



York Region Special Needs Strategy Update Implementation Work has started!

A communication designed to keep stakeholders aware of the implementation work that is underway for Coordinated Service Planning (CSP) and Integrated Delivery of Rehabilitation Services (IDRS) in York Region

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. In York Region, a number of community agencies, healthcare/rehabilitation organizations and school boards came together to develop a proposal for Coordinated Service Planning (CSP). This newsletter provides some background about the initiative and shares updates/information now that the proposal has been approved by the ministries and implementation work is beginning.

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)

Key elements:

- A single Coordinating Agency in each service delivery area through which families can access coordinated service planning for a range of services across sectors.
- 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.
- 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)

Rehabilitation service delivery will be:

- Provided for children and youth from birth to the end of school.
- Easily accessible and experienced by families, children and youth as a single, seamless program of care.
- based 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

- A letter from the Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS) in the spring of 2016 stated that the inter-ministerial review found the York proposal met or exceeded expectations with regard to the majority of the key concepts for CSP.
- Children’s Treatment Network (CTN) was approved as the Coordinating Agency for both York Region and Simcoe County.
- CTN and other coordinating agencies are part of a provincial MCYS-led table that) provides feedback and builds on on the tools and resources that will guide the initiative and service.
- The ministry has set out a list of implementation markers that will guide the work plan and ensure York Region is ready to implement CSP.
- A key deliverable is the involvement of youth, families, Indigenous, Francophone and new to Canada communities in the implementation of the service to ensure the service meets the needs of as many people as possible..
- The York Region Implementation Committee for CSP started meeting and includes a broader membership then was seen during the proposal planning phase.
- CTN has received funding from MCYS to support the implementation of the service and the hiring of a Coordinated Service Planner towards the later part of the year.
- An Implementation Coordinator, Jennifer McPhee, has been hired to assist with the implementation and ensure York Region meets the markers set out by the ministries.
- Working groups have started to meet to begin aligning current tools outlined in the CSP proposal with the requirements set out by the Ministries.

Update: IDRS

- The program guidelines for IDRS were posted on the ministry web site in June 2016: <http://specialneedsstrategy.children.gov.on.ca/>
- MCYS approved York Region to start early work on the implementation, form the committee and establish a terms of reference.
- Catherine Booth (York Catholic District School Board) and Louise Paul (Children’s Treatment Network) have agreed to stay on as co-chairs through the implementation phase of IDRS.
- MCYS asked for feedback from the York Region IDRS Implementation Committee to review draft implementation markers, which list expectations for the months to come and assist in the development of an implementation plan.
- The committee is currently waiting for more information from the Ministry regarding the implementation markers.

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