

Yarmouth Office
6 Thurston Street
Yarmouth, NS
B5A 4K5

Dear Family,

Yarmouth Association for Community Residential Options (YACRO) has joined the Respite Database Program in December 2018. It was rolled out through a partnership with respiteservices.com in Ontario. This database has been operating highly successfully in the central region for over four years and in the time that it has been available in Nova Scotia it has already lead to many successful matches. The database matches families with independent respite workers (not directly employed by or paid by the host agency) based on the specific needs of the individual. The database will often refer to the respite workers as “RSNS workers”. RSNS stands for Respite Supports and Navigation Services. The workers on our database have already been screened through a criminal record check, vulnerable sector check, and a child abuse registry. They are also required to provide a copy of their first aid certification. Additionally, all workers have completed an intake interview. Workers and families both fill out a similar application at respiteservices.com, detailing information to help us find appropriate matches.

After a family fills out an application, I approve their profile and they are sent an email detailing their username and password for the database. I then find 3-4 potential workers that I feel may be a good fit based on the important aspects of their profile, such as availability, diagnoses, the community the family is in, the rate of pay they can afford to pay, etc. Once the coordinator sends you these potential workers, there are 3 steps to be completed in order to select the best fit for your individual:

- 1) Review his or her profile
- 2) Contact workers you are interested in to set up interviews
- 3) Report responses to the Respite Coordinator (Amy Sarginson 902-742-9258 respite@yacro.com)

By following these 3 steps, the process of hiring a respite worker becomes one that ensures quality of service and a faster connection to an appropriate community support worker. If you feel that you were not able to identify a good fit, you can contact the Respite Coordinator at any time and she would be happy to provide you with additional profiles.

If you are interested in becoming part of the respite database the directions to apply are as follows: Go to respiteservices.com, select “Nova Scotia”, then select your region and click on “Family Online Application” to fill out an application.

Sincerely,

Amy Sarginson

Respite Coordinator