

Backgrounder

Modeling Community Change and Innovation is a three year project funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation. The focus of this project is the collaboration of three communities in Ontario who are committed to building support for individualized approaches for citizens with a developmental disability. The Trillium grant is being used to develop community readiness, strengthen autonomous groups, resource materials, and sustainable community plans. This project will assist people with disabilities, and their families/networks to direct their own lives and live as healthy, participating, contributing citizens as they build a good life for themselves in community.

Project Partners

The following partners share this project's commitment to supporting, promoting, and enhancing the leadership and capacity of people with disabilities, families, friends, and community systems and supports.

- Individualized Funding Coalition for Ontario
www.individualizedfunding.ca
- Windsor Essex Brokerage for Personal Support Lead
Agency www.windsorsexbrokerage.com Phone: 519-966-8094
- Community Living Windsor
www.clwindsor.org Phone: 519-974-4221
- Community Living Huntsville
info@clhuntsville.ca Phone: 705-789-4543
- Brockville and District Association for Community Involvement
bdaci@ripnet.com Phone: 613-345-4092
- Ontario Federation for Cerebral Palsy
www.ofcp.on.ca Phone: 416-244-9686
Toll Free: 1-877-244-9686 (Ontario Only)

Aim of the Project

Communities who have made a commitment to individualized approaches will have the opportunity to build on that work. Modeling Community Change and Innovation has a vision for people with disabilities to have the opportunity to build a good life by increasing community capacity to support Individualized Funding and Independent Planning & Facilitation and by developing sustainable community infrastructure supports.

The Ministry of Community and Social Services is working towards a

'transformation' of the developmental service system, which includes individualized funding as well as, independent planning & facilitation. (Opportunities and Action: Transforming Supports in Ontario for People who Have a Developmental Disability- Ministry of Community and Social Services May 2006) This project will help communities prepare for impending changes. For example:

- Communities involved in this project are working on different components of effective individualized support:
- Effective independent planning & facilitation
- Strong autonomous groups (i.e People First and Family Networks)
- Opportunities for networking and relationship building
- Strong community infrastructure supports (i.e human resource, payroll)
- Increased capacity building and information sharing
- Development of a Facilitators Forum
- The learnings and tools created will be shared with other communities interested in individualized approaches.

Project Communities

The following are Modeling Change and Innovation project communities:

- Windsor and Essex County
- Brockville and Area
- Algonquin Region

As well, the project has committed to doing community engagement activities in three other communities in Ontario.

Values of the Project

Modeling Community Change and Innovation is rooted in the work of the Individualized Funding Coalition for Ontario, which has been learning, writing, researching and sharing information about individualized approaches since 1995. The Individualized Funding Coalition is a group of people with disabilities, families (parents, sisters, brothers) friends, facilitators, organizations and agencies.

The Individualized Funding Coalition for Ontario supports the self-determination of persons with disabilities. Members believe that all people should have control over decisions concerning:

- where they live,
- with whom they live,
- with whom they associate, and
- how they spend their lives.

Members believe that disability supports must be based on the values and principles of citizenship, self-determination, relationships and community. In order to achieve this the members recognize that Ontario must develop a system of funding where the person requiring services is supported in their decision making by family and friends of their choosing and, has access to and control over the funds allocated for his/her supports.

Sharing Project Learnings

The learning from this project will be available at a third year provincial conference.

Ongoing information about conferences, project materials, insights, learning and the facilitator's forum will regularly be posted on this site.

Contact Information

For more information about this project contact:

Windsor Essex Brokerage for Personal Support - Lead Agency

Marlyn Shervill

webps@mnsi.net

519 966 8994

Charlotte Dingwall – Project Lead

dingwall@quadro.net

519.349.2593