

MYAP Watch List –November 21, 2017

1. Autism
2. Income Security Reform
3. Basic Income

Autism

General Update

- School-based pilots: EDU announced the implementation of the pilots on October 25th.
- Major Projects/Fiscal Prep Committee: PO has requested that the OAP come to MP/FPC on November 22. The discussion will be on the TB/MBC submission described below.
- TB/MBC Submission:
 - MCYS is bringing forward a TB/MBC submission on November 28, 2017 (and has requested TB sit as Cabinet) describing a new Direct Funding Option (DFO) for the OAP. MCYS was directed by Cabinet in May to develop and implement this by Fall 2017.
 - The new DFO will provide families with up to \$55/hr to purchase private autism therapy services, in contrast with the current \$39/hr rate. It will begin in January 2018.
 - The submission also describes the transition plan to the OAP for existing \$8k/\$10k clients. The submission recommends transitioning all of the families currently receiving these payments by April 1, 2017. This is a few months longer than originally anticipated by TBS, and would require \$27 million in funding.
 - PO has also requested that MCYS work up another option: transitioning families by September 2018. This option would cost up to an additional \$35 million. This option will be discussed at MP/FPC on November 22.
 - The submission also contains a program enhancement. To support DFO accountability, the ministry will engage stakeholders to identify the qualifications and experience required for the delivery and supervision of ABA intervention, and to provide a list of providers online that meet these qualifications

Income Security Reform

- In Summer 2016, the government announced the appointment of George Thomson to lead an external Income Security Reform (ISR) Working Group (WG) – the ISR WG was directed to provide Ontario with recommendations for an income security system that is based on fairness, adequacy and simplicity. To ensure consideration for First Nations and Urban Indigenous perspective, MCSS also created separate Working Groups with these partners.

Working Groups' Report and Implementation Plan

- The ISR Working Groups' final report, "Income Security: A Roadmap for Change" was publicly released on Nov 2, 2017, providing recommendations to improve Ontario's income security system. In response, the government committed to reviewing the report and will use "it as a guide as it considers changes to the income security system in 2018".
- MCSS is tracking to report back to the Minister's Table on Poverty Reduction and Social Inclusion (MT: PRSI) in January 2018 with a multi-year implementation plan that draws on the Roadmap recommendations, with a particular focus on the first four years.
- MCSS intends to develop a phased implementation plan, outlining the short-, medium-, and long-term phases of reform, and report back for approval in Winter 2017-18.
 - Short-term phase to focus on modest investments that could be taken within the first three years that will have an impact on clients (expected to include cost estimates over the long-term)
 - MCSS has shared an initial phased approach, costed at \$210M, \$880M and \$1.39B over next three years (in comparison to ISR Roadmap recommendations of \$810M, \$2.4B, \$3.2B over first three years).

Recent Updates

- To support the analysis of the Roadmap and development of a multi-year implementation plan, CO is convening a Steering Committee to

monitor progress on the analysis and the development of policy options for income security reform, including potential phasing of implementation, and ultimately a recommended approach for Cabinet consideration. This will be done via regular (bi-weekly) meetings with CO, PO, MCSS, TBS, MOF and other affected ministries as required (e.g., MHO, MOHLTC). The first meeting is anticipated for the week of November 27th.

Basic Income

General Update

- At our last BI steering committee meeting, PRSD shared their forward looking plan. Based on this plan, PRSD is targeting full enrollment (paid and control group) in the main pilot (Hamilton, Thunder Bay, Lindsay) by April 2018.
 - They are currently anticipating 1,002 participants in the December 15th pay run;
 - They will begin enrolling participants in the control groups for Hamilton/Thunder Bay in January 2018)
- They have an upcoming TB/MBC submission in December. Through this submission, PRSD will provide an update on progress to date and note any potential changes required (e.g. extending the length of the pilot and evaluation based on slower than expected take-up).

Lindsay

- Enrolment is underway and the site will officially "launch" this month with 94 recipients on the Nov 24th pay run. An additional 49 participants are already signed up for the December pay, for a total of 143.
- They are targeting 2,000 participants by April 2018

First Nations

- Brokering underway on the FN BI, PRSD remains confident they will implement by February. PRSD will ramp up engagement efforts in Nov/Dec (including co-design) and bring forward the final proposed approach (reflecting co-design) in January for Cabinet approval. This will also include a general update on status.