

March 4, 2004

OPENING THE DOOR

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All agencies in Toronto that support adults who have Developmental Disabilities are participants in a collaborative system that is intended to simplify the access to needed supports. Only one call is necessary to any one of the listed agencies to have your family member registered for services.

This newsletter is provided to give users and potential users of Developmental Services, information about what is available to you and your family and what is currently happening in Toronto.



Agencies that Provide Developmental Services for Adults in Toronto

- Bob Rumball Centre for the Deaf (416) 447-2378
- Christian Horizons (416) 630-3646
- Community Living Alternative Services (416) 287-9467
- Community Living Toronto (416) 968-0650
- C.O.R.E. (416) 340-7929
- COTA (416) 785-9230
- Family Service Association (416) 971-6326
- Geneva Centre for Autism (416) 322-7877
- Griffin Centre (416) 222-1153
- JVS (416) 787-1151
- Kerry's Place Autism Services (905) 841-6611
- L'Arche Daybreak Toronto (416) 406-2869
- Mary Centre (416) 630-5533
- Meta Centre (416) 736-0199
- Montage Support Services (416) 780-9630
- Muki Baum Association (416) 630-2222
- New Leaf (905) 478-1418
- New Visions Toronto (416) 868-1493
- Operation Springboard (416) 913-1301
- Participation House Toronto (416) 439-3226
- Reena (905) 889-6484
- The Safehaven Project for Community Living (416) 535-8525
- St. Vincent de Paul (416) 265-2605
- Salvation Army Broadview Village (416) 425-1052
- Surex (416) 469-4109
- Surrey Place Centre (416) 925-5141
- Vita (416) 749-6234
- Woodgreen Community Centre (416) 469-5211
- York Community Services (416) 653-5400

DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES IN TORONTO

There are approximately 30 Agencies in Toronto, that collaborate with other service providers to support adults who have Developmental Disabilities:

Examples of supports are;

Crisis, Respite, Case Management, Assessment, Treatment, Day Services and Residential Services.

There is usually a long wait when it comes to the longer term supports (e.g. Residential and Day). Agencies are very sensitive to this reality and work together to ensure a high level of accountability and wise use of resources.

Funding Announcement

In the fall of 2003, the Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS) announced additional funds being added to the Developmental Service system in the Province as part of a multi-year plan. Toronto received \$1,867,800 to provide supports for Places to Live, Day Supports and Respite. Of these dollars the Ministry had set a target number of new individuals needing to be served.

30 People will receive service in Supported Individualized Living arrangements (SIL), **42** people will receive Day Supports and **128** will be supported through Respite options. All of these individuals are required to be supported by March 31st 2004.

Individuals who became eligible for service were chosen by a combination of most immediate need and specific criteria set out by MCSS. Agencies continue to work together, to increase and develop other creative options for individuals and families.

Data System Update

There is now a centralized list of more than 2000 people who are requesting residential and day supports. In the summer of 2003, all the families who were on lists at various Toronto agencies were contacted. Many individuals were on more than one list so, families were asked to decide which agency they wanted to be their contact agency. This agency therefore became responsible for responding to questions and providing information directly to families.

The purpose of the list is to assist the Developmental Services sector plan for residential and day supports for adults with developmental disabilities.

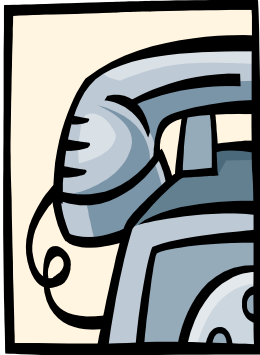
The information contained in the data base is non-identifying to protect your privacy

For referrals, contact any one of the agencies listed above. This will put you in touch with the whole network of agencies in Toronto



AVAILABLE SUPPORTS

CRISIS CLUSTER



Connecting you to supports

From time to time emergencies occur that require access to immediate yet short term residential or day supports. In some cases individuals or families may choose to call a crisis response service such as the Griffin Community Support Network (GCSN) directly. Referrals can be made by calling **416-222-3563** between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. The GCSN is also directly linked to Mobile Crisis services in Toronto and can be accessed in urgent situations between the hours of 9:00 p.m. - 9:00 a.m. by calling the Gerstein Centre at **416-929-9897**

If you already have a relationship with an agency you may contact them directly for assistance in crisis situations. In 2002/2003, **119** people were supported by the crisis network, in a variety of ways. In the six month period of April 2003 - Sept. 2003 **112** people were served.

COMMUNITY SUPPORTS

The Community Supports Cluster oversees case management and specialized assessment and treatment.

Case Managers or Service Coordinators provide support to assist individuals living with their families to access and coordinate various services.

This service is provided at one of the following five agencies: **Family Service Association, Community Living Toronto, COTA, Surrey Place Centre or Youthlink.** You can contact any of the agencies listed on page one to get connected to this type of support.

Individuals living on their own and wanting the assistance of a worker can call the **Adult Protective Service Worker (APSW) Assessment Coordinators at 416-968-0650.**

Individuals waiting for longer term service or needing information are invited to attend an information fair, on **Thursday April 22 from 1:00 - 7:00 p.m. at Surrey Place Centre's new East Quadrant office located at 10 Milner Business Court in the Markham and the 401 area.** In addition to providing families with information about services and supports offered by the various agencies, staff will be on hand for individual consultations.

Coordinated access to Specialized Assessment and Treatment

Is also under the umbrella of Community Supports. Examples of services in this area include psychological, behaviour and communication assessments.

This group will be coordinating access to support groups and workshops to individuals and their family members. Examples include; sibling workshops, developing circles of support and working with mental health professionals.

Please fill in the attached questionnaire so we can begin to coordinate groups and workshops in locations where they are most needed.

You can obtain further information about community supports through the agency from which you are receiving or have requested service.

RESPITE

respiteservices.com

Building a comprehensive respite system



Working Together

respiteservices.com is an integral part of Toronto Developmental Services and a better way to meet the needs of thousands of families requiring respite support. It is comprised of agencies funded by the Ministry of Community and Social Services and the Ministry of Health and functions as a virtual "one-stop shopping" for families looking for respite support in Toronto.

Respite care is a family support service that provides temporary relief to families caring for disabled individuals. Respite allows for families to keep their family members at home with them, while also allowing time for themselves.

Access Facilitators work directly with families to connect them with appropriate respite options that meet their unique needs.

The CHAP (Community Helpers for Active Participation) program connects families with potential respite workers.

Any families seeking respite services are encouraged to contact us at **www.respiteservices.com**, call us at **416-322-6317** or contact any agency they are affiliated with for assistance.

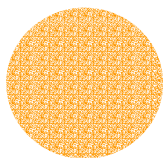
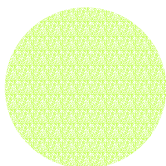
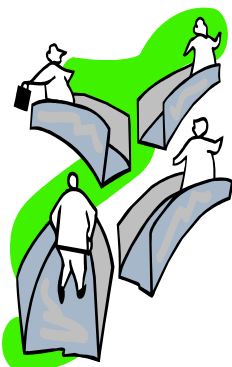
Name Change

The Ministry that funds Developmental Services is once again called the Ministry of Community & Social Services (MCSS)

Toronto Regional Office

Representatives from the MCSS Toronto Region Office continue to be actively involved in all of the service areas where they offer guidance, clarification and encouragement

LONGER TERM SUPPORTS



Background Facts

- There are short term supports available while waiting for longer term placements.
- There are approximately 1080 Group Home beds and 440 SIL beds in Toronto
- There are over 2,000 people waiting for residential supports
- 25 vacancies were declared in a one year period

DAY SUPPORTS

Day supports are a variety of programs and activities that generally are delivered at the time when one would normally be at work or school. These can be full or part time depending on the need of the participant. Day support services are located throughout Toronto.

The support can range from a highly staffed and structured program to a supported work or volunteer activity. Agencies will assist in determining the type of program/activity that would be most beneficial and suitable.

There is work being done by a committee to ensure coordinated access to available day resources.

In the recent funding initiative the following programs have been recommended for funding to deliver a wide variety of Day Supports,

- **Bob Rumball Centre for the Deaf** to serve 10 deaf seniors
- **Griffin/Reconnect/CORE/SPC** to serve 4 individuals with high needs
- **JVS** to support 15 people needing work experience
- **Mary Centre** to support 5 seniors
- **Operation Springboard** to serve 5 individuals in work experience and
- **Surex** to serve 3 individuals in a life skills program

The Day Supports committee identified a geographic gap in services provided and recommended some proposals be based on location in order to strengthen the overall system.

RESIDENTIAL SUPPORTS

Supported Individualized Living

Adults may choose this option if they wish a less structured environment, but need some support to learn new skills. Trained staff are assigned to monitor and provide support from 1 - 20 hours per week depending on the individuals needs. There is usually no overnight staff available.

Group Living

This refers to 3 or more people living together. Typically the people living in group setting need higher levels of support. Trained staff assist individuals in a home like setting, in daily living, skill development and use of community resources. There is usually an overnight staff available.

Associate Family Home

Host families are screened, trained and monitored by an agency and receive funding to provide supports to individuals who choose this option.

Residential Resource Placement Process

When an existing residential resource becomes available, individuals identified as being most urgent in need of placement and being a suitable match to the vacancy are reviewed.

Final decisions regarding placement are made based on the most suitable match to the location. Agencies having the vacancy, have the final decision about the most appropriate applicant, keeping in mind the current residents at the location.

Between April 1/02 and March 31/03 there were 25 existing spaces available to the community. These were coordinated and filled through a centralized process.

DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES COUNCIL

An important part of this collaborative system is the Developmental Services Council whose mandate is to provide a consumer perspective to the model. Co-chairs, Karen Meehan and Donna Britten are pleased to announce the composition of the new Council, there are:

4 Family Members
2 Community Members (2 positions to be filled)
4 Developmental Services Agency Board Members
2 Service Providers Committee Representatives
2 Ministry of Community & Social Services Representatives
System Planner

The functions of the Council are to:

- **Communicate with consumers and consumer groups/organizations**
- **Collect and analyze information regarding services and supports that are available and required**
- **Contribute to priority setting and planning for the Developmental Services Sector**

The Council is a strong voice in giving advice to the service community and to the Ministry as to what is important for families and consumers.

We want to hear from you!

We are now forming three sub-committees:

Communications

Improving Quality

Information collection and planning

Each will be made up of members of both Council and Service Providers, along with others who have expertise in those areas.

Please start thinking about:

What is important to you and your family?

What is important for us to communicate to you?

We will be asking for your feedback!

Community Supports Questionnaire

Agencies providing case management services are interested in coordinating access to support groups and workshops in the community for adults with a developmental disability and their families. In order to determine which groups or workshops would be of interest to you we ask that you take a few moments to complete these four questions.

1) Would your adult family member who is 16 years of age or older (with a developmental disability) be interested in participating in any or all of the following groups:

- Bereavement
- Social Skills
- Support Group
- Sexuality
- Public Safety

Other : _____

2) Would any family member be interested in attending sessions on any or all of the following topics:

- Developing circles of support
- Life Planning
- Peer Support
- Wills and Estates
- Negotiating the Legal System
- Working with Mental Health Professionals
- Understanding the Process for Accessing Services (i.e ODSP, Respite, Residential Services)
- Workshops for Siblings

Other: _____

3) Which area of Toronto would be most convenient:

- North
- South
- East
- West

4) Which time of day would be most convenient:

- Morning
- Afternoon
- Evening
- Weekend

Please return this questionnaire in one of the following ways:

Give it to your worker to forward it to Karyn Farber, the Community Support Cluster Facilitator

Or

Mail it directly to Karyn Farber at:

Surrey Place Centre
2 Surrey Place
Toronto, On
M5S 2C2

Or

Email: Karyn.Farber@surreyplace.on.ca
or Phone: 416 416-925-5141 ext 259

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire. Please feel free to contact Karyn Farber, Facilitator for the Community Supports Cluster if you have any questions or comments.