



# Working Better Together: Bridging the Gap between Health and Developmental Services



## Our Ask

Reena is recommending the establishment of a Secretariat to improve care outcomes and bridge the gap between health and developmental services.

Reena is recommending to the province to expand and delve more deeply into its progress to build a sustainable healthcare system. The province has made important progress with introducing the new Ontario Health agency and Ontario Health Teams. However, there remains much more work to do to support those with developmental disabilities. We know our healthcare system can do better.



**“INDIVIDUALLY WE ARE ONE DROP.  
TOGETHER WE ARE AN OCEAN.” -**

**RYUNOSUKE SATORO**

# THE HEALTH SYSTEM GAP

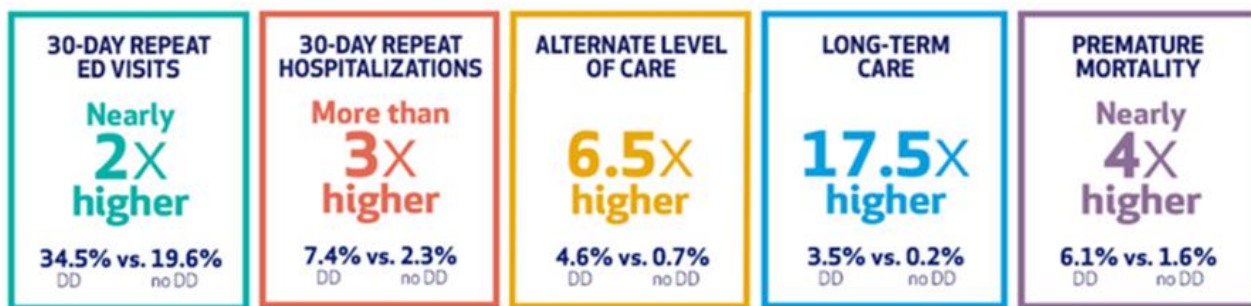
“PUT PATIENTS AT THE CENTRE OF THEIR HEALTH CARE. PATIENTS SHOULD BE WELL-SUPPORTED AND TREATED WITH DIGNITY AND RESPECT THROUGHOUT ALL INTERACTIONS WITH THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM.”

*Premier’s Council on Improving Healthcare and Ending Hallway Medicine*

**Bridging** the gaps between health and developmental service organizations is not only necessary but also crucial to increase the life expectancy, quality of life and autonomy of people living with developmental disabilities.

A 2019 study by IC/ES, CAMH, University of Ontario Institutes of Technology and Health Care Access Research and Developmental Disabilities (H-CARDD) found “that people with developmental disabilities fare worse in the health system across multiple indicators.”

The research found higher rates of poor health outcomes in adults with developmental disabilities compared to those with no developmental disabilities. The key five outcomes include:



30-day repeat emergency department visits, 30-day repeat hospitalizations, alternate level of care, long-term care and premature mortality.

These findings are not due to any factors inherent in those with developmental disabilities. Rather, major gaps in population health outcomes have deep roots in historical and current systems. Some populations are treated as expendable, are marginalized and excluded from decision-making; have inadequate access to resources; and, face a life of discrimination. The results are health disparities that are avoidable and unjust.

More so, throughout the province's COVID response, the developmental services sector stepped up despite:

- The lack of prioritization for vulnerable populations;
- Engagement barriers with public health units;
- Need for better data; or,
- Limited cross-ministerial influence.

Through the collaborative efforts of the Developmental Services agencies, a variety of vaccination rollouts occurred across the province. Whether through collaboration with local Public Health units, hospitals and other healthcare partners, or through Developmental Services sector led pop-up vaccinations and mobile teams, this sector spearheaded and enabled vaccinations to occur sooner and in a manner more suited to the unique care, support and environmental needs of our persons served.

However, this was not always easy and was often met with regional hurdles that limited quick response and benefit to supported individuals.





Developmental Service Agencies like Reena are working with their local Ontario Health Team to improve healthcare outcomes for those with developmental disabilities; their voice is not forgotten and to establish the necessary grass root partnerships to improve services and care transition.

## The Opportunity

A Secretariat that integrates the understanding of the gaps faced by those with developmental disabilities and those that are able to create the necessary change in health service delivery.

Encouraged by the government's commitment to meaningful change to health system integration, we are suggesting the establishment of a unique made-in-Ontario approach to create a Secretariat that integrates the understanding of the gaps faced by those with developmental disabilities and those that are able to create the necessary changes in health service delivery.

## Proposed Secretariat Roles

- Act as **communications and policy bridge** between MOH & MCCSS
- Assess and identify health system **performance indicators** where those with developmental disabilities fare poorly to monitor and improve outcomes
- Seek and share **innovative initiatives to advance access, treatment and health outcomes** that drive sustainable change for those with developmental disabilities
- Establish a process to **review education requirements** of all regulated health professionals to ensure that the health needs of those with developmental disabilities are considered and include specific onsite developmental service sector learning opportunities
- Advocate and support the **inclusion of developmental service agencies** in all Ontario Health Teams
- Publish an annual report to **illustrate findings and progress**

The establishment of the Secretariat aligns with the province's Quadruple Aim framework to:

- Improve the patient and caregiver experience;
- Improve health populations;
- Reduce the per capital cost of health care; and,
- Improve the working life of providers.



## Structure and Mandate

The Secretariat is an evidence-based, transparent forum with a mandate to:

1. Co-manage and resolve policy, planning and issues related to improving care outcomes for those with developmental disabilities; and,
2. Provide a forum for Ministries and subject matter sector experts to enhance the quality and safety of care delivery for those with developmental disabilities.

### Membership List

The Secretariat is comprised of representatives from the developmental services sector, health services and the Ministry who bring a mix of management, clinical leadership and finance perspectives. We recommend that it be chaired by a Deputy Ministers and include representation from Health, Children, Community and Social Services, Long-Term Care and others (TBD) along with representation from the developmental service agencies.

Members: Developmental Services Representatives (5) and Healthcare Representatives (5)

### For more information, please contact:

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Since 1973, Reena has been providing supportive housing, programming and community services for individuals with diverse abilities.

Our non-profit's mission is to promote dignity, individuality, independence, personal growth and community inclusion for people with diverse abilities within a framework of Jewish culture and values.

Reena offers a variety of services including residential support, respite programs, employment, community participation programs and advocacy.

Reena currently operates over thirty group homes, two Intentional Community Residences and supports independently living individuals.

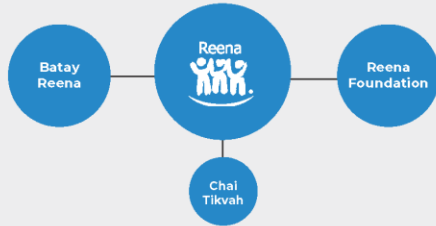


**2020-2021**

Reena is a non-profit organization which promotes **dignity, individuality, independence, personal growth** and **community inclusion** for people with diverse abilities within a framework of Jewish culture and values.

**REENA COMMUNITY SERVICES CANADA**

Supports alignment and efficient operation across the Reena group of charities.



**Batay Reena**

Develops and manages properties for Reena.

Batay Reena purchases administrative services from Reena. Reena pays rent to Batay Reena for some locations, including the Battle Centre.

**Reena**

Provides inclusion and personal supports services.

Reena Foundation purchases administrative services from Reena. Reena Foundation distributes to Reena operating and capital funds for non-government programs and services.

**Reena Foundation**

Raises and distributes funds to support Reena and Batay Reena.

Reena Foundation provides to Batay Reena donated capital gifts and competitive rate mortgages backed by rental lease agreements with Reena, which provide secured income to the Foundation.

**Chai Tikvah**

Provides mental health services.

Chai Tikvah purchases office services from Reena, while strengthening Reena's capacity to support the individuals they serve.



**FINANCIALS**

**2021**

BATAY REENA	REENA FOUNDATION	REENA	CHAI TIKVAH
\$25,783,866	\$10,076,502	\$68,153,925	\$3,205,630

**assets**

\$7,451,774	\$6,560,623	\$68,200,618	\$777,540
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**revenue**

**2020**

BATAY REENA	REENA FOUNDATION	REENA	CHAI TIKVAH
\$18,403,465	\$7,945,063	\$41,595,290	\$2,865,382

**assets**

\$1,167,038	\$4,628,087	\$53,186,276	\$793,935
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**revenue**

**STAFF - 2021**

	FULL TIME	PART TIME
REENA	436	248
REENA FOUNDATION	3	0
BATAY REENA	0	3
CHAI TIKVAH	5	9



**REENA THROUGH THE YEARS**

**1973**

The Reena Foundation is created.

**1992**

The name of the organization is shortened to Reena, and an increased need for housing propels the creation of a fundraising body.

**2001**

The existing fundraising body is renamed Batay Reena and shifts its focus away from fundraising and towards housing. A second fundraising body is created - Reena Foundation. It now acts as the primary fundraiser.

**2019**

Integration of Chai Tikvah to Reena group of charities to provide mental health services.

**2023**

Reena will celebrate the **JUBILEE YEAR** (Yovel), 50 years since its inception.



**SERVICES**

Reena provides services to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families, through a number of programs including:

**OUTREACH/RESPITE**

Building life and social skills through recreational programming, and offering a safe and supportive environment where individuals can learn and flourish.

2020 **68** individuals  
2021 **69** individuals



**HOUSING**

Providing specialized care in over 30 homes and over 60 Supported Independent Living Apartments.



2020 **411** capacity  
2021 **558** capacity

**COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION**

Offering a variety of options for different abilities, interests and strengths, including excursions, volunteer opportunities, horticulture and music programs, physical fitness and more.

2020 **253** individuals  
2021 **252** individuals

