

BACKGROUND

Community Living 440 Waitlist

In 2008, 440 people with intellectual disabilities were waiting for specialized, residential and/or day programs. In October of that year, the Government of Saskatchewan made a multi-year commitment to eliminate the waitlist, and invest in enhanced services to enable people with intellectual disabilities to live safe, secure and meaningful lives in their communities.

As of April 2013, services are now in place, or in development, for every person on the list, plus another 215 Community Living clients beyond the original waitlist.

Waitlist Initiative Highlights

- \$23.9 million in capital investment
- New, expanded or enhanced services in 41 communities
- Group homes: 75 new homes (244 new spaces) have been developed:
 - 31 new builds;
 - 40 homes purchased or rented; and
 - Four older homes replaced
- Day Programs: 17 new initiatives, or 290 spaces
- Supported Independent Living: 1,064 additional hours per week for approximately 100 individuals.
- Since 2007/08:
 - Funding has increased by 110 per cent for group homes for people with intellectual disabilities;
 - Total group home spaces for people with intellectual disabilities in Saskatchewan has increased by 25 per cent;
 - Funding has increased by 81 per cent for day programs for people with intellectual disabilities; and
 - Funding for supported independent living for people with intellectual disabilities has increased by 61 per cent.

Day Program

- Implemented a new funding standard, based on the assessed needs of individuals, bringing funding in line with specific needs.
- Designed a Day Program Support Assessment (DPSA) to determine the support needs of people with intellectual/developmental disabilities requiring day programs. The DPSA recognizes the impact of disability and identifies individual assessed need.

- Initiated a pilot program with eight sites, to convert from a count of spaces to number of individuals attending and units of supports provided.

Approved Private Service Homes

- Increased level of care rates 11.6 per cent in May 2012, with an investment of \$1.2 million.
- Increased level of care rates in February 2013 by an additional 15 per cent.
- Developed APSH Respite Subsidy to assist proprietors in purchasing respite services.
- Provided APSH proprietors with First Aid and CPR training.
- Provided \$150,000 annually, beginning in 2012-13, to expand the capacity of Saskatchewan Approved Private Service Homes Inc. (SAPH) to deliver service enhancements to the approved home sector.
- APSH Steering Committee, comprised of representatives from the Ministry of Social Services, Ministry of Health, and SAPH Inc., meets on a monthly basis and continues to address issues relevant to the sector.

Complex Needs

- Developed two new community-based crisis support and prevention programs: Menno Homes (Hepburn) and Saskatchewan Abilities Council (Yorkton).
- Developed enhanced complex needs funding standards to recognize the extraordinary support needs of individuals with complex needs in day and residential program settings. Individuals with complex needs were identified through the development of a definition of complex needs and a designation process.
- Implemented a process for identification and tracking of personal outcome measures for individuals with complex needs. Enhanced funding may also be available for these individuals, based on need.
- Increased Ministry capacity to provide specialized supports to individuals with complex support needs through additional staff with specialized skills.

Community-based Organizations (CBO) Recruitment and Retention

- Provided an \$8.94 million lift in 2013-14 for retention and recruitment of direct support workers in Community Living CBOs.
- Initiated further work in 2013-14 with the Saskatchewan Association of Rehabilitation Centres (SARC) and CBOs to understand their respective business plans and the particular challenges and opportunities they face in moving toward a consistent level of funding and addressing persistent high level staff turnover.
- Developed enhanced supports to the CBO sector to aid in the recruitment and retention of staff, including:
 - realistic job preview tools, templates, video and brochure;
 - standardized recruitment process and structured Interviews;
 - orientation program for new employees ; and
 - leadership development program for CBO managers.

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