



**Highlights of OARTY's recommendations
to the Ministry of Children and Youth Services
on the Residential Care Review**

December 2005

The following comment has been provided in response to the Ministry's request for input into the future policy for government regarding residential care and to determine the service direction the ministry will take, in four areas:

- Core Business Relevance
- Program Effectiveness
- Efficiency
- Sustainability

It is recommended that the current two systems (transfer payment and per-diem) be pulled together, providing more service to a greater number of children at the same time delivering the service more cost effectively. It is also imperative that the system be one which determines results through measuring outcomes of the children in care.

1. Ontario should have one residential care system and it should be a per-diem system. Providing "fee for service" will achieve maximum financial commitment. It should also include a fixed cost "core service" fee which ensures the continuity of an effective and sustainable program.

2. New funding relationship model – which separates assessment, treatment, funding and accountability. Resources to be funded directly via MCYS and/or a third party agency e.g. community network services, enabling direct financial accountability of resources throughout the province. An example outlining this direct funding model could include:

- Case Management Agency holds the case
- Residential Care and Treatment provider holds the care
- Third party agency monitors resources, standards, accountability and outcomes of all cases

3. All agencies in the province should provide service and be funded based on “Levels of Care” with each element/type of care funded on a “cost per unit” model, consistently across the province, based on:

- (i) Population or client type served
- (ii) Level of risk/need
- (iii) Direct services/therapies required
- (iv) Level of staffing required
- (v) Geography

4. Ensure the Ministry has the accountability for control of service cost and actual accountable expenditures based on the need of the children, with community agencies responsible for ensuring quality of care. Implementing a province wide information system would provide an overview of current capacity, program availability and repatriation for children in need of care.

5. License new homes based on community needs, enabling the Ministry to meet “repatriation” goals and using a “proof of need” criteria including:

- Related background
- Education
- A business plan which addresses financial sustainability
- Having the appropriate capacity within a particular region
- Demonstrated expertise in a specialized program which is required across the province

6. Implement an “Accreditation Model” over the next number of years, based on the various levels of care that are provided across the province.