

## **30<sup>th</sup> AGM Executive Director Report**

It is my pleasure to bring you the highlights of our past year as we begin our 30<sup>th</sup> year of service to the Thames Valley Community. 2014-15 has been an incredibly busy and productive year with a focus on Quality Improvement, Risk Management, and a refresh of our infrastructure and Leadership Team. In our commitment to excellence, we continue to evaluate our service delivery in order to improve clinical effectiveness and outcomes, and to enhance administrative efficiencies. Collaboration with the London Health Sciences Centre (LHSC), The Parkwood Institute, our mental health community partners, community health centres in Woodstock, London and West Lorne, and our peers in the addiction treatment sector have continued to strengthen in the past year. ADSTV is very happy to be a part of innovation in healthcare and there are many examples of the power of collaboration around us.

ADSTV is a vibrant and collaborative community-based agency with 30 years of providing excellent services to the community close to home. We have been working in Elgin, Oxford, and London-Middlesex for 30 years, but our services have grown exponentially in the last few years, and we now offer 14 programs across these communities. In 1985 we offered one day of service per week in each county outside London; now, in both Oxford and Elgin County, we have a full time coverage in more than one program and in more than one location. In Middlesex County, in Strathroy, we continue our longstanding partnership with CMHA- Search location and now have additional shared space in the methadone clinic operated by two local physicians. Our Community Opioid team has a staff member supporting shared clients there, as well as in the Suboxone Clinic hosted by CMHA-Middlesex, one day per week. We are happy to report permanent office locations with signage in Woodstock, in collaboration with the Woodstock and Area Community Health Centre, and in St. Thomas at the Ten Centre.

Partnership and service integration agreements have allowed us to begin cross-training with our collaborative partners in Oxford County. These processes have decreased wait times for addiction services from the historical high points of 12-15 weeks two to three years ago to a zero wait time through walk in clinic intake and screening. The Voluntary Integration Agreement with CMHA Oxford, the Ingersoll Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinic, and the Woodstock and Area Community Health Centre continues to evolve and also continues to be one of the best formats for Coordinated Access in the province. Elgin County is also working together and we thank those partners who are CMHA-Elgin Branch, Violence Against Women Elgin County, and the St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital. We are working together to build a similar response to coordination in Oxford County.

London CARES continues to thrive and grow. The program is recognized nationally for its Housing First approach and its success in accessing permanent housing for persons who have historically not been able to access or maintain housing that becomes a home embedded in a neighbourhood. The supportive case management and 24:7, feet on the street focus has made a solid dent in the homelessness problem in London. ADSTV is grateful to its partners, Regional HIV/AIDS Connection and The Unity Project, for the opportunity to work together in collaboration to support London CARES.

Our funding relationships are strong with the Southwest LHIN, the City of London, and the United Way of London / Middlesex. We are grateful for the financial support for such essential programs.

Our Governance Board continues to lead our agency into the future with dedication and a strong focus on risk management and quality. We will add five new members to the board list in 2015-16 and we welcome them! See our website for a complete listing. We have said farewell to Christopher Sinal from Siskinds and Mary Hunter from Probation and Parole this year and we will miss their input and discussions!

Our Foundation Board continues to build its focus on fundraising, encouraging donorship, and supporting the Possible Campaign. The Possible Campaign is an anti-stigma education and awareness platform with recovery stories on video on the website. The Possible Campaign is used in communities across the SWLHIN for Recovery Month and in Ottawa as well. This Campaign has the mark of a national campaign and the ADSTV Foundation strives to achieve this goal. We look forward to a fundraising event in 2016 that will be held in the community to celebrate the success of the Possible Campaign.

Our Board members are committed to their roles and responsibilities. I continue to be so impressed by their volunteerism and their commitment to the agency and the people of the community. It is a pleasure to work alongside each of you.

Addiction Services of Thames Valley is preparing for accreditation in the fall of 2016. This will be one of our priority projects for 2015-16 along with the development of the 24:7 Addiction and Mental Health Crisis Centre for London Middlesex. A strong partnership as Executive Sponsors with the London Health Sciences Centre and CMHA Middlesex has allowed us to work towards the reality of an innovative response to the needs of community members in crisis with mental health and addiction concerns. The ability to serve these people in the community, divert them from unnecessary visits to the emergency department, and link them to community-based services is a dream come true. It is the first of its kind in the province and the SWLHIN will see a noticeable improvement in wait times and client satisfaction from a community-based experience; those persons requiring admission to hospital through the emergency department can also be seen more quickly.

Our presence and commitment to community committees will continue. We will concentrate on the ones that are working to eradicate homelessness, improve the social determinants of health for all, and wrap around people in need, whether through Health Links, Situation / Connectivity Tables, or Code Red-Like committees.

I want to thank the staff, students and volunteers of ADSTV for their drive, passion, and commitment to service delivery. You each are making a difference as we help people seek *"limitless possibilities through freedom from addictions."*

**Respectfully submitted by**

**Linda Sibley, Executive Director  
Addiction Services of Thames Valley**