

Moving Beyond Business As Usual

Dufferin County Moves

Petra Wolfbeiss

Acting Executive Director

Ontario Municipal Social Services Association

April 7, 2016



Who is OMSSA



- Provincial association representing the 47 Consolidated Municipal Service Managers (CMSMs) and District Social Services Administration Boards (DSSABs).
- We support municipalities in their role of providing services to over 2 million Ontarians-an annual expenditure of over \$50 billion
- OMSSA members are responsible for funding, planning, managing and delivering social and affordable housing and homelessness prevention programs, social assistance and employment programs and early years and child care programs to Ontarians in every corner of the province.



Who is OMSSA continued



- Represent staff of municipal governments who are accountable to local councils/elected officials, who in turn are accountable to local tax payers.
- Key and emerging role of OMSSA members as service system managers in their communities:
 - Tool to connecting need and resources
 - Linking people to the resources and services in their communities in a more streamlined, responsive and coordinated way
 - Accountable



How we do our work

- **Advocacy** - the collective voice for local human services system managers – focus on sustainability and effectiveness.
 - Partner in policy development and influence
- **Education** - practical and relevant educational and professional development.
 - Conferences and Forums
 - Workshops and customized training
 - Human Services Leadership Program
- **Information Sharing and Networking**
 - a clearing house for information and analysis
 - a community of practice and support



- Municipalities are “creatures of the province”- meaning specific obligations and requirements under law in the delivery and funding of services in communities.
- The municipal property tax base cannot cover costs of growing need in communities and the provincial deficit and priorities are significant.
- The current system of funding and delivering programs is not sustainable and is challenging in meeting growing need.



Changing provincial landscape

- Economic context
- Policy context:
 - Long Term Affordable Housing Strategy
 - Poverty Reduction Strategy
 - Community Hubs Strategy
 - Social Assistance and employment program reform
 - Benefits transformation and planning accountability
 - Local Health Integration Networks



Business as usual?

- Emerging themes:
 - Social justice focus
 - Need is big
 - Traditional approach won't cut it
 - A good news piece
- What's next/what do we need to be thinking about?



The world of not-for profits

- Canada's nonprofit sector is the 2nd largest in the world.
- 170,000 nonprofits and charities in Canada (25% in Ontario).
- Employs 2 million people (1m in Ontario).
- The top 1% of organizations command 60% of all revenues
- Increasing professionalization of sector.
- Government funders doing risk analysis in funding decisions.



What's next?

- Business as usual is not going to cut it.
- Increasing conversation (UK etc.) of “public good”- what are investments of taxpayer dollars in charities and nonprofits doing for the public good (commissioning, market stewardship).
- All orders of government looking for new and better ways of doing things and new partners.



Opportunity

- Remember why we are all in the line of work we are in-improving lives.
- Streamline efforts, services and resources-stop exhausting people needing help.
- Align mandates and efforts-stop exhausting ourselves.
- Finite resources.
- Save time, incubate innovation, sustainability services communities.
- Improve lives, increase well-being.



Thank you

Questions?

