

THE OPADD LETTER

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REGIONAL WORKSHOPS PLANNED

OPADD's Trillium Project will be supporting a series of workshops across the province over the next 5 years. Workshops will be designed to bring together caregivers from the long term care and developmental services sectors with their respective planning bodies.

The purpose of the workshops is to facilitate local cross sector planning capacity and thereby ensure effective support for people with developmental

disabilities as they age. A first series of regional workshops was held in 2000/01, hosted in London (Southwest), Orillia (Central East); Kingston (South East) and Thunder Bay (North West).

The second phase of workshops includes 4 events in regions of the province not covered in Phase 1. Subsequently, there will be follow-up workshops in all 8 Regions of Ontario.

Workshops will be

planned and organized by local players with support from project staff. The project will provide a template and seed money to help each regional planning committee with its work.

Information is now being gathered to identify areas of the province for the first round of Phase 2 workshops. An announcement of specific locations should be ready late in 2004.

REENA PRESENTS AT IASSID

European Association

Reena, a leader in the area of Aging and Developmental Disabilities presented at the World Congress of the International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual Disabilities held June 14 to 19 2004 in

Montpelier, France. The presentation, "Building Capacity in Communities to Support Ageing Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities," described Reena's early work to understand the challenges it faced due to an aging population.

The talk highlighted the formation of the Ontario Partnership on Aging and Developmental Disabilities using a community development model and the current OPADD Project funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

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Welcome to the First issue of the OPADD Letter!

**Published Quarterly
Focusing on Aging and Developmental Disabilities**

Providing news, articles, letters, research reports and information of interest to people and organizations

OPADD WEBSITE COMING SOON

The Ontario Partnership Website is on its way! The site is expected to be up and running this fall. In its first phase, www.opadd.on.ca will provide information about the partnership and its work, latest news, answers to frequently asked questions and an E-mail facility so visitors can ask questions and provide feedback on the site.

Phase 2 will be ready by January 2005. Visitors will be able to visit the survey centre to respond to issues, provide input to applied research and participate in consultation on the site itself. A

special feature to be added will allow regional and local groups to submit news and information



Regional and local groups will be able to have their information uploaded to the OPADD website!

on their activities for inclusion on the web. Another feature will provide archives of the OPADD newsletter and a variety of reports and documents of interest to the partners. Phase 3, ready by December 2005, will feature a discussion centre to support dialogue across the province.

The site will also be maintained directly by OPADD project staff to ensure rapid updating. John Wilson and Associates has been hired to provide the technical expertise of web design.

U-FIRST! CURRICULUM FOR DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

OPADD is exploring how a new program, U-FIRST!, can be adapted for use in the developmental services sector. U-FIRST!, was developed as part of the Ontario Strategy for Alzheimer Disease and related dementias and stands for "Understanding—Flagging, Interaction, Reflection, Support, Team: essential elements of care for persons with Alzheimer Disease and

related dementias. The philosophy and practices of U-First reflect many of the values and methods used in developmental services. If U-First! can be used in both sectors it will provide not only an opportunity for cross sector training but also a common language for cross sector transition planning — a bridge between the sectors as they cooperate to support

people with developmental disabilities as they age.

The U-First!, training curriculum was originally developed for supervisors of unregulated health care providers who work with persons with Alzheimer Disease and related dementias and grew out of the P.I.E..C.E.S. Program. For more information on P.I.E.C.E.S. go to www.pieces.cabhru.com

OPADD CONNECTS TO TIES THAT BIND WEBSITE

OPADD has been invited to connect to the Ties That Bind Website—a site designed and built by the National Film Board of Canada. Ties That Bind features the story of Chris, a man with multiple disabilities and the challenges he has faced to living in the community. Visitors can

view video clips of his life decisions, engage in discussions with others, respond to surveys and talk directly to the site host, Chris's brother, Goeff. There are scores of articles on many issues including transitions throughout life. OPADD will be submitting information for inclusion on the

site in the coming weeks. Visit www.nfb.ca/tiesthatbind/



TRANSITION TASK FORCE TO IDENTIFY BEST PRACTICES

The Ontario Partnership on Aging and Developmental Disabilities has initiated a project to gather information on best practices in transition planning among Ontario service providers.

OPADD formed a Transition Task Group with representatives from both long term care and developmental services to undertake the work. The group is now preparing a strategy that includes not only how to obtain the information but also how to establish an ongoing working relationship with service

providers.

An effective working relationship between the sectors is extremely important since the issues around aging and developmental disabilities are many and complex. The Task Group expects that the two sectors can teach one another important ideas about transition planning.

The information-gathering on best practices will be done by a survey distributed to a large sample of providers across

Ontario. The Transition Task Group will be working closely with provincial Associations to plan the distribution of the survey. It is expected that the survey will be making its way to local service providers this fall. A family survey will also be distributed to family associations.

The data that is returned will be analysed and findings shared with both sectors by the end of 2004. Watch for a report on transition models and best practices

OPADD PRESENTS AT OANHSS CONFERENCE

Cindy Stephens, James Sejjengo and Ron Coristine recently presented an overview of OPADD and local success stories at the OANHSS Conference held in Toronto.

An audience composed mainly of long term care providers learned about OPADD's Mission and Vision. They also heard about the ADD project priorities that are to be achieved over the

next five years. Cindy Stephens of Cummer Lodge and an OPADD member, described how her search for answers to supporting older adults with developmental disabilities lead

her to Reena and the partnership. Cindy described the help that Reena provided and how the clients of Cummer Lodge benefited.

James Sejjengo provided a description in words and pictures of Reena's Elderhome Project. Elderhome offers another important option for older adults with developmental disabilities.

Local success is marked by willingness to learn from one another, dialogue, and innovation.

WORKSHOP DISCUSSION PAPER IN DEVELOPMENT

A lot was learned from the first four regional workshops held in 2000/01. The published proceedings provide a vast array of issues and problem-solving strategies. The four proceedings are now being analysed and a

discussion paper prepared to provide deeper insight into themes across the province. The paper will be ready this fall. It is expected to provide some insight useful to planning Phase 2 workshops.





Ontario Partnership on Aging & Developmental Disabilities

Building Bridges Between the Long Term Care and Developmental Services Sectors

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OPADD's Aging and Developmental Disabilities
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Check us out! We will be on
the Web this September at
www.opadd.on.ca

Our Vision

That older adults with a developmental disability have the same rights to support and services as all older adults.

Our Principles

CHOICE

ACCESS

CREATIVE OPTIONS

INDIVIDUALIZED PLANNING

Local Solutions

OPADD believes that local community groups are key to producing tangible results by linking both sectors at the level of the local agency with participation from local planning bodies.

Each organization retains its autonomy and enriches its capacity to support people with a developmental disability as they age.

THE OPADD LETTER—EDITORIAL POLICY

The purpose of the OPADD Letter includes but is not limited to supporting communication across the membership of OPADD as well as families, individuals and organizations with an interest in the area of aging and developmental disabilities.

Priority will be given to publishing news and information that focuses on aging and developmental disabilities.

Readers are invited to submit stories, articles, announcements and other features that may be of interest. Submissions must include the author's

name and full contact information including address, telephone and E-mail as applicable.

The reserves the right to amend submitted copy, to defer publication or to deny publication with or without the permission of the author. Such action will be taken to uphold the quality, timeliness and accuracy of information

contained in the newsletter and where required due to limitations of space or time. Authors of submitted items will be contacted concerning any changes or denial of publication.

The OPADD Letter will be published every quarter in hard copy and electronically. Electronic copies will be available in pdf format at our web site and via E-mail.

Advertising in the OPADD Letter may be sold at established rates to offset costs of publishing and distribution.

