - Community reserve of PPE to fill gaps when individual agency inventory is low, CSE delivery is delayed, and need is present
  - Staffing Safety-Net for situations where it has become difficult for agencies to maintain service delivery due to absenteeism
  - On-boarding of new/temporary staff
  - Engaging and redeploying existing sector employees who are not currently being utilized or experiencing the same pressures and critical demands as those in congregate/residential settings
  - Engaging local bargaining agents and Joint Health and Safety committees in support of these areas
2. Schedule weekly meetings between local service providers to check in and plan together.
3. Establish emergency call lists comprised of key peers and people within your community and determine how and when you will use to support one another.
4. Review best practices and tactics collected from the sector and posted to the Real Xchange-COVID portal [COVID-19 Resources - The Real Xchange \(communitylivingessex.org\)](https://communitylivingessex.org) (forthcoming week of January 17).
5. Promote and encourage participation in a Provincial Network Video Conference on Tuesday January 18<sup>th</sup> 12:30-1:30pm to introduce this tool and provide a panel discussion that will highlight collaborative approaches for establishing community mobilization plans
6. Channel key insights and challenges through the Provincial Vaccine Committee which will continue to meet weekly with MCCSS Leadership to monitor and assess trends, needs and community experiences and solutions.
7. Incorporate insights from Provincial Network Committee discussions as source of continued and current shared expertise, insights and approaches that can be helpful to our sector leaders and families





As always, thank you for all that you do and for your commitment to step forward to aid in establishing collaborative community responses that will leave no one behind.

We are appreciative of OASIS for providing The Provincial Network and MCCSS the opportunity to provide updates on approaches to helping support you in your preparedness and ability to respond with a multipronged approach to incrementally increasing risk/need.

