

SSAH ; First Choice News

SSAH Provincial Coalition representing 19,000 SSAH users since 1990

Notes of Interest:

Here's an excerpt from a book we found that may help you run your SSAH contract. This is a small sampling from "A Guide: related to support workers and your individuals with exceptionalities" by Janice I. Adams, copyright 2001



BRIEF FACTS

Hiring a support worker

1. Where do you find good support workers?

❑ *Good people know good people (current support workers, friends, service workers, you know within agencies...)*

❑ *Put up ads in colleges, day cares, specific university departments, with the guidance department of high schools, within the Human Resources Department of hospitals, the newspaper, and other agencies that may also provide service to individuals with similar needs.*

Prior to putting in an ad or making inquiries you want to decide whether you wish to have the applicants reply directly to you by mail, or phone, or to a post office box that you rent. Be sure to use language in your ads that reflects your philosophy of childcare -i.e. 'community facilitator' vs. aide for handicapped person

2. What should you do BEFORE you actually interview someone?

❑ *Choose a time, and place that allows for a quiet, uninterrupted session you may wish to seek a spot in a local agency if you wish a more formal atmosphere.*

❑ *Decide whether you wish your son or daughter involved at this stage or later. (this will depend upon his/her needs and age)*

To order this book call Family Support & Resource Network Chatham- Kent

(519) 352-7827

Cost \$20.00 each plus \$3.00 shipping. For larger orders , please call FS&RNC-K for rates.

Contact us with your personal stories.
Email your stories to: ssah_stories@yahoo.ca
(There is an underscore between the words ssah and stories).



Happy Birthday
SSAH
21 years old
2003

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S.S.A.H. was created in 1982 and is 21 years old . It is the best model for individualized funding available to families across Ontario.

Between April 1, 2002 and March 31, 2003 SSAH had a budget of \$66 million dollars to distribute through region offices to serve over 19,000 families and individuals. In 2001/2002 the amount of funding committed to families through this program was approximately 20 million dollars less than requested.

The SSAH Provincial Coalition was formed in 1990 by a dedicated group of individuals, families and agencies who joined together for strength and support because of growing concerns regarding SSAH. The Coalition is dedicated to ensuring that families in Ontario receive the meaningful support they require through the Special Services at Home Program.



The Coalition believes

- ★ It is essential for families that SSAH be a program of **First Choice**
- ★ SSAH is a vital support which helps people and families to live meaningful lives in the community
- ★ SSAH can change and evolve to respond to all family needs
- ★ Families have much to contribute about how SSAH could evolve.
- ★ **Increasing the SSAH budget by at least \$ 25 million would help to meet the current needs of families in Ontario**

The SSAH Provincial Coalition has been successful in our efforts to gain the latest SSAH information from the Ministry of Community, Family and Children's Services (MCFCS).

Interesting facts for the period April 1, 2001 to March 31, 2002:

- 18,500 families used SSAH during this period. 5,200 adults and 13,300 children had access to this essential source of individualized support.
- The average annual allotment was \$3300.
- As of March 31, 2001 there was \$2.3 million budgeted for but not spent on SSAH which MCFCS says went to other funding pressures.

The Latest Information:

- As of Feb 2003 we have been told there are approximately 1,032 people waiting for SSAH funding.
- We continue to ask why \$2.3 million went to other funding pressures when over 1032 people wait for support.

The SSAH Coalition needs your voice and support to be added to those advocating for this vital individualized funding program. We need more organizations and families to become members; please consider helping us to rally for increased funding and improvements to SSAH, a program we value highly.

You can show your support and become a member of the SSAH Provincial Coalition. **Please Join Today.** Families please send \$5.00 ; Organizations rate \$250.00 - \$500.00 . Make the cheque payable to **BDACI** .

Send to SSAH P C. with your name, address, phone number, e-mail address and the MCFCS regional office in your area.

**WATCH FOR THE
INDIVIDUALIZED
FUNDING
SYMPOSIUM
COMING UP**

**May 2003 First Choice News
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