



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 2025

AT A GLANCE

- Member Meeting Minutes
- OAYPA Policy Brief Webinar
- Fully Funded ASQ/DSP Training
- Fully Funded SafeGuards Training
- Anti-Opressive Toolkit: Call for Reviewers
- SickKids Consultation Sessions
- OAYPA Social Media
- In the News
- Resources
- Fundraising/Grants
- Significant Dates
- Professional Development

MEMBER UPDATES

Policy Brief Webinar

OAYPA is excited to host a webinar on **April 3, 2025**, to highlight a [new policy brief developed by Wilfrid Laurier University](#), offering research-driven insights and recommendations to improve support systems for young parents and their children. This event will bring together experts in the field to discuss the challenges young parents face and policy gaps that need urgent attention. We are thrilled to have **110 participants** already registered to attend. Special thanks to our presenters from WLU; Alexandra Burman, Hannah Denberg and Dr. Melody Morton Ninomiya, and our panelists; Ekua Asabea Blair, Gillian Thompson, Jane Kenny, Promise U and young parent NK. We look forward to this important conversation about improving programs and services for our young parents and their children!

Member Meeting

Thank you to all who attended the February 27th Member Meeting. Please click [here](#) to view the meeting minutes.

Fully Funded ASQ/DSP Training

Through funding from the Ujima Project, we are pleased to offer free training through IEMHP for **Ages and Stages Questionnaire and Developmental Support Plans** will be offered to OAYPA member staff

(\$600 value/staff) in 2025/26. Training dates to be confirmed. Please contact Bev (bmackillop@Abionacentre.ca) to be added to the list.

Fully Funded SafeGuards Training

As part of your membership benefits, OAYPA is thrilled to offer free Trauma-Informed Supervision training through Safeguards, available to one member per agency. This training is designed specifically for supervisors from our sector. This virtual training will take place over two, 3-hour sessions (Wednesday June 4th and Friday June 6th). Please send the name of the person from your agency, their position and their contact information to Bev (bmackillop@Abionacentre.ca) by **Monday May 5, 2025**.

CALL FOR REVIEWERS: Anti-Oppressive Engagement with Pregnant and Parenting Young People (PPYP)

OAYPA is collaborating with [Dr. Sherri Dutton](#) to develop a toolkit for service providers, centering anti-oppressive practices when engaging with PPYP. This toolkit will be designed to amplify the voices of young parents, challenge harmful stereotypes, and provide practical resources for service providers and communities. Thank you to Sandra Randall and Lesley Barraball who have volunteered to be on this Toolkit Working Group.

Partner and Client Engagement: Your insights and connections are invaluable in ensuring the toolkit is meaningful, relevant, and effective. If you know young parents or organizations who would be interested in participating in this review, please let us know. We want to intentionally recruit based on geography. Your collaboration will help shape a resource that truly reflects the experiences and needs of young parents.

Reviewers will be asked to review the final version of the toolkit to provide feedback. All young parents would receive an honorarium for their support and anticipated review time would be 2-3 hours. If you know of anyone, particularly those working with us in high school programs, Midwifery/Doula, Ontario Works, Public Health and/or young parents, please share their contact information with Bev.

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](#)

- Apr 9, 2025
- May 14, 2025
- Jun 11, 2025

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

- 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: April's Agency of the Month:** Fresh Start Support Services! ☀

IN THE NEWS

The Ontario Nonprofit Network (ONN) recently partnered with Laidlaw Foundation to take a deep dive into privatization in Ontario's Child Welfare Sector. The case study blog focuses on the complexities of the child welfare systems and its current problems, while putting forth a clear call to action and policy solution as a first step to addressing a myriad of systemic concerns: reinstate the Office of the Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth. Review both ONN's blog, [The Problem with Privatizing Child Welfare: A Reflective Case Study](#), and Laidlaw Foundation's blog, [The Business of Care: How Privatizing Child Welfare Services is Failing Ontario's Youth](#).

Resources



The Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion

[Creating a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Strategy:](#) This toolkit lays the foundation for developing and refining DEI efforts, and creating an environment where everyone feels valued, heard, and empowered to contribute their unique talents and perspectives. It uses up to date research, resources, fresh perspectives and actionable insights to help design and implement a DEI strategy that drives meaningful change. This toolkit breaks down complex concepts into actionable steps.

Charity Village

As organizations face increasing unknowns, tight deadlines, and smaller budgets, prioritizing mental health is essential to staying resilient and effective. That's why, in partnership with Mindset Mental Health Strategy, Charity Village created the "[Why Mental Health Matters for Charities and Nonprofits Guide](#)"

The new guide covers:

- Normalizing conversations about mental health
- Common challenges and how to address them
- Providing support for mental health issues
- Addressing workload
- Enhancing the work experience
- Plus, more strategies and tips!

YouthREX: The Kit for Centering Black Youth Wellbeing

This is an online hub that supports anti-Black racism learning+action+community engagement in Ontario's youth sector. The Kit provides Ontario youth sector with the knowledge and tools to:

- Understand the historical roots and context of present-day manifestations of anti-Black racism
- Engage with research on the impact of anti-Black racism on Black youth and their families
- Learn critical practices for centering the wellbeing of Black youth and communities
- Commit to ongoing personal, professional, and organizational accountability.

Click [here](#) to access The Kit.

FUNDRAISING/ GRANTS



The McLean Foundation is committed to supporting work that is not as likely to be funded by others, but that can make a positive difference. They look for projects that show promise of improving the wellbeing of people, communities, and our environment which may initially lack broad public appeal. Click [here](#) for more information.

Charity Village

Whether you are new to fundraising, or a seasoned pro looking to brush up on your skills, Charity Village has a fundraising course for you. Access the Charity Village course list [here](#).

Creating an Inclusive Organization: Learning for Nonprofit Leaders: This Charity Village course focuses on how to build inclusive organizations through the lens of the Diversity Assessment Tool Application, also known as DAT App. The DAT App focuses on 6 dimensions that impact equity, diversity and inclusion in an organization. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Significant Dates



- April 2, 2025 [International Children's Book Day](#)
- April 23, 2025 [World Book Day](#)
- May 29, 2025 Member Meeting (Virtual, 1:00 – 3:30pm)

Professional Development

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 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 Register Here	Dr. Deb Denard	Apr 15, 2025	1:00 – 2:30pm EST
Land, Water and Resilience Part 2 Register Here	Dr. Deb Denard	April 29, 2025	1:00 – 2:30pm EST
Life Pathways and Building Community Part 3 Register Here	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

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](#).

Canadian Women's Foundation

Addressing Gendered Digital Harm A Conversation with Gender Equality Advocates

April 10, 2025, 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm ET [Click to Register](#)

Join the Foundation on April 10th for an online discussion with gender justice and equality experts and advocates where they will explore the intersection of technology, social justice, and gender equality.

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. OAYPA 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 April/ May courses may be of interest to you.

Treating Trauma and Concurrent Substance Use in Adolescents

Trainer: Stephanie Rabenstein, M.Sc., RMFT, RP April 8 & 9, 2025, 1:00pm – 4:00 pm ET [Learn more and register here](#)

Addressing Pre- and Post-Migration Trauma Related to Conflict and Displacement

Trainer: Mona Hassannia, MA, RCC April 14 & 15, 2025, 1pm-4pm ET [Learn more and register here](#)

Self-Compassion in the Workplace: Caring for Ourselves while Caring for Others

Trainer: Joanne Barnes Smith MSW, RSW April 29, 2025, 1:00pm – 4:00pm ET [Learn more and register here](#)

Confronting Suicidal Ideation and High-Risk Behaviour

Trainer: Elizabeth Scarlett, RP, CFRC (Certified First Responder Counselor) May 13 & 14, 2025 1:00pm – 3:00pm ET [Learn more and register here](#)

Embrace Trauma-Informed Care with Children and Youth

Trainer: Colleen Kamps MA, CYC (Registered Psychotherapist) May 14 & 15, 2025 1:00pm – 4:00pm ET [Learn more and register here](#)

Introduction to Motivational Interviewing

Trainer: Marie Delorme, M.Ed., RSW, Certified Motivational Interviewing Trainer May 21, 22, 28 & 29, 12:30 – 4:00 pm ET [Learn more and register here](#)