

## Contents

What's New	P.1
Transitions	P.2
Resources	P.3
Developmental Services Council	P.4
Requesting Service	P.4

Spring 2007

# OPENING THE DOOR...

...to understanding adult developmental services in Toronto



## Partner Agencies

Addus	416-544-8847
Bob Rumball Centre for the Deaf	416-447-2378
Christian Horizons	416-630-3646
Community Living Toronto	416-968-0650
CORE	416-340-7929
Common Ground Cooperative	416-421-7117
COTA Health	416-785-9230
Family Service Association of Toronto	416-971-6376
Geneva Centre for Autism	416-322-7877
Griffin Centre	416-222-1153
Harmony Place Services	416-510-3114
JVS Toronto	416-787-1151
Kerry's Place Autism Services	416-534-1644
L'Arche Toronto Homes Inc.	416-406-2869
Mary Centre	416-630-5533
Meta Centre	416-736-0199
Montage Support Services	416-780-9630
Muki Baum Treatment Centres	416-630-2222
New Leaf	1-888-742-3391
New Visions Toronto	416-868-1493
Operation Springboard	416-913-1301
Participation House Toronto	416-439-3226
Pegasus	416-691-5651
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 Services	416-469-5211
York Community Services	416-653-5400

## Better Futures Through Partnership

*Toronto developmental services agencies, consumers, and the Toronto Region of the Ministry of Community and Social Services are working together to improve the quality of life of adults with developmental disabilities – today and into the future. We are committed to the equitable, strategic and effective use of all available resources in meeting the needs of adults with developmental disabilities and their families.*

## What's New.....

### DSTO Website...

**www.dsto.com** is a web-based portal for accessing information on developmental services in Toronto. Individuals visiting dsto.com will find an overview of over 30 agencies that are working together to provide responsive, high quality services and supports to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

The website provides information on:

- Respite services;
- Day programs;
- Residential programs;
- Community supports;
- Crisis supports;
- Government programs;
- Information on related organizations and groups; and
- Up coming events that may be of interest to individuals and families.



### Second Annual Information Fair...

**MAY 15, 2007 11:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. to be held at**

**North York Memorial Hall**

**5110 Yonge Street**

Look for sessions on:

- Government Funded Programs (ODSP income and employment supports and SSAH)
- Transition Planning
- Navigating the developmental services system in Toronto

All 32 partner agencies will be available to provide you with information on a variety of services in Toronto. Check out [www.dsto.com](http://www.dsto.com) for further details.

### Passport...

Is a new Ontario initiative that provides community participation supports for young people with a developmental disability. Passport provides the funding option for families to purchase services or to access agency services. This year supports will be provided to 155 people. If you live in Toronto you can contact any one of the 32 agencies listed to get more information on how to apply for Passport funding or check the DSTO website.

For referrals, contact any one of the agencies listed above.

### Start planning for tomorrow - today!

The future has a way of sneaking up on you when you are busy with everyday living. When you have a child with special needs, decisions about the future are often more complicated and you need to be prepared sooner rather than later, because there is not enough government funding and there are many families trying to access limited supports and services.

**Connections** gives you the information you need to develop a transition plan, to build your child's self-reliance skills, how to access adult services in Toronto, timelines for applying for programs and suggestions for how parents can connect with other parents to make this process more manageable. This guide will help you plan for the time when your child is no longer in school and seeks supports from the adult service system.

The adult developmental service providers in Toronto and York Region sponsored the development of a guide called **Connections**. Funding was provided by a one-time grant from the Ministry of Community and Social Services to help parents plan and make decisions for the future that are right for you, your child and your family.

Meetings were held with staff in the four Boards of Education in Toronto and York Region to allow teachers to play a role in getting **Connections** to families through the school system. Over the next year there are plans to develop groups for parents to meet and talk about transition planning.

Visit [www.dsto.com/publications.html](http://www.dsto.com/publications.html) to download your copy of **Connections** today. It's never too early to start planning!

### New residential spaces

#### How many new spaces have been added in 2006?

There have been **49** new residential spaces funded by the Ministry of Community & Social Services, in addition to the people being supported through the facilities closure. The supports range from a minimal level of staffing hours to higher group living supports. The process is underway to fill these new resources.



### Facilities Closure Update

The Ontario government is in the process of closing the three remaining facilities for people with developmental disabilities over the next five years. The facilities are the Rideau Regional Centre in Smiths Falls, the Huronia Regional Centre in Orillia, and the Southwestern Regional Centre in Chatham-Kent. These facilities serve 1,042 individuals. It is anticipated that closure will be a gradual process that will conclude by March 31, 2009.

#### How many facility residents have returned to Toronto so far?

By March 2007 there will have been 55 successful placements

#### Families Say:

*"We would like to commend you (one of the developmental service agencies) for his fine care. We are always so pleased to see him smiling and content and well taken care of. His transfer to Toronto has turned out to be a very positive transition. Thank you."*

#### Who should families contact if they have questions or concerns about the facilities initiative?

If you have any questions or concerns about the facilities initiative you can contact Chetan Bahri, Regional Project Manager, Toronto Region, Ministry of Community and Social Services, at 416-325-9783.

## Resources

### Some Resources for Families

*Thinking ahead to summer?*

**Respite services** at [www.respiteservices.com](http://www.respiteservices.com)

For information about some options for your family member  
**From City of Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation** at  
[http://www.dsto.com/upload/Inclusive\\_Opportunities.html](http://www.dsto.com/upload/Inclusive_Opportunities.html)

**Ontario Camping Association**

[www.ontariocamps.ca](http://www.ontariocamps.ca)

*Need Ontario government information?*

[www.mcass.gov.on.ca](http://www.mcass.gov.on.ca)

### Specialized Networks of Care

The Ministry of Community and Social Services has set up four networks in the province as part of the developmental services transformation. These networks will deliver, co-ordinate, enhance and build capacity to make specialized clinical services accessible for adults with a developmental disability who also have mental health needs and/or challenging behaviours.

The Toronto Community Network of Specialized Care (CNSC) is part of a larger Central Region Network that extends beyond the GTA. In Toronto, there are more than 25 organizations from developmental, mental health and crisis services and hospitals working together to make sure that individuals health, mental health and/or behavioural issue are understood and treated. Family members and caregivers will know how to find the support they need and will get service from skilled professionals. Specialized clinical services include services offered by doctors, nurses, psychologists, occupational and speech/language therapists, social workers, and behaviour therapists, (often in combination) who are skilled at working with individuals with a developmental disability.

Training about how to offer expert services, based on the research about what really makes a difference, is also a feature of the Network. There will also be research and evaluation activities to continue to build our knowledge of what works well for these adults.

As part of the initiative, some new residential treatment programs, specialized case management services, and resources have been developed to support an increased level of collaboration between different agencies to support people who need timely access to effective clinical services. Look for information about the Pathways to the CNSC coming soon in a future issue of *Opening the Door*.

For more information, contact any one of the listed agencies listed on the cover.

### Dual Diagnosis Housing Links

The **Dual Diagnosis** Implementation Committee of Toronto is pleased to announce the release of *Building the Path to Home: Links to Sustainable Housing for Individuals with Dual Diagnosis*.

*Building the Path* is a system map designed to help people concerned about the housing of individuals with developmental disabilities and mental health needs (dual diagnosis) to navigate the developmental, mental health and housing sectors and to access the resources necessary for successful community living.

To download a copy of the online guide to finding sustainable housing for people with a dual diagnosis, please visit the links below.

[www.camh.net/Care\\_Treatment/Resources\\_for\\_Professionals](http://www.camh.net/Care_Treatment/Resources_for_Professionals)  
- scroll down to Building a Path to Home  
or

[www.camh.net/dualdiagnosis](http://www.camh.net/dualdiagnosis) - Under CAMH Related Links (Right side), click on Resources for Families & Significant Others

### Integrated Response

Toronto has a new approach to responding to requests for service for individuals 16 years and older and their families, who are *new to adult services*. A call to any one of the 32 partner agencies will provide callers with information about services and supports available across the developmental service sector for adults.

Short-term consultation will be offered to assist individuals and families with things such as:

- Developing a personal plan for the immediate future
- Getting connected with community resources and programs; and
- Understanding and applying for government programs like the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) and Special Services At Home (SSAH).

You will be connected to a lead agency that will carry forward your request for service, keep you informed about new initiatives and respond to any questions or concerns.



### Developmental Services Council

The Developmental Service Council of Toronto is working together with service providers and the Ministry of Community and Social Services to improve the lives of adults with a developmental disability.

We are the consumer voice that advises regarding the experiences and views of self advocates and families.

We work together to assist with sector wide planning and priority setting.

For further information, please visit:

[www.dsto.com](http://www.dsto.com)

### Requesting Service

**Requesting services for an adult with a developmental disability is simple. All it takes is a call to any of the agencies listed on the cover. There are five categories of service available:**

- **Respite care** provides temporary relief and support for families from the demands involved in caring for a family member with a developmental and/or physical disability. More information on this service is available at the website [www.respiteservcies.com](http://www.respiteservcies.com) or by calling 416-322-6317.
- **Crisis support** includes a range of specialized assessments, consultations or treatment, and short-term services including case management, day programs, residential support and staffing. Referrals can be made by calling 416-222-3563 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. and 416-929-9897 between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m.
- **Community support** includes service coordination for adults living independently or with their caregiver and specialized supports such as assessment, counseling, and behavioural services.
- **Day supports** include a variety of social, recreational and training activities that are available on a full or part-time basis.
- **Residential supports** include group homes, supported apartments and associate family homes.

Be sure to check out [www.dsto.com](http://www.dsto.com) for detailed information about the more than 30 agencies and organizations that provide services and supports to adults with developmental disabilities.

### Thanks to....

Community Living Toronto, Reena and Surrey Place Centre who have provided funding to cover the costs for this years issues.

The committee of volunteers and staff who have assisted with the production and design of this issue of *Opening the Door*.



### Welcome three new agencies to the collaborative

There are now 32 agencies in Toronto that provide service to adults with intellectual disabilities. These agencies receive funding from the Ministry of Community and Social Services. We welcome Addus, Harmony Place and Pegasus all of which provide day support services to adults.