

**APPROVED**  
**Provincial Network Meeting Minutes**  
**May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023**  
**10:00am – 1:00pm via Zoom**

**PN ATTENDEES**

Michelle Brooks (Chair)	David Cohen (Faith, Culture & Inclusion) ;
Ann Bilodeau (PNHR);	Don Walker (Mary Centre);
Dr. Bob Walsh, (OASIS);	Jason Young (OADD);
Brad Saunders (OASIS);	Jeanny Scantlebury (CNSC);
Brian Swainson (GLS);	Jo-Anne Demick (CLO);
Carolynn Morrison (TDSA);	Kim Thorn (DSO);
Chris Beesley (CLO);	Sue Coke (Kerry's Place/OADD)
Dave Ferguson (OASIS) ;	Trish Sherwin (Admin Support)

**PN REGRETS**

Ann-Marie Binetti (PNHR);	Janet Noel-Annable (CH);
Bryan Keshen (TDSA);	Shawn Pegg (CLOntario);
Brigid Fitzpatrick (Valor Solutions);	Sherri Kroll (PEDG);
Eugene Versteeg (CH);	

**GUESTS**

**MCCSS:** Christine Kuepfer, MCCSS; Dianne Canzuis, MCCSS; Kelly Huntington; Karen Singh, MCCSS; Hannah Grzegorcyk, MCCSS; Hussein Hammoud, MCCSS; Karen Glass, ADM, MCCSS; Mark Langdon, MCCSS

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1. **Welcome** – Michelle Brooks, PN Chair welcomed all to the meeting at 10:06am
    - a) Review and Confirmation of Agenda for May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
Additions to agenda:
      1. Item under New Business: Moving Away From Masking Protocols-Brad Saunders

The agenda for May 18<sup>th</sup>,2023 was approved as amended.
    - b) Review and Confirmation of Draft Minutes for March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
The minutes of the regular PN meeting for March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023, were approved as circulated.
  2. **Business Arising from Previous Meeting**
    - a) **Micro Credential Pilot and Grant Submission** – Michelle Brooks
      - We were not successful in obtaining the grant from the skills development
      - Currently in talks with MCCSS around funding opportunities and next steps
      - The pilot is wrapping up the end of June
      - Feedback to date is good
      - We will need to tweak some of the courses that are more clinically focused.
  3. **Groups/Committee Updates**
    - a) **Labour Relations/ Union Discussions-** *Dave F.*
      - Will follow-up on on-going items

- OASIS asked them to compile a list of union demands from agencies around the province. This is a work in process.
- b) **Finance Update** – Ann Bilodeau
- Reported on the financial position.
  - Committee funding pots at March 31<sup>st</sup> as follows:
    - PN = \$84,0000
    - WI = \$155,000 opening balance -> current balance \$34,816
    - CCW = \$96,943
    - RRS = \$340,000 approximately with this years \$160,000 added.
- c) Provincial Network Health Working Group- *Bryan & Brian*
- white paper on the outcomes of the work completed, is still on track to be available and published by end of June. It will include 5 streams:
    1. Infection Prevention and Control
    2. Health System Improvement (with a focus on Primary Care)
    3. Alternate Level of Care
    4. Improve Home and Community Care
    5. Data Improvement
  - Michelle will share the information she has on the stats/data with Brian S. to aid in this project
  - Dual Diagnosis pilot with shared funding
  - Both Sue and Brian were interviewed by news crews recently around current DS sector issues/concerns
- d) PN-HR Committee
- **DS Workforce Initiative**– *Ann Bilodeau / Ann-Marie Binetti*
    - Looking at next phase and how it will work with Journey to Belonging (J2B)
    - Working in collaboration with MCCSS
    - Survey went out to all members around the initiatives – results now in and being reviewed.
    - Will be putting out an expression of interest for next phase committee members
    - Looking at committees and tables and changes that will be made to align with new priorities and initiatives.
  - **Recruitment and Retention Strategy** – *Ann Bilodeau / Michelle Brooks*
    - Tie off and have a final report the for the Ministry
    - Meeting next week to review the draft report from the consultants
  - **Cultivating Community Wellness** – *Jeanny Scantlebury*
    - OADD Conference held a session co-visioning and co-creating on how we would like see the support for mental health going out to our sector
    - Looking at expanding our subject matter experts with the CCW work
    - Will be presenting to the Steering Committee around the plan once finalized. Professional Association ->OADD Bob Butela has taken the lead on this.
    - Presentation from Claudine Cousins on grief and a project on creating a crisis response team for the DS sector when a supported person passes away. – potential for

collaboration with Mental Health

- **Operational Leaders Training**

- SPPI has a leadership development training program and Operational Leaders Training, through the DSWI has a leaders training program.
- Ministry wanted us to confirm whether there was any overlap or duplication between the 2 programs and where/how there could be collaboration between the two organizations with the two training programs.
- We have had conversations with Malcolm at SPPI to ensure a cross-collaboration
- Don Walker – setting up a meeting with Chris Kuepfer to discuss SPPI ideas and concerns around collaboration

e) OnTrac – *Janet Noel-Annable*

- Next meeting is scheduled for June with the last meeting on April 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Chris Beesley and Chris Kuepfer attended in April
- Held a “yes-and...” discussion around J2B where we discussed:
  - d equity between DSW and PSW
  - Change management process and building capacity
  - Needing to build a model for Ontarians by Ontarians
  - Concerns around privatizations
  - Individualized funding and what it will look like
  - National disability benefit and what that will look like going forward.
- June meeting we are expecting to have the KPMG costing study on the agenda.
- Looking for a co-led working group with the Ministry and resources around sector readiness and preparedness around J2B

f) QAM- *Sherri Kroll/Janet Noel-Annable*

- Have received feedback around the necessity for this to be an authentic engagement
- More meetings to come.
- Concerns around the Children’s Services licensing requirements – changes effective July 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - Licensing has become very onerous
  - Open to holding discussion around others’ experiences with these new changes to the licensing process
- Brian Swainson noted that if licensing is folded into this QAM committee he would like to be part of it.
- Committee members shared some of their experiences recently with regards to the concerns around Childrens services licensing.
- Comment: closure of a childrens program is almost as onerous as the licensing
- Suggestion: connect with the DM or ADM to discuss the concerns around issues currently with children’s sector and how that will impact as they transition to the new rules July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Suggestion: meet to discuss the concerns before approaching the Ministry – perhaps a sub-committee or small working group?
- Committee agreed to create an adhoc small working group to organize our thoughts and concerns around the changes and challenges. Members are to forward names of staff to Trish for this working group. Trish will set up a meeting and a PN member will facilitate

the discussion and report back

#### **4. MCCSS Updates- ADM Karen Glass and Christine Kuepfer**

##### **FSN Grant Applications**

- MCCSS has collaborated with the Ontario Caregiver Organization (OCO) to provide one-time grants to support new and existing Family Support Networks (FSN) across Ontario. The 2023-24 Grant Program is now open, and applications are due on Friday June 30, 2023.

##### **COVID Updates**

- Update on the use of rapid antigen testing kits:
  - MCCSS has discontinued its interim direction requiring congregate living settings to use rapid antigen test kits to regularly screen staff and visitors.
  - Service providers still have the option to implement their own asymptomatic screening testing policies. Access to rapid antigen test kits through the Provincial Antigen Screening Program will continue until June 2023.
- Update on the Covid Residential Relief Fund (CRRF) and Covid Community Services Fund (CCSF):
  - MCCSS is continuing to support service providers through CRRF and CCSF into 2023/24 while monitoring the ongoing impact of the pandemic in relation to Public Health direction/guidance.
  - Beginning July 1, 2023, eligible expenses for the CRRF-CCSF will be focused to those related to suspected or confirmed positive case(s) only in accordance with current health guidance. Anticipated recurring and one-time funding costs where there is no positive case will no longer be eligible expenses under the CRRF-CCSF.
- Update on Serious Occurrences (SOR):
  - Since April 2020, Service Providers have been required to report Serious Occurrences (SOR) for COVID-19 related occurrences.
  - MCCSS is updating COVID-19 SOR reporting requirements to return to pre-COVID guidelines. This eliminates the requirement to report SORs for non-service recipients (i.e., staff, foster parents etc.) and for less severe cases involving service recipients (i.e., positive without unplanned medical attention).
- Update on to the Integrated COVID-19 dashboard:
  - MCCSS, along with other ministries, will no longer contribute to the Integrated COVID-19 dashboard maintained by the Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery.

##### **KPMG Costing Study**

- Update on the townhall sessions: The ministry and KPMG will be hosting two townhall sessions with TPRs at the end of May. KPMG will share their analysis of provincial level data and TPRs will have the opportunity to engage with the survey results, discuss data-related questions, and provide feedback to KPMG.
- KPMG is finalizing its analysis of the data collected through the costing study survey and results will be shared with the sector in coming weeks. The ministry will share individual-level results with agencies in the weeks following the townhalls.

##### **SIPDDA, DS Reform Item**

- Update on the proposed amendment to the Services and Supports to Promote the Social Inclusion of Persons with Developmental Disabilities Act, 2008 (SIPDDA):
  - The government is proposing to re-enact and change the date on which un-proclaimed provisions, related to a new funding approach, come into effect. These provisions will come into effect on “a day to be named by proclamation of the Lieutenant Governor” to better align with Developmental

Services reform. These proposed changes would have no impact on the current obligations of application entities service agencies or the Passport program.

- The government is also proposing to make changes to SIPDDA to amend and add new regulation-making authority so that there may be flexibility in implementing key aspects of developmental services reform.

**Discussion:**

- **Q**-How to handle this transition time with changes to masking and testing guidelines as we move to a post-COVID world. How do we bring back the pre-COVID culture?
- **Q** – How will changes be reviewed and impact future inspections with no clear expectations? A-conversations and more information to come.
- **Q**-if we don't unmask now then when and what is the trigger in the future?  
A-We will keep following up with Ministry of Health for more information
- **Reporting:** Memo to the PN to update on shared work that has been happening at the various tables and committees; survey results summary will come back to the PN in June.
  - Table asked to help in getting the Pathways Communications out by sharing with their networks.

**5. New Business**

- a) **Updated Terms of Reference**– Janet Noel-Annable; Sherri Kroll; Kim Thorn; Michelle Brook
  - Need to coordinate thru action plan the timing of implementation for the new terms of reference
  - PN Spring Forum is set for June 19<sup>th</sup> – we can introduce the new Terms of Reference there.
  - Implementation planned to begin with the September Meeting starting with the transition of membership
  - Q-is there going to be a transition plan in place for each of the areas?  
A-current plan is to implement the membership changes for September and create a plan for implementing the rest then. Once we receive the revised Terms of Reference from PMB we will share with the PN Table for review and feedback within your agencies.
  - Q-is the terms of reference still open for changes or is it final?  
A-open for conversations around any concerns from the feedback.
- b) **PN Spring Forum**
  - Scheduled for June 19<sup>th</sup> – will be virtual
  - Agenda -> will reach out over the next week or so for information from PN members
  - R&R – meeting next week around review and what next phase will look like and plans for resources.
- c) **Masking Protocols** – Brad Saunders
  - Looking for what others have done recently
  - De-masking in residential congregate settings
  - Dave F-lifting restrictions today unless in outbreak -> encourage use of masks
  - Sue C.-Kerry's Place masking is still required for close contact (physical care)
  - Brian S-lifted masking from everywhere except day programs and group homes

- Jason Y-all hospitals in our catchment area are reducing masking starting June 5<sup>th</sup>. We are anticipating other DS colleagues will follow suit.
- Don W-Similar to Sue's agency. Have also heard that the Ministry will be providing new information around masking in early June
- Michelle – local PH units information around reports. How do we embed that grey area around masking? Suggestion: look at policies and procedures and review and update to broaden from COVID to encompass more
- Ann B.-need to meet and discuss what we learned from COVID and share for future planning – perhaps a white paper?
- Chris B.-CL Huonia's strategic plan is to "recuperate, recover and restructure post COVID"
- Bob W.-suggestion – to use the Public Health Ontario resources for advice for congregate living settings, for preparedness and responses
- Jo-Ann D.-June 1<sup>st</sup> – CLO is sponsoring an event around WHO's downgrading of COVID. Will be facilitated by Janeen from PMB.  
**ACTION:** The Table asked Jo-Ann to share this information when available.
- Brad S-need to create communications around the changes and clarifications of new regulations/guidelines and best practices for agencies
- The Table agreed to bring this concern forward to MCCSS after their update.

## 6. Other

- a) Correspondence – none received

## 7. Emerging Issues/Questions – All Members

None brought forward

## 8. Adjournment: 12:42pm

- **Next PN 'Meeting':**
  - Thursday June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023 @ 10:00am – 1:00pm - Virtual