



Media Release

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For immediate release

Our Kids Network Measures Up

Success of Pilot Initiative Means Long-range Support for Halton Children and Youth

Burlington Ontario – A report detailing the extensive evaluation of a six-year pilot initiative to better align and plan services and other supports for children, youth and their families has concluded that they are better off, but much more work needs to be done.

The Our Kids Network (OKN) is a dedicated team of organizations and agencies serving children and youth. It launched the pilot partnership initiative in 2004 to better plan and align support for young people and their families and has made a commitment to sustain the work.

“Over the past six years, OKN has achieved a great amount of success. We now more fully understand the importance of moving our focus from the individual level to a service system level,” said Elena DiBattista, director of Our Kids Network. “The passion to keep improving and further advancing the mission remains strong.”

The Power of Partnership

OKN integrates and aligns services through partnership and commitment. The relationships that have been built through OKN in the past six years have allowed for rapid response and easier implementation of provincial initiatives that are brought to communities. For example, full-day kindergarten was more easily implemented in Halton due to the existing relationships and partnerships within OKN.

OKN Neighbourhood Hubs

Families have better access to the services and supports they need at the neighbourhood level.

A Hub participant said, “Through a referral by the coordinator, I have had my complete oral health care restored. She referred me to the dental section of the Health Department who referred both me and my two-year old son to a dentist. I was eligible to receive funding to cover the costs of the dental work. My son also received a check-up. Then I was referred to Burlington College of Dental Health for a \$35 all inclusive cleaning. I am very thankful for this.”

How Did We Do? – Our Kids Network, 2004 to 2010 Report is available online at www.ourkidsnetwork.ca

Our Kids Network is a Halton-wide partnership of organizations and agencies serving children and youth. Guided by research, the network provides leadership and the platform for planning, integrating and aligning services and supports so all children can thrive.

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