

## **Executive Director AGM Report 2013**

This past year has been one of great activity, collaboration, and change for ADSTV. Our partnerships have strengthened, as witnessed by many new initiatives including a Voluntary Integration in Oxford County to coordinate addiction and mental health services, including walk in intake, across the county in several communities. Our goals were to increase access and decrease wait times in Oxford County and we are busy evaluating our first year of this partnership. Currently there is no wait for intake across Oxford County. In previous years, the wait for the first appointment could be as high as 5 months. Our partners in Oxford include Woodstock and Area Community Health Centre, CMHA-Oxford Branch, and the Ingersoll Nurse Practitioner Clinic. We have developed a shared calendar in partnership with Connex Ontario and a cross-training initiative with our partners to develop clinical skills and knowledge in addiction counselling. We are co-located with a variety of partners across the county and have built permanent offices in the new WACHC building in Woodstock. We are very excited about this successful integration activity, the strong relationship between these partners, and the improved services to the community.

In fiscal 2013-14 we will look to partner with a new set of agencies in Elgin County to duplicate the results, increasing access and coordinating addiction and mental services in this next county.

Our involvement in the London Service Collaborative will also prove to be a meaningful partnership between children's mental health and justice services, ADSTV, and the London Health Sciences Centre Paediatric Emergency Department. A gap was identified with transition age youth and their families moving between the LHSC and the community. This gap will be addressed through shared communication, referrals, and a wrap around process that will reduce avoidable emergency department services in the future through stronger linkages between partners and a shared care approach.

We have designed and developed some very innovative services for Thames Valley this past year and this is a trend that will be repeated in years to come. We have developed and are in the process of rolling out community withdrawal management services through the use of the Ontario Telemedicine Network. The new TeleWithdrawal and Crisis Support Program is in the final stages of roll out. We thank the community based Steering Committee that has helped us with implementation.

ADSTV has implemented a new organizational chart this past year and is supported by a strong team of leaders and amazing clinical and administrative staff members. I thank each of them for their continued support, integrity, and energy. The staff members of all our programs and Boards of Directors have worked hard to thoughtfully and energetically embrace change while maintaining excellence in service delivery and innovation. I thank each of you for your contribution each day.

ADSTV has a strong agency Board of Directors and also a Foundation Board of Directors. Both boards are tireless in the pursuit of excellence and in the development of a strong and coherent governance of the agency. I thank them for their time and energy in attending so many meetings and for providing advice and direction as required.

We are a treatment agency, but our role in health and wellness promotion is clear. We want to help people earlier in their journey and help them get the help they need at earlier points, when problems first start, so that the impact of addiction is reduced. For this reason we launched the “Possible Campaign” in 2012. It is an education campaign that holds a signature event each year called the “Stage for Change.” Our first event was a great success on November 2012 and we will hold another in 2013.

The “Possible Campaign” is in its second year and is gaining momentum. The ADSTV Foundation supports this campaign and we are partnering with Red Rhino to create powerful positive messages for the community through social media, photographic images, and stories of recovery in videos and in written submissions to the website. Our website, Twitter feed and Facebook pages tell it all. Our goal is to reduce stigma about addiction by telling stories about real people. Getting a conversation going with others allows people who need some assistance to get started earlier through the reduction of the shame that is associated with addiction and with recovery itself. We believe that “together” we can work to eradicate stigma and increase access. We hope to help the Possible Campaign spread across Ontario and to become a national campaign for understanding that change is possible. Check it out at [www.its-possible.ca](http://www.its-possible.ca). In November 2013, we will do a presentation at the Canadian Centre for Substance Abuse National Conference. We hope to bring the Possible Campaign to other provinces as well.

ADSTV continues to participate in many committees, task groups and projects on a local, regional and provincial level. In 2012 ADSTV participated in several Drug Treatment Funding Program pilots to learn more about client perceptions of care, costing benchmarks, and outcomes in addictions, and to pilot new screening and assessment tools and recovery monitoring processes. See [www.ontariodtftp.ca](http://www.ontariodtftp.ca) for descriptions of the pilots and research results. The impact on the local community and province will be tangible due to all the hard work done in these pilots.

Internationally in May 2013, our London Drug Treatment Court Executive Director and Clinical staff flew to Barbados to participate in a training event for South American and Caribbean countries who are trying to set up Drug Treatment Courts in their jurisdictions. We were proud and honoured to be invited and we hope to do it again.

Every day for the past 25 years, I have seen amazing change take place at ADSTV. People in search of answers for their questions and solutions for their problems receive the assistance and support they need to move ahead. New programs have been created, developed, and implemented with tens of thousands of people passing through our doors. Information is shared on our websites and with 207 followers on Twitter and new friends on Facebook every day. Behaviours change and people set goals and meet them every day; they learn new strategies to solve their own problems and learn to live with their authentic selves. It is **Possible!**

Respectfully submitted by

Linda Sibley  
Executive Director