

We're stronger together

leadership news

Fall 2019



Government Relations Update

Ministry of Health Update

Family Service Ontario met with Dr. Paul Kurdyak (ICES), Dr. Martin Antony (Clinical Lead for the OSP) and Robert McKay (MOH) on September 26 to talk about:

- FSO Demo Project with Greenspace regarding the latest outcomes, phase two of the project and the analysis of our qualitative research on the demo project implementation. As we complete the analysis of our first phase results and what we've learned through implementing shared measurement across 29 Family Service agencies, FSO is looking for the ministry's insight and input on phase two, so we can add as much value as possible with our future results. We also want to know if there are certain data we can collect through this phase that would be useful to both the IASP and MOH.
- Single Session Therapy offered at Family Service agencies.
- Results of FSO's clinical supervision training survey and outcomes. This included a profile of clinical supervision in Family Service agencies to help the MOH build a case for the role more than 60 Family Service agency clinical supervisors will play in the IASP and the roll-out of the Ontario Structured Psychotherapy Program.
- Timing for and content of the directives for the Psychotherapy Hub applications expected out later this fall.

Our government relations work with Advocacy Solutions/Global Public Affairs is moving forward. We are meeting with Ministers Tibollo, Associate Minister

of Mental Health and Addictions, and Smith, the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services prior to the development of the next Ontario budget.

Meetings with MPPs

Mental health affects one in five Ontarians. It is likely that your MPP or someone in their office has had a personal experience with mental health issues and concerns. A face-to-face meeting with your MPP will help you connect with them directly about an issue that your MPP hears about locally. In fact, MPPs are one of the key referral sources for Family Service agency services.

The government is putting together its next budget. We need to build the demand for continued investment in mental health services by making sure that MPPs know what we bring to the table and how we add value to the government's mental health investment prior to their return to Queen's Park in early November. For now, MPPs are in their constituencies every day, which makes it much easier to schedule a half to one-hour meeting with them.

To help you plan your meeting with your MPP(s), FSO hosted two webinars in September. The first was for Executive Directors and senior staff, and the second was for agency board members. Ryan Clark of Advocacy Solutions presented the one-hour webinars, which was recorded. If you missed the webinars, you can click on the link, enter your name and email address to listen to the recordings: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6851463073746906371>

Board Retreat and Strategic Plan

The FSO Board had its annual retreat on September 16. It considered its priorities for the next three years based on an analysis of FSO's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats, key issues and its understanding of the environment in which FSO and its members are working.

Your board is listening and would like to hear from you at any time if you have issues that you want the FSO board to address. Please direct your comments to Susan at smacisaac@familyserviceontario.org.

Public Affairs Committee

Increasingly, the activities of government relations are affecting how we communicate our messages and prepare the tools we use to aid in virtual and in-person conversations with ministries.

In creating a communications plan for 2019-20, augmenting our influence with government is an ongoing key objective. As such, the activities of government relations are necessary to inform the plan.

Simultaneously, the initiatives of the government relations plan encompass the expertise, planning and support of communications, as the plans now share common objectives.

As the functions of these committees evolve from overlapping to dovetailing, dissolving the separate committees and creating one new one makes sense. It will capture all the activities of Family Service

Ontario's public affairs while saving time and reducing duplication of effort for those involved.

The intention of one committee is to promote sharing of information and allow for proactive planning and preparation for government relations and communications. It will also foster an expanded opportunity for consultation and contributing expertise from members.

Terms of Reference outlining the scope of the committee will strive for geographical representation and will see the sharing of responsibilities between co-chairs.

This streamlining of committees is another example of how Family Service Ontario makes the most of members' valuable time and expertise while ensuring we meet the expanding and evolving needs of the association's initiatives.

Become a Family Service Ontario Board Member

Family Service Ontario is seeking board members. There are currently two vacancies available.

Anyone interested in serving on the association's board is welcome to contact Susan MacIsaac for more

information as to the position requirements and the number and length of meetings.

If you are interested to learn more, please contact Susan at smacisaac@familyserviceontario.org.

#FSODemo Project Progress Report

The early data from the psychotherapy pilot show a significant and substantial decrease in overall levels of anxiety and depression for participating clients. Anxiety decreased from mid- to lower level on the rating scale. Depression moved from the mid-high to mid-level range.

These results cement our position as a key stakeholder in the OSP initiative, and the more data we can generate, the better.

Don't miss your opportunity to be part of the pilot project. As we move into phase two of the pilot, we encourage all members to participate in the project to provide the most complete data set to the MOH as possible.

As LHINs are likely to determine funding allocated to mental health services across a region, 'speaking the same language' as the Demonstration Project

participants and exhibiting the value of your agency's programming will be important.

Moving forward, Family Service agencies need to be part of local discussions to form Psychotherapy Hubs and be at the table with Ontario Health Teams. We expect the expression of interest (EOI) process, including directives from the MOH for Psychotherapy Hubs, will begin this fall. The understanding is that the MOH wants larger Family Service agencies to lead the hubs with smaller agencies becoming the spokes.

Now is the time for agencies to reach out to community mental health and addictions partners, including Community Health Centres and primary care, to get local discussions going and to be ready to submit EOI.

Agencies looking for assistance in what steps to take can call Susan directly at 416-487-3136.

Family Service Ontario

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