

Waterloo Region Special Needs Strategy Planning Table

Work to Date – Issue #5



July 2015

Special Needs Strategy

Vision:

A Waterloo Region 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.



Coordinated Service Planning Proposal – Update

The 'I's are all dotted, and the 'T's are all crossed! The Waterloo Region Special Needs Strategy Coordinated Service Planning Proposal has been finalized, and submitted to the Province for consideration. We know members of the four Ministries involved with the Special Needs Strategy will be busy over the summer months

reviewing the 34 proposals that come in from across the Province. We anticipate hearing a response from the Province late July. Thank you again to all in our community who helped inform the work. We will keep you posted!

Developmental Screening Tool - Update

The Provincial Developmental Screening Group continues to work away at on the updated developmental screening tool project. As reported on their [website](#), research and understanding into current processes continues (particularly with Aboriginal partners) and focus groups are currently being held in select regions across the province. The updated tool will be pilot tested in selected sites in 2016.

Welcome to Representatives of the Aboriginal Peoples of Waterloo Region!

As our work continues on to make our system of special needs services the best it can be for children and families, we are delighted to welcome a new member to our Waterloo Region Special Needs Strategy Planning Table. Ela Smith (White Owl Native Ancestry), Tammy Webster (Waterloo Catholic District School Board), and Nicole Robinson (Waterloo Region District School Board), will be sharing a seat at the Planning Table and bringing their knowledge and expertise to the process. We very much look forward to continuing our learning of the unique needs and considerations of our Aboriginal communities in Waterloo Region.

Please note, at any point in the process, **any individual or group can provide input directly** to one of the Chairs of the Waterloo Region Special Needs Planning Table (see contact information at bottom of page), and we will ensure it is incorporated into the collection of feedback.

Integrated Rehabilitation Services - Update

The Planning Table has now turned our attention to drafting the second proposal for submission to the Province - a model that ensures rehabilitation services (speech-language therapy, occupational therapy and physiotherapy services) are delivered seamlessly from birth to the end of school for children and families.

Services will be:

- built around the child/youth/family's goals for home, school and their community
- available 12 months a year
- delivered in locations and at times best suited for children, youth and families
- realigned so families experience rehabilitation services as one program
- delivered seamlessly from birth to school exit
- integrated speech AND language services
- delivered seamlessly across transition points
- managed with a single wait list per therapy in the region
- delivered in a school setting wherever possible for school aged children
- offered in a broad range of intervention types
- accessible regardless of age, severity or diagnosis

Through our consultations earlier this year with families, youth, community partners and front-line staff, we have gathered valuable insights and ideas on ways in which our rehabilitation services could be better integrated. In addition, we are very fortunate to have a mix of front-line staff who deliver these rehabilitation services across our community acting as a reference group over the summer. This group has committed to meeting several times over the next couple of months to discuss specific points related to system re-design. Their valuable expertise, along with the information shared in consultations, will be used to inform our draft model of Integrated Rehabilitation Services.

We are looking forward to the exciting work over the coming months and look forward to sharing the draft model early Fall 2015. Our Integrated Rehabilitation proposal will be submitted to the Province October 30, 2015.

Looking for More Information?

For the most up-to-date information, you can also visit our dedicated webpage at

<http://waterlooregionspecialneedsstrategy.weebly.com/>

or the Provincial webpage at <http://specialneedsstrategy.children.gov.on.ca>

For more information on the Waterloo Region Special Needs Strategy please contact one of our Chairs or visit <http://waterlooregionspecialneedsstrategy.weebly.com/>. This document is available in alternative formats upon request and questions in French can be answered via our Chairs.

Coordinated Service Planning

Tracy Elop – telop@kidsability.ca
Laura Thies – l.thies@dscwr.ca

Rehabilitation Services

Linda Kenny – lkenny@kidsability.ca
Kate Reed – kate.reed@ww.ccac-ont.ca

Planning Table Members

- Aboriginal Peoples of Waterloo Region
- Carizon/Lutherwood
- Children's Planning Table
- Conseil scolaire de district catholique Centre-Sud (CSDCCS)
- Conseil scolaire Viamonde
- Erinoakkids
- Family and Children's Services
- Kerry's Place
- KidsAbility Centre for Child Development
- KidsAbility School Authority
- KW Habilitation
- Region of Waterloo
- Sunbeam
- Waterloo Catholic District School Board
- Waterloo Region District School Board
- Waterloo Region Family Network
- Waterloo Wellington Community Care Access Centre (CCAC)
- Waterloo Wellington Local Health Integration Network (LHIN)

