

Who is OMSSA and why should you care?

A presentation to
Ontario Early Years
Data Analysis Coordinators

May 12, 2009

Ontario Municipal
Social Services Association



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2. Why should you care?

Who is OMSSA?

- OMSSA is the collective voice of social and community services staff at the municipal level in Ontario
- 46 CMSMs - including 9 DSSABs
- We support municipalities in their delivery of services to over 2 million Ontarians, an annual expenditure of approximately \$9 billion

Who is OMSSA?



OMSSA's mandate is to promote positive, progressive change in the areas of child care, homelessness and housing, and income assistance and employment.

Purpose:

To build our members' capacity to plan, manage, and deliver quality human services in their communities.

Investing in People Makes Sense!

Who is OMSSA?



1. **Advocacy** - for improved social policies and programs, acting as the collective voice of the staff working for CMSMs and DSSABs.
2. **Professional Development** - offering practical, relevant, and "hands-on" educational solutions customized to meet the needs of its members.
3. **Information Sharing** - keeping abreast of the latest developments in the social and community services field and providing a clearing house for information for its members.

Who is OMSSA?



- **Kira Heineck**
Executive Director
- **Steve Coghill**
Manager,
Professional
Development
- **Etan Diamond**
Manager, Policy and
Research
- **Christie Abramovic**
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Jody Orr, Human Services
Integration Project
Coordinator

Meagan Shepherd,
Administration and
Membership Services
Coordinator (on leave)

Ilona Guerra,
Administrative Support

Human Services Integration

- Being people-centred
- Seeing people holistically:
Peoples' needs are not in silos – so why are our programs in silos?
- Providing services in a way which meets peoples' needs, not program, staff, or organizational needs

Community Human Services Planning

- Next big activity!

Standing Networks

- Ontario Works Network
- Children's Services Network
- Homelessness Network
- Emergency Social Services Network
- Service Manager Housing Network

Current Task Forces

- Human Services Integration Steering Committee
- Employment and Income Issue Task Force
- OMSSA-SHSC Task Force on Affordable Housing
- Local Workforce Development Reference Group
- Provincial-Municipal Research Network

Local DAC links to service managers:

1. DACs as resource for service managers:
 - Research skills, big picture thinking
 - Community human service planning
2. CMSMs/DSSABs as resource for DACs:
 - Raw data, primary sources

Provincial DAC links through OMSSA

1. Broader research opportunities
 - Collaborative research projects
 - Provincial Municipal Research Network
2. OMSSA can access to local information
3. DACs can access comparative information

Presentations at annual conferences

1. Spring Leadership Seminar (March/April)—
thematic, policy-oriented
2. Learning Symposium (June)—annual general
meeting
3. Social housing and homelessness (September)
4. Fall Training Seminar (December)—front-
line/manager

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