CCDI PROVINCIAL MEETING

George Brown College
November 6, 2013

Minutes

1. **Status of Mental Health Projects** - *Eleanor and Mike Condra – See attached*

2. **Ministry Report** – *Taras Myhal – See attached*

3. **Strategic Planning** - *Max Carbone – Principal, Team Works (www.TeamWorksWeb.com) – See attached*

> On November 6th and 7th, 2013, the College Committee on Disability Issues (CCDI) held a strategic planning meeting in Toronto, which was attend by approximately 60 members. This two day planning session was facilitated by Max Carbone of Team Works.

> In preparation for this meeting, a survey was sent to the membership which solicited comments on the role of CCDI, issues that are most impacting the membership, questions regarding the professional development needs of the group and current trends impacting Disability Services Offices (DSO). The survey also asked members to identify the 3 top issues they thought CCDI should take leadership on in the next 3 years.

> One hundred and twenty-seven members responded to the survey.   Twenty-two of the twenty-four colleges were represented. Results were used to structure the two day strategic planning session. Topics identified for discussion included:

  - Engagement/Participation
  - Professional Development
  - Raising awareness and promoting issues to higher levels
  - Networking/Sharing Best practices
  - Role of DSOs within the college system
  - CCDI Operations

> The two day session resulted in an updated mission statement and an action plan going forward. Our new mission statement outlines the role of CCDI which is to:

> > *"Develop and support professionals who advance accessibility*
> > *for students with Disabilities in the Ontario College system."*

> An action plan resulted in eight goals CCDI wishes to focus on over the next three years.

Action Plan

1. Establish a membership engagement plan.
2. Determine what accessibility standards need to be updated and standardized across the Province
3. Investigate how to secure funding to attract resources and restructure activities for accessibility
4. Build a stronger voice and greater influence for CCDI within the college system and the Ministry.
5. Advance universal design learning amongst members.
6. Enable students to write accommodated licensing exams to obtain their licenses / certification.
7. Embrace technology and build a website that is relevant, useful, valuable, user friendly, interactive and allows members to engage.
8. Ensure the CCDI Annual Conference is the leading Professional Development activity for our members and key stakeholders.
9. Develop our "Values"

4. Other

> Chair advised the membership of the upcoming executive positions for 2014-15 executive: Chair, Vice Chair, Northern Regional Representative, and Central Regional representative. Karen confirmed that Ann Moore, Vice Chair, will not be able to resume the Chair position in the upcoming term.

Slide 1

PSED

Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities
Update on Students with Disabilities

November 2013

Slide 2

PSED

### Data Snapshot of Students with Disabilities

- In 2012-13, approximately 50,800 postsecondary students were registered with Offices for Students with Disabilities (OSDs) at publicly funded postsecondary institutions, including 27,515 in colleges.
- In addition, 1,003 apprentices were registered with OSDs at publicly funded colleges in 2012-13.
- In 2012-13, approximately $48 million in funding was provided to assist students with disabilities succeed in postsecondary studies – an increase of approximately 50 percent since 2002-03. This included $8 million in Access to Opportunities funding.

Slide 3

PSED

### Accessibility Fund for Students with Disabilities (AFSD)

- The college Accessibility Fund for Students with Disabilities/Support for Apprentices with Disabilities 2012-13 Year-end Reports were submitted in August 2013. OSDs received a basic amount of $100,000 under the AFSD fund in August 2013.
- Outstanding clarifications on the AFSD/SAWD year-end reports were circulated to OSDs in September 2013. Reports are in the process of being finalized.
- The balance of the AFSD payments will be sent to colleges by the end of November.
- Guidelines for preparing the AFSD/SAWD 2013-14 year-end report as well as guidelines for data collection will be circulated with the annual funding memo

Slide 4

PSED

2012-13 Interpreter Fund

- The Interpreter Fund is intended to assist in reimbursing the actual costs of interpreter and related services for students who are deaf, deafened and hard of hearing. The fund is for colleges outside the metropolitan Toronto area.
- Total eligible costs incurred by colleges in 2012-13 exceeded the budget allocation by 59%. Total 2012-13 funding under the college Interpreter Fund is $2,733,393, representing full coverage of eligible costs. This includes:
  - Base funding: $675,000
  - Access funding: $1,042,747
  - One time top-up funding: $1,015,646
- As you know, the province is operating within tight fiscal constraints and this situation is anticipated to continue in the near future. While the ministry has worked hard to ensure we can cover the full amount of eligible costs in 2012-13, we caution that this may not be the case going forward.
- Reports for 2013-14 are due on February 28, 2014.

Slide 5

PSED

2012-13 George Brown College Fund

- The George Brown College fund, administered on behalf of the Ministry, provides the five publicly funded GTA colleges services to students who are deaf, deafened and hard of hearing.
- Total eligible costs incurred by colleges in 2012-13 exceeded the budget allocation by 30%.
- Total 2012-13 funding under the college Interpreter Fund is $3,174,138 representing full coverage of eligible costs. This includes:
  - Base funding: $1,030,031
  - Access funding: $1,410,196
  - One time top-up funding: $733,912
- As you know, the province is operating within tight fiscal constraints and this situation is anticipated to continue in the near future. While the ministry has worked hard to ensure we can cover the full amount of eligible costs in 2012-13, we caution that this may not be the case going forward.
- George Brown submitted its final report on the 2012-13 program in July 2013

Slide 6

PSED

2012-13 Summer Transition Programs (STP)

- Summer transition projects are intended to assist students with learning disabilities to make a successful transition from secondary school to college or university.
- In anticipation of the AFSD-STP integration, the Ministry froze funding for 2013-14. Proposals for STP programs were not required for 2013-14
- On June 21, 2013, a memo from Linda Hawke, director of the Postsecondary Accountability Branch announced a total of $952,846 in funding to institutions for their 2013-14 Summer Transitions Programs
- As part of the overall integration strategy, final reports for the Summer Transitions Program are now due in April 2014

Grants for Students with Disabilities Consolidation

- A working group comprised of Ministry-Postsecondary sector representatives was struck and has met on three occasions with the objective of recommending a new allocation mechanism for the consolidated programs (AFSD and STP).
- The working group is approaching their task based on the following key principles to ensure that the funding and reporting processes of the integrated Fund are: equitable to all students with disabilities; transparent; accountable; based on auditable data; as streamlined as possible; and, with the expectation that overall funding envelopes should not decrease (within the fiscal mandate of the government).
- Over the next few months, this working group will be undertaking a review of various funding models, and is expected to report back to the Ministry early in the new year.
- We hope to provide you with an opportunity to review and provide feedback on the new funding formula and next steps, by late winter/spring of 2014. The goal is to implement a new integrated fund in the 2014-15 fiscal year.

Alternative Education Resources for Ontario (AERO) Pilot Update

- Please consider the following information as CONFIDENTIAL until after the public announcement of the AERO launch is made later this fall.
- We would like to give you an overview of the launch and the next steps to encourage increased awareness of AERO by faculty as well as publishers.
- The AERO pilot wrapped up in August 2013 and colleges and universities were invited to sign up for the enhanced suite of AERO services.
- By the fall of this year a total of 41 of the 46 colleges and universities had signed on to use AERO services to provide alternate format textbooks to their students.
- Seven publishers have signed on to provide textbooks to AERO. We are hoping to encourage additional publisher participation, and would like the support of your offices to get the word out.

Alternative Education Resources for Ontario (AERO) Pilot Update (cont'd.)

- As part of the official AERO launch, the Ministry would like to raise awareness of AERO services among faculty members and encourage more publishers to sign on to AERO. We will be reaching out to Disabilities Services Offices and the Libraries with responsibility for Transcription Services, to ask for your support with this effort. You can expect to receive further information this fall including information to be distributed to faculty and publishers should you choose to participate.

- In addition, a new option will be added to AERO later this fall. At the request of publishers, a new "mass upload" option will allow publishers to download many textbooks at once. This option will speed up their timelines to provide textbooks to AERO particularly during the busy summer months, and make it easier for them to contribute to the repository.

- AERO will be conducting a Customer Service Survey in 2013 to get your feedback on the system. Your feedback will be used to help make long term decisions on the system.

Electronic Reporting in 2013-14

- The ministry is continuing its development of an online reporting system called the Enhanced Data Collection Solution (EDCS) to facilitate greater streamlining and coordination of grant reporting.
- A number of reports will be migrated onto the EDCS platform for 2013-14 during Phase 1 of a multi-phase, medium-term implementation project.
- A training manual for all EDCS users will be provided. This manual will provide explicit, step-by-step instructions on how to navigate the system. And of course, Ministry staff will be available to assist should you have any questions or face any difficulties while accessing the system.
- The Ministry will be contacting institutions shortly regarding the availability of reports in EDCS in 2013-2014.

Mental Health & Addictions Update

- As part of the Government's $257M Mental Health and Addiction Strategy announced in 2011 Budget, the Ministry launched the Mental Health Innovation Fund in September 2012 for projects that would lead to an improvement in mental health services and outcomes for Ontario's postsecondary students. There have now been two rounds of innovation projects announced for funding.

- The initial call in September 2012 resulted in 47 proposals being submitted with the Minister announcing, in March 2013, 10 projects for funding of $6.34M over a three year period. One of the successful projects was the Colleges Ontario proposal for the Centre for Innovation in Campus Mental Health. Among other things, the Centre will be ensuring that information on activities of all the successful projects will be shared.

- A second call for proposals was issued in April and resulted in 41 proposals being submitted. On October 4, 2013 the Minister announced funding for a further 10 projects totalling $3.5M over a two year period. The successful projects included three college projects: Canadore's development of Ojibwe and Cree Language Mental Health First Aid services, Conestoga's examination of new approaches of supporting students with Autism Spectrum Disorder, and Georgian's exploration of a case management approach to providing services in partnership with Centennial College.

Mental Health & Addictions Update (cont'd.)

- Also on October 4th, the Minister helped to officially launch Good2Talk/Allo J'Écoute, a 24 hour-a-day, 365 day-a-year province-wide, bilingual, postsecondary mental health helpline being operated by Kid's Help Phone, the national community-based organization that has been providing telephone counselling services for young people since 1989. This service is being provided in partnership with CONNEX, 211 Ontario and the Centre for Excellence in Child and Youth Mental Health.
- The postsecondary mental health helpline is accessible at 1-866-925-5454 and will soon be online at www.good2talk.ca and www.allojecoute.ca.
- The Ministry is continuing to work with partner Ministries: Health and Long-term Care, Education, and Children and Youth Services, as the Mental Health and Addictions Strategy moves forward.
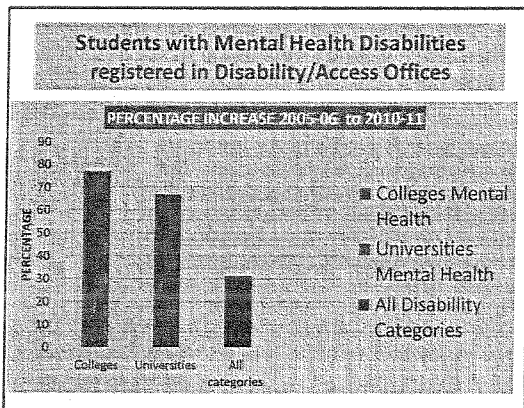
MTCU - Mental Health Innovation

St. Lawrence College

Queen's UNIVERSITY

Developing Documentation Standards and Guidelines for Academic Accommodations for Students with Mental Health Disabilities Attending Post–Secondary Institutions in Ontario

Project Overview – 3 Year Funding

- Literature Review
- Visit best practice sites
- Environmental Scan – /Regional Focus Groups/On-line Survey
- Consultation
  - CCDI/IDIA
  - Ontario Human Rights Commission
  - Hicks Morley

Students with Mental Health Disabilities registered in Disability/Access Offices

PERCENTAGE INCREASE 2005-06 to 2010-11

- Colleges Mental Health
- Universities Mental Health
- All Disability Categories

Challenges: The Rationale for Project

- Increase in number of students
- Lack of consistency in postsecondary system
- Determination of "functional impact"
- Most equitable accommodations not always clear
- Best practices yet to be determined

Complexities

- Mental Health Problem vs. Disability
- Episodic symptoms
- Short-term fluctuations
  » Medication changes
  » Situational crises

Complexities

- First episode
- Time to diagnosis
- Documentation standards
- Permanent Disability' requirement?
- Behaviour versus Disorder

Project Outcomes

- Documentation standards and guidelines

- Training program on accommodating students with mental health problems/disabilities

- Website

- Resource handbook for students

Progress to Date

- Staffing

- Literature Review (living document)

- Instruments for environmental scan
  - Online survey
  - Focus group questions

- Ethics approval (underway)

- Site Visit

- Website www.supportcampusmentalhealth.ca

Contact Information

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St. Lawrence College

Queen's UNIVERSITY

Developing Documentation Standards and Guidelines for Academic Accommodations for Students with Mental Health Disabilities Attending Post–Secondary Institutions in Ontario

This three-year project funded under the Mental Health Innovation Fund (MTCU) and is a joint venture between St. Lawrence College and Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario.

Overview of the Research Project

Over the last five years, the number of students registered in Disability Service/Access Offices in the postsecondary sector in Ontario has increased by 32%. Over the same time, the number of students with mental health disabilities has increased by 67%. The current model of accommodating students with disabilities being used across the province faces major challenges in accommodating those with mental health disabilities. For example, the episodic nature of some mental health conditions and the variability in guidelines for documentation both create difficulties in providing an equitable accommodation process. As well, members of faculty and staff lack adequate information regarding how they can support students with mental health disabilities in their academic programs.

The goals of the project are: (a) To develop province-wide documentation standards, taking into consideration the specific needs of students with mental health disabilities (b) To develop training for students, faculty, disability advisors/counsellors, student leaders and administrators, on how best to accommodate students with mental health disabilities. (c) To develop an information and resource handbook for students with mental health disabilities.

Principal Investigator: Dr. Mike Condra, Queen's University, condram@queensu.ca
Research Consultant: Eleanor Condra, St. Lawrence College. econdra@sl.on.ca
Website: www.supportcampusmentalhealth.ca

CCDI Strategic Planning Meeting
November 6 – 7, 2013

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