

Fact Sheet – Day Services

If you need support with this fact sheet, we are happy to help! Please contact Janette or Chris. Their contact is at the end of this document.

2020-23 Strategic Goal

In place of Day programs, facilitate inclusive opportunities that serve to enhance the connections between the people we support within and across the community.

The building is closed. Whether it's ARC, Fergus Base, Mount Forest Base, Harriston Base, or ARC East, these buildings will not re-open to Day Options.

The services are still happening. If you enjoyed swimming, swimming will be a part of your service plan. We will plan with you, to do the things you like to do and to try new experiences. If you want to spend time with your friends doing these things, that will be a part of your plan too!

But Ella seems much more independent than me? Regardless of your support needs, we're going to build a plan with you. That may mean pulling in people who know you best, like your family, friends, and your Direct Support Professional to make sure that your service plan truly wraps around everything you enjoy doing. Your support will not be one-size-fits-all. Whether you need lots of support, or just a little, your plan and services will reflect this.

How? Our Direct Support Professionals will now have caseloads. This means that they will have dedicated blocks of time with you.

I need the same support I used to get... Whether it's support to do something, or respite, these are important to bring to your planning conversation. We recognize that in this new way of offering service, there may be gaps. Together with you, we want to plan and address those. That may include other community partners and service providers and we will help navigate those conversations/supports.

This was an easy way for me to see my friends. What did you enjoy doing with your friends? Coffee? Computers? Broom ball? Whatever you enjoyed doing, and who you enjoyed spending time with, can be a part of your plan. Missing someone? Tell your DSP. Together, we can work to make sure they're a part of your plan! Want to make new friends? Tell your DSP.

I miss working. We know that for some of you, you've been missing work since the sheltered workshop closed in 2017. If work is something you'd like as a part of your day, let's get you connected with our EmployMENT Options team.

What about my volunteer gig? If you're still interested in volunteering with a specific organization, or doing something you enjoy, tell your DSP. They'll work to connect you with a volunteer opportunity and provide support if needed.

I don't feel like I was well informed of this change. Through the winter, we hosted strategic planning focus groups for the people we support and their families. In these conversations, we discussed what it would like to improve some of our services, and how we could do that with a person-centred approach. Our Direct Support Professionals were also a part of focus groups, and a representative group of DSPs participated in a visioning day that looked at how Day Services could change. As a follow up to the focus group sessions, we also sent out a survey asking for feedback from families, people supported and staff. All of these conversations culminated to this strategic goal. Now that we've confirmed our strategic goal, designing how these services will look truly needs an individualized approach. That means sitting with you, and those who are important to you, and designing your Individualized Service Plan.

What's happening to the buildings? Some of our buildings are already shared with community partners. Our goal is to have these buildings continue to be used by the community. However, that will take some time to work out, and our focus right now is on communicating and planning how services will look like with you. If how the buildings are used is important to you, we will be hosting conversations in the future around how we can preserve the community approach to these spaces. We hope you'll join us.

During COVID-19, we have not received any Day Options supports. Where has that funding gone? We received permission from MCCSS to re-direct those dollars to support our residential services. Those funds meant that Day Options staff could re-deploy residentially. Because of COVID-19, a number of our services had to close. However, we still tried to provide some support, when possible, through Zoom calls, porch visits, Morale Boosters, phone calls and more.

COVID-19 or MCCSS-directed? As an organization, we have been moving towards a person-centred approach for quite some time. This change to day services was something we planned for, and had many conversations about. These changes are not happening as a result of COVID-19, nor were they a directive from the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services. The roll out of the changes would have looked quite different if COVID-19 did not happen, but the outcome would have been the same.

What about my stuff in my locker? Please contact the current supervisor for Day Options, Chris Bell at chrisbell@clgw.ca or 226-314-0842.

Who is supervising Day Options? Right now, we have one manager and one supervisor for all of our Day Options locations. Janette Andersen is the interim Day Options Manager. She is being supported by Chris Bell, Day Options Supervisor.

Contact:

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