



A communication designed to keep stakeholders in the loop about the work being done on the Special Needs Strategy in York Region.

For more information please visit:
<http://specialneedsstrategy.children.gov.on.ca/>

Background

In fall 2014 the ministries of Children and Youth Services, Education, Community and Social Services and Health and Long-Term Care launched a provincial Special Needs Strategy, recognizing that families of children and youth with special needs, including physical, developmental and/or communications needs, can have difficulties receiving services in a timely and coordinated way.

This initiative was focused on working to improve how families access the services they need, as close to home as possible. In York Region, a number of community agencies, healthcare/rehabilitation organizations and school boards created collaborative tables to complete two proposals in the areas of Coordinated Service Planning (CSP) and Integrated Delivery of Rehabilitation Services (IDRS). This newsletter provides some background about the initiative and shares updates/information now that both proposals have been submitted to the ministries.

“ **Vision:** An Ontario where children and youth with special needs get the timely and effective services they need to participate fully at home, at school, in the community, and as they prepare to achieve their goals for adulthood. ”

Coordinated Service Planning (CSP)

Three key elements:

1. A single Coordinating Agency in each service delivery area through which families can access coordinated service planning for a range of services across sectors.
2. Dedicated Service Planning Coordinators, through each Coordinating Agency, to lead coordinated service planning for families of children and youth with multiple and/or complex special needs by working with children’s services, health and education sectors.
3. One coordinated service plan for each child/youth that takes into account all of his/her goals, strengths, needs, as well as all of the services that the child/youth is and will be receiving.

Integrated Delivery of Rehabilitation Services (IDRS)

The provision of rehabilitation services for children and youth from birth to the end of school that are:

- Experienced by children, youth and their families as a single, seamless program of care.
- Easily accessible.
- Delivered in the school setting whenever possible for school-aged children.
- Of high quality, based on evidence-informed practices and the expertise of regulated health professionals.
- Sensitive and responsive to the needs and strengths of individual children and youth and their families.
- Focused on optimizing child/youth outcomes.

Update - CSP	Update - IDRS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CSP proposal was submitted on time to the ministry on June 15, 2015. • Family members participated as part of the proposal planning table. Feedback regarding needs and the proposed model was obtained from families, youth and providers through focus groups and surveys. • Currently the four ministries are reviewing all provincial proposals. Feedback is expected over the next several weeks. • Once feedback is received, the table will reconvene, update stakeholders and begin working on implementation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The IDRS proposal was submitted on time to the ministry on October 30, 2015. • From January to October 2015 the planning table met regularly to help develop the proposal, including establishing working groups during the summer months to address specific issues. • Over the proposal development period, the facilitator and table chairs met with a variety of stakeholders for focus groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Frontline service providers ○ Private rehabilitation providers ○ Parents and Youth • A family advisory group was also established. With 16 members from across York Region, representing both pre-school and school age children, the group provided input and feedback on key decisions during the process. • The ministry is expected to provide feedback in spring 2016. Once feedback is received, the table will reconvene, update stakeholders and begin working on implementation.



Did you know?

- Each comprehensive proposal was over 100 pages.
- 800 individuals, 320 of them family respondents, completed the online survey.
- The ministries have to review a total of 68 proposals covering 34 different service delivery areas.

As per ministry direction, contents of the submitted proposals are to be kept confidential as the recommended service delivery models may change based on ministry feedback.



On behalf of the chairs of both the CSP and IDRS tables, thank you to all the families, service providers, administrative/management staff and organizations that helped to support and inform this process.

CSP planning table members:

Central Community Care Access Centre
Central West Community Care Access Centre
Central Local Health Integration Network
Central West Local Health Integration Network
Children's Treatment Network
Conseil scolaire de district catholique Centre-Sud
Conseil scolaire Viamonde
Family representatives
Kerry's Place Autism Services
Kinark Child and Family Services
Regional Municipality of York, Early Intervention Services
York Catholic District School Board
York Region Preschool Speech and Language Program
York Region District School Board
York Support Services Network

Committee Chairs:

Michelle Biehler, Director, ACCESS and Health Records,
Children's Treatment Network
mbiehler@ctnsy.ca
1-866-377-0286 x4211

Christa Harvison, Sr. Manager, MHAN and Care
Connectors, Clinical Operations, Central Community
Care Access Centre
Christa.Harvison@central.ccac-ont.ca
905-895-1334 x4232

IDRS planning table members:

Central Community Care Access Centre
Central West Community Care Access Centre
Children's Treatment Network
Conseil scolaire de district catholique Centre-Sud
Conseil scolaire Viamonde
Regional Municipality of York, Early Intervention Services
York Catholic District School Board
York Region Preschool Speech and Language Program
York Region District School Board

Committee Chairs:

Catherine Booth, Supervisor, Speech Language Services, York
Catholic District School Board
catherine.booth@ycdsb.ca
905-713-1211 x11675

Louise Paul, CEO, Children's Treatment Network
lpaul@ctnsy.ca
905-954-4011 x72304

