



OKP announces new partnership

By Kate Adams
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One Kids Place
News Release

In response to the requests from parents, One Kids Place (OKP) is pleased to announce an exciting new partnership that will help create a more seamless system of pre-school and school-based paediatric rehabilitation services in Nipissing and Parry Sound.

Working with the North East Local Health Integration Network (NELHIN), OKP and the NE CCAC have entered into an agreement to deliver the School Health Support Services program that will build on the existing strengths of both organizations to create a system that is more responsive to the needs of children/youth and families throughout the region.

Highlights of the partnership include:

- Creating a single service delivery system that will help close the service gap that currently exists between pre-school and school aged children;
- Therapy staff of the NE CCAC will be seconded and integrated into the OKP organization and will be moving to the new facility together with their OKP colleagues;
- Protected budget and guaranteed staffing for OKP to deliver the school health support services program;
- Collocation of the NE CCAC Case Management service at the new OKP facility.

“The partnership through OKP and NE CCAC finalizes a critical piece to the puzzle in creating the hub and one stop access centre that parents have envisioned for our Children’s Treatment Centre,” Tania Dubeau, Chair of The Group of Active Parents stated. “I am truly thrilled about this news. The voice and recommendations of families was heard and action was taken.”

“We have listened to the many families who have been asking for this change,” Judy Sharpe, Executive Director of One Kids Place said. “OKP values the many partnerships that have been created to ensure that our families have access to the highest level of paediatric healthcare

capacity in our regions history.”

“The North East LHIN is pleased to have facilitated this much needed integration of services,” said Mathilde Gravelle Bazinet, Chair of the North East LHIN Board of Directors.” The strength of our local health care system is, in large part, based on how seamless the services are for the people, children and families using them.”

The agreement, which took effect April 1, 2009 will continue until June 2010 at which time the provincial tri-ministerial review of the School Health Support Services program is anticipated to be complete with direction provided to the province on the program delivery model.

One Kids Place is a Children’s Treatment Centre that provides rehabilitation services to children and youth from birth to 19 years of age with communication, developmental or physical disabilities/delays living in the districts of Muskoka, Nipissing and Parry Sound.

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