

November 12, 2014

Ms. Seonag Macrae, CEO
Community Living BC
700 – 1200 West 73rd
Vancouver, BC V6P 6G5

Dear Seonag:

Re: Follow-up to Our Meeting on November 5, 2014

Thank you very much for meeting with representatives of FamilyNet to discuss issues of mutual concern regarding the services and supports for individuals served by Community Living BC.

We very much appreciate your willingness to hear our concerns, discuss issues raised by CLBC staff and your possible priorities for the agency.

The issues and concerns that we raised at the meeting on behalf of our members and other parents and family members of people with developmental disabilities are:

- 1. The very long and often arduous process that many parents and siblings must go through to obtain the appropriate supports for their family member, including**
 - the dysfunction between Facilitators and Analysts
 - the perceived focus on protecting the system rather than supporting individuals
 - the withholding of information to parents/siblings that would help them navigate the system
 - a funding criteria that is not responsive to changing needs, especially for those experiencing dementia
 - the lack of pro-active planning.
- 2. Downloading of responsibilities to aging parents**
 - Parents and siblings have always provided much support to their sons and daughters; since the inception of CLBC, services seem to be expecting more and more from family members
 - Functions previously done by support workers in day programs and semi-independent living are now expected to be done by family members, many of whom are older parents
 - Coordination of services and monitoring that was once done by program staff or Social Workers is now expected of parents and siblings.
 - Parents/siblings already do such things as purchase clothing, manage medical and dental appointments, provide holidays, activities and entertainment, and increasingly are required to create residential options that are not offered or funded by CLBC.

3. Lack of Monitoring and Oversight

- The role of monitoring and support by Social Workers – a key safeguard for vulnerable people – was eliminated with the creation of CLBC
- We believe this was a very bad decision and should be reversed
- Licensing and accreditation cannot provide the kind of safeguards necessary
- It is inappropriate to download this critical safeguard entirely to parents and siblings.

4. The need for a range of appropriate residential options and flexibility for change as people's needs change

- Group homes and home share are not appropriate for everyone
- Moreover, it is critical that pro-active, meaningful planning and preparation take place before individuals are moved to any residential placement
- Increasingly, some parents are taking charge of creating residential supports because those available through CLBC are seen to be inappropriate or lack the funding needed to make it work; sadly, many parents are not able to do this and have great fears for the future.

5. The lack of trust built up over the past ten years

- The creation of CLBC was not supported by a groundswell of advocates and families in the community, and the ensuing significant changes made after its creation, plus several critical changes in processes, services and supports have led to a lack of trust in CLBC on the part of many.

We appreciate very much the frank discussion of these issues, and your commitment to steering CLBC in a direction that works both for the people served and the many dedicated staff of CLBC. We believe that the Strategy on Aging is a very good start at identifying the challenges and possible solutions for individuals as they age.

FamilyNet is committed to seeking solutions and is willing to assist in moving forward. We recognize that there is a huge challenge ahead for CLBC, and know that while all issues will not be resolved in the immediate future, we hope that you will seriously consider our suggestion of creating an effective mechanism for addressing and resolving the issues - one that includes all the stakeholders in a meaningful partnership.

Sincerely,

Anita Dadson, President
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