Attention Service Providers

The West Region Urgent Response Planning Table is hosting engagement sessions about a new Ontario Autism Program, the Urgent Response Service. Please join us to learn more about this new program and to provide your insights and feedback.

In May 2021, the Ministry announced the regional-based proposal process for the new Ontario Autism Program (OAP) Urgent Response Service (URS). The URS will provide time-limited services and supports intended to respond rapidly to a specific need and prevent further escalation of risk of harm to self, others and/or property for children and youth registered in the OAP.

Four service elements delivered through the URS are to include:

- Short-term interdisciplinary consultation to a child/youth's intervention team and/or family and/or educator(s)
- Respite up to a maximum number of hours and a maximum duration
- Direct support to the family and/or professionals involved to implement intervention and/or therapy techniques with the child/youth (e.g., mediator model intervention)
- Service navigation and coordination to existing services outside of the OAP

Lead Organizations in each region will manage, deliver and coordinate the delivery of the OAP URS in collaboration and in partnership with local service providers and professionals. All 4 elements of the URS will be funded by MCCSS.

The Ministry has asked Coordinating Service Planning (CSP) Lead Agencies to work together in each region to identify URS Lead Organization(s) and to develop a proposed regional service model. The CSP Agencies from the West Region have formed a Regional URS Planning Table and are working together to collaboratively develop a proposal to meet the needs of our Region and our respective communities. The West Region URS Planning Table has identified two organizations, Contact Brant and Hôtel-Dieu Grace Healthcare, to act as the URS Lead Organizations for the development and implementation of the program.

To ensure that we are developing a model that works for children, youth and families, the members of the West Region URS Planning Table are hosting a number of engagement sessions to gain the insights and gather feedback from those with lived experience as well as service providers who support the families that will be served through this new program.

Your voice matters.

- Please join us on one of the following dates for an interactive virtual session during which we will provide further information about the new program, the process being used to develop and implement the program and to present to you a draft service model for the West Region.
- Please send this invitation to people with lived experience that you work with.

Please select the area of West Region that you reside/work in if at all possible:

Invitees	**West Region** (far west area)	**West Region** (eastern / Hamilton-Niagara area)
Caregivers/Youth/ Lived Experience	Wednesday, July 28, 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.	Wednesday, July 28, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
Service Providers	Tuesday, July 27, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.	Thursday, July 29, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Please RSVP to Cindy Landry, cindy@contactbrant.net by Monday, July 26th to secure your spot and receive the meeting link. We are limiting the numbers for each session to 20 to ensure discussion.

Service Providers - we will also be forwarding you a survey link to provide feedback and understand what URS services you may be able to offer through this new initiative.

Thank you in advance for your time. Looking forward to hearing from you.

On behalf of the West Region Coordinating Agencies:
Children's Treatment Centre Chatham-Kent
Community Services Coordination Network
Contact Brant
Contact Hamilton
Contact Niagara
Haldimand-Norfolk REACH
Hotel-Dieu Grace Healthcare
Keystone Child and Family Services
Pathways Centre

Kind regards,

Terra Cadeau, Hotel-Dieu Grace Healthcare (far West region), and
Jane Angus, Contact Brant (Hamilton-Niagara region)
Co-chairs, West Region URS Planning Table