

Stories and Letters outlining concerns and impact of funding and service cuts:

Received June 27, 2005:

In response to [June 25 letter to BC FamilyNet from social worker](#)

Our Son moved to a home 3 yrs ago for the 1st time. After residing there for a year his care giver moved out of province, we had given them his bank card only to find that it was cleaned out. The Ministry would not do anything as it would be too costly to sue and would be too hard to prove as many of the tapes at the bank machine were erased. The place was billed as nonsmoking but our son on visits to home smelled like a cigarette. He fell down a flight of stairs and bruised his face which I took a photo of. He fell in the bath tub unattended breaking two ribs. The next home he went to was fine and after just getting settled in the owner moved away due to health reasons. The third place he went to the care givers did not want to look after him as he is high maintenance and requested to the Ministry that he be moved so I brought him home. That was on March 15th to date we are still waiting for approval so he may go to another home. In the meantime the Government is saving money and Mom and Dad are doing what ever we can. We are seniors and have looked after our son for 48 years. The social workers have been very good but their hands are tied. When we go to the new system things will be in the Governments favour, no checks just over the phone and NO RESPONSIBILITY. I judge a society by the way it treats its handicapped, those that cannot speak for themselves. All we have worked and strived for all these years is being taken away bit by bit. I rest my case.

parent from Salmon Arm

Received June 27, 2005:

In response to [June 25 letter to BC FamilyNet from social worker](#)

My son is 7 years old - he has a "moderate to severe intellectual disability" and after reading that message, I feel completely overwhelmed, terribly sad for those who are abused, scared as hell, and worst of all - it just makes me feel helpless - helpless to the fact that my worst nightmares could actually come true.

Received June 25, 2005:

In response to [BC FamilyNet June 18 message "CLBC - FamilyNet Urges Premier to Respond to Concerns"](#)

I am a social worker in (MCFD) Community Living Services and recently took part in a question and answer period with a CLBC representative. With each session I learn a little bit more about the new service model but on Wednesday it really hit me. I think the people of CLBC believe that Accreditation will prevent the abuse of individuals with developmental disabilities. How? Are these people crazy? If it works great but I just can't see it. I also get the impression that CLBC believes that individuals safety will be maintained just by monitoring resources over the phone. Well tell that to the individuals of a local group home whose manager was protecting an abusive employee at their expense. No one knew until a red flag went up in my head after 2.5 years of face-to-face contact. Or what about the individual who was with a caregiver who had been ignoring the individuals seizures for many years and did not tell anyone because this caregiver believed the seizures were merely attention seeking behaviour? Eventually the social worker discovered this but what if this was a closed plan? In other words, a facilitator writes up the individual's plan according to CLBC requirements and asks the caregiver if they want ongoing involvement and they say no. Without ongoing involvement this individual is at risk of abuse I don't care what anyone says. There needs to be another set of eyes on the situation, the community cannot be trusted not to abuse individuals with developmental disabilities for even parents of individuals take advantage of them. Let's look at the role of the Operations Analyst one to two hours away in this case. Will they be able to determine over the phone if individuals are being abused even with outcomes measurement? CLBC says people can do things for themselves therefore we need to reduce direct contact with individuals in order to encourage self-sufficiency. You know what this tells me? That CLBC doesn't know the population at all. Sure there are individuals who are independent but I bet there are many more who are

not. In sum, I believe CLBC is too focused on creating a "business model" at the expense of the health and safety of individuals with developmental disabilities and you know this scares me.

Peter Siu
Received April 3, 2005

Age a Barrier to Services for Children with Special Needs who are older than 6

I am a parent of a 12-year-old child with special needs diagnosed later in life who desperately needs to see one of these professionals (Psychologist or Psychiatrist) on a weekly basis for emotional and behavioural issues. I believe once these issues are addressed, all other difficulties will be easier to deal with. I have been trying for well over a year since the diagnosis to access this. I am limited to a monthly counsellor who has no training in Special Needs. Even my family physician was misdirected in an effort to refer the child for a psychologist/psychiatrist. The child was being signed up for another assessment for a diagnosis. Is CLBC really communicating with physicians by letting them know where to refer their patients for the many different needs that may need to be accessed? We have been referred to Mental Health. I called my doctor's office and I am still waiting.

Meanwhile my child's emotional issues are becoming more and more violent behaviourally. By that I mean the child is hitting, biting, kicking, calls names, is extremely aggressive, hides, runs away, won't talk, etc. There are many safety issues here along with the fact that the child is 12 going on 13 which means high school in Sept 2005. When issues such as these are not addressed with this child the future certainly looks bleak.

Whatever age a child is diagnosed the funding and services must be available immediately and wholly not partially just because of age. The child's age discriminates against them. Services are geared for when the diagnosis is early in life.

As a parent who has been trying to get a diagnosis for many years and get one only to be set back because of age is frustrating, overwhelming, annoying, tiring, etc. How long must a parent fight? When will the older children's needs be heard and addressed in a timely fashion as a child 6 and under? And funded to the degree of the child's needs not age? To have age as a barrier to services is detrimental to the child. Their lives are in limbo. Funding and services must be addressed for young people who are diagnosed later in life.

C.M.

Received March 31, 2005

Re: Input Requested for Proposed Regulations for the Community Living Authority Act

Many autistic individuals who have above 70 or 100 IQ still lack the ability to communicate, to socialize, to control their moods, to make plans for themselves, to speak out for their rights, to find any employment, etc. As it stands now, there are nothing in place to prepare this group of children for their adulthood. When these individuals turn adults, there are absolutely no services for them at all. How low can we go to abandon this group of citizens?

Received March 30, 2005

Re: Input Requested for Proposed Regulations for the Community Living Authority Act

Thank you for all of your work. I am very skeptical that the act will benefit individuals with development disabilities.

I have seen so many not get required services and long unacceptable waitlists. To me this is about reducing expenditures and shifting the governments responsibility.

Again thank you for your work on all of our behalfts.

Kelly Megyesi
Vernon, BC

Received March 30, 2005

We are a family living in Tofino with a daughter with disabilities that just turned 19. We presently get no services even though she has a low IQ of 47. We had a retail business for 15 years which we now lost in order to take care of our daughter as we couldn't renew another lease without any help in place for her. We presently have no income. For her safety she cannot be left alone.

We have been denied our proposal and were offered less in return than what the Ministry originally offered us. We cannot implement a dayprogram out here with a 'babysitter', and the professionals that are living out here will not work at \$16/hr. Even at this rate the Ministry offered us only 30 hours per week for 180 days per year. All is more complicated as we would also have to alter our workschedule to that of a worker and still would only give us support for 1/2 the year, but at what job can we be only employed for 1/2 the year??

Our family is doomed to poverty without any help.
