



THE OPADD LETTER

Special Edition: Spring/Summer 2009

FOCUS ON THE FUTURE MINISTER ADDRESSES SYMPOSIUM

OPADD is moving forward on the heels of a successful symposium held in Toronto March 9 to 11. Delegates from across Ontario gathered to learn, dialogue and develop plans for the future.

The Honourable Madeleine Meilleur, Minister of Community and Social Services and Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs addressed the delegates, thanking them for the work done on behalf of older adults with developmental disabilities in Ontario. The Minister acknowledged the importance of the partnership between developmental services and long term care/seniors community programs and the achievements of the past several years. The Honourable Madeleine Meilleur underlined the commitment of the government of Ontario in its support of the Vision: That older adults with a developmental disability have the same rights to support and services as all older Ontarians.

The symposium provided a venue to highlight what OPADD has achieved, share success stories, hear from the experts, identify persisting roadblocks, and establish key priorities for the future. This important event was attended by members of the OPADD provincial table and regional committees, those involved in local projects, care-givers, academics, researchers, planners and policy-makers.

Dialogue sessions brought delegates together in a series of focused discussions on key issues. These identified training/education and policy/planning as core areas for future work.

Symposium proceedings and speaker PowerPoints have been posted to the OPADD website. Go to the home page; then click the news/resources tab; then the OPADD papers/reports link.

OPADD'S VISION

That older adults
with a
developmental
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NEXT STEPS: REGIONS TAKE THE LEAD

Now that the 5 year OPADD project funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation is wrapping up, leadership for future work will move to the regions. The regional committees, developed with support from the project and the provincial table, are exploring how they will work together to keep the agenda moving forward. Regional co-chairs are considering moving to a videoconference format from their current provincial teleconferences.

The next few months will be an exciting time as regional committees take the lead with key issues. Provincial associations which have been involved with the provincial table may be engaged to help with issues that have a provincial scope

Regional committees are also being asked to re-examine their membership to ensure there is good geographic and sector representation. Representation by CCACs, MCSS, LHINs and MCSS Coordinated Access Programs is also key to engaging key players and moving the system forward in concert.

During the past few years local cross sector tables have also emerged in response to the aging boom. The Niagara Region and Wellington County are two active tables that have been deeply engaged in research, system development processes, cross sector dialogue and planning. It will be important going forward that solid working relationships are developed between local and

between the regional and local tables.

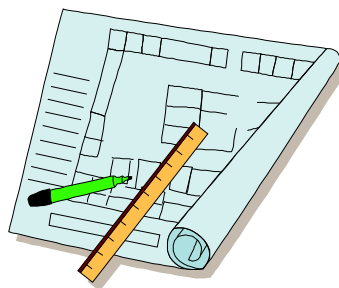
At its recent teleconference regional co-chairs set an agenda for moving forward and pursuing some of the key ideas identified at the OPADD Symposium. Deanna Finch-Smith has stepped up to chair these meetings and a co-chair is being sought in keeping with OPADD's cross sector model.

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BLUEPRINT FOR TRANSITION PLANNING

OPADD has produced the blueprint for building a model of transition planning to older adulthood. The blueprint was developed with reference to the findings from OPADD's work on transition planning over the last five years and data from a questionnaire on best practices distributed to a sample of LTC and DS agencies.

The Guide and its complementary PowerPoint presentation provide guidance to moving forward on



an evidence-based model of transition planning. Using the findings from experience and research places the model on solid ground.

The OPADD model for transition planning contains eight key elements: Documentation; Focus on Quality of Life; Health Monitoring and Consultation; Training; Partnerships; Advocacy; Funding; and Maintenance

The Guide and PowerPoint highlight and explain the elements. Both the Guide and PowerPoint will be available at the OPADD website. www.opadd.on.ca

OPADD SYMPOSIUM: BUILDING THE ACTION PLAN

The OPADD Symposium brought together champions, innovators, experts and key players to learn, dialogue and plan next steps. A summary of the many plenary and concurrent sessions is available in the Symposium Proceedings. These can be read at www.opadd.on.ca

A key piece in the symposium design was a series of focused dialogue sessions which identified OPADD's progress to date and developed Action Plans to deal with key issues. Analysis of the dialogue sessions provides some interesting findings about what we see as important and where we are heading.

Delegates registered in one of five dialogue topic groups which would focus on that topic over three dialogue sessions. The five dialogue topics were:

1. Achieving Inclusion.
2. Training and Education.
3. Cross Sector Service Delivery.
4. Planning and Coordination (System Issues 1).
5. Policy Issues (System Issues 2).

Analysis discovered that the dialogue gave rise to six prominent themes that cut across all five discussion topic groups:

1. Transition Planning
2. Inclusion
3. Service delivery
4. Policy and planning
5. Training and education
6. Resources

The six themes and their relative importance based on the frequency

of mention by dialogue group participants appears below. The frequency has been converted to a percentage for ease of comparison.

Training and Education	39%
Policy/planning	27%
Transition Planning	9%
Resources	8%
Service Delivery	8%
Inclusion	7%

The many statements and notes of delegates point to training and education as well as policy/planning issues to be key directions in our next steps. A number of Action Plans were developed by delegates. These will be brought forward by these same delegates in the months ahead.

SYMPOSIUM EVALUATION: SUCCESS AT EVERY TURN

The evaluations from the symposium have been tallied. The resulting analysis and findings are available in the Symposium Evaluation Report. A few highlights from the findings—

Respondents found symposium learning opportunities:

- Strengthened their understanding of stakeholders in another sector and their ability to collaborate.
- Strengthened their understanding of OPADD and their commitment to engage.
- Supported learning about transition planning and aging.
- Did not strengthen their learning relative to LTC legislation, regulation, policy and coordination; and
- 98% of respondents indicated they would recommend the symposium to colleagues.



OPADD PROJECT EVALUATION RESULTS

The OPADD Project, a five year venture funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation identified several goals in its proposal. Progress on each of these seventeen goals was monitored and reported by the project’s Collaborative Committee on an annual basis to the Ontario Trillium Foundation. A summary of these goals:

- Support provided to local ADD projects.
- OPADD website developed and maintained.
- Key aging and developmental disabilities issues are identified.
- Publishing and distribution of a quarterly newsletter.
- Issues, models, etc identified and posted to opadd website.
- Proceedings of regional workshops & info on local projects disseminated among stakeholders.
- Four new regional committees established in GTA, Hamilton, Ottawa and the North East with workshops planned and delivered.
- New local projects (cross sector models) established.
- Regional committees provide forums for cross sector dialogue on aging and developmental disabilities.
- Province-wide dialogue via OPADD and 8 regional forums will include cross sector differences, trends, barriers, actions, solutions.
- Symposium to provide opportunity for project participants to network, celebrate successes, share best practices.

- Discussion papers identifying & analyzing key Ontario ADD policy & service issues prepared and published.
- Regional outreach plans established and implemented by each of 8 regional committees.
- National and International ADD contacts, listening posts and links developed.
- Panel of key educational contacts and organizations willing to advise, review and address Ontario’s training needs is established.
- National ADD Conference sponsored, planned and co-hosted through a national ADD partnership held in year 5.

While we did not directly achieve the goals related to Ontario’s training needs and a national conference, we did provide input to panels that reviewed DSW and other curricula. Seeds have been planted for a national symposium in the future.

OPADD also underwent another evaluation inviting input from all OPADD stakeholders at the provincial and regional tables. A summary of these results follows. Respondent replies indicate that they perceive that OPADD has had significant or some impact on each of these items (the percentage agreement appears beside each item):

Two sectors working together	90%
Ministries working together	60%
Planning Bodies working together	25%
Service providers business practices	55%
Identifying workable options for cross sector services	65%

Having an impact on client outcomes	70%
Impact on ability to do Cross sector work	68%
Helpfulness of OPADD Guides	90%
Helpfulness of OPADD information infrastructure (newsletter, update, web site)	90%
Impact on regional committees and dialogue	83%

In addition respondents also made suggestions for improving regional committees. Their comments focused on:

- Improvements to cross regional communication.
- Additional resources to support cross regional communication and work.
- Formalizing regional activity and dialogue.
- Raising the profile of regional committees.

Suggestions for improvements support of cross sector work included:

- Two Ministries working together and providing a policy framework within which cross sector work could be supported.
- Resources: improved knowledge exchange, greater flexibility and pilot projects.
- Establishment of a five year plan with goals.
- Overcome persisting misperceptions about “the other sector”.