

November 5th, 2011 Conference review

The Family Support Network 's **Families Supporting Families- "Planning for the Future"** Conference was held on Saturday, November 5th, 2011. This was the first conference our support network initiated in York region. About 80 people attended the conference. The conference was opened by Sal Amenta, co-chair of FSN and Andrew Walker (DSO), Surjit Sachdev, a parent who gave an overview of the purpose and **plan** for the conference. Speakers in the morning were Gillian Churnet- discussing ***Circles of Support**, followed by MCSS, Central East branch representative, Kelly Forester giving an update on the ***Transformation** and changes in the developmental service sector, the formation of DSO (Developmental Services Ontario) taking up the task of serving new applicants through the Application Entity. Katherine Pickard and Norma McClinton spoke on behalf of DSO as assessors/Navigators and explained the process for the assessment of new applicants to the developmental services through the new application process (www.dsontario.ca). Afternoon section had two parallel sessions; One on housing alternatives and the other on Dealing with Financial Issues, estate planning and Henson Trust. Bonnie Heath from Scarborough Residential Alternatives and Debbie Lewis from the new pilot project- ***Try Another Way**, matching individuals for sharing their own home.

All the info, references from the conference can be found below.

Our survey of the conference shows the financial info receiving the best result as well as the housing.

We appreciate the comments re your desire to attend both talks. Unfortunately there are so many important topics that families need information about that one day conference cannot cover all.

The feedback receiving the highest marks from the second survey re what info the registrants need for their child, showed residential alternative with highest score, followed by day support and social activities, volunteer and employment and circles of support.

FSN will inform you in 2012 re further information and activities on these topics.

We thank our sponsor agencies for their support in organizing this conference.

sponsoring agencies: York Support Services Network, Developmental Services Ontario (DSO), Community Living, Newmarket/Aurora District, Community Living, York South & Community Living Georgina.

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