

An Update on... Developmental Services Ontario Central West Region

Sunbeam Residential Development Centre - Kitchener

INFORMATION BULLETIN: JUNE 24, 2011

A NEW WAY TO ACCESS ADULT DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES AND SUPPORTS

Starting July 1, 2011, Developmental Services Ontario (DSO) Central West Region will help adults with developmental disabilities apply for developmental services and supports.

People will be able to apply for:

- Residential Services and Supports
- Caregiver Respite
- Community Participation Supports (with social and recreational activities, work activities, volunteer activities)
- Specialized Services, such as Service Coordination or Clinical Services; and,
- Person-Directed Planning Supports.

Sunbeam Residential Development Centre will operate the DSO for Central West Region. Central West Region includes Waterloo Region, Wellington and Dufferin Counties, and Peel and Halton Regions. By calling a toll-free phone number, adults with developmental disabilities and their caregivers will be able to connect with services and supports. Reception services will be provided in both English and French.

If you are already on a waiting list for adult services in your community, you will be contacted about transferring your information to the DSO.

ELIGIBILITY FOR DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES AND SUPPORTS: BACKGROUND

In 2004, the Ministry of Community and Social Services announced its intent to “transform” developmental services for adults across the province. The Ministry consulted with individuals with developmental disabilities, with their families, and with service providers and community partners. It then outlined what it was going to do to strengthen developmental services and supports for adults.

Since 2004, there have been many changes in the adult developmental services system. These include the creation of a new law, the *Services and Supports to Promote*

the Social Inclusion of Persons with Developmental Disabilities Act (2008.) This new law replaces the *Developmental Services Act*, and is being implemented in phases.

ELIGIBILITY FOR ADULT SERVICES AND SUPPORTS

Ontario's new legislation states that adults must have a developmental disability in order to access services. There are several important pieces of information that you need to know about this:

- 1) If you are an adult who is currently on a waiting list for a service, then you will not need to go through an eligibility confirmation process.
- 2) We will need to confirm your eligibility for a service or support if you are a new applicant. This process will include confirmation of your date of birth, your place of residence, and a review of a valid psychological assessment.
- 3) If you do not have a psychological assessment, we can tell you about where you might purchase an assessment.
- 4) Once you have been confirmed as eligible, we can proceed to complete an application package with you.

In our next newsletter, we will provide an update on our final preparations for DSO Central West Region, including our new toll-free telephone number and provincial website! 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