

September 2005

# OPENING THE DOOR...

...to understanding developmental services in Toronto

## Special Interest Articles:

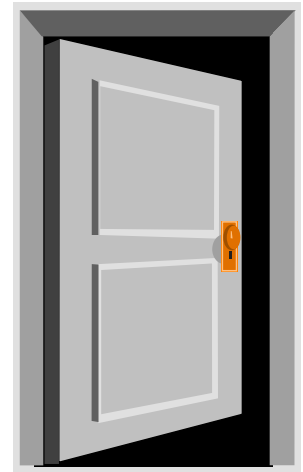
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Bob Rumball Centre for the Deaf	(416)447-2378
Christian Horizons	(416)630-3646
Community Living Toronto	(416)968-0650
C.O.R.E.	(416)340-7929
Common Ground Cooperative	(416)421-7117
COTA Health	(416)785-9230
Family Service Association	(416)971-6376
Geneva Centre for Autism	(416)322-7877
Griffin Centre	(416)222-1153
JVS Toronto	(416)787-1151
Kerry's Place Autism Services	(905)841-6611
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(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 Services	(416)469-5211
York Community Services	(416)653-5400

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

## 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.*



## Communications priorities and preferences.....

Responses to a recent survey of the communications needs of consumers and service providers should help to strengthen communications across the Toronto developmental services sector for adults.

When asked what type of information is important to them, **consumers** put emphasis on information that would help them understand and access the Toronto developmental services system. At the top of their list was information on:

- Developmental services agencies in Toronto and what they provide
- How to request services and the process for filling vacancies
- Groups and organizations for people with developmental disabilities and their families
- Waiting lists and pressures on the service system

**Service providers** rated highly types of information that would directly help them to do their jobs. At the top of their list was information on:

- New government initiatives
- Toronto developmental services agencies, programs, services and supports
- How the Toronto Developmental Services model works
- Ministry policy, priorities and directions

When asked how they would like to receive information, consumers overwhelmingly preferred receiving information in print form. Service providers preferred receiving information electronically-- that is, by web-site or email.

The responses to this survey will provide themes for later issues of this newsletter.

## **Questions and Answers**

### **Related to the Impact on Toronto Developmental Services Of the Closure of Facilities**

#### **What is the Facilities Initiative?**

The Ontario government will be 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 which will conclude by March 31, 2009.

#### **Why is the government closing the remaining facilities for adults with a developmental disability?**

It is closing the three remaining facilities so that residents can participate more fully in their communities and our society. Since 1975, the Ministry of Community and Social Services has assisted more than 6,000 individuals with a developmental disability to successfully move from facilities into the community. During this time, 13 of 16 Ontario facilities have been closed.

The Ministry's announcement of a five-year plan to close the remaining three facilities is the final stage in the government's longstanding policy of deinstitutionalizing people with a developmental disability and directing resources towards community-based services. In 1987, the government made a commitment to close all remaining facilities in Ontario within 25 years. All successive Ontario governments have supported and continued the transitioning of residents from institutions to community living.

#### **Is the government moving individuals out of facilities to save money?**

No. It is assisting individuals to move from the facilities into the community to give them the opportunity to participate more fully in community life. At the same time it is investing in community-based supports to strengthen the foundation of the developmental services sector for the future.

#### **How many facility residents will be returning to Toronto?**

It is anticipated that approximately 140 facilities residents will be returning to Toronto by March 31, 2009. Planning is currently underway for the first 14 individuals that are to relocate by September of this year.

#### **What will be the process for finding places for facility residents to live in Toronto?**

The Residential Coordination sub-committee, which is made up of representatives from agencies that provide residential services, is responsible for monitoring the matching of needs and preferences of facilities residents to the services and supports available from agencies.

#### **Won't this mean that there will be fewer resources for those who have been waiting for services?**

No, because the people returning from facilities will not be using any resources, services, or residential placements that are currently available to the community. The cost of supporting the individuals coming from the facilities will be covered by the transfer of funding from the facilities to the community. This funding will cover both housing and program costs.

#### **Will the return of facilities residents have any impact on people with developmental disabilities already in service?**

Anytime a new person is placed in a service, there's a potential that people already in that service will have some changes to adjust to. An important part of the planning process for people returning from the facilities will be to ensure that their placements are appropriate for them and for the people around them. If you have questions about the possible impact of the return of facilities residents on your family member, you should contact the agency in question.

#### **Who should families contact if they have questions or concerns about the Facilities Initiative?**

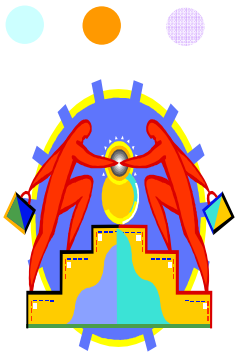
If you have any questions or concerns about the facilities initiative you can contact Robert Ock, Regional Project Manager, Toronto Region, Ministry of Community and Social Services, at (416) 325-9783.

## REQUESTING SERVICE

Requesting services for an adult with a developmental disability in Toronto is simple. All it takes is one call to any one of the agencies listed on the first page of this newsletter. There are five categories of service available:

- **Community supports** which include service coordination for adults living independently or with their caregiver and specialized supports such as assessment, counseling, and behavioural services
- **Day supports** which include a variety of social, recreational, and training activities and programs that usually take place during the day
- **Residential supports** which include a variety of living arrangements made possible through varying levels of staff support
- **Respite supports** which are planned services that provide short-term relief and/or support to caregivers
- **Crisis supports** which include time limited residential and non-residential services as well as supports to individuals and caregivers who require immediate assistance in a crisis

### COMMUNITY SUPPORTS



Connecting you to supports

People sometimes need help navigating the services & supports available to individuals who have developmental disabilities

Five agencies have staff dedicated to meet with individuals and families when they require information about the services and supports available for their family member living at home. These are

- **Community Living Toronto**
- **Family Service Association**
- **Surrey Place Centre**
- **COTA** (serving individuals with a developmental disability & mental health diagnosis, regardless of where they live)
- **Youthlink** (serves youth between the ages of 12 and 21)

Adults living on their own or planning to live on their own can call **416-968-0650** and ask for the **Adult Protective Service Worker** program, for the assistance they require.

Information Fairs are held in the spring and fall. Information is provided about supports that are available while waiting for longer term services. The location of the fair rotates across Toronto. Contact the agency you are affiliated with for details.

A list of recreation programs can be obtained through any agency.

To access information about community, social, health and government services in Toronto, link to [www.211Toronto.ca](http://www.211Toronto.ca) or call 2-1-1.

### DAY SUPPORTS

Support can range from a highly staffed and structured program to a supported work and/or business or volunteer activity. Agencies will help to determine the type of program/activity that would best meet identified needs.

Attendance can be full or part time depending on the need of the participant. Day support services are located throughout Toronto and may be fully or partially funded or based on a fee for service

A list of Day Supports is available through any agency.

### RESIDENTIAL SUPPORTS

Examples include group homes, supported apartments and associate family homes. Residential supports are generally life long and therefore the turnover is very low: forty-one of the 1500+ spaces became available in 2003/04.

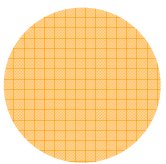
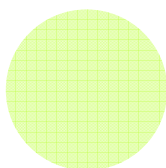
There is a coordinated system in place to ensure fair access to all available residential placements.

All agencies funded by the Ministry of Community & Social Services share their available resources to address the needs of all individuals waiting for residential services.



Working Together





### For Your Information

- There are approximately 1080 Group Home spaces and 440 Supported Individualized Living spaces in Toronto
- 2,300 people are registered for residential and/or day supports; not all need the support immediately
- Respite & Community Supports are available while waiting for longer term placements

## RESPITE SUPPORTS

Respite care is a support service for families that provides temporary relief from the demands involved in caring for a family member with a developmental and/or physical disability. Respite creates opportunities for family members to live actively and participate in community activities while allowing caregivers time for themselves.

The [www.respiteservices.com](http://www.respiteservices.com) website contains information about respite services and links to agencies that provide respite in Toronto. The site also has information on various respite options available and is updated on a regular basis.

For information on respite services, please contact any agency or call directly at (416) 322-6317. Visiting the website at [www.respiteservices.com](http://www.respiteservices.com) will provide more information about respite services



## CRISIS SUPPORTS

There may be occasions when individuals and families may need access to a range of time limited crisis or transitional supports. Through partnerships with various organizations in the Toronto Area, this service can provide:

- *Specialized assessments, consultations and/or treatment*
- *Short-term case management services*
- *Short-term residential supports*
- *Short-term day program supports*
- *Access to hospital supports*
- *Short-term staffing support*

In addition, individuals may access the **Griffin Community Support Network**. This network provides time-limited supports to individuals (aged 16 and over) with a developmental disability or a dual diagnosis (a mental health need combined with a developmental disability).

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. – 9:00 a.m.