

REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT

Well, another year has come and gone and as I complete my term with Community Living Parry Sound (CLPS), I want to acknowledge the outstanding efforts of Jo-Anne Demick, the management staff, all of CLPS staff and my fellow Board of Directors for their efforts over the last year.

Many accomplishments were achieved by CLPS over the last twelve months as the momentum generated last year continued on. We envision a Parry Sound in which people who have a developmental disability can live in a state of dignity, share in all elements of living in the community and have the opportunity to participate effectively. Our Mission is to promote and facilitate the full participation, inclusion, and citizenship of people who have a developmental disability.

ACCREDITATION

Community Living Parry Sound (CLPS) had the pleasure of hosting FOCUS Accreditation for a three day on-site validation from November 10-12, 2015. The on-site validation marks one of the most significant events at CLPS this year and was the culmination of over three years of work towards becoming accredited through FOCUS. FOCUS' mandate is to assess developmental service organizations and to determine if they meet the standards of successful practices in community-based human services.

The FOCUS Peer Validators evaluated policy, practices, and procedures at CLPS in order to get a sense of how the organization was meeting the over 200 standards identified in fifteen different domains. The Peer Validators also interviewed people receiving services, staff, Board members, community partners, local employers, and families of people receiving services. They utilized these interviews and the extensive information included in the self-assessment submitted in September 2015 to identify if CLPS met the standards in each domain. The process reflected an immense amount of work by CLPS staff and truly highlighted changes within the developmental services sector over the past several years. CLPS is dedicated to providing top-quality services that reflect current trends and practices within the developmental services sector.

CLPS was exceptionally pleased with the on-site validation and reaching this point in our accreditation journey. To reflect this, almost one hundred people gathered at the Stockey Centre on November 12th to hear a summary of our results and celebrate with a luncheon. The FOCUS team addressed the audience and provided recommendations on how CLPS can improve services that did not meet domain standards, next steps for the organization, and highlighted areas of strength within our agency. CLPS met all standards in the majority of the domains.

The Accreditation celebration was a great opportunity to congratulate everyone on three years of hard work and a commitment to quality improvement at all levels of the organization. The summary report from the onsite Validators was a truly proud moment as we reflected on all the accomplishments of CLPS.

On December 17, 2015, Executive Director Jo-Anne Demick received the following message from FOCUS Executive Director Cheryl Whiteman:

“Congratulations to Community Living Parry Sound (CLPS) on being awarded the FOCUS 4-year Accreditation. The organization and the community it services can be proud of CLPS’ progressive and flexible service design and delivery, as well as its commitment to on-going quality improvement and organizational learning. Community Living Parry Sound is stellar in the delivery of services for those who have a developmental disability, the organization places people they serve at the very centre of their organization.”

What does it actually mean to be an accredited organization? It means that EVERY aspect of our organization was assessed by a neutral third party (FOCUS Accreditation) and we were graded by experts and peers in our field.

This is Community Living Parry Sound’s first attempt at accreditation and we received an overall score of 98% for the quality of our services and the excellence of our governance.

MY HOME MY CHOICE NATIONAL PROJECT

The *My Home My Choice* (MHMC) national project, which concluded on March 31, 2016, was a multi-year, multi-stakeholder initiative developed and overseen by the Canadian Association for Community Living (CACL) in partnership with provincial Associations for Community Living and local developmental service provider agencies across Canada. The overall purpose of the project was to increase the capacity of community-based providers to assist people with intellectual disabilities to move from segregated ‘place based’ living environments (group homes, small facilities, segregated apartment buildings, etc.) to supported, individualized living arrangements in the full community. Community Living Parry Sound (CLPS) was chosen as one of the pilot sites because of our progressive approach to the way we provide supports to people who are interested in moving out into the community.

CLPS has been managing an segregated apartment building model of support since 1987. CLPS became interested in 2012-13 in developing housing alternatives for each person that would be more fully integrated into the larger community and designed uniquely to meet the needs and desires of each individual. CLPS entered into a formal agreement with CACL as part of the MHMC project to undertake the transformation process over a three-year period. The CLPS Board of Directors fully endorsed the project and viewed it as demonstrating our commitment to our *Community First* philosophy.

This project has created a valuable opportunity for people with intellectual disabilities in the Parry Sound area to lead more inclusive lives in their communities, to develop new relationships with people other than staff and to live separate, unique lives. It has also ensured that staffing can be transitioned and repositioned in different ways to retain the support that people need, wherever they are now residing.

This project has decreased the level of segregated housing for people with disabilities in our community. This helps not only people needing support to live more inclusive lives but also sends a strong message to the community that there is a place for everyone in the full community.

CLPS is extremely grateful to CACL for the opportunity to have been a part of this important and necessary undertaking.

COMMUNITY LIVING MONTH

- On May 2, 2016 Mayor Jamie McGarvey, along with Community Living Parry Sound members and supporters, raised a flag outside the town's municipal office and proclaimed May as Community Living Month.
- On May 11, 2016, for the first time ever, the CN Tower lit up with Community Living colours, blue and green. Community Living Parry Sound also lit up the Joseph Street building.
- On May 12, 2016 the Ontario Provincial Legislature welcomed representatives of Community Living organizations from across the province. CLPS Executive Director Jo-Anne Demick and Communications & Event Coordinator Tricia Bain were our representatives at this event.
- The tenth annual Breakfast with the Mayor was held on May 17, 2016 at Wellington's Pub & Grill, which this year featured guest speaker Kimberly Gavan, Director of Community Development at Community Living Ontario. Kimberly delivered a powerful message of family, community and our grassroots movement. As always, we enjoyed a fabulous breakfast hosted by Mike Reeves and the staff of Wellington's.
- The 17th Annual Community Living Golf tournament was held on May 25, 2016 and was a huge success, raising over \$11,000. Thanks to the many donors, sponsors and golfers, and hosts Rocky Crest Golf Resort.
- The Inspiring Artists group, who choose to pursue their talent with weekly art classes taught by Debbie McGibbon, showed their work at the 2016 show *Colours*, hosted by the Country Gourmet.

This year we say good-bye to David Golden and Sheri Cox, who are completing their terms on the Board. They will be greatly missed. David has served both as a member and as Chair of the Nominating & Membership Committee as well as the Community Inclusion Fund Committee during his tenure. Sheri has served both as a member and as Vice-President/Secretary for 2014/2015 and 2015/2016 as well as the Nominating & Membership Committee.

On a personal note, as I complete my last year on the Board, I want to express my appreciation to my fellow Directors and the staff, volunteers, members and partner agencies who continue to work tirelessly for others and are helping to move the agency along the road from segregation to full inclusion in the community. I am confident that the strong leadership demonstrated by the Executive Director, the Management Team and the continuing Board of Directors will keep CLPS moving towards the goal of advancing our Community First philosophy.

*Respectfully submitted,
Deborah Jones, President*