

Epilepsy York Region (EYR) – Director of Social Work Role Description

The Director of Social Work is Responsible For:

- **Client Intake** – learning about the client’s journey with epilepsy and understanding their needs as an individual/family to allow for positive assessment. It is crucial to support the client relationship with ongoing communication and timely check-ins to monitor improvements and provide needed supports.
- **Securing Resources** – individuals with epilepsy often require assistance with securing community resources such as, but not limited to, coping strategies, life skills, career development, social and emotional supports during times of crisis, and seeking supports that allow for positive integration into one’s school or workplace.
- **Advocacy** – to support the client through their daily life where discrimination/oppressions may exist, such as in the school, workplace, navigating the health care system, or accessing community resources.
- **Program Development** – the social worker is able to develop and create programming that is specific to the needs of the client. Programming can include peer to peer support, counseling (based on qualifications), therapies, group, and individual.
- **Support Group Programming** – planning, organizing, and facilitation of all support groups including adults, parents and children (siblings). Support groups can take place in the evening, most often virtually; h. Most often, the social worker is assisted by a university level placement student of Social Work.
- **Client Specific Education** - in schools, workplaces, and community organizations – as the social worker is most in tune with the medical, physical, and safety needs of the individual, it is part of this role to work with York Region schools and workplaces to implement/communicate individual seizure safety plans as well as raise awareness and educate classmates, staff and co-workers on seizure safety. Note that the social worker will be accompanied by another EYR staff member. **General epilepsy awareness presentations** and Purple Day Programming that is not client specific can be carried out by any of the EYR team staff.

The Director of Social Work will have Participation and Support:

- **Social Support/Recreational Programming** - including child and family events, art programs, or any other recreational event. These events will be planned and organized with the EYR staff as a team (or with the staffed Recreation Coordinator). Often communication to individuals and families is from the social worker to strengthen the client relationship. Note that social support programming and recreational events often take place in the evening or on weekends.
- **Glimmer of Hope Summer Camp** – As with social support/recreational programming, the social worker has a lead facilitation role in terms of communication with families, this also allows for supports and needs to be in place during summer camp. Planning, booking activities/events, organizing, and preparing for summer camp is the responsibility of EYR staff as a team.
- **Participation in Local Awareness Events/Fundraising Initiatives** – may include local community events such as fairs and festivals, fundraising initiatives/events, March Awareness Campaign, and Purple Day Activities. Note that many of these events/initiatives take place during evenings/weekends.