thedaily observer .ca

THE DAILY OBSERVER

Proudly serving the Upper Ottawa Valley since 1855

Saturday, May 3, 2014

TRILLIUM GRANT: $200,000 for Community Living

Improving quality of life

SEAN CHASE/DAILY OBSERVER

Community Living Upper Ottawa Valley (CLOV) received an Ontario Trillium Foundation grant for $198,900 Friday. The grant will cover the cost for training of employees in better service delivery. In the photo (left to right) is CLOV executive director Chris Grayson, speaker's bureau member Kyle Croft, Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke John Yakabuski, speaker's bureau member Cheryl Tennant, Madawaska Valley Community Living executive director Darcy Lacombe and Ministry of Community and Social Services program supervisor Rick McInnes.

SEAN CHASE
sean.chase@sunmedia.ca

Community Living Upper Ottawa Valley (CLUOV) received some good news Friday in the form of an Ontario Trillium Foundation grant that will improve service delivery to the agency's clients.

The $198,900 grant coming over three years will provide the training and encourage the use of personal outcome measures, which is a best practice model developed by the Council for Quality and Leadership (CQL), the organization that will be assisting in the development of this program.

"This investment will encourage informed service planning and increased opportunities for collaboration across the region around emerging needs," said CLUOV executive director Chris Grayson. "People with intellectual disabilities deserve the direct support from services they receive and based on their personal, identifiable priorities." CLUOV's 100 employees will receive the training during the course of three workshops conducted each year. With this training, the agency hopes to enhance the quality of life for its 150 clients. Developmental service workers with CLUOV provide support such as residential care, counselling and case management for people with developmental disabilities.

Kyle Croft, a member of the Speaker's Bureau, a self advocacy committee, said his group is very excited about personal outcome measures, a data gathering process that includes interviewing people with intellectual disabilities to access their needs and wants in order to improve quality of life and support systems.

"It is a commitment to supporting us better at home and in our communities," said Croft.

Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke MPP John Yakabuski lauded the long-term nature of the grant which will give CLUOV and its partner agencies time to work on this initiative.

"This is not a short term program. (This will) allow those people with intellectual disabilities to reach their greatest potential," he said. "We do have that responsibility to give them the opportunities to reach that potential."

The model comes from the The Council on Quality and Leadership, an American -based organization dedicated to the definition, measurement, and improvement of personal and community quality of life for people with disabilities. Beth Mathis, vice-president of business development and customer relations for CQL said this tool has made a difference in the lives of clients, support organizations and staff who deal with these issues on a daily basis.

"The resources that you now have available to really focus on learning what people that receive your services really want for their lives and how they envision connecting and becoming even more a part of their community," she said.

Sean Chase is a Daily Observer multimedia journalist.