

THE OPADD LETTER

Winter 2008

OPADD SYMPOSIUM 2009 “INCLUSION COMES OF AGE”

The Ontario Partnership on Aging and Developmental Disabilities is hosting a symposium in Toronto, March 9, 10 and 11 2009. The theme for the symposium, “Inclusion Comes of Age”, will bring together caregivers, planners, policy-makers, researchers and academics from both the developmental services and long term care sectors. This is an important gathering for players with interest in aging and developmental disabilities. The symposium will provide opportunity to learn from Canadian and American experts, gain knowledge from the achievements of innovative cross sector initiatives, take stock of what has been successful and dialogue on future direction.

OPADD is working in partnership with the Seniors Health Research Transfer Network (SHRTN) to develop a showcase of important projects that demonstrate the synergy and benefits of cross sector partnerships. The showcase will be an integral part of the symposium program.

Dr Lillian Thorpe, a noted expert in aging and developmental disabilities from the University of Saskatchewan will be speaking. Invitations have also been extended to planners and policy-makers working in aging and developmental disabilities programs operated by the State of New York; as well as many noted Canadian and American experts. The program will be finalized in the coming weeks.

Invitations for presentation proposals have been distributed. Anyone interested in submitting a proposal can download a copy of the invitation from the home page of the OPADD web site. Find it under Quick Links on the home page at www.opadd.on.ca

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OPADD SYMPOSIUM 2009

LEARN
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MARCH 9, 10, 11 2009
SHERATON PARKWAY
HOTEL
TORONTO NORTH

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OPADD SYMPOSIUM 2009 “INCLUSION COMES OF AGE”

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The symposium will be held at the Sheraton Parkway Hotel situated on Highway #7 just west of Leslie and the 404 highway. The Sheraton is offering special room rates, not only for the days of the symposium but also for limited nights immediately before March 9 and after March 11 for those who may wish to spend some time visiting Toronto.

The special rate for a traditional room is \$139.00 at the Sheraton and \$109.00 at the Best Western just next door. There is no extra charge for parking. The Sheraton Parkway is close to dozens of restaurants, shopping and other attractions.

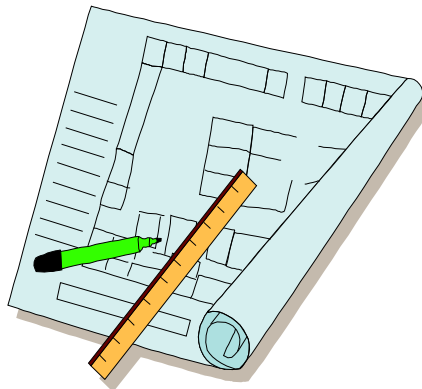
For more information check out Quick Links on the home page at www.opadd.on.ca. Updates, symposium flyers and registration information will be posted there as it becomes finalized. In the meantime, people may reserve their rooms at the Sheraton Parkway at the special rate.

BLUEPRINT FOR TRANSITION PLANNING

OPADD continues to invest in the development of best practices in transition planning to older adulthood for adults with a developmental disability. During the summer, OPADD invited long term care and development services providers to answer a research questionnaire, which measured existing transition planning practices.

The questionnaire also gathered data on best practices to which caregivers aspire and the costs associated with supporting an individual through the process. The Blueprint Task Group has examined the data. A report with analysis and recommendations for future work is being prepared. It is expected that the findings will give rise to new research projects related to transition planning, which OPADD may pursue in partnership with other communities of practice within SHRTN.

The overriding focus in further research will be to identify the essential elements of a transition planning blueprint and design evaluations to test for these elements. The resulting blueprint will provide guidance to



caregivers across Ontario and ensure quality of life for adults with a developmental disability as they age.

The current questionnaire collected data related to:

1. Documentation.
2. Quality of Life
3. Health.
4. Staff Training and Development
4. Advocacy.
6. Resource Requirements.

Twenty DS providers and six LTC providers responded to the survey. While the small sample and disparate representation

between DS and LTC providers pose limitations on the findings, the data nevertheless inform the cross sector dialogue on aging and developmental disabilities. The findings provide an indication of current practice, identify relative strengths within each sector and suggest areas where one sector can assist the other with training. The data are helpful to framing further questions for research.

Highlights of some findings from the current research project are presented in the table that follows. The questionnaire also collected data related to partnership practices, advocacy and how service providers resource transition planning. These data will be fully presented with analysis in the report now being prepared along with a draft blueprint on transition planning for service providers. The report will be available at www.opadd.on.ca

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TABLE: SELECTED RESPONSES ON TRANSITION PLANNING PRACTICES

CATEGORY	REPORTED TRANSITION PLANNING PRACTICE	Developmental Services (n = 20)	Long Term Care (n = 6)
Documentation	Document the functioning of the individual prior to the onset of the aging process.	66%	50%
	Establish a baseline against which to measure changes related to aging.	43%	83%
	Use a consistent format to document age-related changes.	36%	83%
Quality of Life	Use a Quality of Life Model in transition planning.	66%	50%
	Ensure provision for substitute decision-making in the transition plan.	76%	100%
	The transition plan considers the impact that aging will have on others who are part of the individual's life.	83%	50%
Health	Staff has sufficient knowledge about the health care requirements of those they support.	40%	67%
	Staff has sufficient skills to engage in meaningful & professional consultation with health care and mental health providers.	53%	83%
	Staff monitor and document the health status of individuals as they age.	73%	83%
Training and Development	Care provider organizations offer training programs to help staff acquire skill sets to support people as they age.	63%	100%
	Care provider organizations offer training in health care and health conditions associated with aging.	70%	100%
	Care provider organizations offer orientation of staff to both the DS and LTC sectors.	73%	33%
	Care provider organizations orient staff to how to access services within their particular sector.	63%	33%

WORKSHOP NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

Wellington Workshop December 3 2008 in the Southwest Region

The Wellington Committee for Seniors with Developmental Disabilities planned a workshop titled, "Aging & Developmental Disabilities: Exploring the Past, Planning for the Future." Colin Hamilton, Executive Director of Surex examined the historical perspective of the community living movement, the impact of Bill 77, the joint MCSS MOHLTC protocol for access to long term care and the importance of creating meaningful partnerships between long-term care providers and the development services sector.

Ron Coristine, Project Manager with the OPADD project provided an overview of OPADD's work and the evolution of the debate from one based on ideology to one based on shared concern about how to maintain quality of life and support people in adapting to the aging process.

Robin Smart, Education Coordinator for the Alzheimer Society Guelph-Wellington presented on early warning signs of dementia; getting a diagnosis; progression of the disease; and suggested support and interventions. The event was held at the Wellington Museum and Archives.



Simcoe Marketplace Workshop November 18 2008 in the Central East Region

The Simcoe Education Committee for Aging and Intellectual Disabilities recently hosted a cross sector workshop on Aging and Developmental Disabilities.

Seventy-five people registered for the full day at the YMCA Geneva Conference Centre near Orillia. The program included a presentation about OPADD and an overview of the Collaborative Care: Aging and Dual Diagnosis Program (CCADD).

The CCADD is a partnership program of the Bayview Dual Diagnosis Program (BDDP) and the Geriatric Services Program of the Mental Health Centre Penetanguishene. The experience of CCADD to date indicates that the need for specialized services is being confirmed by clients and caregivers; access to appropriate service is strengthened; and clients are experiencing positive outcomes.

Workshop participants came from Long Term Care, Developmental Services, CCACs, mental health,

Advisory Transition & Social Services, Simcoe Community Services, VON, Alzheimer Society, hospitals, and other community partners.

Program participants engaged in a case study followed by an opportunity to "shop" for an appropriate mix of programs for the "case study client." A large range of providers, as well as planning and coordinating bodies were on hand to explain their services and help participants find the right mix of supports for their client.

The goals for the workshop were:

1. To provide information about current resources available from different sectors for older adults with developmental disabilities.
2. Create opportunities for networking and collaboration across service sectors and between agencies and families.
3. To support the direction of the LHIN and MOH and LTC's Aging at Home Strategy.
4. To provide participants with knowledge on new developments, research and collaborative models.

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WORKSHOP NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

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TPADD Follow-Up Workshop October 30 2008 Toronto Region

The Toronto Committee on Aging and Developmental Disabilities (TPADD) recently hosted a cross sector workshop on identifying and preventing client and caregiver abuse. Participants learned from a variety of experts including, Graham Webb, staff lawyer with The Advocacy Centre for the Elderly (ACE); Patricia Fleischman from Toronto Police Services, Vulnerable Persons Unit; and Susan Furman, Team leader of Investigations for the Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee. The Toronto Seniors Council also provided a speaker to present the consumer's perspective.

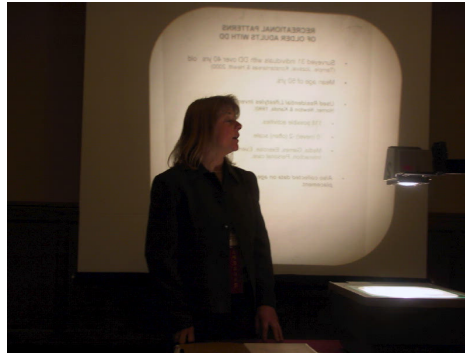
The goals for the workshop were to:

1. Provide an opportunity to learn from one another and develop collegial and effective working relationships.
2. Acknowledge, identify and explore issues related to client and care-giver abuse.

The workshop offered opportunity for participants to learn how agencies deal with abuse issues within their particular sector and to share best practices. Delivering the training to both sectors together provided opportunity for cross fertilization of ideas.

Sudbury Follow-Up Workshop October 29 2008 Northeast Region

The Northeastern Ontario Regional Partnership on Aging and Developmental Disabilities recently hosted a cross sector workshop with a focus on strengthening working relationships among long term care and developmental service agencies.



The committee wanted to address the historical divide between the two sectors in the region, which persists despite efforts to build new partnerships. The one-day U-First! Curriculum was used as the vehicle to train caregivers from both LTC and DS agencies in understanding challenging behaviours, identifying causes and intervening effectively.

A presentation about OPADD and a dialogue session offered participants a chance to consider how to build cross sector working relationships and the benefits that can accrue to older adults with a developmental disability. Organizers anticipate that the workshop will generate new relationships among service providers and act to facilitate similar cross sector dialogue between MOHLTC and MCSS within the region.

DRILLING DOWN: OPADD MEMBERS MOVE FROM REGIONAL WORKSHOPS TO LOCAL EVENTS

When the OPADD Project was conceived the plan was to see regional committees spearhead cross sector workshops to build working relationships and set the groundwork for cross sector cooperation. Since that time local and regional players have moved beyond that model to establish important processes for dialogue, planning and cross sector service delivery at a more local level.

The Central East Region has established several local groups which are engaged in a range of planning, training and service delivery initiatives. In the Southwest Region, the Wellington County Committee emerged when local players came together to study the needs of older adults with a developmental disability.

in the South Central Region, a group formed in Niagara to consider the scope of the aging issue and then to explore readiness for cross sector collaboration. These emerging groups demonstrate that stakeholders are taking the issue in hand and coming together to build capacity.



OPADD GROWS INTO ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH SHRTN

Since becoming a Community of Practice (CoP) within the SENIORS HEALTH RESEARCH TRANSFER NETWORK (SHRTN)

OPADD has been growing into its role.

OPADD Establishes Work Group to Coordinate Activities as a Community of Practice

OPADD recently formed a work group to coordinate our activity as a SHRTN Community of Practice. At its initial meeting the group reviewed the work plan and learned about a proposed SHRTN Project, the Showcase on Aging and Developmental Disabilities. The Showcase Project was being developed to:

- ◆ Identify innovative cross sector projects on aging and developmental disabilities.
- ◆ Engage project organizers to share their achievements with others across Ontario through various SHRTN communication vehicles.

The Showcase Project was seen to dovetail nicely with work that OPADD is doing. Consequently, it was agreed that the newly formed OPADD CoP work group would take on the project. Interested members of other SHRTN CoPs are welcome to join the OPADD CoP work group.



The Showcase Project was seen as a catalyst that:

1. Serves as a platform for work group members to focus on a defined task and use the experience to grow into the aging and developmental disabilities work group.
2. Helps OPADD further its goal relative to knowledge exchange about innovative cross sector projects.
3. Complements and adds to the OPADD Symposium Program.
4. Provides opportunity for us to engage with members of other CoPs and broaden our perspective on aging and developmental disabilities.

After consultation with the OPADD Symposium Task Group and SHRTN Knowledge Brokers, it was agreed that the OPADD CoP Work Group would take on the Showcase.

The Showcase Project will help OPADD and SHRTN achieve important goals related to knowledge exchange and cross sector partnership development. It will not only support knowledge exchange but can stimulate new partnerships and collaborative projects. The format for the project, which is still under development, currently looks like this:

Part 1 - Mid January - identify cross sector projects, engage participants to present via Adobe Acrobat Connect.

Part 2 - February - Onsite partnership building and coaching / short-term mentoring; supported with a knowledge translation tool that provides a process to build knowledge among existing players and those new to partnering.

Part 3 - February/March - Follow-up Knowledge Exchange session with coaching.

Part 4 - March 9, 10, 11 - OPADD Symposium.

If you know of a cross sector project that should be considered for the Showcase, send an e-mail to ronc@opadd.on.ca or our Knowledge Broker, Liz Lusk at gestalt.liz@gmail.com

EVALUATING THE OPADD PROJECT

The evaluation of the OPADD Project is now in the planning stage. The evaluation will measure the effectiveness of cross sector relationships as well as outcomes for older adults with a developmental disability.

This requires an evaluation design that is sensitive to the unique networking structure and activity of OPADD. Generally, human services are in a time of working within collaborative models as a means to build capacity. Not only is OPADD a network but has become a Community of Practice within the umbrella of the Seniors Health Research Transfer Network.

Our participation within the SHRTN community adds a new dimension to evaluating our effectiveness as a Community of Practice. OPADD has been in discussions with SHRTN to

This consultation and dovetailing with SHRTN's evaluation design is not merely to achieve efficiency in our evaluation work but to effectively inform ourselves, the Ontario Trillium Foundation and all SHRTN Communities of Practice. The evaluation report will be shared with all of our partners including MOHLTC, MCSS and the Seniors Secretariat.

At their recent teleconference the Regional Co-Chairs suggested that the focus group method that was used to collect data at the midpoint of the OPADD project be considered as it provided a good source of qualitative data. Moreover, some regional committees have evaluative data of their respective workshops and other work that can be made available to the provincial evaluation. Ideas about data collection are welcome as we move through the planning stage.

In its own evaluation work, SHRTN has found that the analysis of case studies is providing an excellent source of insight into the efficacy of Communities of Practice and the SHRTN model. The SHRN evaluation method is under consideration for the OPADD evaluation if resources can be found to support the investment of time it will require.

Information on the evaluation model that we will be using and how regions can help will be shared as we proceed.



OPADD APPROVED AS A MEMBER OF THE ONTARIO TELEMEDICINE NETWORK

OPADD has been approved as a member of the provincial videoconferencing system available through the ONTARIO TELEMEDICINE NETWORK (OTN). The OTN is a non-profit, stand alone agency of the government of Ontario and is the leading provider of health care videoconferences in Canada.

A central videoconferencing site is to be established at Reena followed by a period of orientation and training.

OPADD's Videoconferencing Program will help to sustain capacity-building related to aging and developmental disabilities through knowledge diffusion among acute care, long

term care, developmental services, planning and coordinating bodies, educational institutions, research bodies and government. Our videoconferencing capacity will support:

- ◆ Stronger geographic participation at the provincial table.
- ◆ Strengthened dialogue between the provincial and regional tables.
- ◆ Knowledge Exchange processes such as fireside chats, demonstrations and consultations.
- ◆ Improved access to existing training/education programs.

- ◆ Opportunity to design and deliver new training programs.
- ◆ Information brokering for telemedicine programs across Ontario that may be of interest and accessible to our members.

In the coming months we will learn how to work with the videoconferencing resources available to build stronger connections among our regional committees, regional co-chairs, task groups and partners. Videoconferencing will also open doors to training opportunities offered through partnering organizations such as Regional Support Associates and Community Networks of Specialized Care.

THINKING ABOUT SUSTAINABILITY

During the next few months we must define our plan and strategies for sustaining the work of the partnership after project funding is exhausted. The five-year project has helped to move the agenda forward while building infrastructure and developing processes for knowledge exchange. While much has been accomplished, work remains to be done to achieve our Vision. The following list highlights some of the key elements that must be considered as we build the plan for sustainability.

1. A structure and meeting process for OPADD that supports ease of communication and mutual support between the regions and the provincial table.
2. Ongoing dialogue between OPADD and the 3 provincial Ministries; including encouragement of inter-ministerial work on aging and developmental disabilities.
3. A strategy to engage every LHIN, CCAC and MCSS Coordinated Access Program across Ontario in the dialogue to ensure all adults with a developmental disability have the same rights to support and services as all older Ontarians.
4. Capacity to continue receiving, clarifying and disseminating information about issues, initiatives, research, policy, education and training.



5. Attention and action on two important questions:

How to engage those players, associations and jurisdictions which remain inattentive to the significance of the impact that The aging boom will have on the developmental services system and the pressing need to build capacity through partnership with the long term care sector which includes all seniors programs?

How to engage long term care service providers, which have not yet experienced the inclusion of older adults with a developmental disability into their respective programs?

6. Exploration of collaboration opportunities with other networks and provincial groups such as Community Networks of Specialized Care.
7. Continuing participation within SHRTN as a Community of Practice. SHRTN offers access to other Communities of Practice, expert knowledge, library services and more.

9. Use of technology to support communication, training and knowledge dissemination. Some of the technology available includes: Adobe Acrobat Connect; videoconferencing; and teleconferencing.

9. Continuation of OPADD communication infrastructure for a defined period of time:

Maintain the OPADD web site in its present form with a plan for its evolution; this evolution may take the form of breaking the site up into segments to be included on other web sites; inclusion of more information on the pages available through SHRTN; and inclusion of aging and developmental disabilities pages on MCSS, MOHLTC and Seniors Secretariat web sites.

Maintain OPADD distribution lists, monthly updates and the newsletter for a defined period of time to maintain the profile of the issue of aging and developmental disabilities until it becomes sufficiently integrated into the existing mainstream service .





Ontario Partnership on Aging & Developmental Disabilities

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

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**LA FONDATION
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REGIONAL CO-CHAIRS BUILD LATERAL CONNECTIVITY

Regional Co-Chairs have been holding quarterly teleconferences to exchange information, provide input to OPADD initiatives and receive information about project activities. The conversations are supporting regional capacity to help one another and informing project staff about regional needs.

The Collaborative Committee has invited the Regional Co-Chairs to join them via teleconference for the next Collaborative meeting. This conversation will be pivotal in strengthening connections among the provincial and regional tables and building a plan for sustainability.

Vision

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

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.

TUNE IN WITH WWW.OPADD.ON.CA

The OPADD web site is your resource for information about aging and developmental disabilities.

Recently, the Ottawa/Champlain region posted new items including their newsletter, principles for service delivery and more. Central East posted info on U-First Training. Check out the Regional pages.

Information about the OPADD symposium is featured in the Quick Links section on the home page. Check here regularly for updates on symposium planning.

Doing a presentation about your partnership work and need a PowerPoint presentation? Download one available under News and Resources.

Want to know what others are doing in communities across Ontario? Check out the Local Projects section.

All editions of the OPADD Letter and the OPADD Update are available under News and Resources.