



Directors Note: As outlined in the July 17th, 2009 Enhanced Employment Services Directors Report to the Board, the DSSAB has developed two separate proposals for the use of these funds.

Enhanced Employment Services (EES) for Vulnerable Persons - Implementation Plan

Funding has been allocated by the Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS) in 2009-10 and 2010-11 to provide services for persons on social assistance with no or marginal attachment to the labour market who are also experiencing multiple barriers to employment.

The purpose of the funding is to re-connect, support and prepare vulnerable populations for participating in appropriate education, training services and employment. To achieve labour market success, some individuals may require upfront intensive supports that will prepare them to participate in pre-employment activities. This will assist people with no or minimal attachment to the labour force who are most at risk during an economic downturn.

The 100% provincial funding made available to the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB is \$46,000 per year for a total of \$92,000 for the two year period ending March 31, 2011.

As outlined in the July 17th, 2009 **Enhanced Employment Services Directors Report** to the Board, the DSSAB has developed two separate proposals for the use of these funds. The first proposal deals with funding of a Community Liaison Officer at Alpha en Partage a local literacy and upgrading program in the Sudbury East region. The second proposal deals with the purchase of mental health and addictions services from the Sudbury Regional Hospitals, Community Mental Health & Addictions program for the LaCloche & Manitoulin regions.

Community Liaison Officer Position

The Sudbury East Area of the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Social Services Administration Board serves several organized and unorganized municipalities located in the Sudbury East Area. It services both clients on Ontario Works and client attached to the Ontario Disabilities Support Program.

It is estimated that 50% of the clients in the Sudbury East area have less than grade 12. Approximately 50 clients were referred to educational programs at Alpha en Partage last year. An ongoing issue in this area is that many clients referred to the

local literacy and upgrading programs are not attending their classes regularly or they are not showing up at all. There is only one local adult educational facility operating on a full time basis in the Sudbury East area. Alpha en Partage offers Literacy, upgrading and grade 12 equivalency in partnership with Cambrian College and College Boreal. The school also offers Focus for Change (a pre-employment training program), and basic and advanced computer courses for Ontario Works and ODSP clients.

Transportation has been identified in the past as one of the main barriers to attendance. In the Sudbury East area there is no public transportation to transport clients to school or other activities. To alleviate this problem the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Social Services Administration Board has purchased vans that it provides to our service providers to transport clients to Participation Agreement activities including education and literacy classes. Having assisted with this problem, we are still noticing high levels of absenteeism at school.

In further assessing our clients it would seem that many of them are experiencing other personal issues that are keeping them from attending school. A number of issues identified were:

- Clients are having appointments with the courts or probation officers.
- Clients are having issues with the Children's Aid Society that they have to address.
- Clients have addiction and mental health issues.
- Clients have appointments with community agencies that they need to attend.
- Clients have child care issues.
- Care of disabled/spouse or child

On a regular basis, Ontario Works is asking clients to participate in educational programs when the client are being pressured by other agencies to conform to their expectations or to attend appointments that may conflict with Participation Agreement requirements. Essentially this is setting the client up for failure, as the client is being asked to choose between participating and complying with the other agencies requests.

With funding through Enhanced Employment Services Strategies the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Social Services Administration Board would contract funds to Alpha en Partage to hire a full time employee to assess and work one on one the targeted clients. This position would act as a Community Liaison Officer who would meet with clients and agencies to develop a relationship with them. Ontario Works and community agencies would be able to establish and developed a liaison and work together to enhance the quality of life of the clients. The Community Liaison Officer would be responsible to meet with all students at the centre to review their situation and if needed, contact any agency that the client is involved with. It is hoped that this Liaison Officer would be able to set up agreements that meets the needs of the community agency while allowing the client to attend school and progress with their

educational goals in a positive manner and increase their education and skills levels. This resource person would be used to assist Ontario Works clients, Ontario Disability Support Program clients as well as any other student attending classes. The Liaison Officer would then be able to meet with teachers, school staff and their Ontario Works Case Manager to develop an appropriate Participation Agreement for the client.

It is hoped that with this funding that we would be able to meet our client's needs as well as assisting them to complete their education in a timely manner. The goal at the end of this program is to increase the contact hours of all students attending educational programs in Sudbury East at Alpha en Partage.

The cost associated with this initiative is \$19,000 per year for a total of \$38,000 over the course of the two year period in which 100% provincial funding is available.

Mental Health & Addictions

According to the Hon. David Caplan, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, as set out in the Discussion Paper, *Every Door is the Right Door: Towards a 10-Year Mental Health and Addictions Strategy*, released in July, 2009, Ontario's system of health, social service, educational, justice and corrections should make every effort to reduce the health, economic and social harms associated with mental illnesses, problematic substance use and harmful gambling. The Discussion Paper's authors argue that "For too many years, people with mental illnesses and/or addictions have been marginalized and stigmatized. Mental health and addiction services have been the distant cousins of the health care system: planned and managed separately from other health services.

They go on to state that "there is no health without mental health. This proposed approach aims to integrate people with mental illnesses and/or addictions into their communities and to integrate mental health and addiction services with the rest of the health system - to make every door the right door for people with mental illnesses and/or addictions".

The vision outlined in the Discussion Paper is that "every Ontarian enjoys good health and well-being, and Ontarians with mild to complex mental illness and/or addiction live and participate in welcoming, supportive communities.

Goals identified in the Discussion Paper include:

- Improved health and well-being for all Ontarians
- Reduced incidence of mental illness and addiction
- Identifying mental illnesses and addictions early and intervene appropriately
- Providing high quality, effective, integrated, culturally competent, person-directed services and supports for Ontarians with mild to complex mental illnesses and/or addictions.

The entire report can be viewed by following the link below.

Every Door is the Right Door - Towards a 10-Year Mental Health and Addictions Strategy- A discussion paper July 2009

The Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB recognizes the need for services for people with Mental Illnesses and Addictions in the LaCloche Manitoulin area. Through the Ontario Works Enhanced Employment Services for Vulnerable Persons funding, the Manitoulin Sudbury DSSAB aims to identify and respond to the early signs of people with Mental Illnesses and/or Addictions.

The Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB will partner with the Hôpital Régional de Sudbury Regional Hospital in an effort to integrate services to form a shared Case Management Position that would serve the clients of the Manitoulin Sudbury DSSAB on a priority basis. This Case Management position would provide the equivalent of .5 FTE (18.75 hours per week) that will be reserved for serving clients of the DSSAB on a priority basis. Service to clients with addictions and/or mental illness referred from DSSAB for clinical screening/assessment/case management, and referral coordination. Such clients will be assigned to the Case Manager on a priority basis.

In the Lacloche/Manitoulin areas, a total of 75 clients are suspected of having either an addiction or some type of Mental illness. A referral for an assessment for these individuals may help to identify and better serve our clients.

The cost associated with this initiative is \$27,000 per year for a total of \$54,000 over the course of the two year period in which 100% provincial funding is available.

Conclusion

The Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB will proceed with the implementation these new Enhanced Employment Funding for Vulnerable People. The total cost of these two program initiatives will be \$46,000 per year for a total of \$92,000 over the two year period for which 100% provincial funding has been made available. An update to this report will be provided as we move forward with this new initiative.