



Simcoe County Special Needs Strategy Communication

“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”.

With the weather warming up, work at the core planning table has been heating up as well. Over the past two months the table and its established task groups have been busy making important decisions that will establish the direction and intent of both the Coordinated Service Planning (CSP) and Integrated Rehab (IR) Proposals. April and May have been spent discussing and exploring the key issues that inform proposal development moving forward and that will ultimately establish the foundation of the future Special Needs service system in Simcoe County.

The Work Plan...

A detailed work plan has guided the Core Planning table in its work throughout April and May. Given the large amount of work and need to come to consensus in a number of areas the work has been structured around the establishment of the following:

- Work groups focused on the service provider structure needed to achieve the key outcomes for both IR and CSP. These work groups consist of only current funders/providers of the services within the system and consist primarily of signatories. The deliverables have included the exploration of roles, mandates and current funding models.
- Task groups focused on the clinical service delivery models that will be established for IR and CSP. These task groups consist of both core table members and front line providers. The deliverables include exploring the range of clinical service delivery models, developing templates and considering evidence based practice.
- The core group has continued regular meeting to finalize working and task group recommendations. Key discussions around system wide tools and system leadership have also occurred with the core planning table.

Next Steps...

The final i's are being dotted and t's are being crossed on the Coordinated Service Planning proposal so that it is able to go to signatory agencies for sign off and then submission to the Ministry on June 15th. Work and task groups have finalized their work and there is a great sense of pride in the collaborative, cooperative and thoughtful work that has resulted in a very strong and innovative proposal. The voice of family and youth has truly driven the discussion that has formed the plan.

The core planning table will not rest as energy is being refocused towards Integrated Rehab. Both the work and task groups have been meeting and they will continue to focus on key issues such as common language, supporting transitions and addressing waitlist throughout June. There is a great deal of work and discussion ahead but the table is committed to returning to the engagement results at each decision point as the ultimate guide to the final recommendations.

Key Directions – Signaling Simcoe County's Intent...

The Simcoe County core planning table has been very successful in achieving significant consensus around important directions that will be highlighted in proposal submission. There is strong agreement and commitment to these directions across the Special Needs Service system and this has provided us with the following elements that will be proposed as the basis for future planning, Simcoe County will:

- build on a network model by identifying key providers currently doing CSP and IR work in the system and outlining plans to increase consistency and maximize the use of all existing resources
- consider intake as a staged process that includes key elements such as screening and an in-depth child, youth, family interview building on Early Intervention's success with working to gather the right information at the right time and being purposeful in establishing the Coordinated Service Planners role in the process of information gathering.
- utilize the CTN shared electronic record as a common repository for information that will support Coordinated Service Planning and Integrated Rehab across providers, agencies and sectors.
- implement the CANS as a key communication tool within the SNS system in order to facilitate the building of Coordinated Service Plans by teams and to support outcome measurement.
- engage in a collaborative system leadership structure that will ensure ongoing engagement of families and providers at various levels and empower all to have a voice in system planning and working within the framework of the Child, Youth and Family Services Coalition of Simcoe County.

The planning table recognizes that there will be considerable work post-proposal approval to determine how these directions can best be implemented within the system. The proposal development has given us a strong start and it is clear that collaborative and consensus based decision making will need to continue when specific implementation decisions and plans are being established.

Please feel free to contact your planning table co-chairs at for more information.

Coordinated Service Planning: Leanne Weeks, lweeks@ctnsy.ca
Gisele Forest (Francophone), gforrest@catulpa.on.ca
Integrated Rehabilitation: Mary Riggan Springstead, mriffin@ctnsy.ca
Rhea Taplin, taplinr@rvh.on.ca

“Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; suddenly you are doing the impossible”

Francis of Assisi