



TOWNSHIP OF ZORRA

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October 21, 2016

Honourable Michael Coteau, Minister of Children and Youth Services
Ministry of Children and Youth Services / Anti-Racism Directorate
14th Floor
56 Wellesley Street West
Toronto, ON M5S 2S3

Dear Minister Coteau:

Re: Autism Spectrum Disorder

Please be advised the Council of the Township of Zorra passed the following resolution at its October 18, 2016, regular meeting:

“WHEREAS, Autism Spectrum Disorder is now recognized as the most common neurological disorder affecting 1 in every 94 children, as well as their friends, family and community;

AND WHEREAS, Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) is the scientific process based on objective evaluation and empirically based interventions used to achieve meaningful, generalizable and enduring behavioural change. Intensive Behavioural Intervention (IBI) is an application of the principles of ABA in an intensive setting used to affect behaviour change and improvement;

AND WHEREAS, the current waiting list of children for Intensive Behaviour Intervention (IBI) is over 2,000 and more than 13,000 children await Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA);

AND WHEREAS, the Province of Ontario has announced it intends to discontinue IBI services to children over the age of four and provide a one-time payment to assist with services, thereby abandoning thousands who have been wait-listed for years;

AND WHEREAS, there are two service models for affected children to be treated, 1) the Direct Service Offering (DSO) where children receive services directly from trained staff at Ontario's nine regional service providers, and 2) the Direct Funding Offering (DFO) where parents receive funding directly in order to purchase services;

AND WHEREAS, the DFO model to provide services is used in Alberta, British Columbia and imminently Saskatchewan. Such a model is clinically

rigorous and has been identified by the Auditor General of Ontario as being less expensive than Ontario's DSO model;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that a letter be sent to Hon. Tracy MacCharles, Minister of Children and Youth Services; Alexander Bezzina, Deputy Minister; Hon. Eric Hoskins, Minister of Health; and Hon. Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario, requesting the Province to:

- 1. Amend its policy to one that will allow all children on the current waiting list to receive the IBI services promised them; and**
- 2. Remove the age limit for IBI therapy and replace it with a program that provides ongoing IBI services based on need and individual development, not age; and**
- 3. Ensure oversight by professionals and parents based on 'development progress' criteria and milestones; and**
- 4. Adopt a Direct Funding Offering (DFO) model in lieu of the current Direct Service Offering (DSO) model;**

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to all municipalities within the Province of Ontario."

Disposition: Carried

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Donald W. MacLeod', written in a cursive style.

Donald W. MacLeod
Chief Administrative Officer

cc: The Honourable Nancy Matthews, Deputy Minister
The Honourable Eric Hoskins, Minister of Health
The Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario
All Ontario Municipalities (by email)