

(Formerly, Habilitative Mental Health Resource Network)

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December 8, 2004.

Mr. Kevin Costante
Deputy Minister, Ministry of Community and Social Services
80 Grosvenor Street, 6th floor
Toronto M7A 1E9

Dear Mr. Costante,

Please accept the attached submission on behalf of the Ontario Chapter of the National Association of Dual Diagnosis (individuals with developmental disabilities and mental health needs) in response to the request for comments regarding the future transformation of developmental disability supports and services.

The NADD, Ontario Chapter is a non-profit association that has a long history of supporting the development of services for individuals with a dual diagnosis and their families, as well providing education and training resources and supports. Of note is the successful publication of a training curriculum for Ontario providers and teaching institutions in 2002, with the funding support of the Ministries of Community and Social Services and Health and Long Term Care.

The perspective presented in the attached paper focuses specifically on the *health and mental health* needs of individuals with a developmental disability. This focus was chosen because increasingly as individuals with a developmental disability gain citizenship, both day-to-day experience and research studies demonstrate that their many health needs are not met because of the inadequate availability of primary, secondary and specialized health care. Additionally, these unmet needs often present as “challenging behaviours” and as such these individuals are referred to the mental health sector where the behaviours may be treated as “psychiatric” and the underlying health needs remain unidentified and therefore untreated.

The Ontario Transformation Agenda is an opportunity to establish a provincial framework and standards for access to health and mental health services based on a life span, (facilitating transition from child to adulthood) cross sector, holistic (biopsychosocial and multidisciplinary) approach that includes health promotion and prevention strategies.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this process. We look forward to continuing the dialogue.

Sincerely,

Naseema Siddiqui
President

c.c. Marg Rappolt, Acting Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health and Long Term Care
Carrie Hayward, Director, Mental Health and Addictions Branch
Myra Wiener, Director, Developmental Services Branch