



Trustee Times

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Region of Peel Working for you

Support & Trustee Advisory Services is pleased to acknowledge the receipt of a generous grant from the Region of Peel in recognition of our work with and for families with a family member who has a disability. This grant will help STAS to continue and expand upon the work started over the last four years. Thank you, Region of Peel for this honour. We salute your vision and look forward to reaching new heights in the year to come.

Support & Trustee Advisory Services thanks the Pendle Fund at the Community Foundation of Mississauga for the generous grant in recognition of our work.

Please join us for the
Support & Trustee Advisory Services
Annual General Meeting

Monday September 14, 2009

7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

19 Rutherford Road South, Brampton

Please contact Sue at 905-542-2694 ext. 2312 or Margarete at 905-453-8841 for more information or to RSVP



UPCOMING SEMINAR

Of particular interest to MISSISSAUGA FAMILIES

Wills and Trusts & Financial Planning
Saturday October 3, 2009

*A special opportunity to attend both a Wills and Trusts
and Financial Planning seminar, as well as learning
about Mississauga Homes for Independent Living and
Support & Trustee Advisory Services*

Location: 6715 Millcreek Drive, Unit 4 - to be confirmed

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Maximum registration: 50 people only

For more information call: Sue Taggart 905-542-2694 ext. 2312

~A light lunch will be provided~

A brief introduction to: Circles of Support

Planning for the future of an individual is multi-faceted. While it may seem overwhelming, parents don't have to plan alone. A circle or network of support may be a viable option for many parents in terms of assisting with planning, providing more opportunities for the individual to have friends, or acting in an advocacy role on behalf

of the individual when the parents are no longer involved. Parents may be familiar with other terms such as networks or circle of friends.

People in a circle volunteer to have an ongoing role in an individual's life with the individual being at the centre of the circle. A circle can start with inviting people around the individual over for a pot-luck dinner, or a cup of coffee. The circle grows from there however it will take work and planning. The set up and functioning of each group is unique to each family's individual situation. Circles can be very effective, and provide the individual at the centre with a "family" per se. In many cases, the circle of support develops into a circle of friends who support the individual at the centre.

The governance of a circle depends on the circle. Some circles are informal get-togethers. Some circles may opt for a more formal board, with a newsletter to keep members informed. Parents may ask a facilitator to work with the individual and circle members in developing the circle. The size of a circle can vary as well, however parents should keep in mind that if the circle is too large it may become unwieldy. Parents may decide to start by participating in the circle and then gradually withdrawing their participation allowing the circle to begin to function.

Bibliography for information about Support Circles:

1. *A little book about PERSON CENTERED PLANNING*; edited by John O'Brien and Connie Lyle O'Brien; published by Inclusion Press, 24 Thome Crescent, Toronto, Ontario M6H 2S5 Canada, ISBN 1-895418-40-2
2. *Collage: Sketches of a Support Circle*; edited by Susannah Joyce; may be purchased Realizations, P.O. Box 1430, Station B, London, Ontario N6A 5M2, (519) 433-2387
3. *Person-Centered Planning with MAPS and PATH*; John O'Brien and Jack Pearpoint; published by Inclusion Press, 24 Thome Crescent, Toronto, Ontario M6H 2S5 Canada
4. *Safe and Secure; Six Steps to creating a good life for people with disabilities*; Al Etmanski; published by PLAN – Planned Lifetime Advocacy Network; 260 – 3665 Kingsway, Vancouver B.C. V5R 5W2; www.PLAN.ca
5. *PATH, a workbook for Planning positive possible future*; Jack Pearpoint, John O'Brien, Marsha Forest; published by Inclusion Press, 24 Thome Crescent, Toronto, Ontario M6H 2S5 Canada, ISBN 1-895418-10-0
6. *CONNECTIONS; A Planning Guide for Parents of Sons and Daughter with a Mental Handicap*; Kenneth V. Pike and Pauline F. Steinmann; Ontario Edition; contact Sue Taggart at 905-542-2694 ext 2312 if you wish a copy

Stories from the world of planning for the future:

Here are two examples of the types of questions or situations that come across the desks of the staff Liaisons who work with Support & Trustee Advisory Services.

- A. *A residential manager approached one of the STAS staff liaisons to ask what happens if an individual supported residentially receives an inheritance that is not protected by a Henson Trust.*

It is important to remember that an individual who receives ODSP is not able to have more than \$5,000 in the bank. Therefore in order not to jeopardize ODSP families are encouraged to protect the inheritance via, in most cases, a Henson Trust. The liaison's answer - she encouraged the residential manager to call a knowledgeable lawyer to help settle the matter and act on the individual's behalf.

- B. *The sister of an individual supported residentially contacted one of the liaisons to confirm whether or not the agency would pay for the individual's funeral expenses in the event of his death. Upon discussion with the liaison the sister recalled the family had purchased a funeral plot for the individual, but she was unsure as to where the plot was located.*

There are several important issues here. Firstly, a service provider may not be responsible for the funeral costs of an individual they support - the next of kin are likely the ones responsible. The same applies to a long term care residence, it is not the residence that pays for the funeral expenses of a resident, it is the family. Secondly, if plans have been made for an individual who passes away, it is important for the agency providing support to the individual to be aware of them i.e. the purchase of a funeral plot, or prepaid funeral. Thirdly, it is important for families to ensure that they maintain contact with the individual supported residentially and that the contact will continue to be maintained from one generation to the next.