

# Memorandum

**To:** Families & Stakeholders  
**Date:** October 20, 2022  
**From:** EMT  
**Subject:** COVID-19 & Agency Updates

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Hello everyone,

We hope you are all safe and well. We do have a few updates to share with you today.

## **COVID-19 Updates**

### **COVID-19 Test Results/Close Contacts Update**

Over the past few of weeks we have continued to see an increase in the number of people we support, employees, close contacts and family members testing positive for COVID-19. We are seeing anywhere from 6-8 employees per week test positive and/or that must isolate due to being a close contact of a person that has tested positive. Fortunately, we have had no outbreaks declared at any of our locations by Lambton Public Health at this time.

### **Staffing Update**

Once again, the increase in staff testing positive and/or requiring isolation has placed a continued strain on our staffing and support needs at all locations. It remains a priority to keep our employees healthy and to recruit new employees to the agency. We are extremely fortunate and extend our sincere gratitude to all our employees for all they continue to do.

### **MCCSS Guidance**

MCCSS has determined at this stage in the pandemic that they will align all of its guidance with the Ministry of Health (MOH) **with the exception of the MCCSS Interim Direction for regular Rapid Antigen Testing** (regular RAT testing requirements remain in place for the agency).

We are now expected to follow applicable MOH guidance for Long-Term Care Homes, Retirement Homes, and Other Congregate Living Settings for Public Health Units. MCCSS will continue with risk monitoring, compliance processes to assist with health and safety in congregate settings, MCCSS Serious Occurrence Reporting and issues management processes.

## **MCCSS Updates**

### **Journey to Belonging: Choice & Inclusion**

As you are aware, *Journey to Belonging: Choice & Inclusion* is the MCCSS long-term vision for developmental services reform where people with developmental disabilities fully belong in their communities and are supported to live the lives they choose.

- Please click the link and have a look at the information surrounding the plan - <https://www.ontario.ca/page/journey-belonging-choice-and-inclusion> and a link to the easy read version - <https://files.ontario.ca/mccss-journey-belonging-choice-inclusion-developmental-services-reform-framework-en-2022-04-08.pdf>
- We attached the MCCSS placemat that outlines the vision, principles, and timelines for their plan for the developmental services sector to this agency update email as well.
- We are working with MCCSS and sector contacts to schedule a 'Journey to Belonging' presentation for families and stakeholders.

### **MCCSS Costing Study (facilitated by KPMG)**

- MCCSS has engaged with KPMG to understand costs associated with services and service delivery. The Costing Study is required to build a rigorous understanding of the current costs of service delivery. This is a key input to future work in the sector.
- KPMG, in collaboration with MCCSS and service agencies have been collecting and providing data (i.e., financial, administrative, etc.) to create a base understanding of service costs and service delivery costs.
- The goals are to:
  - determine the best unit to represent costs of service delivery activities.
  - gain an understanding of cost variation and cost distribution across providers throughout the province.
- The Costing Study data collection component will close on October 28.
- We will provide more details as they become available.

## **Agency Updates**

### **Family Information Night**

As noted above, we are working with MCCSS and sector partners to facilitate an information session and presentation for families and stakeholders focusing on Journey to Belonging. Our goal is to schedule this for a Family Information Night soon.

### **Phase Two Agency Resources Structure Update**

People Minded Business has completed initial consults with agency resource roles. The next step is for People Minded Business to engage others (employees, leadership team and stakeholders).

- From there, the input will be collected, and we will work towards a design process for Phase II.
- The process remains to fluid and will be directed by input received.



- The plan remains to have a process in place for late fall or early winter.

**Property Manager and H&S Coordinator Update**

We are pleased to announce that Greg With was the successful candidate for the Property Manager contract position. Congratulations Greg!

We are working now to fill the contract H&S Coordinator position in Greg's absence. Thank you for your patience as we transition these two important roles.

Thank you. Be well and be safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "N. Salaris", is positioned above the printed name.

Nick Salaris  
Executive Director