

Special Needs Strategy: Coordinated Service Planning Implementation Update January 2016

- The ministries of Children and Youth Services, Community and Social Services, Education and Health and Long-Term Care would like to acknowledge and thank all the members of Coordinated Service Planning Proposal Development Tables for their leadership and commitment to cross-sectoral collaboration in working towards improving the service experiences and outcomes of children and youth with multiple and/or complex special needs and their families.
- We would also like to thank the family members and youth who contributed to local proposal development by giving feedback and input.
- Our purpose in implementing coordinated service planning is so that families of children and youth with multiple and/or complex special needs, who need to connect with multiple services and providers due to their children's multiple needs and/or who may have less capacity to coordinate services because of family circumstance, will be supported in connecting to and coordinating services. These families will:
 - have clear access to coordinated service planning that is tailored to their unique needs;
 - have a seamless experience of services;
 - have smooth transitions; and
 - not have to tell their stories over and over.
- Additionally, these families, who need the extra support, will have a clear "go to" place and person for questions. They will know who is responsible for monitoring their child's needs, services, and coordinated service plan.
- Once approved, coordinating agencies will lead the change process and the implementation of coordinated service planning in their communities. Throughout implementation, the Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS) will provide support to all coordinating agencies to strengthen their capacity to lead collaborative and family-centred coordinated service planning across sectors.
- The ministries are meeting with individual local Coordinated Service Planning Proposal Development Tables, including the recommended coordinating agency, to confirm and/or clarify our understanding of the proposed model, discuss potential modifications and available resources and next steps for implementation.
- The 2016-17 fiscal year will be a building year for Coordinated Service Planning. Coordinating agencies will receive limited new resources (up to \$110,000 per service delivery area), beginning in 2016-17. This funding will help support capacity building activities and implementation of the new service model.
- Proposal development tables reported that identifying the target population and estimating demand were challenging, and projections of needs varied across the

province. Information gathered this year through initial implementation will assist coordinating agencies and MCYS to validate demand estimates for coordinated service planning. This will provide evidence to support future funding decisions.

- Coordinated service planning was designed to build on existing capacity but, at the same time, it is about doing service planning differently for a subset of children with special needs – in a coordinated and provincially consistent way. Identifying the resources that have been providing this type of support, accounting for them and ensuring that this support is being delivered in a coordinated and seamless way for families is the goal of implementation.
- The Ministry of Children and Youth Services will be working with local coordinating agencies and their partners throughout implementation to ensure that appropriate resources are identified and aligned with coordinated service planning.
- Identified resources will not necessarily need to move between agencies, but all locally available resources will be accounted for and accountable to the local coordinated service planning system.
- In most service delivery areas, coordinating agencies have been identified by local partners to lead the coordinated service planning process, and to help lead a process of change that will build a more family centred, transparent, accessible and effective system of services for children and youth with special needs and their families. The ministries look forward to working with identified coordinating agencies and their partners on next steps.
- Some service delivery areas were not able to reach consensus on their proposals. The ministries are committed to the successful implementation of coordinated service planning to better support families of children with multiple and/or complex special needs and improve their service experience in all service delivery areas. The ministries will be communicating soon with areas that submitted incomplete proposals, or proposals without full consensus, regarding next steps.