



ELIGIBILITY POLICY: QUESTIONS and ANSWERS (Sept. 2006)

The following Qs and As are meant to provide responses to some of the questions raised about CLBC's recently released eligibility policy:

Q: Should CLBC require assessments on children who have been deemed 'difficult to assess' due to significant physical or developmental challenges?

A: CLBC will continue to require assessments on all children who are requesting services from CLBC as a result of a developmental disability (eligibility for At Home and Autism programs remains unchanged). Registered psychologists have a range of tools that can be applied to determine developmental disability in children and youth who cannot be assessed using more typical testing processes.

Q: Will every child who is receiving services from CLBC have to be reassessed prior to being accepted for adult services?

A: Children who have been determined to be eligible for CLBC services on the basis of their developmental disability will not be required to provide a new assessment prior to transitioning to adult services.

Some children receiving supports through At Home or Autism programs may also have a developmental disability and their families may wish them to be considered for CLBC's adult services. In these circumstances, an assessment from a registered psychologist will be required to confirm the presence of a developmental disability.

Q: Who pays for an assessment to be completed?

A: Some families will choose to cover the costs of an assessment independently or through the use of extended health coverage, insurance plans or under the provisions of a specified settlement. When requested, CLBC will assume responsibility for covering the expense of a psychological assessment for eligibility purposes. Costs should reflect local market rate for psychologists' sessional fees.

CLBC will track uptake over the next several months and will also be posting a RFP to develop a 'roster' of psychologists with interest, background and skill in this form of assessment be available provincially.

Q: Will there be sufficient funding to cover the costs of assessments?

A: CLBC will track expenditures to determine whether new funding is required.

Q: Do psychologists know that CLBC has clarified its requirements with respect to CLBC eligibility?

A: We will confirm with the association of registered psychologists that CLBC now accepts assessments of developmental disability as defined in the DSM IV ONLY as determined by one of their members.

Q: Will school boards be advised of the change to policy?

A: School boards will not be formally advised as CLBC policy does not impact their use of psychological, adaptive or cognitive testing to meet educational requirements. However, CLBC staff are encouraged to share eligibility policy and practice guidelines with school staff to assist with planning and mutual understanding of roles and responsibilities.

CLBC staff can still use information from school-based tests, as appropriate, to assist with planning but they cannot be substituted for an assessment of developmental disability as determined by a registered psychologist in confirming eligibility for supports and services.

Q: Can staff or families request a second assessment if the first is unclear?

A: If an assessment from a registered psychologist is unclear, the family, with the support of CLBC staff if required, should request that the psychologist confirm whether the individual has a developmental disability as defined by the DSM 1V. Where an unclear assessment was completed more than a year previous to application for supports and services, the family may wish to proceed with a further assessment to specifically determine the presence of developmental disability.

Q: Does an assessment have to be recent?

A: The assessment does not have to be recent but must have been completed by a registered psychologist and confirm the presence of a developmental disability. Psychologists use a range of standardized tests applicable to the developmental stage of the person being tested to confirm a 'diagnosis' of developmental disability