



Simcoe County Special Needs Strategy Planning Announcement

Simcoe County is embarking on a community planning process around the Provincial Special Needs Strategy. This strategy is mandated by four ministries; the Ministry of Child and Youth Services, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care and the Ministry of Community and Social Services. The planning involves engaging in a collaborative process to develop a service system that realizes the vision identified:

“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”.

Two proposals are expected to the Ministry:

1. Service Coordination due March 5, 2015
2. Integrated Rehab due June 1, 2015

To date, invitation for participation in the planning has gone out via the Child, Youth and Family Services Coalition of Simcoe County, the Simcoe County Best Start Network, the Early Intervention Council of Simcoe County and the Simcoe County membership of the Children’s Treatment Network System’s Operations table. Stakeholders including the Ministry identified signatories have self-identified as core or consulting planning table members and the work is beginning!

In order to keep all up to date this announcement is to inform the community of key decisions that were made at the November 13th meeting.

Table Structure

The planning table recognizes the integral link between the planning required for service coordination and integrated rehabilitation as well as that many key stakeholders will need to be engaged at some level in both processes. The core group will undertake planning together around the overall system vision for Simcoe County and will plan separation into two planning tables at points in the process where the chairs determine specific proposal work is ready to be completed

Funding Priorities

Each proposal has the support of a \$40,000 budget and Simcoe County has decided the priorities for this resource will include:

- a. Securing a facilitator in order to support a quality process that allows for strong engagement and effective planning
- b. Supporting engagement by reducing barriers to participation, for example, compensation for childcare to facilitate parent caregiver participation
- c. Administrative support particularly given the speed of completion and volume of work
- d. A small amount to support meeting costs including supplies

Co-Chairs

A process was completed to select co-chairs for each table.

Service Coordination co-chairs are:

- Leanne Weeks, Manager, CTN, lweeks@ctnsy.ca, (705) 719-4795 ext. 2318
- Gisele Forest, Program Manager Children’s Services, Catulpa Community Support Services, gforrest@catulpa.on.ca, (705) 733-3227 ext. 2296

Integrated Rehabilitation co-chairs are:

- Mary Riggin Springstead, Director Programs and Services, CTN, mriggin@ctnsy.ca, (877) 719-4795
- Rhea Taplin, Clinical Team Leader, Children’s Development Services, taplinr@rvh.on.ca (705) 728-9090 ext. 47116

Meeting Schedule

The core planning table has decided on weekly Friday meetings starting with just a morning commitment.

Upcoming discussions include:

- family and front line engagement
- facilitator selection process
- terms of reference.

Look for ongoing communication as our community comes together to improve the system for children and families!