

Synopsis of Provincial Network meetings May 11th & May 13th

The Provincial Network met twice last week. We continue to look at the overarching issues of the sector and provide a coordinated approach to providing information, resources and collaboration between our networks and government.

Our Key Priorities remain:

- Maintaining staff and morale:
 - Need essential worker status and to be treated like health and LTC staff, including access to childcare.
 - Critical to have access to Personal Protective Equipment (PPE);
- Funding to meet the needs due to the pandemic;
- Look several weeks out for potential trends and impacts on people, families and supports;
- Resources for people and families;
- Create and sustain clear channels of communication with MCCSS and the government's Emergency Operations Committee (EOC).

Here is some key information and outcomes from these meetings:

With regular ministry participation on our calls, they continue to hear, ask questions and bring forth our concerns to the Minister, and he in turn, to cabinet.

From Government/MCCSS:

- In advance of more formal correspondence through your Regional Office we are providing a short update on the May 9, 2020 announcement about the temporary voluntary redeployments of school board employees to support the province's most vulnerable citizens.

The Health Workforce Matching Portal has been revised to include jobs typically required by agencies who provide residential services for those with developmental disabilities or Violence Against Women (VAW) and anti-human trafficking residential sites. The portal can be accessed here:

<https://realxchange.communitylivingsex.org/human-resources-and-policies/#target>

- Here is a link to the amended Corporations Act which will allow for AGM extensions:
Annual meetings/Time Extension: <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/200107>

Other Issues & Outcomes:

- With awareness that many are well along in operationalizing their COVID-19 Risk Mitigation Plans and Communication Efforts we thought it was still important to share and post a Workforce Development Kit that KPMG recently finalized. The engagement with KPMG was specifically to assist the sector to problem solve Workforce and Housing Challenges related to COVID-19 Pandemic. We are hopeful that this information may be of assistance to help guide you where need be.

Links to the information on the Real Xchange is provided below:

Tool	Real Xchange
DS Sector – COVID-19 Operating Principles	Click Here
Checklist – Significant Loss of Residential Support Staff	Click Here
Communication Plan – Positive COVID-19 Case	Click Here
Risk Assessment	Click Here

- We're continuing work on what a resumption of a 'new normal' will look like. Work is continuing through the SPPI committee of TDSA re. an Essential Visitor Framework as well as the OBRC of OASIS re. data collection/analysis project and the Labour Relations Committee re. post-emergency/pandemic pay.
- We will be engaging with the Minister and his office regarding future planning considerations, over the next 18 months to 2 years. We will need to de-brief on lessons learned in order to move forward both in the medium and long (8 – 10 year) term.

Stay strong, Stay Healthy, Stay connected.

The Provincial Network.