



DTSSAB

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Message from the Chair

During the year of 2005, many exciting changes and challenges have been faced by the DTSSAB. Some of these changes include the direct delivery of Emergency Medical Services by the DTSSAB commencing January 1, 2005, as well as, the transfer of all assets and liabilities of the Social Housing Corporation to the DTSSAB, which included the staff being employed directly by the DTSSAB.

Funding issues still present a major hurdle for the DTSSAB, as well as, for all of the area municipalities. The Board through efforts on its own, as well as, through several organizations continually lobbies the Province for increases in funding levels for the programs delivered by the DTSSAB. For 2005, the DTSSAB was forced to pass on a 7.8% increase in the amounts charged to the municipalities and TWOMO. For 2006, based on preliminary estimates, a double-digit increase is being projected.

A major opportunity presented itself when the District of Timiskaming was selected as one of three demonstration sites across the province for the Best Start Program. The DTSSAB has a major role to play in this initiative and has been working very closely with Community Partners in establishing a vision and a plan for the District.

This program has the opportunity to infuse millions of 100% federal-provincial dollars into the local economy over the next three years and the DTSSAB is pleased to be part of the process. Monique Legault has been seconded from the Ministry of Community and Social Services as the Director of the Best Start Initiative for the DTSSAB to implement the Best Start Program throughout the District. Monique will be putting together a team to ensure that the Best Start Plan is implemented on time and that the total Child Care System monitored by the DTSSAB is intergraded to provide top-notch service for parents and families.

<http://www.dtssab.com>

Our web site is designed to provide the public and our partners with information on the DTSSAB's programs and services.

Additionally, our site provides links and information on other agencies - check us out!

To get your organization "linked" contact the IT Manager at 647-7447 ext. 223.

Awareness Days

OCTOBER

International Day of Older Persons (Oct 01)

International Music Day (Oct 01)

World Standards Day (Oct 14)

Persons Case Day (Oct 18)

Citizenship Week (Oct 09-15)

Stamp Month

Women's History Month

NOVEMBER

National Child Day (Nov 20)

Veterans' Week (Nov 06 – 12)

DECEMBER

World AIDS Day (Dec 01)

National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women (Dec 06)

Human Rights Day (Dec 10)

National Safe Driving Week (Dec 01 – 07)

JANUARY

Braille Day in Canada (Jan 04)

Family Literacy Day (Jan 27)

National Non-Smoking Week (Jan 15 – 21)

Alzheimer Awareness Month

Crime Stoppers Month

Ontario March of Dimes Month

Child Care Update

"It takes a whole village to raise a child." African Proverb

The Child Care team continues to help families with programs. We offer financial support for child care expenses. Funds are available to help families with low incomes, parents attending school, and families with children facing challenges. To support with the added workload with the plan development of Best Start, the DTSSAB has a temporary assistant on the Child Care team.

Changes to the RESP and RRSP asset levels of families and the raising of the informal limits of child care expenses makes child care funding available to more middle income families struggling to cover the costs of quality child care.

The District has three new child care programs. St. Michel is the site of Club Sac-Ados before and after school program. Haileybury Public school offers a before and after school program run by Timiskaming Child Care. Holy Family school has made space available for a Day Care. This program offers before and after school, full day and nursery school programs.

Those involved in child care are looking forward to and are excited about the future of child care and the changes that will come about with Best Start.

Summary of the Single Service Case Management Model

A challenge faced in previous years was the internal imbalance of services to clients caused by a segregated caseload model in which income and employment supports were case managed by different caseworkers. The common complaint was the confusion of roles each caseworker had with the client and job ambiguity was an issue. There were additional problems that may have affected client service when clients needed to contact the correct type of caseworker depending on the issue.

In 2005 we reintegrated a single-service case management model in which each caseworker is responsible for all aspects of the caseload to include both income and employment supports. We are confident this change will allow for less ambiguity, less work in process, and better response time for requests with less impact on the client as they are working with one point of contact.

To address the increased needs of our harder-to-serve clients, we have introduced a new caseworker position called the Ontario Works Intensive Case Management Model.

Remember

Changes take time!

Small changes are more likely to become a habit!

Every change counts!

Intensive Case Management

In May 2005, the District of Timiskaming Social Services Administration Board introduced a new Intensive Case Management (ICM) model, within the Ontario Works (OW) Program.

ICM provides caseworkers the opportunity to explore with the participant why he/she has been unsuccessful in obtaining employment; including evaluating whether the participant needs other referrals such as mental health or substance abuse. It provides closely supervised assistance to support employment related activities, as well as, working through other barriers such as: accommodation, childcare, transportation, health and barriers due to criminal history. Caseworkers will have the time to see participants at least monthly and in some cases as frequently as weekly.

Referral criteria include, but are not limited to, the following:

- On Ontario Works for 24 months or more
- Recurrent offenders
- Have job retention issues (continually on and off assistance)
- Youth in need
- LEAP participants
- Multiple barriers to employment
- High rate of recidivism

Clients accepted into ICM will have an initial meeting with the caseworker, which will take about 1.5 hours. During this initial meeting, they will complete an Action Plan, which lists barriers and the required steps to overcome them. They will be required to meet with their caseworker frequently; at which time their Action Plan will be updated.

In most cases, clients will remain with ICM until they move off of Ontario Works; however, in cases where Intensive Services are no longer required and the client is not likely to exit OW, a referral back to their previous caseworker may be appropriate.

The Intensive Case Management Team (ICM) has the capacity to work with 90 Benefit Units, which is approximately 15.5% of our caseload.

DTSSAB Offices

Kirkland Lake

- Child Care Program
- Emergency Medical Services
- Ontario Works Program

PO Box 310, 29 Duncan Ave. N
Kirkland Lake, ON P2N 3H7

Phone: (705) 567-9366
(888) 544-5555

Fax: (705) 567-9492

- Emergency Medical Services
– Kirkland Lake Base

Phone: (705) 568-2220

Fax: (705) 568-8846

Englehart

- Social Housing Program

PO Box 907, 65 Sixth Avenue
Englehart, ON P0J 1H0

Phone: (705) 544-2334
(800) 661-1338

Fax: (705) 544-8758

- Emergency Medical Services
–Englehart Base

Phone: (705) 544-5217 ext. 5399

Fax: (705) 544-5222

Temiskaming Shores

- Administrative Services
- Best Start Initiative
- Child Care Program
- Information Management/
Information Technology
- Ontario Works Program

PO Box 6006, 290 Armstrong Street
New Liskeard, ON P0J 1P0

Phone: (705) 647-7447
(800) 627-2944

Fax: (705) 647-5267

- Emergency Medical Services
–Temiskaming Shores Base

Phone: (705) 672-2626

Fax: (705) 672-3244

EMS Update

DTSSAB is pleased to announce that effective September 6th, Mr. Percy Wilson joined the Emergency Medical Services section as the North Field Supervisor. Percy is responsible for the Kirkland Lake Base and the Englehart Base and oversees all staff education initiatives and First Response Team training.

During the 30 years Percy Wilson has served with EMS in Kirkland Lake, he had willingly taken on the role of Acting Manager and Charge Person on many occasions. Over the years Percy has proven himself to be very capable in any role assigned.

DTSSAB 2005 Board Members

Name	Representative Of
Al French, Chair	Kirkland Lake
Norm Menard, Vice-Chair	Unincorporated South
Dan Cote	Hudson, Kerns, Latchford, Coleman, Cobalt, Harris
Linda Cunningham	Kirkland Lake
Currently Vacant	Armstrong, Dack, Hilliardton, Brethour, Casey, James, Matachewan, Thornloe, Harley
Bob Hobbs	Temiskaming Shores
Jo-Ann Thompson	Englehart, McGarry, Larder Lake, Gauthier, Chamberlain, Charlton, Evanturel
Tom Wells	Temiskaming Shores
Jim Whipple	Unincorporated North

Pay Equity

Pay Equity is equal pay for work of equal value. Pay Equity serves to redress historic gender discrimination in the compensation or pay for employees in female jobs in Ontario. The Pay Equity process ensures that women occupying positions within an organization, which are traditionally female jobs, are paid at least the same as male jobs if the positions are evaluated and considered of comparable value through the Pay Equity process.

The final outcome of the Pay Equity process will enable the DTSSAB to maintain its job evaluation, salary administration, and Pay Equity systems in the future, as required by the Pay Equity Act.

Points to Ponder

If not now – when? If not you – who?

Great ability develops and reveals itself increasingly with every new assignment. – Baltasar Gracian

You cannot procrastinate - in two days, tomorrow will be yesterday. - Kemmons Wilson

"There are three ingredients to the good life; Learning, Earning and Yearning." - Christopher Marley

Board Meetings

The DTSSAB Board meetings are usually held twice per month:

- ✓ Second Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m.
- ✓ Fourth Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

The meetings are open to the public.

To arrange to make a presentation to the Board, please contact Eddie Alton, CAO one week in advance of the meeting.

Phone:
647-7447 ext. 222

Fax:
647-8983

Email:
edalton@dtssab.com

DTSSAB Employees to Receive Governor General's Emergency Medical Services Exemplary Service Medal

As part of the Canadian Honours Program, the Governor General makes available Exemplary Service Medals for EMS professionals. The Award was created in 1994 and is available to eligible members of the pre-hospital emergency medical service who have served for at least twenty years in a meritorious manner. It recognizes those professionals who have performed their duties in an exemplary manner, characterized by the highest standards of good conduct, industry and efficiency. To qualify, at least ten of these years of service must have been street level duty involving potential risk to the individual.

On September 29, 2005 two present employees and one past employee of the DTSSAB were recognized for their distinguished service in Emergency Medical Services in Timiskaming District.

At the Association of Municipal Emergency Medical Services of Ontario Annual General Meeting in Kitchener, Percy Wilson, Steven Beaton and Donald Smith received the Governor General's Emergency Medical Services Exemplary Service Medal. These two present DTSSAB Paramedics along with Don Smith, who retired in 2004, were awarded their medals at a special ceremony.



Steven Beaton



Percy Wilson

Don Smith was also recognized by the DTSSAB for his dedicated contribution to his community of Larder Lake as the founding member of the Larder Lake Medical First Response Team. He helped to keep the team in operation as the Coordinator while at the same time working as a Paramedic in Kirkland Lake. Don retired as a paramedic in 2004 and handed down the First Response Team coordinator responsibilities in 2005.



Don Smith

The DTSSAB Board, management, and staff congratulate this year's recipients of the Governor General's E.M.S. Exemplary Service Medal and wish to thank them for their unerring service to the District of Timiskaming.

We and your colleagues are all inspired by your dedication.



Best Start Program

There are hundreds of thousands of compelling reasons why the government of Ontario created its Best Start initiative – Ontario's hundreds of thousand of babies and children. They deserve the best possible start in life. That's why the Province of Ontario has launched Best Start. It's the Province's plan to strengthen healthy development; early learning and child care services during a child's first years. We all want children in Ontario to be ready and eager to excel in school by the time they start Grade 1.

When fully implemented, Best Start will provide an integrated system of services that seamlessly support families with children from their birth right through their transition into Grade 1. These services include quality child care, public health and parenting programs, as well as, newborn and infant screening programs, hearing programs and speech and language therapy programs to help identify supports for children who need extra attention for healthy early development.

Best Start is a partnership with parents and families, created in response to the clear message that Ontario's young children and their families need more integrated and accessible services, more high quality, regulated child care spaces, and more subsidies so that more families can access those spaces. It is a long-term strategy that will be implemented over 10 years, beginning with an immediate expansion of child care spaces.

Best Start is a bold strategy, one that will involve a massive expansion of quality and affordable child care, beginning with four and five year olds, and investments in children's healthy early development – all in a convenient and easily accessible location for parents. Approximately \$1.1 billion in new federal funding over the next three years beginning in 2005-2006 will enable the province to work with community partners – school boards, public health units, child care and children's services providers, and municipalities – to make sure that:

- Many more children and parents have access to services and supports, regardless of individual economic or social circumstances;
- Pre-school, junior kindergarten, senior kindergarten, quality child care, public health and parenting programs are integrated into a seamless system that supports families and children;
- Early and on-going screening of Ontario's children to identify potential issues, needs and risks is strengthened;
- Early learning and care hubs that are centrally established in Ontario's communities to provide families with a single, integrated, seamless point of access to services and supports based on local needs and available resources.

Best Start is an ambitious plan and in order to help the Province with its development throughout all of Ontario, Best Start is being accelerated in three communities: Hamilton's urban east end; the rural areas of Lambton and Kent; and the District of Timiskaming.

These three model Best Start communities will allow the Province to learn and share best practices that will guide them as we implement Best Start over the long-term. All three communities are moving quickly and have established Best Start networks and are developing their Best Start plans, which are to be completed by October 2005. Best Start is expected to be fully operational in these three communities by 2007-2008.

On March 11, 2005, the District of Timiskaming was selected as one of the province's three demonstration communities to spearhead the implementation of Best Start across Ontario.

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Best Start Program (continued)

Since that time, a Best Start Network was established along with a Best Start Working Group who have been working on an Implementation Plan to be approved by:

- The Ministry of Community and Social Services and the Ministry of Children Youth Services,
- The Timiskaming District Social Services Administration Board
- The Timiskaming Health Unit
- The following school boards:
 - Conseil scolaire catholique de district des Grandes Rivières (CSCCDGR)
 - District School Board Ontario North East (DSONE)
 - Northeastern Catholic District School Board (NCDSB)
 - Le Conseil scolaire public du Nord-Est de l'Ontario (CSPNEO)

Please note that the model proposed for Best Start services is a work in progress and it has not been submitted for approval pending the feedback from the public consultations. The District of Timiskaming Social Services Administration Board along with the other members of the Best Start Network need your input at this critical stage of the Plan's development.

OUR CONSULTATION MEETINGS

Six meetings were scheduled from September 13 to 15 across New Liskeard, Earlton, Englehart and Kirkland Lake.

Each meeting, of one and a half hours, presented a model the Best Start Network is considering as a means of implementing Best Start in the District.

The results and feedback from the meetings will be brought to the Best Start Network for consideration as it completes the Implementation Plan.

For more information on Best Start, please contact:

Monique Legault

Phone (705) 647-7447 ext. 243

(800) 627-2944 ext. 243

Email legault@dtssab.com