

QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE THIRD AGE

Blueprinting Best Practices in Transition Planning

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Ontario Partnership on Aging and Developmental Disabilities concerns itself with systemic change that builds capacity to support adults with a developmental disability as they age. Since 1999, the partnership has engaged in a series of capacity-building initiatives. These focused on various aspects of transition planning to older adulthood and have included:

1. Aging with a Developmental Disability - Transition Guide for Caregivers.
2. Guide on Accessing Seniors Community Programs.
3. Guide to Property and Personal Care.
4. Best Practices in Transition Planning.

OPADD assembled the preliminary model of best practices in transition planning on the basis of findings from the Transition Study and subsequent experience of members across Ontario. The current project is designed to take the preliminary model a few steps closer to a blueprint that can be formally evaluated and shaped into a validated model. The deliverables for this project are:

- The current report with findings on transition planning practices.
- A revised Best Practices in Transition Planning model and PowerPoint presentation.
- A brief guide, which frames the model for planners and managers.
- A briefing document for the Ministry of Community and Social Services, the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care and the Seniors Secretariat.

The report presents the findings from a questionnaire to measure transition planning practice and distributed to a convenience sample of developmental service and long term care service providers. The findings indicate that:

- The cross sector partnership is perceived favourably by participating organizations and is helping to build systemic capacity.
- Cross sector partnering between DS and LTC is still in its early stage and requires continuing support to develop sufficiently.
- There are identified opportunities for the sectors to collaborate on specific skill-building relative to transition planning.
- The total average cost of all forms of transition-related support is \$8225.00 per client: \$5344.00 for direct support to the client and \$2881.00 for support to the agency.

Respondents from both sectors support the proposed seven elements of the transition planning model. This support and the other findings from the transition planning questionnaire provide the basis for refining the model. The refinement moves the model closer to a blueprint which can provide the basis for formally evaluating transition planning and moving toward evidence-based practice. This will require consultation, and data-gathering with a larger cross section of players in both sectors than has been possible with the current project.