

Land Ambulance Service Review

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care confirms that the Ambulance Certification and Review Team will be conducting a standard review of our Land Ambulance Service beginning 21 September, 2010. If call volumes permit, ambulance ride-outs will form part of the assessment. We look forward to the Ministry's visit.

Riverview Manor Aging at Home

Unfortunately, the Northwest Local Health Integrated Network (NWLHIN) has not yet approved funding to provide on-site staff for personal support services at Riverview Manor. It is our intent to move tenants into the (2) one-bedroom wheelchair-accessible units and the (2) two-bedroom "modified" units before the end of October. On a recent visit to the site, the contractor indicated that he expects completion within the next two weeks. I did have an opportunity to view the renovated units and was very pleased to see how we will be able to accommodate seniors who are challenged with physical disabilities. The communities of Rainy River and Atikokan have forwarded letters of support to the NWLHIN for staffing, in an attempt to assist individuals wishing to remain at home and avoid unnecessary hospitalization and/or long-term care placement. Sandra Weir, Housing Manager and I will be meeting with alternate service providers in the near future to strategize as to how we may meet our tenants' needs for support services. Hopefully, we can implement an "assisted living" or "senior supportive housing" concept in Rainy River, as a pilot project for other Rainy River District communities. We continue to encourage others to offer their support of the Northwest Independent Living Services (NILS) proposal for support staff at Riverview Manor by forwarding comments/letters of support to:

Kristan Mclash, Executive Director
Northwestern Independent Living Services Inc.
PO Box 199, 916 Ottawa St.
Keewatin, On P0X 1C0
Email: kmclash@nils.ca

and/or

Laura Kokocinski, CEO
NWLHIN
975 Alloy Drive, Suite 201
Thunder Bay, On P7B 5Z8
Email: laura.kokocinski@lhins.on.ca

New Minister for Housing

Premier Dalton McGuinty announced changes to Cabinet recently, including the appointment of Rick Bartolucci as the new Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. Minister Bartolucci hails from the North, having represented Sudbury in the Ontario Legislature since 1995. We look forward to working with the new Minister and hope to bring forward our ideas of a more-inclusive style of housing for seniors in our District which allows them to age at home and prevent unnecessary institutionalization.

Thanks from Rainycrest!

During the annual Canadian Bass Tournament, several residents from Rainycrest enjoyed the "Parade of Boats" and a picnic under the main canopy of our main office building at 450 Scott Street. Staff from the Activation Department at Rainycrest called to express their appreciation for the use of our property and to thank Michelle Shute, Assistant Housing Manager, who stayed on-site so that the residents could use our wheelchair-accessible washroom facilities. We were pleased to be able to help!

Social Services Solution's Modernization (SSSM) Project

The Ministry of Community & Social Services is seeking Service Managers to pilot the Social Services Solution's Modernization (SSSM) Project, a multi-phased modernized solution to replace the current technology and allow on-line applications for social assistance beginning the spring of 2011. A letter of interest has been submitted. Although we are a small office compared to several of our counterparts in the Northern Region, we do serve a large geographic area comprised of many rural communities. Our participation in the pilot project would certainly provide some insight as to the efficiency and effectiveness of an on-line application system in a rural setting. We await a response from the Ministry.

Transfer of Child Care Responsibility from Ministry of Children & Youth Services (MCYS) to Ministry of Education (EDU)

A new direction for Child Care in Ontario is upon us, as the responsibility for Child Care policy, legislation, funding, and program responsibilities for children from birth up to age 12

transfers from MCYS to the Ministry of Education. Child Care licensing responsibilities will soon follow.

We are very excited that Dr. Charles Pascal has been appointed as an Advisor to the Minister of Children & Youth Services in the design and development of Best Start Child & Family Centres, which would serve as an access point for programs and services that promote healthy child development and school readiness. The RRDSSAB will remain as the Service System Manager for Child Care and the current 80/20 cost shared funding, where applicable, will remain unchanged. Funding allocations to Municipal Service Managers, including the RRDSSAB, will now flow from the Ministry of Education, rather than from the Ministry of Children and Youth Services. MCYS staff in the areas of Child Care has moved to EDU.

Both Ministries will have authority under the *Day Nurseries Act* (DNA). Eventually, the DNA will move to EDU as well.

Human Resources

The following Human Resource activity has taken place since last reported:

Name	Title	Status	Start/Effective Date
Aynsley Penner	Personnel & Admin Officer	FT	16 Aug/10

Respectfully Submitted,

/d Dittaro