



# updates

## Key Issues & Findings To Date

Presentation to Child Care Sector September 19, 2007

ISSUE	FINDINGS TO DATE	OUTCOME
<p>Transient and seasonal employment focus in Niagara</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High turnover in employment resulting in Income Tax information not reflective of client's current financial reality</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adapt subsidy eligibility determination to reflect current financial reality (for clients with 20% or greater decrease in annual income). <u>A modified Needs Test is required in these cases.</u></li> <li>• Contrary to intended outcome no decrease in Subsidy Caseworker workload to date</li> </ul>
<p>Inequity between Ontario Works legislation and the <u>Day Nurseries Act</u> (Income Testing)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OW participants not charged parental contributions as long as remain on OW</li> <li>• With changes to OW legislation a single or two parent family can retain earnings &gt; \$20,000, remain on OW and charged zero parental contribution</li> <li>• Low income parents are charged a parental contribution with income &gt; \$20,000</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low income families (between \$20,000 and \$40,000) have expressed their inability to pay parental contribution</li> <li>• May have to resort to Ontario Works</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Income cut off level of \$20,000 is too low</li> <li>• Need to lobby Province to increase cut off level to a minimum of \$40,000</li> <li>• Regional staff preparing report to inform Committee and Council</li> <li>• During the transition phase, working on a strategy to support low income families parental contribution</li> </ul>
<p>Parental contribution</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of experience to date as existing clients provided 2 month grace period prior to implementation of increased fees</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Service providers will be required to collect increased levels of parental contributions</li> </ul>
<p>Inequity in the Best Start strategy with primary focus on children under six</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents are seeking service delivery options for children over six to deal with inequity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents are buying components of school age programming and enlisting family to care for children for remaining portion of the day</li> <li>• Parents accessing fee subsidy system during peak periods (i.e., summer care, March break, Christmas holidays) when full day care required. Fee Subsidy Caseworkers will experience increased work loads during these periods</li> </ul>

# Key issues & findings to date

Presentation to Child Care Sector September 19, 2007 (continued from page 1)

ISSUE	FINDINGS TO DATE	OUTCOME
<p>Previous Needs Testing system focused on eligibility for neediest client group</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Income Testing system is proving to be more inclusive of a broader range of incomes eligible for a partial subsidy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need to shift marketing strategies to include the middle income earner and maintain existing strategies (Vacancy Management System)</li> <li>Service providers may see a reduction in what was previously known as a “full fee” client</li> </ul>
<p>Best Start strategy has empowered parents to become more active partners in their child care placements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parents paying increased contributions and seeing themselves as equal partners in placement decision making process; questioning program quality, availability of flexible options, and supports available particularly for children with special needs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Child Care subsidy system is changing</li> <li>Requires child care system and service providers to increasingly pay attention program quality, flexibility in range of services, hours of operation and supports for children with special needs</li> </ul>