



Simcoe County Special Needs Strategy Communication

"An Ontario 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".

The Simcoe County Special Needs Strategy planning table has had another busy month, even with taking some well-deserved time out for Holiday celebrations. The planning table received a welcome Holiday gift from the Ministries in the form of an extension of the proposal submission due dates:

- the Coordinated Service Planning proposal due date has been moved from March 5th to June 15th, 2015
- the Integrated Delivery of Rehabilitation proposal due date has been moved from June 1st to October 30th, 2015

These extensions came as a response to feedback from across the province that the original due dates compromised process and the final plan, particularly, communities' ability to engage key stakeholders including families, youth and front line providers. At the Simcoe County table this was welcome news as the new due dates still require focused work but will allow for more robust engagement and planning.

This Month's Accomplishments...

- The funding submission for dollars to support the planning process received Ministry approval for the Coordinated Service planning process. Dollars will focus on administrative support, professional facilitation expertise and family and front line engagement. The funding submission for the Integrated Rehab planning process has been re-submitted as the Ministries have allowed for the extension of the use of these dollars past the March 31st deadline to support the now extended planning period.
- The process has begun to choose the single Coordinating Agency for Simcoe County. Agencies that meet Ministry criteria have submitted their interest. The planning table has generated additional criteria that would be key for a successful Coordinating Agency in Simcoe County. Following this, a meeting of the Senior leadership of the interested agencies has occurred to explore each of their capacities to realize the broader vision. Stay tuned for next steps, this decision is central in the development of the Coordinated Service Planning proposal.
- High level barriers, including legislation, policy and mandate, have been summarized and submitted to the Ministries for both the Integrated Rehab and Coordinated Service Planning proposal. Follow up meetings with Ministry representatives and the Co-Chairs have been scheduled to discuss the barriers identified.

Current Directions...

- Families who have experience in representing family perspective at system tables have stepped forward. These families have received orientation to support their ongoing and active participation in the planning process.
- The Engagement sub-committee of the planning table will be meeting to vet the questions for the focus group and survey tools as well as to review the information gathered through these tools.
- The Retreat planning sub-committee of the planning table will be meeting to ensure the upcoming retreat days for the core and consulting planning tables are organized to allow a collaborative Simcoe County system vision and initial plan to emerge.

In the works...

The coming weeks will be dedicated to hearing the voice of Simcoe County. This is foundational in the planning process as input, perspectives and stories gathered in the engagement process will be provided to all planning participants as guiding information that will help shape and inform all of our thinking. Thank you for your support in getting the word out across the County!

Please feel free to contact your planning table co-chairs at for more information.

Coordinated Service Planning: Leanne Weeks, lweeks@ctnsy.ca
Gisele Forest (Francophone), gforest@catulpa.on.ca

Integrated Rehabilitation: Mary Riggin Springstead, mriffin@ctnsy.ca
Rhea Taplin, taplinr@rvh.on.ca

The invitation is out and our community is spreading the word about opportunities in January and February to give valuable input into Special Needs Strategy planning.

Focus groups and survey options are available to family, youth and front line providers, as well as a webinar option for youth.

Specific opportunities for Francophone and First Nation, Metis and Inuit participation are planned and included in the invitation.

Click here to register for an upcoming session
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Simcoespecialneedsstrategy>

The future belongs to those who see the possibilities before they become obvious."

John Scully