

FAMILYfocus

SO THAT ALL PEOPLE ENJOY A FULL AND MEANINGFUL LIFE
WITHIN THE COMMUNITY.

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Recognizing Capacity: Voices Expected, Noticed and Listened to!

Join us in person on **Thursday August 17th** for an evening of reflecting on our learning and sharing stories about peoples' voices being **expected, noticed, listened to, augmented if needed, communicated and respected.**

Several years ago, we embarked with families on a multi-year endeavor to sharpen our focus on how peoples' capacity to make and guide decision-making can be recognized and upheld, so that they are involved in governing the direction of their lives and at much less risk of being cast into Guardianship and losing their status as a person in the eyes of the law. We started with the ways that families already were shaped and guided by the voices, wills and preferences of their family member with disability, and then we learned how to listen better.

Join us as we review: why this quest has been important for families; how giving and receiving supports in decision making is a natural part of all of our lives; the difference positive introductions can make; and other useful strategies to help others see our loved one's capacities and contributions.

Doors open at 6.45pm for a 7pm start, running through till 8.30pm.

**Recognizing Capacity:
Voices Expected, Noticed, and Listened to!**

Register here!

Thursday, August 17, 2023
7:00pm @ The Gathering Place
20-850 King St. E, Oshawa



Making the Most Family Learning Series is back this Fall!

Making the Most Family Learning Series is back this fall! This popular six-part learning series has welcomed families from across Durham Region since 2015, and has also resulted in the creation of a monthly group for graduates, where they continue to learn and work things through together.

At its heart, *Making the Most* focuses on a set of principles that offer guideposts for planning and decision making for a good life in community. Participating family members are encouraged to come with an open mind. Graduates of the series have attested to a shift in thinking resulting in a new imagination of a good life for loved ones. Practical strategies and tools are shared to implement plans into action.

Attendees are not alone on this learning journey. Mentoring families walk alongside participants, sharing lived experience, answering the many questions that arise, and encouraging and providing timely support to eager participants emboldened to embark on the path of trying something new.

In an era where meaningful solutions are rarely found in systems, this series invites family members to entertain new questions and find unique answers.

The next session begins this October! This series will take place in-person at The Gathering Place in Oshawa. It is designed for a small group to maximize participation so contact Laura today if you are interested! More details to come

Contact Laura here if you are interested in the MTM series!



A focus on interests, contribution and community at the heart of this popular series

BioMedical Approaches Study Group Refreshes Their Learning!

Our meeting is back to the second Friday this month, join us on August 11! We will gather in-person at the Gathering Place to catch up and share what we've been learning and thinking about this summer.

Last month the group met to catch-up and chat about their visit to City of Greens, a sustainable forward-thinking farm in Bowmanville. The group

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. 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 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 more information or to RSVP to the next meeting!



**STUDY GROUP
INFO
FRIDAY,
AUGUST 11, 2023
10 AM**



Canada Disability Benefit Engagement Process Begins!

The Canada Disability Benefit Act achieved a momentous milestone as it received Royal Assent on June 22, 2023. Late in July, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion, Carla Qualtrough, unveiled the timeline and details of the engagement process for the Canada Disability Benefit Regulations. [See the full news release here.](#)

The first phase, the regulatory design phase, involves a series of engagement opportunities to shape the benefit's design, implementation, and the drafting of the Regulations. Key activities include an information session with disability stakeholders in August 2023 to establish a common understanding of the regulatory process. Technical roundtables will occur from September 2023 onwards, gathering insights from experts, stakeholders, and persons with disabilities on crucial regulatory aspects. Additionally, a public online survey and open submissions will run from fall 2023 to winter 2023, capturing input from all Canadians.

The second phase will begin with the publication of proposed Regulations in Part 1 of the [Canada Gazette](#). During this phase, Canadians can review and provide feedback on the proposed Regulations. The Government will consider the comments received and may make adjustments before finalizing the Regulations. The final version will be published in Part II of the Canada Gazette, officially establishing them as the official guidelines.

[See a summary of Bill C-22: The Canada Disability Act here.](#)

We will keep our eyes open for opportunities to participate in the shaping of this much-needed benefit.

Have Your Say as Canada Develops a federal Safe Long-Term Care Act

The federal government is looking to develop a national vision and principles for the safe operation and delivery of long-term care homes across the country. Although mandating standards and regulation is a provincial responsibility, a national focus on long-term care could encourage better practices here in Ontario. Currently, [57% of long-term care homes are private for-profit homes in Ontario.](#)

The pandemic only highlighted the devastation that institutions can have on vulnerable populations, and maintaining or supporting the current status quo in long-term care homes is not what additional resources should be used for. In [a recent discussion paper about safe long term care](#), the federal government noted their recognition that people in Canada, including those with disabilities, prefer to age at home and mentioned funding allocated several years ago to improve access to home and community care services.

In developing their national Safe Long-Term Care Act, public input is being sought regarding changes to the long-term care sector, how the federal government can collaborate with provinces and territories to improve long-term care across the country, and how adoption of new national long-term care standards can be encouraged while respecting provincial and territorial jurisdiction.

You can fill out the survey and help inform the development of a Safe Long-Term Care Act here until September 21st.

Seniors for Social Action Ontario (SSAO) is a group whose mission is to identify alternatives to institutionalization and encourage governments to finance these alternatives with a goal to end institutionalization. [SSAO have recently released a response bulletin](#) where they have shared their responses to each of the written survey questions, which might help inform some anti-institutional responses you wish to share.



Shared Learning from BC at August's Imagining Home Meeting

This month at Imagining Home we're pleased to welcome a visitor from British Columbia! Marta Carlucci is the Family Organizer at STEPS Forward (the BC initiative for Inclusive Post Secondary Education) and co-founder of Families Supporting Regular Equitable and Authentic Lives (REA-L) - a newly formed family organization that believes families are the catalyst for change and can create a positive shift in the lives of people with developmental disabilities and the inclusive communities they contribute to. They are creating a provincial network of families who are intentionally exploring and choosing paths that decrease dependency on traditional services and supports a vision of a regular, equitable and authentic life for family members.

Marta is interested in family groups and family ideas about many things, including home and housing in typical arrangements in ordinary community. In our ongoing interest of connecting with people, families and other like-minded groups, we will not only get to hear about Marta's work and initiatives in BC, but also to share our own stories of the many ways that people find and create home here in Durham, outside of traditional services. We've got an evening planned with many family stories, including a viewing of our Portable Housing Benefit video (that's been shared previously with families) and a few other home and housing updates to keep us in the loop!

This meeting will be in-person in our Gathering Place, at our offices in Oshawa. If you are a family who does not live within the Region or may have trouble traveling to our Oshawa office, please let Erin know and alternate arrangements can be made.

Come join the conversation! Long time and new families alike, everyone has something to gain and something to offer. 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 • NEXT MEETING • WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9, 2023 • 6:30PM

IN PERSON AT THE GATHERING PLACE!

CONTACT ERIN FOR DETAILS (EOREILLY@DAFRS.COM)



The Power of Positive Introductions: "Thinking it Through" Preparing for the Upcoming School Year

We are delighted to extend an invitation to an intimate virtual meetup for our parents of young children on **Thursday, August 24th from 6:30pm to 7:30pm**. Join us for an engaging dialogue as we delve into strategies and insights on **creating positive introductions for our children, emphasizing their unique skills and strengths**.

This is especially helpful to think about and plan prior to another school year beginning when your youngster will be meeting teachers, educators and others! This event aims to provide a welcoming space for connections to form and conversations to unfold. **Register now to secure your spot!**



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 crafting and sharing a vision, designing and planning days full of contributions and possibilities, focusing on roles rather than activities, seeking and developing good support, making positive introductions, and finding strength, comfort, and energy through building circles of support, and connecting with other families.

The meeting is open to anyone who has attended the 6-part Making The Most learning series or a MTM Weekend Retreat and wishes to join the conversation. Contact Laura lpowell@dafrs.com for more information.

We are back from our summer break this month and would love to take the opportunity to meet up in person. It will be on the evening of August 28 - watch out for an email with more details re time and location!



MAKING THE MOST STUDY GROUP

AUGUST 28, 2023
6:30PM TO 7:30PM

respiteservices.com



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!

Important Dates At-A-Glance!

Imagining Home
August 9@6:30pm

Bio Medical Study Group
August 11@10am

**Recognizing Capacity:
Voices Expected, Noticed
and Listened to!**
August 17@7:00pm

Thinking it Through
August 24@6:30pm

**Making the Most
Study Group**
August 28@6:30pm

For more information,
please visit our website at
www.dafrs.com

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

Durham Association For Family Resources and Support
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