



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE APRIL 2017

Has it really only been one month since my last ED update? It is crazy sometimes what can transpire in only a month. There have been so many things happening, that I feel the need to update everyone already. During a time of change I know it is good to increase the frequency of communication, so you can anticipate hearing from me on a more regular basis.

Each ED update always starts with a personal comment and therefore this one is not different. Since last month, we have sold our house in Toronto and bought a house in Southampton so there is a greater sense of permanency in my family's life. (It was always permanent for me!) We are all over the moon excited and are now talking decorating plans for our new house and looking forward to a summer by the lake. Toronto will now only be a place I visit!

OPERATIONAL UPDATES:

Residential Services:

In March's ED Update I outlined all the changes a foot here at BPACL in our residential programs. A whole lot of changes all with the goal and intention of enhancing the lives of the people we support.

There have been lots of movement of staff and supported individuals and already I am hearing some pretty exciting feedback on all the positive things that are happening every day. There are bound to be a few hiccups along the way and despite all the planning, there are always unanticipated things that just cannot be planned for and they will often throw everyone a curve ball. The staff teams are going above and beyond and doing a fantastic job and working as a team to address each new challenge. April 23 is the date when the new schedule and all the moves are fully complete so we are doing a bit of double duty at this time. There is light at the end of the tunnel, it is just hard to see it as clearly on some days.

A BIG HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL STAFF WHO ARE WORKING SO HARD TO ENSURE THAT THE CHANGES ARE A SUCCESS. YOUR DEDICATION AND POSITIVE ATTITUDE IS REALLY APPRECIATED!

Community Participation – Grant Award:

I am so excited to announce that BPACL has been **awarded an Employment and Modernization grant for \$178,416** from the Ministry of Community and Social Services. The grant is for a two year project to assist BPACL to modernize and transform our Community Participation Program. We are so very pleased to be recognized for all the hard work that we do, and our continued commitment to service improvement. I was able to be in Toronto to attend

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the announcement and had the opportunity to speak to Minister Jaczek and to thank her for the opportunity.



Helena Jaczek, Minister Ministry of Community and Social Services (left)

Michele Bell, Executive Director, Bruce Peninsula Association for Community Living.

March 30, 2017 at the announcement of the second phase of the Employment and Modernization Funding.

As BPACL moves towards a more person centred approach to services, there is a need to modernize our Community Participation Program to ensure that it too reflects the changing expectation of our funders and to better meet the expectations of the people who we support.

The project will focus on the development of community partnerships, the development of a fulsome recreation and leisure program, and a more person centred approach to planning with our supported individuals. We will be recruiting for two new positions, one a Community Development Coordinator on a one year contract and the second, a Community Activations Coordinator for a two year contract. These two positions also with the Community Participation Team and the Senior Support Worker Team will be working together to transform our services. Some very exciting opportunities in our future!

Community Participation – Changes:

Anyone who has dropped by our existing Community Participation Program could see the “For Sale” sign on the front lawn. That is sure one of the first things I noticed. Our tenancy there was always intended to be temporary and we knew that we would need to move our program in the event of a sale. Well, the owners of the New Horizons building on Gould Street have accepted an offer and our lease expires on June 15th, 2017.



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CHANGE BRINGS OPPORTUNITY is the saying I believe.... With the recent changes in our residential programs we have the opportunity to utilize our own spaces for the relocation of community participation programs. At the end of this month, our Galloway residence will be vacant and as of June 15th, 2017 we will need to find alternate space for our community participation programs.

We have the opportunity to temporarily use the space on Galloway St as well as the space at 314 George St to operate our programs. And there are some real advantages to the use of the Galloway residence this summer. It is wheelchair accessible, it is properly air conditioned, it is on the flats, and very accessible to the waterfront, the pool, the park and so many community activities within walking distance. Utilizing our George St location will provide us an opportunity to better animate the space creating more opportunities to be a part of the community as well as increase our visibility in the community.

There is a lot of planning to be done and I know that we will embrace the change in our community participation as we have embraced the change in our residential programs. As promised, we will keep you updated on all the exciting plans and our progress.

And there is my update on the month of April...and it is only the 11th. I am pretty excited about May and I have a hunch that I will include a visit from the Ministry for our annual compliance review. Go Team!

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