

Remedy Requirement – Person Directed Planning (PDP) tender awarded for Province wide Peer and Technical Support Program

Maria Medioli

Executive Director

HRR Implementation

Dear Maria

Thank you for the opportunity to meet with your project team to discuss implementation of this new initiative.

The original plan was to build on the previous “Person Directed Supports Network Pilot” through a new tender process. The Pilot, however, had insufficient scope and impact to be a blueprint for the new program. A fuller discussion of project objectives and the current state of sector capacity has resulted in a view that a more developmental process is required to build the necessary infrastructure for Province wide quality and consistency and also engage the new Regions and Advisory Councils as well as Peer led organisations in a process of co design of the new program.

The HRR report sets out background to this new program:

- “Create Provincial capability for technical and peer supported person centred planning” and “Include peer-led individualised planning/network of peer-support planners and other technical support” (p42 and 123).

A deeper analysis indicates that the new program needs to have a clearly defined scope of practice and consistent quality of person directed planning, as an alternative choice to DSP staff roles of IPSCs and LACs. It needs to be available on a province wide basis, across all areas of disability and with cultural competence. Peer leadership is required (by definition) and the Remedy requires local community responsiveness.

International experience has also shown that peer led supports also require a careful process of development, support and funding to be sustainable, otherwise hurried or short term efforts result in fragmentation, disappointment and loss of capacity. It also requires a set of clear guiding principles regarding independence from government and service provision, as well first voice/families and /or peer led board composition.

Our discussions with the project team have resulted in a 2-stage process being recommended:

- First to define and fund a Province wide, peer-led technical support capacity (most likely an organisation or consortia with a multi disability focus) that can provide umbrella infrastructure such as quality standards/practice framework, training,

coordination and monitoring (much like the Homeshare coordinating organisation), and

- Second to engage peer led organisations and the new Regional Hubs and Advisory Councils in a co design process to define regional and local pathways for peer-supported person directed planning support and also grow a network of organisations/individuals that can provide this support.

We believe this approach provides the best method to developing a true peer led independent planning pathway that can be built and sustained across the Province, across disability and indigenous and cultural groups, and with sensitivity to local responsiveness.

We understand that preliminary work and research on this approach has been completed. Some further urgent work will be required to finalise scope and timelines, subject to agreement that this is the preferred way forward. It is noted that additional investments in Inclusion Nova Scotia's peer supports were made in 2024 and that first voice representation on the Regional Advisory Councils is also underway, along with the new LACs and IPSCs recently appointed.

We are available to further discuss this advice and recommendation.



Eddie Bartnik and Dr Tim Stainton

5th February 2025