

For Immediate Release

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Local non-profits amalgamate enhancing community programs and services

Windsor, ON — Family Service Windsor-Essex County and Citizen Advocacy today announced their amalgamation at a breakfast celebration, themed Better Together. The two non-profit agencies have voluntarily amalgamated to form Family Services Windsor-Essex (FSWE).

The formal amalgamation was a natural progression of the agencies working together, which began in 2008 with the hiring of a single Executive Director, and later with the sharing of facilities on the current Eugenie Avenue site. The Erie St. Clair Local Health Integration Network approved a voluntary integration order on April 1, 2012, which allowed the agencies to move forward in planning for their official amalgamation.

"The amalgamation offers our community important benefits," said Gary Switzer, Chief Executive Officer, Erie St. Clair Local Health Integration Network. "By combining their strengths, Family Services Windsor-Essex will be able to expand mental health services through its community counselling program while continuing to offer much-needed supports to seniors through its Client Intervention Program."

"These are exciting times. We are adding to our team of talented, skilled and caring professionals to better serve our clients," said Mike Pocock, Chair of Family Services Windsor-Essex and Past Chair of Citizen Advocacy. "By working together, we will reduce costs and improve our operation which enables us to provide our clients with more service and support."

Over the course of any given year, more than 5,000 individuals are supported by Family Services Windsor-Essex. FSWE's staff of dedicated counselors and social workers support families, couples and individuals through counselling including a Walk-In Counselling Clinic. Programs are also offered to support seniors and adults with disabilities to live independently in the community. Funding through the Erie St. Clair Health Integration Network, the Ministry of Community and Social Services, the City of Windsor, the County of Essex, United Way and the Ontario Trillium Foundation ensures that cost will not be a barrier to clients.

"We remain committed to supporting our clients' needs, and to continually looking for partnerships and efficiencies that will provide them with greater access to resources," says Joyce Zuk, Executive Director, Family Services Windsor-Essex. "Enhancing the quality of life for those we serve, and improving valuable community programs and services are of paramount importance and our primary objective," she added.

Family Services Windsor-Essex

Family Services Windsor-Essex (FSWE) is a non-profit charitable agency that provides a wide range of counselling and community-based services including, but not limited to, marital and family problems; services for seniors; financial independence support; support and advocacy for people with disabilities; information and referral to other local community services. FSWE's professional staff assist clients by providing them with strategies and support to resolve conflicts, address personal problems and help them live independently in the community.

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For further information

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