

October 2021

Durham Family Resources

FAMILY focus



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So that ALL people enjoy a full and meaningful life within the community.

Fall Into Learning With These Excellent Courses!

Addressing Social Devaluation in the Lives of Disabled People: An SRV Perspective
Presented by members of the Southern Ontario Training Group (SOTG), sponsored by Durham Family Resources

Covid-19 has impacted various groups of people in very different ways. For some it has been mostly an inconvenience. For others, such as those living in group homes, long-term care facilities, shelters, and other segregated programs, it has been nothing short of catastrophic: illness, death, isolation, address, and poor care are just some of the hardships that socially devalued people such as the poor, the homeless, and the elderly have endured during the pandemic. The lives of many people with intellectual disabilities have also been impacted very negatively by the pandemic; however, some people have been kept safe from illness and death, and have been protected at least to some degree from loneliness and isolation. These are frequently people who were enabled and supported by their families or others, to fill valued social roles in their neighbourhoods, their communities and in their families, roles such as son, daughter, aunt, uncle, sister, brother, friend, employee, volunteer, club member, tenant, homeowner, neighbour, church member and so on. Valued social roles can provide opportunity, security, protection, respect, plus more, and consequently, people who fill valued social roles were more likely to be protected and less harmed by the Covid-19 pandemic. This is true in non-covid times as well. In this workshop, social devaluation is presented as the main problem in the lives of many people. Participants are introduced to the power of social roles as a means to address the social devaluation in people's lives.

Who should attend
Family members, disabled people, friends, advocates, service providers, teachers, policymakers, anyone who is troubled by the way things are for themselves or someone they care about, and those who are curious about SRV or want a brief refresher.

Format
Lectures (with extensive use of slides), and discussion. Given the interest/need of the four sessions and the small number of people we can accommodate, we ask that people only register if they will be able to attend all four sessions.

Workshop Purpose and Content
This four-session series, is designed to give participants a brief introduction to a theoretical perspective, Social Role Valorization (SRV). SRV is a powerful theory about the relationship between the way people are perceived by others and the way they are treated in society. SRV has much to say about devaluation and how to address it. The workshop explores the universality of devaluation, the disadvantage experienced by those who are devalued, the process by which devaluation occurs, and how devaluation might be addressed. The concepts that are discussed are relevant to all those who are devalued, regardless of the circumstances that have led to that devaluation. Participants should note that within the short time available to us, we cannot provide the kind of comprehensive overview of SRV that one receives in the full four-day SRV workshops that the SOTG offers. However, we are confident that you will find the content of this workshop thought-provoking and useful.

Online via Zoom
October 18: 6:30 - 8pm
October 25: 6:30 - 8:30 pm
November 1: 6:30 - 8:30 pm
November 8: 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Register here for your Zoom Link!

As Fall settles in, and a change of season looms, the inner student and the joy of learning is stirred in all of us here at Durham Family Resources! We have two excellent workshops coming up which are pleased to be able to offer interested families!

Addressing Social Devaluation in the Lives of Devalued People: An SRV Perspective, is a newly virtual-adapted series which we have always affectionately called "intro to SRV". This 4 session course will provide participants with an introduction to Social Role Valorization, which is the theoretical framework and the perspective which guides our work here at DFR.

SRV is a powerful theory about the relationship between the way people are perceived by others and the way they are treated in society. Throughout the workshop, participants will learn about how this devaluation impacts peoples' lives and how to address it. The concepts that are discussed are relevant to everyone and give us good information and strategies to help create and bolster good lives for those who are disadvantaged. We highly

recommend this free course for families, friends and supporters! Find out more, or register by clicking the flyer to the left [or this link!](#)

In early November, we have another 4-part online workshop we have received great feedback from in the past. *Good Employment for People with Disabilities: how to make it a reality* will be of particular interest to many family members, service providers, policy makers, and advocates who are exploring paid work and employment. This workshop, presented by Milton Tyree of the University of Kentucky, will provide participants with strategy and tools to identify contributions for a workplace, effectively support people on the job, as well as planning and working with potential employers on customized employment.

This employment workshop is a great opportunity to learn with other families who are venturing along the same path to paid employment. The course fee is \$140, but there are subsidies for interested families - so please be in touch. See the flyer for more information or to register - [or visit the link here!](#)

The Southern Ontario Training Group & Durham Association for Family Resources and Support are pleased to present

Good Employment for People with Disabilities: How to make it a reality

This is a four-part workshop with each session building on the previous. Participants must attend all sessions. The workshop explores several topics related to employment for people with intellectual disabilities. Recognizing that meaningful work is one of the good things of life, the workshop begins with an examination of historical strategies and ideas about work. The important role of the employment expert in effectively supporting people on the job is examined in depth. The Discovery process is introduced as a tool to assist people and their supporters to identify what the person could contribute to the workplace and what is necessary for them to be successful. Important considerations about planning and working with potential employers to customize employment form the basis of the final session. Those wishing to help someone in their lives attain a good job will have an opportunity to think more deeply about the steps involved and learn from the experience of others.

Four three-and-a-half hour sessions on Zoom:
9:00 am - 12:30 pm
Tuesday, November 2, 2021
Thursday, November 4, 2021
Tuesday, November 9, 2021
Thursday, November 11, 2021

Who Should Attend:
This event will be of particular interest to those interested in exploring the potential of employment for people with disabilities - family members, service providers, policy makers, educators, advocates, etc.

Presenter:
Milton Tyree lives in Louisville, Kentucky and has 40 years' experience in the design, development and provision of supports and services centered on people with disabilities having access to valued aspects of everyday life. A particular area of interest has been the ongoing struggle around people with disabilities having good employment. Mit's efforts have been strongly influenced by the work of the late Dr. Marc Gold, and he is an associate with Marc Gold & Associates (MGA). Additionally, the late Dr. Wolf Wolfensberger's Social Role Valorization (SRV) theory has been foundational in Mit's understanding of the importance of good employment for people with disabilities, the reasons this can be difficult, and considerations for addressing the challenges.

Course Fee: \$140 (CAD)
Limited subsidies available. Contact Judith Sandys at jsandys@tyreerson.ca

Register Here! Limited spaces available.

Great Turnout and Family Engagement at Community Living Ontario's Recent Conference



Durham Family Resources along with two families recently participated in presentations at CLO's September conference which was held virtually late in September.

The presentation on the first day centered around a family group's learning around medical safeguards, preparation, and collaboration with Lakeridge Health during the beginning of the pandemic. On the second day, our presentation focused on how our housing group, Imagining Home, was formed and continues to assist families in their individual housing goals over time, including through Durham Region's portable housing subsidies.



Both presentations were very well attended and the capability and strength of families really shone through their stories. A big thank you to Carron Jensen, Marueen Emmons, Eleanor Werner, Sean Hillman, Laura Powell, Erin O'Reilly, Jennifer Singh and Janet Klees for their work at pulling these great presentations together.

Upcoming Imagining Home Meeting Moves to Later this October

For this month only, Imagining Home will be held on a different date – Wednesday October 27th at 6:30pm by Zoom. As always, each month at Imagining Home, we engage with anything “housing, home and community” and enjoy critical discussion, sharing stories, learning and often having a good laugh among respectful and supportive people! Families bring a wealth of experience and knowledge and are ready to share and support others along their journey. All are welcome to attend and participate in Imagining Home when we meet on the second Wednesday of each month. If you are new to the group and would like to attend Imagining Home for the first time, we'd ask that you first contact Erin at (905) 436-2500 ext. 2511 or eoreilly@dafrs.com to arrange an introductory call.

IMAGINING HOME MEETING • WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2021 • 6:30PM

ONLINE, VIA ZOOM!

CONTACT ERIN FOR DETAILS ([EOREILLY@DAFRS.COM](mailto:eoreilly@dafrs.com))



Rapid Antigen Testing Rolling Out Here at DFR and Available to a Trial of Families

Durham Family Resources is excited to be two weeks into an office regimen of Rapid Antigen Testing (RAT) to increase the safety of our team and also for families that may soon come to the office. Currently the RAT is being done on a regular basis by both staff who have returned full time to the office and also to those who are part-time or who drop in occasionally. The RAT will allow us to all work and partner more safely with families and each other as we will know each other's COVID health status within minutes.

The RAT will add to the current layers of protection that we will continue to rely on to prevent COVID-19 infection and transmission- vaccination and physical measures (physical distancing, hand washing and masking) and staying home if at all sick. RAT is an early detection system that is especially helpful for identifying people who have COVID-19 but are showing no symptoms (whether vaccinated or not). The RAT itself is easily and quickly self-administered under observation. There is solid evidence that the negative tests are very reliable; the positive results mean that the person will not enter the office and will go for the higher grade PCR testing at the Public Health sites.



The Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services has recommended RAT for use in congregated services and settings and has provided tests for many local services. At Durham Family Resources we have instead chosen to partner with the National Red Cross which is more familiar with office-style non-profit organizations who work with families and volunteers in the community. This model fits the profile of our organization a bit better.

Our staff team RAT process has been underway for nearly two weeks. We will slowly invite families who want or need to meet at the office or attend small events at the Gathering Place to take this same RAT, knowing that the team members they meet with have already done so. Therefore both team and family members will enjoy an additional layer of knowing. Early warning of COVID-19 will ensure that infected persons will get good care immediately and will effectively stop the spread with early identification.

Soon to be offered to families On a trial basis, we are currently looking for families and family teams who feel that, due to the health complexities of their family member or the size of their support team, they would be interested in exploring implementing RAT on a regular basis among their team within their family home. Interested families should be in touch with their facilitator or contact Rosanne Purnwasie for more information at rpurnwasie@dafrrs.com, or (905)436-2500 ext. 2289.



Bio Medical Approaches Plans for Sensory Processing Conversation at November's Meeting




**STUDY GROUP
INFO
FRIDAY,
NOVEMBER 12**

The past week, the group gathered to plan for November's meeting where the group will be joined by Rosemary Oxenham, the Occupational Therapist. Rosemary will speak about sensory and motor processing - including tools, ideas and issues worth pursuing. Rosemary has spoken with the group in the past, and it has always been full of great information and conversation - if this is of interest to you, you won't want to miss it!

Everyone is welcome to attend and participate in the Bio-Medical Approaches Study Group when we meet on the second Friday morning of each month. Regulars, those who drop in when they can, occasional drop in for various topics, and curious on-lookers all join for morning discussion, learning, sharing and a good laugh that accompanies fellow learners who

respect each other!

We usually engage with anything "Bio - Medical" and so families talk about all of the approaches, alternatives, strategies that we have found, are being pushed into, have discovered online and more! We have a wide circle of families who are ready to share their vast experience and together we sometimes are able to help each member make better sense of the options and choices that surround them.

The group meets monthly and is open and welcoming to new and past participants! We usually meet by Zoom invite on the second Friday of each month at 10am for about an hour to an hour and a half. Reach out to Janet  if you'd like to get a Zoom link to the next meeting!

Thinking it Through Catches Up About School As We Progress in the School Year



HOW'S SCHOOL GOING?! Whether it is in person or home-based, children are resilient and will continue to learn, grow and thrive! No matter your choice - know that learning happens and we are here to support you!

Let us meet in good spirit with other young families to share what we know and to discuss the possibilities that await us in this school year!

Join us, together with families on **Thursday, October 21, 2021 from 6:30pm-7:30pm** to "think it through TOGETHER"

Register Here to Receive the Zoom Link Details!

Have You Attended Making the Most Family Series? Come Together to Discuss and Continue Learning!

The Making the Most Study Group is a fantastic opportunity for those who have completed the series to continue their learning and take some next steps in developing valued roles and relationships with a loved one.

Each month graduates of past Making the Most learning series are invited to come together and think more deeply about putting the MTM Principles into action, one person at a time. This month we are inviting graduates to sign up for the 4-part Introduction to Social Role Valorization mini series that is taking place over 4 consecutive Monday evenings between October 18 – November 8th. SRV is the theory that underpins the Making the Most family learning series and the Principles, Values and Mission of Durham Family Resources as a whole. For people who have already attended an SRV workshop it could serve as a nice refresher, or opportunity to invite supporters or circle members to deepen their knowledge of this helpful lens we can use to better understand devaluation and the power of valued social roles.



**MAKING THE MOST
STUDY GROUP**

Our usual study group will resume in November. The meeting is open to anyone who has attended a MTM series before and wishes to join the conversation. Contact Laura (lpowell@dafrs.com) for more information.

NOVEMBER 22, 2021
6:30PM TO 7:30PM

Important Dates At-A-Glance!

Intro to SRV
Mondays @6:30pm,
beginning October 18

Good Employment
November 2, 4, 9,
and 11 @9:00am

Thinking it Through
Oct 21@ 6:30pm

**Bio Medical Study
Group**
Nov 12@10am

Imagining Home
Oct 27@6:30pm

MTM Study Group
Nov 22 @6:30pm

respiteservices.com

CHAP
COMMUNITY HELPERS
FOR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION

RespiteServices.com continues connecting families to
supporters! Contact Sandy for details!

Respiteservices.com is continuing to operate remotely to connect families and support workers. We know people continue to need good support during this time and are working diligently to continue to provide this service to residents of Durham Region.

To be matched with support workers, you must be registered with respiteservices.com/durham. Contact Sandy at (905)436-3404 or sciarlariello@dafrs.com. New supporters are continuing to be added. Contact Sandy for more information!

For more information, please visit our website, www.dafrs.com,
and see the “Upcoming Events” tab.

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