



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

August 2024

AT A GLANCE

- OAYPA Annual General Meeting and Member Meeting
- Policy Paper Update
- Strategic Plan Announcement
- MCCSS Young Parent Sector Funding Announcement
- CMHO Conference
- Non-Profit Ready PD Resources
- Free ASQ/DSP and Baby Love Training

OAYPA Annual General Meeting and Member Meeting

All members are invited to attend the OAYPA Annual General Meeting and Member Meeting on **Thursday, October 3, 2024**. This meeting will be held in person in Toronto (Waterfront Neighborhood Centre, 627 Queens Quay W.) and via Teams.

If joining in person, please confirm attendance and any food restrictions with Bev MacKillop. Lunch will take place from 12 – 1pm followed by our AGM and Member meeting from 1 pm – 4 pm. A special thank you to Rosalie Hall for covering lunch and room costs!

OAYPA Member Update

Policy Paper

The OAYPA Policy Paper is progressing well. The team at WLU has provided a draft of the policy paper which the working group is reviewing and will be discussing with WLU on Aug. 9th. Thank you to working group members, Lesley, Jane, Joanna, Suzanne, Ekea and Bev and to those member agencies who made financial contributions. If your agency is able to contribute financially to the costs, please reach out to Tamar Meyer (tmeyer@abionacentre.ca).

OAYPA Strategic Plan 2024 - 2027

OAYPA is thrilled to announce the launch of our [2024-2027 Strategic Plan](#). This comprehensive plan outlines our mission, vision, directions, and key actions to build a comprehensive system of

prevention, early intervention, and treatment services to meet the needs of young parents, their infants, and children across Ontario. As outlined in our renewed plan, parent/family engagement is a critical priority for OAYPA and recognized as a driver of excellence. With the support of Samantha Joseph (Peer mentor, Abiona Centre), we recruited young parents from across member agencies to participate in focus groups to provide advice and feedback to ensure that our plan was grounded in real experiences and tailored to meet the needs of young families.

We are very proud of this new strategic plan; a comprehensive guide that will steer our priorities and empower us to advocate effectively with the government. Our six core values—Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Intersectionality, Young Parent/Family Engagement, Integrity & Accountability, Responsible Stewardship, and Shared Leadership and Collaboration—are the foundation and principles that drive our decision-making, strategic planning, and interactions with each other and our stakeholders. Our strategic directions and key actions are designed to address the unique challenges faced by young parents and their children, ensuring that we provide the highest quality of support and advocacy. With this plan, we are committed to making a significant impact and fostering a healthier, more equitable future for all young families in our community. This plan will help us to continue leading change to ensure timely, equitable care, early identification, and support for young parents and children at risk of poor mental health outcomes in Ontario.

This plan was developed in collaboration with our members, the young families they serve, system leaders, and government decision-makers. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all these individuals, particularly the young parents who provided valuable feedback and input that helped shape this strategic plan. A special thank you to Management Advisory Service and Mike deVries who provided invaluable strategic planning, facilitation and knowledge synthesis support. We look forward to working together with our partners and stakeholders to bring this vision to life.

What's New



MCCSS Young Parent Sector Funding Increase

After more than two decades of advocacy and stagnant government funding, MCCSS has approved a \$1.8 million increase to the Young Parent Services sector, an overall 21% increase in annual funding. This significant boost underscores the importance of the work we all do to support young parents and their families across Ontario.

However, this increase continues to only impact member agencies currently receiving MCCSS funding. We understand that this news may be met with mixed feelings. While we celebrate the progress and support received, we also recognize the importance of equitable resource distribution across all our member agencies. For those not currently receiving additional funds, please know that we will continue to actively engage with government officials to advocate for broader support and additional funding opportunities to benefit all our members. We continue to explore opportunities to ensure the sustainability of the Ujima Project, OAYPA's successful proof of concept pilot that effectively demonstrated the impact our sector can have, when we work together, on improving the health and wellbeing of young parents and their children.

We appreciate your understanding and patience as we navigate this development. If you have any questions or need further clarification, please reach out to Ekua (eblair@Abionacentre.ca).

TOGETHER FOR TOMORROW

CMHO Conference: REGISTRATION OPENS IN AUGUST

CMHO is thrilled to welcome everyone back to North America's largest child and youth mental health and addictions conference from **November 18 to 19, 2024!** With a goal of better outcomes, advancing equity, and building a stronger child and youth mental health and addictions system, the conference convenes leaders with a shared goal of improving the health and well-being of young people and their families, including youth and families with lived expertise. The conference provides an opportunity to highlight innovative and evidence-based practices, share knowledge and experience, and build on our collective efforts to prioritize improving outcomes for infants, children, youth, and families.

Resources



Canadian Mental Health Association Self-Care Resource

Many people are familiar with self-care, but how many are making time for it? And what exactly does self-care entail anyway? Self-care is essential for our mental health and has been shown to improve mental health, enhance self-esteem and self-worth, increase optimism, and lessen symptoms of anxiety and depression? Explore the benefits [here](#).

ONWA's Journey 5 Years after the National Inquiry Final Report

This past June, the Ontario Native Women's Association [released a reflection](#) on the five years since the release of the National Inquiry Report submitted by a coalition of Indigenous Women groups across the country. It serves as a moment to remember and honor the lives of Indigenous women, girls, and Two-Spirit people who have been victims of violence and have gone missing. The significance of this milestone is that for the first time on a national scale, thousands of organizations, communities, and grassroots collectively rallied behind a cause that addressed the systemic violence against Indigenous women.

Free Online Training for Non-Profit Professionals

[Nonprofitready.org](https://nonprofitready.org) partners with experts in nonprofit management and online learning to make the best professional development resources available for free. They have curated hundreds of free online courses, videos, and guides to support the most common nonprofit jobs including:

- Fundraising
- Grant Writing
- Leadership
- Governance
- Accounting and Finance
- Operations
- Marketing and Communications

- Volunteer Engagement
- Program Management

Significant Dates



August 5: Civic Holiday

August 12: [International Youth Day](#)

Professional Development

Free ASQ/ DSP and Baby Love Training

Through Ujima Project funding, we will be offering free training for OAYPA member staff in: **Ages and Stages Questionnaire and Developmental Support Plans, and Baby Love.**

Baby Love training is scheduled for September 6, 9, 20 and participation in all 3 days is required. This will likely be the last session offered through Ujima Project funding. If anyone is interested in ASQ and/or Baby Love training, please contact Bev with staff name, role and email at bmackillop@Abionacentre.ca.

Infant and Early Mental Health Promotion (IEMHP) - New Virtual Trainings!

[Attachment: Knowledge, Tools and Interventions to Promote/Repair Security](#)

Date: October 16th, 2024: 1-3pm EST

Instructor: Mary Rella

Cost: \$125 CAD/person

[Working with Mothers Experiencing Intimate Partner Violence with their Infants](#)

Date: November 21, 2024, 1- 4pm EST

Instructor: Dr. Angelique Jenney

Cost: \$175 CAD/person

[The Science and Art of Infant and Family Sleep](#)

Date: February 26th, 2025, 1:00pm – 3:00pm EST

Instructor: Dr. Greer Kirshenbaum

Cost: \$125 CAD/person

[Early Literacy Three Part Series](#)

Date: Ongoing, Self-Paced

Instructor: Dr. Melissa Pebly

Cost: \$185 CAD/person