

## **New Path Youth and Family Services Annual Report 2009/10**

**Leading and Inspiring Change: For children and youth, for families and adults, within our communities, within the service system, in collaboration with partners.**

This again has been a very active year with a number of significant activities for New Path Youth and Family Services. The final stage of the development of an ongoing strategic and business planning process has been completed with beginning work on the operational plan. In Program Activities, New Path is pursuing a service design that ensures effectiveness through evidenced based programs, all framed in the eight values and principles developed in the previous year. In Organizational Capacity, New Path has developed a set of Core Competencies that will guide staff recruitment and training to ensure an effective, competency based work force well into the future. In Financial Growth, New Path is positioned to enhance social enterprise activities and initiate new and innovative approaches to ensure sustainability. A three year business plan process that includes annual plans will be developed, implemented and monitored to ensure alignment with the strategic priorities. This approach will provide a more disciplined, business approach to our work.

New Path serves all of Simcoe County through nine locations including Bradford, Cookstown, Alliston, Orillia, Collingwood, Midland, and three locations in Barrie. Many of our offices are co-located with other child and youth serving organizations. The Intake department experienced again this year an increasingly high volume of inquiries and referrals. They ensure that all clients are offered consultation sessions as required and requested, while waiting for an opening in their identified program.

New Path participates in a number of assessment processes, in addition to goal rating, and client feedback through Quality Assurance. This is to help determine both appropriate acceptance into service, as well as to determine functional improvement while participating in service. Once again, all services and programs show significant improvements for clients and their families. New Path is also part of the provincial inter-agency Community of Practice focusing on one particular evaluation tool, the use of CAFAS.

The majority of New Path programs have remained consistent this past year from previous years. This year was the second year of the realigned Day Treatment Services into the Intensive School Support Services. The realignment has proved successful and now allows for greater flexibility to meet the needs of students within the context of their home school rather than the student needing to experience transitions to and from their home school. Due to funding limitations the Community Capacity Building initiative of the Ministry of Children and Youth Services was scaled back slightly. New Path has completed the Student Leadership Support Initiative three year project, representing Provincial Cluster 4 which includes Peterborough, the City of Kawartha Lakes, Northumberland County, the District of Muskoka, and Simcoe County. This initiative is to assess and facilitate more formalized linkages between school boards and community

agencies to improve community based service access for students with mental health problems. This program is very much in line with the Community Partners with Schools (COMPASS) services developed four years ago and now running County wide. The Student Support Leadership initiative has just received confirmation that it will continue for another three years and will now include Health Sector services.

New Path continues to support and participate fully in the Simcoe County Coalition of Children Youth and Family Services. The Coalition is charged with the coordinated planning for child and youth services and currently has a membership of approximately thirty-five agencies. New Path was a Founding member ten years ago and currently has staff representation on many of its committees and task groups. New Path also continues its strong relationship with Children's Mental Health Ontario and actively participates at the board level as well as the clinical and accreditation levels.

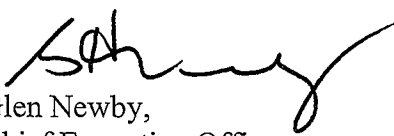
We would also like to acknowledge all of our funders including the Ministry of Children and Youth Services which includes Youth Justice, the Ministry of the Attorney General, New Path Foundation, and the many individuals and corporations who have donated their time and money. We are especially pleased that the Central East Region of MCYS has shown leadership in implementing and supporting a number of corporate initiatives including the Residential Review Committee, and a new Regional Table for children's mental health that includes our colleagues from Child Welfare from time to time.

Youth Engagement at New Path is now considered part of our ongoing work. We have an active group of youth and adult allies that are actively involved in a broad range of activities, including advocacy. We are most appreciative of the Centre of Excellence for Child and Youth Mental Health, and the New Mentality project of Children's Mental Health Ontario for their support to our youth engagement initiative.

The Board of Directors at New Path serve as volunteers, to over see the agency's governance. They have committed enormous amounts of time this past year in order to ensure that governance standards remain at the very highest level possible. We are very pleased to have welcomed many new board members this past year thanks to a successful board recruitment strategy. We would also like to recognize all the staff. They have endured significant demands and have ensured that client needs always come first. This past year was particularly difficult due to a flat budget along with increased labour costs, and resulted in the loss of our Volunteer Coordinator and some other reductions. Our gratitude is extended especially to all management staff who each took days off without pay to make sure that New Path did not cut direct services to clients.

Finally, and most importantly, we would like to acknowledge and thank the many children and youth, and their families in our Children's Services, as well as those in our Adult Services, for allowing us into their lives during very difficult and stressful times.

*Gail Doherty*  
Gail Doherty, Chair  
Board of Directors

  
Glen Newby,  
Chief Executive Officer