

Riverview Manor: Aging at Home Proposal

In speaking with a representative from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing (MMAH), the Rainy River DSSAB should be notified by month end as to the status of the Riverview Manor project in the Town of Rainy River. It was noted that the Rainy River DSSAB is considered a leader in this type of initiative. Several housing service managers are just beginning to look at aligning available housing initiatives with the LHIN's aging at home strategy. Hats off to all who have been involved in the Riverview Manor Aging at Home project! Congratulations!

I have contacted the Northwest LHIN with the hopes of developing the aging at home proposal further in the District. If you are aware of anyone who could benefit from assisted living or supportive housing, please contact Sandra Weir, Housing Manager at 274-5349 extension 230.

2009 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review

The Province is projecting a \$24.7 billion deficit for 2009-10 which is a significant increase over earlier government estimates. As a result, the Minister of Finance, Dwight Duncan, has announced that the government will be conducting a "rigorous strategic spending review" focusing on government programs and services. The spending review will be conducted in the coming months with a detailed plan announced as part of the 2010 budget.

The prospects of service cuts and spending reductions are a concern to many provincial service managers. According to the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA), the economic challenges facing Ontario and the as-of-yet undiscovered solutions have important implications for the municipal human service sector. OMSSA notes the timeliness of the uploading agreements announced last year for Ontario Works (OW) and the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP). Asks OMSSA, "Were the economic climate then to have been what it is now, it is unclear whether municipalities would have seen the same provincial willingness to take on the funding responsibilities of various social programs (Ontario Drug Benefits, ODSP supports, OW funding). We await the 2010 budget.

Ontario Works

Ontario Works staff are currently in the process of updating their program policies and procedures, within the local discretionary provisions. They have an excellent start and hope to have them complete by month's end.

Krista Ballard, Employment Support Worker, continues to seek employment opportunities within the municipalities for her OW clients. Please contact Krista at extension 310, if you have any questions or opportunities.

The amount of benefits payable to Ontario Works recipients will increase by approximately 2% on 01 December, 2009.

Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM)

We were delighted to have two second year medical students (currently placed in the Town of Rainy River) visit us in October. In reviewing the placement with them, they offered kudos to the DSSAB staff: "It was one of our best CLS placements to date just because we were constantly moving around and seeing and learning about different aspects of RRDSSAB. Everyone was extremely nice and well prepared."

Early Learning and Child Care

The Premier announced that the government is moving forward with implementation of the recommendations for a high quality system of early learning and child care in Ontario. Dr. Charles Pascal, Ontario's Early Learning Advisor, prepared a report calling for a new provincially funded, school-based system of early learning and child care for four and five year olds. The report contends that by removing four and five year olds from the municipal child care system, the existing resources in that system would be used to better serve children under four, with the hope of increasing access to child care for families with young children. The Premier's announcement focused on moving forward with a phased implementation of moving four and five year olds into the school system beginning September 2010 with full implementation beginning in 2015/16.

As the Premier makes his announcement, the federal government is scheduled to eliminate \$64 million in child care funding for Ontario's municipalities as of 31 March, 2010. As mandated providers of child care services, Ontario's DSSABs and municipal governments believe that the federal government must reconsider this cut in federal child care funding. DSSABs and Municipal Service Managers should not be put in a position of having to eliminate child care spaces nor should families be forced to find safe, affordable care for their children.

Human Resources

The following Human Resource activity has taken place since last reported:

Name	Title	Status	Start/Effective Date
Myrna Jacobs-Beachy	Family Support Worker/Eligibility Review Officer	Replacement PFT: internal	26 October/09
Leanne Eluik	Manager of Finance	Pregnancy/Parental Leave	02 November/09
Jennifer Kivimaki	Customer Service Representative	Casual	04 November/09
Heather Johnson	Income Maintenance Caseworker	Replacement PFT: internal	09 November/09

CONGRATULATIONS!

Our congratulations to Leanne and Jamie Eluik on the safe arrival of Nicholas James, born 04 November, 2009 weighing 7 lbs, 9oz! Now Cara has someone to play with!

Please call me at 274-5349 extension 238, if you have any questions.

Respectfully Submitted,
/d Dittaro