



Ontario Association of Young Parent Agencies

serving infants, children and young parents - together

l'Association Ontarienne des Agences pour Jeunes Parents

servir nourrissons, enfants et jeunes parents - ensemble

APRIL 2024

AT A GLANCE

- ASQ, DSP, Baby Love Training
- Ujima Project Impact Webinar
- Policy Paper Update
- SickKids Study
- Universal Trauma Screening in Speech and Language Services
- Resources
- Professional Development

What's New



FREE ASQ, DSP and Baby Love Training

Want to integrate developmental screening and/or Baby Love in your agency? Ujima Project is offering free training for agency staff.. Training dates to be confirmed but to occur in late April/May. Limited spots available. Please contact Bev to be added to the waitlist or for more information.

Ujima Project – Impact Report and Webinar

We are pleased to share the Ujima Project [Impact Report](#) and [Infographic](#) with you. As discussed during our last member meeting, Ujima evaluation results have shown **significant outcomes** for young families accessing these services. This is an important time for us as we are in our third and final year of donor funding and work to move from our proof-of-concept phase with donor funding toward a sustainable model with comprehensive programming to more young families across the province.

We need your support! Please consider joining the webinar and promoting to your teams, partners and networks.

When: Wednesday, April 10th, 2024, 11:30am - 1:00pm (TEAMS)

Registration: <https://forms.office.com/r/SVrxcxxHd4> **Not able to attend?** The session will be recorded. Register and you will receive a recording link after the session.

Policy Paper Update

OAYPA's policy paper working group (Jane Kenny, Leslie Barraball, Suzanne Flier, Joanna Mendez, Bev MacKillop, Tamar Meyer) have been working closely with the Wilfred Laurier University (WLU) research team and we are pleased to announce that the data collection tools have been approved by WLU's Research Ethics Board.

We will be reaching out to Agency Leads in the next couple of weeks with recruitment materials (posters, social media posts) and email templates containing survey links for pregnant/parenting transition-aged youth and staff working in your agency. There will be a turnaround of **3 weeks** with the surveys, to meet our summer deadline.

This policy paper is a critical tool that OAYPA will use to advocate to government and other provincial partners for increased investments and other supports to our sector to achieve a comprehensive system of services for young parents and their children across the province.

SickKids Study March 2024, Points to increased Rates of Premature Death for Adolescent Mothers

This [study](#) (published March 2024) examined universal health care data for all females who were alive at age 12 years between 1991 and 2021 in Ontario. The study found that slightly more than 7% of the study population experienced at least 1 teen pregnancy and found that, compared with those with no teen pregnancy, those experiencing teen pregnancy (especially more than one) had a **higher risk of premature death, particularly of injury-related deaths**. The study considered factors including income, level of education, and comorbidities.

In a [commentary](#) on the study, Elizabeth Cook states:

“The findings of Ray et al are a sobering reminder that pregnant teens—instead of being judged for their decisions—**should be encouraged to make decisions that they feel are best for themselves and be connected with supportive services to help them receive adolescent-friendly health care, complete their education, learn about healthy relationships, and receive mentoring from compassionate people... Teen pregnancy may offer an opportunity to intervene in the lives of people at higher risk of premature death, but knowing how best to offer support requires an understanding of the context of their lives**. Collecting qualitative data about pregnant teens' experiences will help provide that context. But as a starting point, we must celebrate and listen to all pregnant young people so they can tell us what they need to live long, fulfilled lives.”

See additional media below related to this study:

- Toronto Star article: [Sweeping Study Linking Teen Pregnancy](#)
- CP24 article: [Teen Pregnancy Raises Risk of Death in Early Adulthood](#)
- SickKids: [Press Release](#)

Universal Trauma Screening in Preschool Speech and Language Services

Tuesday April 16, 2024 1:00 pm – 2:15 pm [Register Here](#).

Ujima Project partner, Anna Rupert from the [George Hull Centre Institute of Childhood Trauma and Attachment](#) is holding a virtual talk and discussion focused on the foundational relationship between communication development and skills, mental health, trauma and attachment. This includes the

implementation of universal trauma screening in preschool speech and language services, the associated research occurring at the George Hull Centre and preliminary research findings.

Resources



Ontario Association of Interval and Transition Houses (OAITH)

OAITH is a provincial association made up of Violence Against Women (VAW) shelters, VAW second stage housing programs and VAW community-based women's organizations across Ontario. OAITH training resources and VAW resource library can be accessed via www.oaith.ca. Additional resources are listed below.

- [Mulberry](#) is helping to cultivate change towards a world free from gender-based violence (GBV). Mulberry is an [online resource](#) that can help community members and service providers find abuse and violence related supports and services across Ontario.
- **Sexual Violence Against Black Women and Girls in a #MeToo Era** - Very little research employing an intersectional lens has been done on the effects, prevalence, and lived experience of sexual violence against Black and/or African Canadian women and girls. Access resource [Here](#)
- **Thinking Outside the Box** – Using intersectionality to Understand and Contextualize Children's Experiences of Violence Dr. Roberta Timothy and Dr. Linda Baker. Access resource [Here](#)
- **An Overview of Transitional Housing & Support Programs (THSP) in Ontario- A Resource for THSP Workers & Agencies.** Access resource [Here](#)

Professional Development

SickKids 2-part Education Webinars on “**Trauma**” presented by Dr. Susan Dundas and Janine Lawford.

Learning objectives:

- Participants will know better how to understand PTSD, as well as the many manifestations of complex, developmental trauma
- Participants will learn how to become better aware of potential triggers and trauma reactions
- Participants will add to their knowledge base of strategies for responding to traumatized individuals, including the use of relationship in the stabilization and treatment of youth

Trauma Part 1 education session is scheduled for **April 16, 2024 at 13:00-14:30 EST**. Register [Here](#)

Trauma Part 2 education session is scheduled for **April 23, 2024 at 13:00-14:30 EST**. Register [Here](#)