

January 29, 2016

MEMORANDUM TO: Chairs and Co-Chairs of the Special Needs Strategy Integrated Delivery of Rehabilitation Services Proposal Development Tables

FROM: Esther Levy
Director

RE **Update on Integrated Delivery of Rehabilitation Services and Next Steps**

On behalf of my colleagues in the Ministries of Children and Youth Services (MCYS), Education (EDU), Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) and Community and Social Services (MCSS), I would like to thank you and all the members of your proposal development table for your integrated rehabilitation proposals. We recognize the hard work, collaboration and commitment that have made this happen.

I am writing to share the next steps in moving forward on the integrated delivery of rehabilitation services.

Context

All of the service delivery areas submitted proposals, guided by the *Integrated Delivery of Rehabilitation Services: Guidelines for Children's Community Agencies, Health Service Providers and District School Boards*. Many proposals met or exceeded expectations, providing details on how core service requirements would be operationalized and demonstrating clear improvement in the way that families would experience services.

Feedback to Tables

The ministries are completing their comprehensive review of the proposals. We will provide detailed feedback to each table in the coming weeks. This feedback will outline strengths of proposals as well as where clarification and improvements may be needed. We will also request meetings with some tables in early Spring to discuss this feedback in greater depth.

Year 1 Implementation: 2016-17

The ministries are working with experts and service providers to develop and provide two program supports which will be released in Spring 2016:

Program Guidelines

- The guidelines are built on the core service requirements and provide direction to service delivery areas regarding the implementation of consistent practices across the province.

Performance Measures

- The ministries are also developing indicators focused on the performance of the integrated system in supporting seamless, effective and timely service delivery. These measures will begin to build the foundation for service delivery accountability and reporting requirements.

We will meet with all Table Chairs/Co-chairs as a group following the release of these documents to ensure a common understanding of them. Your comments will help to define the additional supports you may require including, for example, mechanisms for capacity building, education and training, and change management.

Implementation Plans

In Fall 2106, the ministries will meet with each table to confirm its implementation plan for 2016-17 and beyond. During these meetings we will review with you the plan's alignment with the program guidelines and your community's readiness for implementation. In order to support this discussion, it is expected that the table will be engaged in some 2016-17 planning activities in preparation for implementation in 2017-2018. These might include activities to strengthen partnerships and leadership, developing the necessary administrative protocols and documents to support common intake, confirming information sharing and consent processes, and/or planning for any human resource and operational issues.

Full implementation, including transition of services among providers, provincial policy changes, and provincial funding transfers to support service delivery, is targeted for 2017-18.

We continue to recommend that tables maintain confidentiality of their proposals as appropriate until the ministries have communicated with tables regarding implementation.

Interim Service Expectations

We recognize that service delivery areas are at different stages of readiness to meet the core service requirements. The ministries may work with some communities on a case-by-case basis to develop short-term solutions where required in advance of 2017-18.

These interim changes and decisions should not be perceived as approval of the proposed model, and may need to be revisited during this planning year. As we begin working with each service delivery area on next steps, existing service capacity and service levels should continue to be maintained.

Further Information

The SNS website will be updated with information on the strategy. The website can be accessed at: <http://specialneedsstrategy.children.gov.on.ca/>. Specific questions can be sent via email to: specialneedsstrategy@ontario.ca

Once again, thank you for your continued engagement on this important initiative. We look forward to continuing to work together we make our province's vision for children and youth with special needs a reality.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Esther Levy

On behalf of:

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Julia Danos, EDU
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Amy Olmstead, MOHLTC
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