

**May 20, 2014**

**To: Members of Community Development and Recreation Committee**  
**From: Russ Ford, Executive Director, LAMP Community Health Centre**

**Re: Contract Award –Request for proposal No. 0513-13-7010**

## **Introduction**

LAMP will be deputing in opposition to the plan by Toronto Public Health to take over the Toronto Speech and Language program from community agencies. If you approve this plan you will be approving a significant cut to services for high risk children.

TPH plans to reduce the number of clinical staff and increase the number of management and administrative positions. They argue in the report that the new service will be more efficient as clinicians will be free from having to do administrative work and can devote more time to seeing children. That is not true.

Here is a list of the tasks done by a speech pathologist when they are not seeing children. Very few can be off loaded to an administrative person especially if the administrative support is centralized and not on site.

My workload consists of:

- CLINICAL WORK: Re-assessments, initial assessments, daycare/preschool consultations, therapy appointments, case conferences, etc.
- “ADMIN” WORK:
  - o Clinical Supervision of Communicative Disorders Assistants (attending their appointments and caseload meetings) – Can’t be delegated
  - o Report Writing – Can’t be delegated
  - o Letter Writing – Can’t be delegated
  - o Progress Note Writing – Can’t be delegated
  - o Consultations with other health professionals who work with client – Can’t be delegated
  - o Managing re-assessment lists and therapy blocks – Can’t be delegated
  - o Clinical Supervision of SLP Students – Can’t be delegated
  - o Outcome Measurement Tools – Can’t be delegated
  - o Tracking Client Visits – Can’t be delegated
  - o Staff Meetings – Can’t be delegated
  - o Returning phone calls - 20% can be delegated and is already done by speech secretary
  - o Booking appointments – What can be delegated is already delegated to speech secretary or Dian Bent
  - o Faxing & Mailing – Already done by speech secretary
  - o Archiving – Already done by speech secretary

I believe we are managing with our admin tasks with the help of our teams where we work and Dian Bent at Intake (who will lose her position as a result of the re-organization).

The point of this program is to see children, not lighten the administrative load of the clinicians. Having someone do my photocopying will not make it easier for me to see more clients in the day. And just logistically, if we are still talking about community locations – how is someone in central admin (or even at GeorgeHull) going to do my photocopying for me...