



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

MARCH 2025

AT A GLANCE

- Free Attendance to IEMHP Conference for OAYPA members
- Fully funded Safeguard Training
- Fully funded ASQ/DSP Training
- Anti-Opressive Toolkit for Service Providers
- SickKids Consultations
- OAYPA Social Media
- Ontario CWELCC Funding Formula Update
- Resources
- Significant Dates
- Professional Development

MEMBER UPDATES

Fully Funded Attendance to IEMHP Conference for OAYPA members!

Through funding from the Ujima Project, we are pleased to share an exciting opportunity for OAYPA members to attend [Expanding Horizons 2025 Conference](#) (May 6-8th, Toronto) organized by Infant and Early Mental Health Promotion at SickKids. This is a valuable event that brings together experts and practitioners in infant and early mental health, providing insights, networking, and professional development opportunities. This opportunity will cover **hotel, travel, registration (3 days 6th/ 7th/ 8th)** for **one member per agency**. Please note meals and taxis will not be covered.

If your agency is interested in sending a representative, please respond by **Friday, March 7th** with the name, role and contact information of your selected attendee. To be eligible, participating staff must commit to the following:

1. Complete a post conference evaluation to report back to the Ujima Project funder
2. Participate in a networking session on Wednesday May 7th with other OAYPA attendees
3. Share key learnings within their agency to support broader knowledge dissemination

Once confirmed, selected attendees will be given a 100% off discount code to register and will have to book their own hotel and travel (additional info to be shared directly with selected attendees) and submit the receipt and invoice for reimbursement before Friday March 21st. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me (tmeyer@abionacentre.ca).

Fully Funded SafeGuards Training

As part of your membership benefits, OAYPA is thrilled to offer a fully funded Trauma-Informed Supervision training through Safeguards, available to one member per agency. This training is designed specifically for supervisors in our sector. More details will follow!

Fully Funded ASQ/DSP Training

Through funding from the Ujima Project, we are pleased to offer free IEMHP **Ages and Stages Questionnaire and Developmental Support Plans** training for OAYPA member staff (\$600 value/staff). Training dates to be confirmed. Limited spots available. Please contact Bev (bmackillop@Abionacentre.ca) to be added to the waitlist.

Anti-Oppressive Engagement with Pregnant and Parenting Young People

OAYPA is collaborating with [Dr. Sherri Dutton](#) to develop a toolkit for service providers, centering anti-oppressive practices when engaging with pregnant and parenting young people. As we know, young parents often face systemic barriers, including stigma, discrimination, and inadequate access to supportive services. Service providers play a critical role in addressing these challenges. However, there is a pressing need for resources that equip professionals with strategies grounded in anti-oppressive frameworks. By collaborating on the creation of a toolkit, OAYPA can drive meaningful change in service delivery, ensuring that pregnant and parenting young people receive equitable and respectful care. Thank you to Sandra Randall and Lesley Barraball who have volunteered to be on this Toolkit Working Group. If anyone is interested in joining this working group, please contact Tamar.

SickKids Consultation Sessions

SickKids Consultations will continue to be available to all OAYPA agency staff until the end of June. These consultations serve as a valuable opportunity to connect OAYPA agency staff, fostering a community of practice and offering essential guidance for our daily work. Through dynamic discussions with SickKids experts of case studies presented by agency staff, we will collectively learn and grow from one another's experiences. If you are interested in attending any of the meetings below, please provide your name and email address to Bev, who will forward the meeting access to you or use the link below to join.

Monthly Every 2nd Wednesday 1:00 – 2:30 pm EST [Click Here to Join](#)

- Feb 12, 2025
- Mar 12, 2025
- Apr 9, 2025
- May 14, 2025
- Jun 11, 2025

Monthly Every 4th Wednesday 9:00 – 10:30 am EST [Click Here to Join](#)

- Feb 26, 2025
- Mar 26, 2025
- Apr 23, 2025
- May 28, 2025
- Jun 25, 2025

OAYPA Social Media

You can find OAYPA on X, Instagram, LinkedIn, and Facebook! Help us spread the word—follow, like, share, retweet, and subscribe to our channels!

LinkedIn: [Ontario Association of Young Parent Agencies \(OAYPA\)](#)

Instagram: [@OAYPA](#)

Facebook: [Ontario Association of Young Parent Agencies](#)

X: [@TheOntarioAsso1](#)

★ **Special Feature: March's Agency of the Month:** Emily Murphy Non-Profit Housing Corporation! ★

WHAT'S NEW

Ontario CWELCC Funding Formula Update

Over the past month childcare advocates have been evaluating the long-awaited [child care funding formula](#). Providers share both excitement and concern. While, transitioning to a cost-based funding formula has been a win for the sector as it replaces a revenue-replacement model, it relies on outdated data and there are still issues with the implementation. The new formula also allows nonprofits to build up surplus revenue through revenue giving centres with low costs and more money to spend. Continued advocacy is necessary to encourage needs like capital funding and adequate staff compensation with wage grids that will help realize the true potential of the \$10/day childcare program

Resources



Dr. Junlei Li: Early Childhood Education Presentation

[Early Relational Health: A Review of Research, Principles and Perspectives](#). This report was researched and written by a team led by Dr. Junlei Li of the Harvard Graduate School of Education, where he is a Senior Lecturer in Early Childhood Education and Co-Chair of the Human Development and Education Program. His research and practice involve understanding and supporting the work of people who serve children on the front lines of education and social services. Dr. Li presented to early educators in the Waterloo region in November. You can access that presentation [here](#). Please note that Dr. Li has asked that **we not post the videos in public forums** as some of the videos and images are for educational use only.

YouthREX Young Parents Logic Model

In 2020, Healthy Teen Network created the [Young Parents Logic Model](#) as a guiding tool to aid youth-supporting professionals in the design and development of programs, services, and interventions, as well as in the continued improvement and evaluation of these activities. This model is not a program

map or a curriculum; rather, it is a resource, a tool, for designing and informing holistic programs and services for young families. The Young Parents Logic Model reflects, based on research, the most relevant goals, determinants, and behaviors. It focuses primarily on the behaviors and determinants of young people who are pregnant and/or parenting. While the needs of children of young parents are reflected in this logic model, the ultimate focus is on outcomes for their parent(s). As we know, positive outcomes for young parents lead to positive outcomes for their children and subsequently, positive outcomes for young families. **Thank you, Joanna Mendes (Jessie's) for sharing this resource!**

Black Mental Health Week

Ongoing learning and a commitment to improve understanding and initiate action to end anti-Black racism and the negative impact it has on mental health and access to care is important year-round. Below are some resources to support your learning, as well as organizations and initiatives that are providing important leadership in this space.

- [HOPE Strategy](#): Infant, child, and youth mental health agencies in the city of Toronto formed a task force to develop a multi-year strategy to address anti-Black racism in the sector. This work includes a research report as well as a strategy to dismantle anti-Black racism in child and youth mental health in Toronto.
- [Pathways to Care](#): Pathways to Care is a project led by the Black Health Alliance in partnership with TAIBU Community Health Centre, Wellesley Institute, the Centre for Addictions and Mental Health (CAMH), and Strides Toronto aimed at removing barriers and improving access to mental health and addictions services for Black children, youth and their families in 6 cities across Ontario.
- [The Gifts of Our People Zine](#): The Gifts of Our People is an Affinity Group with The New Mentality (TNM) that was created in July of 2020 in response to the heavy climate of racism, police brutality and discrimination experienced that summer following the murder of George Floyd. In 2023, they published an online zine that captures their journey as an affinity group and the impact the group has had on Black, Indigenous and racialized youth in TNM's network. Through art, poetry, video and more, Zine highlights the importance of building brave spaces for racialized youth.
- [Black Excellence Community Library](#): developed by Strides' Anti-Black Racism Task Force, this virtual library gives everyone an opportunity to share, celebrate and understand the impact of Black heritage and culture.
- [YouthREX Anti-Black Racism Virtual Training](#): This free online certificate provides the Ontario youth sector with the foundational knowledge to cultivate practices, policies and alliances that challenge, disrupt and combat systematic anti-Black racism.
- [Introduction to Black Health and Disrupting Anti-Black Racism in Healthcare](#): This free virtual webinar offered by Healthcare Excellence Canada and led by Dr. OmiSoore Dryden focuses on Black health through the exploration of the history of anti-Black racism in healthcare in Canada.

Anima Café Leadership Session

In today's politically charged climate, leaders face unprecedented challenges in maintaining trust, resilience, and inclusion within their teams. Join this timely Anima Café session, "[Managing Work Teams Through Divisive Times](#)," hosted by **Shakil Choudhury** on **Tuesday, March 25, 2025, from 12 PM - 1 PM EST**. Don't miss this opportunity to strengthen your leadership and create a more inclusive work environment. This session will equip you with essential skills to support your employees and keep your organization thriving. Gain insights on:

- The connection between psychological safety and resilience
- Managing polarizing workplace issues effectively
- Enhancing tolerance for uncertainty

Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion

CCDI launched a new podcast series as part of the CCDI Leader Talks called “Inclusion Table Talks”. This series brings together CCDI Employer Partners and thought leaders for in-depth discussions on the rising anti-DEIA rhetoric and its impact on our collective vision of building a more inclusive Canada. In the inaugural episode, Dr. Sara-Jane Finlay, PhD, Associate Director of DEI at Insurance Corporation of BC, joins CCDI CEO Anne-Marie Pham to unpack the mounting prevalence of anti-DEIA rhetoric. Together they explore what DEIA truly is and isn't, address common misconceptions, and discuss the profound impact DEIA has had and continues to have on Canadian workplaces. Click [here](#) to access the podcast.

International Women's Day

IWD is celebrated globally on March 8th to recognize the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women and girls, while also raising awareness of persistent inequalities. This [educational resource guide](#) aims to support employers and individuals in celebrating International Women's Day. The resources included in this guide aim to help us make our IWD celebrations and gender equity efforts inclusive of all women, because gender equity cannot be achieved if some women are left behind.

The Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety

CCOHS released a free toolkit to help organizations create a supportive environment for mental health at work. The toolkit seeks to empower business owners, managers, and supervisors to build a workplace culture where employees feel safe, respected, and valued. It includes videos, checklists, infographics, posters, and podcasts to help develop a strong mental health program, address hazards and risks head on, and hold meaningful conversations about mental health with staff. Access the toolkit [here](#).

Significant Dates



- March 3 - 9 [Black Mental Health Week](#)
- March 8 [International Women's Day](#)
- March 21 [International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination - Canada.ca](#)

Professional Development

Ontario Nonprofit Network

Ontario Nonprofit Network is the independent network for Ontario's 58,000 nonprofit organizations. We engage with members to address issues and to ensure the voices of our communities reach governments, funders, and other stakeholders.

- April 3, 2025 4:00 – 6:00 pm:** Nonprofit Annual General Meetings (AGMs): Law 101. Learn the legal requirements for AGMs, an important part of nonprofit governance (\$25.57). Register [here](#).
- May 15, 2025 4:00 – 6:00 pm:** An intro to nonprofit governance, this session will cover the roles, duties, and responsibilities of members, directors, and officers (\$25.57). Register [here](#).

SickKids Education Sessions

Below are the confirmed dates and topics for the 2024-2025 academic year. Registration links and session details will be added as they become available.

<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>PRESENTER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>
Trauma Part 1 Register Here	Dr. Susan Dundas and Janine Lawford, MSW	Mar 25, 2025	1:00 – 2:30pm EST
Trauma Part 2 Register Here	Dr. Susan Dundas and Janine Lawford, MSW	Apr 1, 2025	1:00 – 2:30pm EST
Supporting Indigenous Youth Accessing Care Part 1	Dr. Deb Denard	Apr 15, 2025	1:00 – 2:30pm EST
Land, Water and Resilience Part 2	Dr. Deb Denard	April 29, 2025	1:00 – 2:30pm EST
Life Pathways and Building Community Part 3	Dr. Deb Denard	May 13, 2025	1:00 – 2:30pm EST
Topic Pending	Pending	May 27, 2025	1:00 – 2:30pm EST
Creating Safer Spaces for 2SLGBTQ+ Clients and Families	Cathy Maser, NP	Jun 10, 2025	1:00 – 2:30pm EST
Dissociation	Dr. Upasana Krishnadev and Janine Lawford MSW	June 24, 2025	1:00 – 2:30pm EST

SafeGuards Training

SafeGuards is a partnership of provincial associations dedicated to providing culturally informed training on trauma informed practice, trauma assessment and treatment and related effects of

trauma. OAYYPA is an Association Member of SafeGuards with two of our members on the Board of Directors; Pete Embleton (Youville Centre) and Tamar Meyer (Abiona Centre).

Staff of agencies who are members of OAYPA receive the Members Fee which is 12-23% off on SafeGuards training's fees. Save an additional 20% off individual member fee with group registration of 4 or more participants. Download the group registration form [here](#). For more information and to browse their list of courses, click [here](#).

The following March/April courses may be of interest to you.

Coping with Chronic Racial Trauma: A Black Professional's Path from Survival to Healing

Trainer: Leslie-Ann R. Smith B.A., R.S.W. OCSWSSW, Psychotherapist

March 5 & 6, 2025, 1:00pm – 4:00pm ET [Learn more and register here](#)

Trauma Informed Supervision

Trainer: Dr. Kathryn Mettler (BA, MSW, DSocSci)

March 18 & 19, 2025, 1:00pm – 4:00pm ET [Learn more and register here](#)

Indigenous Perspectives on the Mental Health of Children and Youth

Trainer: Cyndy Baskin, Ph.D.

March 24 & 25, 2025, 1pm-4pm ET [Learn more and register here](#)

Compassionate Leadership: Fostering Self-Care and Well-Being in Staff Teams and Organizations

Trainer: Joanne Barnes Smith MSW, RSW

March 27, 2025, 1:00pm – 4:00pm ET [Learn more and register here](#)