

# Waterloo Region Special Needs Strategy Planning Table

Update – Issue #8



June 2016

## Coordinated Service Planning Proposal – Update

On April 8<sup>th</sup>, the Waterloo Region Special Needs Strategy Planning Table met with the Ministries of Children and Youth Services, Community and Social Services and Education to discuss our proposal. At this meeting, we clarified components of our model and outlined ongoing work since our proposal was submitted (in June 2015). You can find the presentation we made to the Ministries [here](#).

Our current model is essentially the same as the one presented to the community last June. We are considering whether we can include a central phone number for families to call, in addition to our website. The feasibility of this has not yet been confirmed since we have no additional funding for this.

We are looking at various options for central phone access, including leveraging what already exists in the community and understanding how our work connects with the work being done within the Moving on Mental Health strategy.

The final model also clarifies our commitment that all families will have a coordinated single plan of care. For some, this will be done by the Coordinated Service Planning agency; for others, this will be done by the agency that works most with the family.

This year will be a building year for Coordinated Services Planning. Sunbeam (as Waterloo Region's Coordinated Service Planning Agency), will receive \$110,000 to support planning activities and implementing the new service model.

Information gathered this year will help coordinating agencies and the Ministries understand the demand for coordinated service planning. This will provide evidence to support future funding decisions. The Ontario budget announced \$17.8 million dollars over three years to support 68 new coordinated service planners. We do not yet know how much of this will be given to Waterloo Region.

## 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.



## 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>

## Working Group Structure for Implementation

The members of the Special Needs Strategy Table have reconvened as an Implementation Committee and are working toward the next steps to implementation. The structure includes three standing subcommittees: Coordinated Services Planning, Integrated Rehab & Communications which are guided by the Implementation Committee.

## Integrated Rehabilitation Services - Update

The Ministries have completed their comprehensive reviews of the proposals for Integrated Rehabilitation Services. Feedback that will outline strengths of proposals as well as where clarification and improvements may be needed will be provided to each table over the next few weeks. As well, on June 14<sup>th</sup>, the Table will participate in a Provincial webinar where we will learn more about forthcoming Program Guidelines (see below).

### Year 1 Implementation 2016 - 2017:

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

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

#### Performance Measures

- The Ministries are 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.

In Fall 2016, the Ministries will meet with each table to confirm the implementation plan for 2016-2017 and beyond. They will review the plan's alignment with the program guidelines and the community's readiness for implementation. It is expected that the Table will be engaged in some 2016-2017 planning activities in preparation for the 2017-2018 implementation. Activities will include strengthening

partnerships and leadership, developing the administrative protocols and documents to support common intake, confirming information sharing and consent processes and/or planning for human resource and operational issues. Full implementation, which will include transition of services among providers, provincial policy change and provincial funding transfers to support service delivery, is targeted for 2017 – 2018.

### Planning Table Members

- First Nation, Metis and Inuit 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)



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.

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