

An Update on...

Developmental Services Ontario Central West Region

Sunbeam Residential Development Centre - Kitchener

INFORMATION BULLETIN: JUNE 3, 2011

NEW DIRECTIONS: WHY THERE ARE CHANGES COMING TO ADULT DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES... AND WHEN

In 2004, the Ontario government announced a new plan to change supports for adults (18 years of age and older) who have a developmental disability. They started this initiative to create an accessible, fair and sustainable system of community-based supports. Since that time, many new initiatives have been introduced that were meant to help the estimated 50,000 people in the province who have a developmental disability.

A key part of the government's plan was the introduction of new legislation, *The Services and Supports to Promote the Social Inclusion of Persons with Developmental Disabilities Act, 2008*. The legislation includes:

- a new application and assessment process
- person-directed planning
- a new definition for a developmental disability
- direct funding
- the right to collect personal information

To learn more about the new legislation visit:

<http://www.mcass.gov.on.ca/en/mcass/programs/developmental/improving/newLegislation>.

A NEW APPROACH TO APPLY FOR SERVICES: WHAT IS HAPPENING

Beginning in July 2011, adults with a developmental disability will apply for services and supports through one of nine (9) regional contact points called Developmental Services Ontario. This new name was created by the Ministry of Community and Social Services. These regional contact points replace a variety of application processes across the province. Developmental Services Ontario contact points will provide information, confirm eligibility for adult services and supports, and link people to community services and supports. They will also maintain waiting lists for adult developmental services and supports. If you are currently on waiting list, you will be contacted about how to connect with us.

In November 2010, The Honourable Madeline Meilleur, Minister of Community and Social Services, announced that Sunbeam Residential Development Centre was selected to set up and operate the Developmental Services Ontario for Central West Region. Central West Region includes Peel Region, Halton Region, Dufferin County, Wellington County, and Waterloo Region. It is expected that all Developmental Services Ontario organizations will be ready by July 1, 2011.

Sunbeam Residential Development Centre is currently establishing the Developmental Services Ontario for the Central West Region. To keep individuals, families and communities up to date, regular communication will be shared on our progress. We will highlight features of the new approach to apply for services to support adults with a developmental disability.

SEEKING ADVICE: WHO IS HELPING US

Sunbeam Residential Development Centre has set up an Advisory Committee. The committee will help us ensure that our work to establish the new contact point for adult services and supports proceeds as smoothly as possible. This group of volunteers, including service provider and community members, will provide advice and support as we launch Developmental Services Ontario Central West Region. Bringing together the expertise and viewpoints of the Advisory Committee will help Sunbeam Residential Development Centre to strengthen its connections in each community. The Advisory Committee will focus on planning, communication, and implementation of Developmental Services Ontario Central West Region.

KEEPING YOU INFORMED: HOW WE WILL KEEP YOU UP TO DATE

As Developmental Services Ontario Central West Region develops, there will be key information to share. This series of Information Bulletins will be sent at regular intervals. The next Bulletin will feature an overview of the new application process. It will be sent on Friday, June 10th.

We are currently upgrading our telecommunications and email systems. However, we have set up a temporary email address so that we can respond to any questions you might have. If you would like to receive this bulletin by email or for further information, please contact:

Developmental Services Ontario Central West Region
Email: dsocwr@rogers.com
(519) 741-1121, extension 2230