

APPROVED
Provincial Network Meeting Minutes
October 17th, 2024
10:00am – 1:00pm via Zoom

PN ATTENDEES

Michelle Brooks (PH)- <i>Chair</i>	Jo-Anne Demick (CLO);
Alison McLean (Provincial CoP-EDI)	Jonathan Bradshaw (OASIS)
Ann Bilodeau (PNHR);	Kim Thorn (DSO);
Ann-Marie Binetti (PNHR);	Lexi Deece-Cassidy (CNSC);
Bob Walsh (OASIS) <i>joined at approx 11am;</i>	Marnie McDermott (CNSC-CE)
Bryan Keshen (TDSA);	Michelle Del Carmen, (OADD)
Chris Beesley (CLO);	Sherri Kroll (PEDG);
Chris Brillinger (OPAN);	Sue Coke (Kerry's Place/OADD)
Don Walker (Mary Centre/FCI);	Trish Sherwin (Admin Support/Recording Secretary)
Jennifer Gleva (Karis)	

PN REGRETS

Carolynn Morrison (TDSA);	Eugene Versteeg (Karis);
Claudine Cousins (OASIS/CLO)	Jason Young (OADD)
David Cohen (Faith, Culture & Inclusion);	Shawn Pegg (CLO);

MCCSS ATTENDEES

Christine Kuepfer; <i>Director</i>	Kelly H.
Kevin Lockwood	Amy Olmstead, <i>Policy Director</i>
Paulette Thomas	Lilit Mirzoyan,
Sandra Russell, <i>North Regional Director</i>	Chelsey Boyse

Presenters

Brandon Pottie	Melodie Cook
Janet Klees	Sarah Canzi
Kory Earle	

1. Welcome – Michelle Brooks, Chair welcomed all to the meeting at 10:06am.
Michelle lead introductions of the table members in attendance.

a) Review and Confirmation of Agenda for October 21st, 2024
Amendments:

- Correspondence from Fanshaw College – item 2a
- Jake's house not receiving funding from the Ministry of December 3rd. – item 2a
- Provincial Alignment and Strategic Planning update – item 2f
- QAM Reference Group Representatives Update – item 2g

The agenda for October 21st, 2024 was approved as amended.

b) Review and Confirmation Draft Minutes for August 15th, 2024
Amendments:

The minutes of the meeting for August 15th, 2024 were approved as circulated.

2. New Business

a. Correspondence

i. **From Fanshawe College** – shared by Ann Bilodeau

- Have flagged DSW as a nonpriority course which will have huge impacts
- Asked for ideas from the table on next steps to address this
- Noted that this was already a concern/challenge as the majority of students in the DSW course were international students that struggled to obtain the requirements to remain in Ontario to work and were being trained and leaving.
- Concerns that this will affect our NOC codes as well
- South Central HR group had a presentation by an immigration lawyer 2 weeks ago which made it clear that advocacy needs to happen in the DS sector – to align with what’s happening in the PSW Sector
- Ann and Jennifer will bring this to the HR Committee with the intent to put a plan together. Looking for ideas and feedback from the PN Committee on this today.
- New provincial regulatory body for unregulated allied health professionals – The Health and Supportive Care Providers Oversight Authority (HSCPOA) - wondering if they would be able to help in terms of framing the arguments. Also if DSWs would also be covered under this. Passport is spending close to \$200million on PSWs as well. Suggestion to connect with them and the MOH, as well as with any OHT tables PN reps are sitting on. – the integration of care
[Home - HSCPOA](#)
- Suggestion: that the HR Committee creates a set of speaking notes with a bit of history and overview, to circulate through the PN. Then bring back to the PN Chair to determine how to action that message.
- Ann will look into the rumor that Conestoga College is looking to start a DSW program
- May have a position paper to share with PN to bring forward.

ii. **MCCSS agreement with Jake’s Place ending December 3rd** – *Sherri Kroll*

- Correspondence was received that MCCSS is discontinuing funding to Jake’s Place as of December 3rd. Families that choose to remain at this residence will have to fund the costs themselves.
- Confirmed that the table tasked to look into this is – Tens Valley Adult Services Table.
- Jake’s House is 29 people living together in a congregate setting that was being funded through the Ministry. Kim, Sherri and Chris Beesley provided a history of the service provider.
- Will people be able to use their Passport dollars for respite to help cover costs if they remain here?
 - This was addressed in the communication

b. Emerging Issues/Questions – All Members

iii. City of Oshawa Zoning By-law re: Group Homes Definition and registration requirements.

- reviewed the background around the zoning by-law issue affecting 3 SIL supported persons at a rental property in Oshawa.

- This is a human rights challenge and discriminatory in nature forcing these 3 individuals to be placed on a registry and labelled as a group home
- CLO offered to help with this issue and partnering around advocating for change at the municipal level to have these definitions and by-laws updated. Will reach out to other agencies that have experienced similar issues
- Suggest that the OASIS Housing Committee be involved in this challenge, as well as obtain legal advice to review the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) Municipal Act legislation, and municipal zoning by-laws
- Michelle will share the information around a lifestyle review guide/document provided from the City of Markham.
- perhaps CLO could raise it with AMO (Association of Municipalities in Ontario)
- suggest checking with the community legal clinic supporting people with disabilities if they have done some work on this

ACTION ITEM: Set up a Working Group meeting to discuss advocacy options and next steps around the Municipal Zoning By-law challenges being faced in the DS sector with Michelle, Sue, Jonathan, Sherri, and Chris Beesley – Trish will send out a doodle poll for mid November meeting date options.

- suggest attending Municipal meetings
- c. Topics to discuss with MCCSS – All Members
- i. Jake’s Place.
 - ii. Fanshaw College – impacts of DSW labeled as a nonpriority and the effect to NOC codes
 - iii. City of Oshawa Zoning By-law re: Group Homes Definition and registration requirements
- d. Annual operational plan – per terms of reference.
- Deferred – Michelle will connect with Bob Walsh before bringing this back to the table in November.
- e. Review of all standing and Ad-Hoc/Working committees - per terms of reference
- Deferred – Michelle will connect with Bob Walsh before bringing this back to the table in November.
- f. Provincial Alignment and Strategic Planning update
- Information memo has been shared with all the Regional Table Chairs with the recommendation that this information be shared with their local tables.
 - Asked for confirmation from the PN Table reps if they have heard or received anything from their Regional Tables
 - Some say that it has been spoken to but nothing has been received yet – expect due to timing of Regional Table and local table meetings with when this communication was shared.
 - Day 2 is scheduled for November 25th at YSSN office in Aurora from 9:30am-4:30pm

ACTION ITEM: Michelle will send out a reminder and PN Table members agreed to reach out to their regional chairs to offer assistance in ensuring the communication and

request for feedback from the PN hosted information sharing and priorities alignment day is shared with their local tables to allow for feedback to be received prior to the next meeting on November 25th.

g. **QAM Reference Group Representative Update**

- We have put forward 2 names for this group and both have accepted this role
 - Megan Waqué CL North Bay
 - Kim Daily from Sudbury Support Services
- Suggestion to have someone from the Quality Disabilities Supports Committee join the group. Connection has been made with them and discussions with the ministry to see what that role might look like.
- Asked if it can be confirmed that a DSO representative is also on the QAM Reference Group for the compliance aspect of it.
 - Michelle advised that she will review the membership for the QAM group before responding.

3. Standing Committees:

a) **OnTrac –*Sherri Kroll and Kim Thorn***

- OnTrac met for an additional 2 days in September to support the setting of priorities and identified key areas for additional consideration and development. These include:
 - Developing a SPARC summary and a report to share with the sector and MCCSS to build capabilities and capacity within developmental services based on the survey data.
 - Meeting with MCCSS to discuss the ideas generated from the face to face sessions, determining alignment with J2B and MCCSS priorities and identifying some next steps.
- The next OnTrac meeting is set for November 1st.

Follow-up discussions:

- There is a document from the Financial Accountability Office that states of the 64,000 passport recipients, 30,000 are not receiving their full allocation. OPAN is reviewing the document and continuing this discussion with the Ministry. Asked other PN members to share any intelligence they may have that could help with clarifying and understanding the information within this report.

<https://www.fao-on.org/en/Blog/Publications/FA2305-MCCSS>

b) **HR Committee – *Jennifer Gleeva/Ann Bilodeau***

i. HR Network

- HR Forum coming up at the end of the month with almost 340 participants
 - With many key information sharing opportunities
- Will be facilitating a work think tank to review the HR Network and the future workplan and any realignment of the committee that may be needed.

ii. Workforce Initiative Updates – Ann Bilodeau

- The updates will be provided at the HR Forum
- Looking at how to sustain the initiatives done under this group.

- RDI Committee surveys - Family survey will be launched soon; discussed challenges on reaching families and having them complete the survey.

iii. Nano/MicroCredentials updates – Michelle Brooks

- Funding has been approved to continue with the creation of the curriculum
- This phase there will be a partial payment for the course registrations
- A new MicroCredential on Dual Diagnosis has been launched and is now full.
- Working on new set of 4 Nano Credentials around complex behaviours. All 4 would be in development and should be available in early 2025
- The existing Nano and 4 adapted Micro Credentials will be available soon.

c. **Health Strategy & Engagement Working Group-** *Bryan Keshen/Brian Swainson*

- Deferred the update except to note that they did host their webinar on September 24th to introduce the strategy asking for local champions to reach out and share the information and the conversation with their local planning tables and other OHT/Health tables to raise awareness of the challenges
- The information, video and report are all available on the PN website now.

d. **QAM-** *Sherri Kroll/Eugene*

- Looking at training opportunities and resources around the repeat non-compliance issues and choking hazards.

4. MCCSS Updates

Participants

Ministry Representatives:

Christine Kuepfer, Amy Olmstead, Sandra Russell (North Regional Director), Lilit Mirzoyan, Kevin Lockwood , Paulette Thomas

Welcome and Introduction

- Chris welcomed everyone and introduced the ministry representatives.
- Acknowledged the absence of Jacqueline and Jody due to conflicts.

Ministry Updates

- **Fall Engagements**

- The Ministry has been actively participating in various sector conferences this fall.
- At the Community Living Ontario conference, the ministry presented a workshop that aimed to identify key actions, success factors, barriers and challenges, and general insights into planning supports.
- In September, at the Ontario Passport Agency Network and Developmental Services Ontario meeting, we listened to perspectives on funding and current challenges.
- At the OASIS Business Resources Committee Conference, the ministry presented updates on the Journey to Belonging initiative and the ongoing Risk Assessment work.
- In October, the Ministry will present at the Provincial Network HR Forum, introducing task groups for the workforce strategy.

- The Ministry is preparing to meet with the PEDG Working Groups, including the Resources and Capabilities working group, to discuss the Individualized Funding in Ontario paper.
- **Technical Table on Design of Individualized Budgets**
 - The Technical Table will advise on designing components of individualized budgets.
 - Members were selected based on their expertise in areas such as interpreting SIS-A results and innovative service delivery practices.
 - There is balanced representation across MCCSS regions. Discussions at this table will remain confidential, and the Ministry will make final decisions based on the advice received.
 - The table will meet twice a month starting this month until May 2025, with updates expected by spring 2025.
 - The Table is only one way the ministry is engaging about individualized budgets. Other partners will also have an opportunity to inform them of this work.
- **Updates on work with QAM Reference Group**
 - A memo was distributed over the summer to highlight the importance of staff training on food-related safeguards following recent choking deaths. This includes proper training around food preparation, texture, and consistency in line with Individual Support Plans.
 - The recurring top non-compliances across the province are all health and safety-related, including inadequate training in First Aid & CPR, physical restraint techniques, and behavior interventions. There is also concern over the lack of safeguards in Individual Support Plans.
 - The Ministry is partnering with the QAM Reference Group to address these non-compliances by developing compliance supports and offering information sessions to QAM leads before the end of the year, with further supports planned for 2025.
- **SIS-A 2nd Edition Implementation**
 - The Supports Intensity Scale – Adult (SIS-A) is the intellectual property of the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD), it has since undergone evidence-based changes and has now published its 2nd Edition.
 - Based on these changes, the Ministry will need to transition to the 2nd Edition of the SIS-A by the end of March 2025.
 - The ministry plans to go-live with the 2nd Edition in late January.
 - There are no negative impacts to persons supported or services due to this change.
 - Passport agencies and DSOs are aware of the change, and communication detailing the updates to the SIS-A and its impact on other ministry tools, such as the Assessor Summary Report and resource declaration form, will be shared closer to the transition date with Service Agencies.
 - No immediate action is required from agencies

Follow-up Discussions:

- In future, requesting that there be consideration around, how the employer can be brought into the conversation so that they can plan around that employees' commitment to a table of this nature
- Question: asked if they could speak to any changes in the new SIS assessment tool that might address the concerns around the time it lengthiness of the assessment, the deficit-based approach, and understanding of the purpose of the tool, or anything else that you've seen that you think is relevant.
 - A-we acknowledge that it does take a long time to complete the assessment and that this is not always a positive experience for the families. We always welcome feedback to help update the process however the tool itself will not be changed from this feedback.
 - Changes are in terms of technical changes in reference to the behavioural pieces, improved language, improves how we categorize and bundle, does simplify some of the language and processes as well.
- Question-in terms of QAM, is there a clinical review, or evidentiary based technical document that can be shared? We're hearing from various organizations elements of things that are actually more of a clinical intervention. A person exercising their behavioral plan or parts of their behavioral plan, but it being seen as noncompliance based on other aspects of where compliance would be. Consideration needs to be given for the environmental perspective as well as the individual perspective.

A-Kevin will take that back to obtain a response.

- Jake's House
 - Concerned around the timeliness of the decision – December 3rd does not leave much time for appropriate planning for people being supported at this location
 - Response from MCCSS - The local Regional office is aware of the concerns and are willing to work with agencies to help wherever possible around the timing.
 - Question – if there are impacts in terms of Passport spending with Jake's House – it appears that people are still able to use this facility's services with their passport funding.
 - the conversation about funding to support people is always a regional conversation
 - If Jake's house has been deemed not supportable by the Ministry, Please clarify how they could be used through Passport spending?
 - Response-deferring this question to discussions with the Regional Office.
 - Discussions around the differences between a licensing regime than a service contracting regime.
 - Jake's house charity, as the TPR, could still receive passport funding for respite for accommodation but not for aspects of daily living,
 - Comment: this is one of those examples of one of the key issues in J2B - how willing are we to allow people to make perhaps not the best decisions with passport, or with individualized funding. We really need to unpack and think through how we would support and guide people still respecting the core of individualized funding and what the intention is
- Correspondence received through some of the colleges around the changes that were just announced in reference to international students and the DSW programs.

- 1st Concern is that as international students come to Ontario to receive their DSW diploma they don't have an opportunity to remain in Ontario after they're educated and in fact, are choosing to go to different provinces where they have different expedited entry point to receive their permanent residency.
 - There are some NOC codes that allow for expedited permanent residency paths and we are experiencing Challenges within Ontario where the NOC code that specifically is identified for a DSW isn't recognized in those programs currently.
- 2nd concern is around challenges relating to the Federal Government's decision about the number of students allowed to be in the program and the viability of the program. We really want to see this program as a recognized and prioritized program as it is the preferred education for our sector.
- Ministry Response – Immigration is a multi-government issue. MCCSS has had some conversations with other ministries relating to the immigration concerns and will follow up with them.
- Comment from Chair - there was some question around the PSW Oversight authority, and an inquiry if MCCSS has had any conversation with Health around considering expanding that to include DSW.
 - Ministry Response - it's always something that is in the landscape. Still early days for the PSW registry as well, but will keep that conversation going.
 - Comment from PN – OADD is looking at the possibility of a registry for DSWs like the PSWs.
- Communication pathways from Regional tables to local tables
 - 3 of the 5 regions noted that the information was received at the regional offices and has begun to trickle out. But we haven't seen it in 2 of the regions at this point.
 - Asked MCCSS if they could help around any challenges that might be occurring around the sharing of the correspondence from the Provincial Alignment and Strategic Planning meetings. Also noted a reminder email will be circulated shortly with the next meeting date on November 25th and the information still needed to be received from the local and regional tables.
 - Ministry Response – we have not heard anything yet. We will follow up with Nicole.
- Has MCCSS connected with [Health and Supportive Care Providers Oversight Authority Act, 2021, S.O. 2021, c. 27, Sched. 2](#)) (thinking of the comment on a DSW registry)?

5. Presentation

- a) Individualized Funding in Ontario – Possibilities and Pathways – *Resources and Capabilities Committee, PEDG/CLO*
 - The work of this committee was to make recommendations on a business model that would lead to transformation as identified in the Journey To Belonging in a way that considers the needs of people and families first.
 - We've had one meeting with the ministry and have another one coming up on Monday to discuss some general themes.
 - A pdf of the slide deck is attached at the end of the minutes.
 - Link to the paper <https://individualizedfunding.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/individualized-funding-in-ontario-possibilities-and-pathways-final-draft-april-2024.pdf>

Follow-up discussion

- Any questions will be forwarded to Melodie from the PN Table.

6. Participant Updates – Deferred all the updates to the top of the agenda in November.

- a) CLO – *Jo-Anne Demick*
- b) CNSC – *Lexi Deece-Cassidy*
- c) DSO – *Kim Thorn*
- d) EDI-Community of Practice – *Alison McLean*
- e) FCI (Faith, Culture & Inclusion) – *Don Walker*
- f) SCDSN – *Brian Swainson*
- g) Karis – *Janet Noel-Annable (Eugene Versteeg gave the report)*
- h) OADD – *Sue Coke*
- i) OASIS – *Bob Walsh/Claudine Cousins*
- j) OPAN – *Chris Brillinger*
- k) PEDCC – *Sherri Kroll*
- l) TDSA – *Bryan Keshen*

7. Current Initiatives/Working Groups:

- a) PN coalition Sector Pressures and Strategy working group – *Chris Beesley/Claudine Cousins/Jonathan Bradshaw/Bob Walsh/Jo-Anne Demick*
 - Exploring options for a new name for this group
 - Working on a government relations webinar to instill and inspire capacity with member organizations throughout the sector around what that looks like and how they can best engage. Currently connecting with regions around what the strategy looks like and to gather feedback on how they feel about it, what they're hearing, what they're experiencing, how they can participate and how we can again keep this sector wide coordinated approach to advocacy.
 - Looking at how we can bring families into that conversation
- i. Update and #5ToSurvive Campaign – next steps
 - Closed this item off the agenda
- ii. New Campaign
 - Spoken with the Minister as a heads up that this is a longer-term strategy where we will ultimately look for entitlement to supports and services through incremental goals
 - Comment shared: it would be great to tie the QAM issues Kevin was raising to funding
Response: we are looking at marrying various points in the sector to the stories – qualitative stories with the data to show the impact

- ALC/ new health initiatives data – Durham makes up 26% of the numbers. Using the statistics to show how Health not working with the DS sector is impacting those we support.

8. Finance/Budget

- 2nd Quarter Reports due in November

9. Business Arising from Previous Meeting

Nothing to bring forward.

10. Closing Comments and Adjournment

a) **Adjourned at: 12:57pm**

b) **Next PN 'Meeting'**

Thursday November 21st, 2024, 10am – 1pm virtual via zoom