ONTARIO’S SPECIAL NEEDS STRATEGY FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Regional Information Session

Ministry of Children and Youth Services
Ministry of Community and Social Services
Ministry of Education
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

October 2014
Special Needs Strategy Vision

“An Ontario where children and youth with special needs get the timely and effective services they need to participate fully at home, at school, in the community, and as they prepare to achieve their goals for adulthood”.

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What Will it Take?

• Achieving this vision for children and families will require:
  – **Change** at the provincial and local levels;
  – **Collaboration** across sectors; and
  – **Innovative approaches** to addressing challenges and barriers.
What Will the Strategy Mean For Families

• Seamless experience of services
• Clear access and service plans
• Smooth transitions
• Telling their stories once
Building on Experience

• **Speech language demonstration sites**: improved access, quality and value of services, and parent satisfaction

• **The Full Day Kindergarten rehabilitation services pilots**: teachers and clinicians felt better equipped to help children meet their goals

• **Local access and service coordination efforts**: improved parent peace of mind
What The Strategy is Not

• **NOT** an attempt to reduce funding, decrease the number of agencies, or cut jobs

• **NOT** a “one size fits all” proposition

• **NOT** a criticism of the quality of current services
Today’s Meeting?

• To:
  – Discuss **policy guidelines** for coordinated service planning and integrated delivery of rehabilitation services
  
  – Discuss **local proposal development expectations**
  
  – Decide who will call the **first meetings of local proposal development tables**
Participants

• Leaders from across the education, health and children/youth service sectors:
  – District School Boards/School Authorities
  – Community Care Access Centres
  – Local Health Integration Networks
  – Agencies funded to provide inter-agency service coordination
  – Preschool Speech and Language Program Lead Agencies
  – Children’s Treatment Centres
  – Autism Intervention Program Lead Agencies
  – Applied-Behaviour Analysis-based Services and Supports Lead Agencies
• These organizations are expected to sign local proposals for coordinated service planning and/or integrated delivery of rehabilitation services
Special Needs Strategy: Overview of First Steps

• A new, **voluntary developmental screen** to identify potential risks to children’s development and connect them with the services they need.

• **Coordinated service planning processes** for children with multiple and/or complex special needs so families can access a range of services and supports.

• **Integrated delivery of rehabilitation services** so children have access to speech-language therapy, occupational therapy and physiotherapy services delivered seamlessly from birth to the end of school.
Coordinated Service Planning

- For children and youth with multiple and/or complex special needs who would benefit from added support due to the breadth and cross-sectoral nature of their service needs

- Children and youth with multiple and/or complex special needs and their families:
  - Will have a service plan that is built around their strengths and needs
  - Won’t have to tell their stories multiple times
  - Will have a “go to” person when they have a question about their service plans and who will monitor their child’s service needs
Integrated Delivery of Rehabilitation Services

• Children and youth will receive rehabilitation services that are:
  – Seamless from birth through school exit
  – Built around their goals for home, school and the community
  – Delivered in the way and in the place that meets the needs of the child and family
Where We Are Headed

Parent has concerns about child’s development

- Developmental Screen
  - No Service Needs
  - Single Need
    - Single Service Provider
      - Single Service Plan
        - Parent has concerns about child’s development
          - Specialized Services
            - Respite
            - Other Services
            - Integrated Rehabilitation
            - Autism Services
            - Children’s Case/Service Resolution Mechanism
          - Coordinated Service Plan
            - Integrated Transition Plan
            - Discharge
How Will We Get There?

• 34 service delivery areas

• Two proposals for the ministries’ approval from each area:
  1. Coordinated Service Planning (due March 5, 2015)
  2. Integrated Delivery of Rehabilitation Services (due June 1, 2015)
Local Proposal Development

• Proposal development tables will:
  – Place the needs of children and youth and their families ahead of individual organizations’ priorities and aspirations

  – Identify a recommended approach

  – Be collaborative and inclusive

  – Not be constrained by existing roles and responsibilities
Other Inputs

- Special Needs Strategy Reference Group
- Provider Table
- Developmental Screen Provincial Consultation Group
- Information Session for Family Organizations
Quick Questions

• Will my organization have to change the way it serves children, youth and families?

• Will my catchment area change?

• What happens if my agency currently serves children and youth in more than one of the 34 service delivery areas?
Supports for the Proposal Development

• Checkpoints to measure progress and problem solve

• Resources to support local proposal development include:
  – One-time funding
  – Special Needs Strategy website/resources
    (http://specialneedsstrategy.children.gov.on.ca)
  – Each other!

• Ministry staff role
Early Milestones

1. End of Today:
   • Decide who will convene the first meetings of local proposal development tables

2. November 19th:
   • Names of proposal development table chair(s), member agencies, and any one-time grant requests, including agency to receive the funding

3. By the end of December:
   • Meeting with the Chairs/Co-Chairs of all the proposal development tables and the ministries
Quick Questions

• Does each service delivery area need to have 2 proposal development tables? (i.e. one for coordinated service planning and one for integrated delivery of rehabilitation services)

• Who will chair the proposal development tables?
Coordinated Service Planning
Coordinated Service Planning: Expectations

• Coordinated service planning has 3 key elements:
  – A single Coordinating Agency in each service delivery area
  – Dedicated Service Planning Coordinators
  – One coordinated service plan for each child/youth with multiple and/or complex special needs
Coordinated Service Planning: Expectations

• Proposals will describe how children and youth with multiple and/or complex special needs and their families will have:
  – A clear referral process
  – Access to a Service Planning Coordinator with collaborative relationships across sectors
  – One coordinated service plan that takes into account all of their goals, strengths, and needs
  – Family involvement in determining needs and strengths and setting goals
Coordinated Service Planning: Expectations

• Innovative and flexible approaches to serve:
  – Aboriginal children, youth and families
  – Francophone children, youth and families
  – Hard to serve geographies
  – Diverse cultural and linguistic needs
Coordinated Service Planning: Expectations

• Plan will make it evident that the needs of children/youth with special needs are at the centre of all decisions related to the submission

• A range of services will be considered as part of a child or youth’s coordinated service plan

• Demonstrate how the proposed Coordinating Agency and Service Planning Coordinators meet the requirements in the guidelines
Coordinated Service Planning: On the Ground

Outcomes for Children, Youth and their Families

• Improved service experience

• Families won’t have to repeat their stories multiple times

• Families will know who is responsible for helping them with and monitoring their service plans
Coordinated Service Planning: On the Ground

Outcomes for Service Providers, Educators and Other Professionals

• Providers, educators and other professionals will share information, with parental consent

• Efficient and appropriate referrals

• Support for flexible and innovative service solutions
Coordinated Service Planning: Proposal Development

• Mandatory signatories:
  – Children’s Treatment Centres (CTCs)
  – Agencies funded to provide inter-agency service coordination
  – Autism Intervention Program (AIP) lead agencies
  – Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA)-based services and supports lead agencies
  – Local Health Integration Networks (LHINS)
  – Community Care Access Centres (CCACs)
  – District School Boards/School Authorities

• Work with other providers with significant roles to play in implementing coordinated service planning

• Engagement with families and youth with multiple and/or complex special needs in the development of submissions.
Quick Questions

- Our community already has something in place that sounds like coordinated service planning - do we have to change what’s working?

- Will the ministries further define who is eligible for coordinated service planning?
Coordinated Service Planning: Open Discussion & Questions
Integrated Delivery of Rehabilitation Services
Integrated Delivery of Rehabilitation Services: Expectations

• Services will be realigned so that children and families experience rehabilitation services as one program

• Not requiring a lead agency model

• Not about amalgamation
Integrated Delivery of Rehabilitation Services: Expectations

• Integrated delivery of services currently provided through:
  – Children’s Treatment Centres;
  – Preschool Speech and Language (PSL) Program lead and partner agencies;
  – Community Care Access Centres (CCACs);
  – District School Boards (Public and Separate and French and English), School Authorities, Section 68 School Authorities and Section 23 Programs in Care, Treatment or Custody and/or Correctional Facilities; and
  – Children’s Developmental Services.
Integrated Delivery of Rehabilitation Services: Expectations

• Rehabilitation services will be delivered seamlessly from birth through school exit

• Families and regulated health professionals work together to determine a child’s or youth’s service needs and goals at home, at school, and in the community

• A broad range of intervention types are available
Integrated Delivery of Rehabilitation Services: Expectations

- Innovative and flexible approaches to serve:
  - Aboriginal children, youth and families
  - Francophone children, youth and families
  - Hard to serve geographies
  - Diverse cultural and linguistic needs

- Plan will make it evident that the needs of children/youth with special needs are at the centre of all decisions related to the submission
Integrated Delivery of Rehabilitation Services: Expectations

• Submissions may propose:
  – Funding realignments
  – Changes to existing roles/responsibilities, including opting out of service delivery and having funding re-profiled
  – Changes to policies and regulations
Integrated Delivery of Rehabilitation Services: On the Ground

For Children, Youth and their Families

• Parents and youth have transparent access to services and can self refer to services

• Children can access services regardless of age, severity of disorder and/or diagnosis

• Services are continuous across transition points
Integrated Delivery of Rehabilitation Services: On the Ground

For Service Providers, Educators and Other Professionals

- Services are delivered using a holistic view of the child or youth that considers their needs, other services, and strengths at home, in school and in the community

- Speech and language services are unified

- A single waitlist for each rehabilitation service is maintained
Integrated Delivery of Rehabilitation Services: Proposal Development

• Mandatory signatories:
  – Preschool Speech and Language Program lead agencies
  – District School Boards
  – Children’s Treatment Centres
  – Community Care Access Centres

• Proposal development tables are strongly encouraged to include:
  – Other agencies/entities with significant roles to play in the delivery of rehabilitation services
  – Front-line rehabilitation service providers
  – Youth and families of children with rehabilitation service needs
Quick Questions

• Can my agency opt out of providing rehabilitation services?

• Will my agency’s funding for rehabilitation services change?
Integrated Delivery of Rehabilitation Services: Open Discussion & Questions
Break-Out Tables

• Purpose:
  – Who will be responsible for sending out the invitation to the first meeting of your local proposal development table;
  – Who will be invited to that table; and
  – Start preliminary planning and strategic discussions.
Discussion Questions for Break-Out Tables

• Who in your service delivery area is best positioned to serve as Chair/Co-Chair for each proposal development table?

• What existing strategies and opportunities can you leverage during the proposal development process?

• What resources and information will table members need in order to effectively support the proposal development process?

• What mechanisms can be put in place to facilitate participation in proposal development table meetings, particularly for those members facing lengthy travel distances/times?
Debrief from Break-Out Table Discussions
Next Steps

• Information Session for Family Associations

• Specials Needs Strategy website for more information, FAQs and updates [http://specialneedsstrategy.children.gov.on.ca](http://specialneedsstrategy.children.gov.on.ca)

• Questions can be directed to [specialneedsstrategy@ontario.ca](mailto:specialneedsstrategy@ontario.ca)