



Integration

OACRS Vision

- That ALL children and youth will have the best opportunity to reach their potential

OACRS Goals

To ensure that children with special needs reach their full potential, we are creating a strong, stable system of supports, that is:

- Child and family-centred;
- Working in interprofessional teams to ensure best outcomes for children and youth;
- Fully integrated with partners so that any door is the 'right' door to access service;
- Effective and efficient in order to serve more children and youth;
- Forward thinking and innovative clinically and organizationally.

Current Opportunity

Ontario funds an exceptional paediatric rehabilitation system; however, certain barriers exist:

- Unlike other children's services, paediatric rehabilitation policies, programmes and funding can originate from multiple Ministries;
- Each Ministry and programme have different reporting requirements;
- Unpredictable funding mechanisms, without indexed growth, create planning difficulties;
- Service providers may resist integration due to competition for funding;
- Lack of clear processes on transitioning children and youth between service providers.

Solution

Ontario's system of specialized rehabilitation supports could be improved by:

1. Centralizing funding for children's rehabilitation into the Ministry of Children and Youth Services, thus removing many of the barriers stated above.
2. Dollars saved through the streamlining of funding, reporting and administrative structures, would be freed to flow into direct services to children and youth.
3. Implementing a stable, multi-year funding system with annual increases to allow the sector to undergo long-term budgeting and planning;
4. Continuing to advance outcome measurement to promote value for money.

Results

- More children and youth served;
- Children accessing early and timely interventions to provide best outcomes, including participating actively in society and the workplace as adults.¹
- A leaner, more efficient sector, with fewer negative incentives to integration²
- Streamlining services, removing reporting burdens and ensuring that the 'right' provider is serving the 'right' clients.³

For further information:

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¹ Commission on the Reform of Ontario's Public Services, recommendation 8-8, 8-14

² Commission on the Reform of Ontario's Public Services, recommendation 8-13

³ Commission on the Reform of Ontario's Public Services, recommendations 3-10, 3-12 and 8-15