

Issue 09

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Passport Post

PASSPORT QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Passport ePOS Service

The Passport Program has launched a new ePOS service where you can securely upload your invoices and receipts online for processing, as well as check your Passport funding balance. To register for this service, contact your Passport coordinator at 416-780-1106 and the following extensions:

Amaranta Ng
x294

Domenic Pisante
x242

Madalena Silva
x295

Megan Hart
x425

Melissa Giacomini
x431

Rosemarie Brathwaite
x263



In This Issue...

- P. 1. ePOS Service
- P. 1. Making Access Easier
- P.2. Ombudsman's Report
- P. 2. My Community Hub
- P. 2. Managing Your Funding

Making access to services easier for people with developmental disabilities

Did you know that up until recently youth with developmental disabilities who are seeking government-funded adult developmental services and supports, as well as income support from Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) were required to verify their eligibility twice?

Ontario is now simplifying the process for young people with developmental disabilities and their families applying for ODSP and Special Services at Home (SSAH) funding. As of September 1, 2016, all those deemed eligible for ministry-funded adult developmental services will no longer have to go through a second process of verification of their disability for ODSP. Existing ODSP requirements, including financial eligibility, will still apply.

Families that receive SSAH funding for their children under the age of 18 with a developmental disability will no longer need to reapply every year for their funding. This means that as long as eligibility criteria is met, all SSAH recipients will be automatically renewed at their current level of funding until they turn 18. Should an SSAH recipient's circumstances or needs change they are encouraged to contact their regional office.

This improvement is part of Ontario's commitment to providing integrated supports and services that best meet people's needs with seamless transition at key life and care stages.

Nowhere to Turn

The Ontario Ombudsman's Report

The Ontario Ombudsman's report was released on August 24, 2016. The report called for dramatic changes in developmental services following an investigation that occurred four years ago.

The report outlines 60 recommendations in order to improve services. One recommendation is calling for the ministry to intervene in crisis situations to ensure adults with developmental disabilities are not returning to situations that may be dangerous.

The report stated that there are eight crisis beds in the GTA. Ontario Ombudsman Paul Dubé says that Ontario is failing to help families in desperate need of services. Because of this, families are being left in vulnerable and sometimes unsafe situations.

In Toronto over 4,500 families are on waitlists to receive services. This growing number showed the need for increased partnership between ministries to ensure that those accessing services receive the best possible care.

To read more about *Nowhere to Turn* visit:

ombudsman.on.ca

Different Ways of Managing Your Passport Funding

There are three options when it comes to managing your Passport funding. You can change the way you manage your funding at any time:

1. Direct Funding
2. Transfer Payment Agency (TPA)
3. Combination

Direct Funding is when the payee is the sole person responsible for managing the funds. In this situation expenses are reimbursed directly into the payee's account.

My Community Hub

My Community Hub is an online registration system that allows you to pick and choose from a series of activities that you would like to do!

Currently, My Community Hub features a range of programming, workshops, classes, and activities offered by:

1. Christian Horizons
2. Community Living Toronto
3. Corbrook
4. Kerry's Place Autism Services
5. Meta Centre
6. Reena
7. Vita Community Living Services

Through My Community Hub you can book yourself into a workshop or other activity and pay the fee online.

mycommunityhub.ca



Transfer Payment Agency (TPA) is when you choose a TPA agency to be allocated a certain amount of funds per year. The TPA agency would submit monthly invoices to Passport for reimbursement.

Combination Funding is when you decide to combine both direct and transfer payment agency funding.

Call your Passport coordinator for more details or visit familyservicetoronto.org

PASSPORT PROGRAM

700 LAWRENCE AVE. WEST SUITE 498

PHONE: 416 . 780. 1106 | FAX: 416 . 977 . 6110 | EMAIL: passport@familyservicetoronto.org

WEBSITE: familyservicetoronto.org



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