



## COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING

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### Children & Youth

South East Region

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## *December Newsletter*

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Welcome to our new South East Region Community Capacity Building Newsletter. Each month you will find an updated Newsletter on our web site at [www.seregon.ca](http://www.seregon.ca) Newsletters can be downloaded and printed as a means of updating agencies and organizations at a board, management or staff level. There are several agendas currently underway with the Ministry of Children and Youth / Ministry of Community Social Services, we hope you will find this a useful tool to keep you abreast of current developments in our region.

The Ministry has built on existing Children's Services Planning Tables. The goal is to create a rational, sustainable approach to planning and capacity building for children aged 0 to 18 years encompassing child welfare, children's mental health, developmental services and the Best Start initiative. The intended outcome is that services for children and youth across the region are provided in an equitable, timely and appropriate manner to meet needs.

Community capacity building initiatives are underway for the Best Start and Child Welfare Transformation initiatives. Additional requirements for capacity building are anticipated in children's mental health and developmental services.

Community planning committees exist in various stages of development in 4 established planning zones for child welfare, mental health and developmental services. Planning and capacity building will be grounded by the 4 multi-service zone tables in:

- Hastings and Prince Edward
- Frontenac Lennox and Addington
- Lanark
- Leeds Grenville

The Regional Co-ordinator will work with local co-ordinators hired in each of the four zones to assist the planning tables in their work over the foreseeable future. Presentations are underway at each of the zone tables to explain the roles of the Children's Services Planning Tables and the establishment of a Regional Planning Table.



## Child Welfare Transformation

Over the coming months you will hear more about Child Welfare Transformation as presentations are made to planning tables and individual agencies.

### Vision for Transformation:

To develop an effective, sustainable system that protects children at risk of maltreatment and improves their quality of life by collaborating with each other, with families and with community partners.

### Guiding Principles:

- **Outcome Focused** – in the areas of child safety, permanency and child well-being
- **Balanced Service Approach** – emphasize child safety but build on family & community strengths, prevention, early intervention & continuity of care & relationships for children
- **Research Based** – Best practice, research and evaluation will be a major focus in providing future service.
- **Sustainable and Flexible** – Services to be flexible to meet diversity needs, Services to be equitable but sustainable (\$)
- **Accountable and Integrated** – Services will be evaluated via results, not processes. Child welfare outcomes will be measured within and between sectors .

### Overview of the MCYS Transformation agenda for Child Welfare the 7 key priorities:

1. A more flexible intake and assessment model
2. Court processes/strategies to reduce delays and encourage more effective permanency planning
3. A broader range of placement options to support more effective permanency planning
4. A rationalized and streamlined accountability framework
5. A sustainable and strategic funding model
6. A Single Information System
7. A provincial child welfare research capacity.

## Best Start

Best Start is Ontario's strategy to expand quality and affordable child care and invest in children's healthy early development — all in a convenient and easily accessible location for parents. We are working with our 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 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.

Ontario achieved significant progress in 2005–06 in implementing its Best Start vision. Municipalities have already received sufficient funding to create almost 15,000 new licensed child care spaces and a significant number of new subsidies to assist parents with the cost of licensed care, in addition to 4,000 subsidized child care spaces created in 2004–05.

The South East Region Best Start Networks surpassed our target for new child care spaces in the first phase of Best Start.

The second phase of Best Start will include each of our Networks in the South East Region updating their Implementation plans, developing strategies to overcome barriers, and exploring service integration opportunities.