

August Newsletter

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

We can't believe how quickly summer is zooming by! Whether you're deep in summer programming or planning for the fall, we hope this edition offers useful insights, inspiration, and a reminder that we are stronger when we work together.

Thank you for being part of the OAYPA network!

AT A GLANCE

- July Member Meeting Minutes
- SickKids Consultation Sessions
- Executive Leadership Training with David Harley
- SafeGuards Retirement Announcement
- Resources
- Fundraising Courses
- Significant Days
- Professional Development

Member Updates

July Member Meeting and October AMM

A big thank you to all the members who attended our OAYPA Member Meeting on July 3, 2025. We're grateful for your continued engagement and the thoughtful conversations that help strengthen young parent programs across the province. The meeting minutes and materials are now available here: [July 3, 2025](#). Our next member gathering will be the **Annual Member Meeting, Friday, October 3rd in Toronto at the Waterfront Neighbourhood Centre** - we look forward to connecting in person! Please confirm your availability [here](#).

SickKids Bimonthly Consultation Sessions

SickKids Telemental Health Consultation Sessions, facilitated by Gillian Thompson and Dr. Sadler, will continue to be available to all OAYPA agency staff for 2025-2026. These consultations serve as a valuable opportunity to connect with OAYPA agency staff, fostering a community of practice and offering essential



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guidance for our daily work. Through dynamic discussions with SickKids experts, and case study presentations by agency staff, we will collectively learn and grow from one another's experiences. Refer to the meeting details below. Please let Bev know if you would like to be included on the meeting holds.

Frequency: Monthly 2nd Wednesday (1:00 - 2:30PM) This [link](#) will allow you to access each session.

Dates:

- 10-Sep-25
- 8-Oct-25
- 12-Nov-25
- 10-Dec-25
- 14-Jan-26
- 11-Feb-26
- 11-Mar-26
- 8-Apr-26
- 13-May-26
- 10-Jun-26

Frequency: Monthly 4th Wednesday (9:00 – 10:30 AM) This [link](#) will allow you to access each session.

Dates:

- 24-Sep-25
- 22-Oct-25
- 26-Nov-25
- 28-Jan-26
- 25-Feb-26
- 25-Mar-26
- 22-Apr-26
- 27-May-26
- 24-Jun-26

OAYPA Leadership Training

OAYPA is offering a [Leadership Training](#) with David Hartley through OAYPA membership fees. Our commitment to developing the skills of our members is reflected in our Strategic Plan. This training is designed to equip EDs or their designated leaders with essential leadership skills, empowering them to excel within the organization and beyond.

David Hartley is a dedicated professional with extensive experience in the nonprofit sector, serving as founder of NonprofitHelp.ca. With a strong focus on helping organizations enhance their operational efficiency, David provides insightful guidance on nonprofit management, governance, leadership, and strategic growth. His expertise spans a wide range of areas including fundraising, volunteer coordination, and organizational development, making him a valuable resource for nonprofits looking to maximize their impact and sustainability.

- **Date:** Nov 2025 (Date to be confirmed)
- **Location:** Waterfront Neighbourhood Centre (627 Queens Quay W, Toronto, ON)

- **Time:** 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
- **Please confirm your availability to attend by completing this [form](#).**

Retirement Announcement – Leslie Atkinson, Executive Director, SafeGuards Training

With deep gratitude, the SafeGuards Training Board of Directors (including Pete Embleton and Tamar Meyer, representing OAYPA) is announcing the retirement of Leslie Atkinson, Executive Director, who has been involved in the growth and leadership of the organization for 30 years. Under her leadership, SafeGuards has grown from a loose partnership of five founding associations into a thriving, impactful agency that has changed countless lives through trauma treatment and trauma-informed training.

Throughout her tenure, Leslie has led with vision, compassion, and tireless dedication. Thanks to her leadership, SafeGuards broke new ground in bringing trauma-informed practices to the forefront of many sectors in Ontario. Leslie was instrumental in advancing our mission, always maintaining a place on the leading edge of policy and practice, pointing the way forward for practitioners across sectors.

Please join us in honoring Leslie’s extraordinary contributions to training, mental health and social services in Ontario, Canada, and around the world, and in wishing her all the best in retirement.



Charity Village

The [Fostering Personal and Collective Wellbeing: A Workbook and Guide for Social Service Providers](#), published by Charity Village, in partnership with Elizabeth Bishop, explores what it means to cultivate wellbeing personally, as a social service provider in the nonprofit sector, and collectively at our organizations. This workbook will help you embark on a journey of self-discovery, offering practical strategies to support your personal sense of wellbeing, while also considering approaches to organizational practices that can enhance the team’s collective health.

Charity Village has published a workbook and guide for social service providers called [Fostering personal and collective wellbeing](#). This resource explores what it means to cultivate wellbeing personally, as a social service provider in the nonprofit sector, and collectively at our organizations.

Charity Village

This [Event Planning](#) course offers a practical introduction to event planning for nonprofits and mission-driven organizations. Whether your aim is to raise funds, attract new donors, or increase awareness, you'll gain the knowledge and tools needed to accomplish any goal. You'll learn the fundamentals of planning, production, and logistics, while also exploring how to shape your guest experience and amplify

your message through marketing, communications, and sponsorship. By the end, you'll be ready to plan purposeful events that bring your mission to life.

Fundraising Basics for Small Non-Profits; Using Data to Create an Effective Fundraising Strategy

For staff and volunteers who are new to fundraising or just beginning to explore data, using data analysis to drive your fundraising strategy can come with a bit of a learning curve, especially when you have a small team. This webinar is designed to guide organizations that are new to using their own donor data in their fundraising strategy. In this free session, you will explore the fundamentals of data analysis and how it can support your fundraising goals by making the most of the resources you already have.

Date: Thursday, September 18th, 1-2pm ET

Intended Audience: This session is best suited for grassroots, small nonprofit teams, and staff and volunteers of nonprofits who are new to fundraising or have not received formal fundraising training, and have an active role in their organization's fundraising activities, including executive directors, board members, program staff, development staff and fundraising committee members.



Professional Development

Board of Directors Essentials Bundle is a 5-course eLearning program created to refine board skills for new and legacy members alike. This bundle offers a practical introduction to board service, with tools and guidance to help new and returning board members strengthen their leadership and governance skills. It covers key topics like how boards function, writing effective policies, strategic planning, and embedding Indigenous perspectives in boardroom decision-making. All courses are on-demand, 100% online, and upon completion, participants will receive a certificate recognizing their learning.

From Confusion to Clarity: Strengthening Financial Oversight in Nonprofits is a practical session, where you'll hear from seasoned advisors to NPO boards on how to build stronger financial leadership, clear responsibilities, and effective oversight at the board level. Whether you're a board member, ED, or governance advisor, this session will help you move from financial fog to strong, accountable, and aligned decision-making.

- Date: Thursday, September 25 at 1pm ET / 10am PT (webinar is 1 hour in length)
- Audience: This webinar will be of primary interest to nonprofit leaders, Executive Directors, board members, and nonprofit professionals.
- Cost: Free

Diversity, Sensitivity, and Inclusion Training: Promoting Anti-Discrimination and Equity in the Workplace: This interactive and engaging course will educate you about individual rights and

responsibilities when it comes to anti-discrimination, diversity, sensitivity, and inclusion in the workplace and will set the foundation for creating an inclusive, respectful work culture where every person can rise to their potential. This 1-hour course is online and self-paced, meaning that you can take it at anytime and anywhere.

Foundations of Early Well-Being: A Certificate in Infant and Early Mental Health is a unique, Canada-based training program developed by Infant and Early Mental Health Promotion (IEMHP) at SickKids. This 10-month, hybrid course is designed for practitioners who support families with young children (prenatal to age six) and are looking to deepen their understanding of infant and early mental health. Through a blend of recorded lessons, live discussions, reflective journaling, and assessments, participants will explore key topics including early brain development, adversity and resilience, equity, prevention, and early intervention.

The program runs from September 2025 to June 2026 and requires a weekly commitment of approximately five hours. The course fee is \$1,225, and admission includes submitting a resume, letter of intent, two references, and a letter of support from your employer. Successful applicants will join a national learning community working to build a more infant mental health-informed workforce across Canada. Applications are due by August 5, 2025. For more information, visit <https://www.imhpromotion.ca/> and to apply, contact iemhp.learning@sickkids.ca

Join CCDI for an immersive experience as they explore the essential role of transdisciplinary approaches in diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility in building equitable futures. CCDI's fall [2025 Community of Practice](#) invites practitioners, changemakers and organizational leaders from both public and private sectors to come together and explore how transdisciplinary approaches can drive innovation, ethical action, and collective sustainability in today's evolving DEIA landscape. CCDI's Community of Practice offers virtual and in-person sessions.

Hanen Centre – Launchpad to Literacy

Children have a critical window in the early years in which adults must support them to develop emergent literacy skills – a set of early abilities that lay the foundation for learning to read and write. Grounded in decades of expertise in early language and literacy learning, [Hanen Launchpad to Literacy](#) shows you how to target the specific literacy skills young children need to learn – and to infuse that learning into fun everyday interactions in the home and in early childhood settings.

Hanen Launchpad to Literacy is for professionals with a post-secondary degree or diploma who work with young children aged 3-5 (typically developing, at-risk or with mild language delays) and/or who support their parents or educators. This includes early childhood educators, kindergarten teachers, speech-language pathologists, and other professionals who support the language and literacy development of young children. This groundbreaking workshop translates decades of research from the Science of Reading into simple, evidence-based strategies that target the specific emergent literacy skills young children need to learn.

Mental Health for All Conference is happening September 23–25, 2025 at the Hilton Toronto. This year's conference will be held live and in person.

Legal, HR, and Governance Essentials for Nonprofits is a hands-on, 2-day training, designed specifically for nonprofit professionals including EDs, HR leads, or Board members. It is designed to help you understand the legal frameworks for hiring, contracts, and volunteer management. Save 15% off registration by using ONN15 at checkout.

Dates: September 8 & 15, 2025

Format: Online - Live and Interactive

The Ontario Association of Interval and Transition Houses' Training Hub offers courses for individuals working in programs and organizations that support survivors of Gender-Based Violence (GBV). The courses are self-paced, allowing learners to start and finish courses on their own time and re-visit anytime. Once you complete a course and evaluation, you will receive a Certificate of Completion. Use this [link](#) to create an account and access the Training Hub. The courses listed below may be of interest:

- Understanding and Applying Harm Reduction Approaches within GBV Work
- GBV, Technology & Safety
- Taking Action in Our Spheres of Influence: Intersectional Anti-Racism/Anti-Oppression GBV
- Sexual Violence, the Law & Legal Options
- Intimate Partner Sexual Violence
- Working with Immigrant & Refugee Women & Sexual Violence
- Risk Assessment & Safety Planning with Infants, Children & Youth

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

TOPIC	WHEN	TIME
Confronting Suicidal Ideation and High-Risk Behaviour	August 12 & 13, 2025	1:00 – 3:00 PM
Navigating the N-Word and Racial Slurs	August 19 & 20, 2025	1:00 – 4:00 PM
Introduction to Motivational Interviewing	September 24, 25 & October 1, 2, 2025	12:30 – 4:00 PM
Sexualized Behaviour in Children: When Clinical Intervention is Necessary	September 22 & 23, 2025	1:00 – 4:00pm

TOPIC	WHEN	TIME
Embrace Trauma-Informed Care with Children and Youth	October 7 & 8,	1:00 – 4:00 pm
Trauma-Informed Supervision	October 20 & 21, 2025	1:00 – 4:00 pm ET
Trauma Informed Care: Supporting Individuals with Developmental Disabilities	Oct. 21 and Oct. 22, 2025	9:30 am – 3:30pm
Serving the Mental Health Needs of Persons with a Developmental Disability	November 27 & 28, 2025	9:30 am – 3:30pm
Self-Compassion in the Workplace: Caring for Ourselves while Caring for Others	October 23, 2025	1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Compassionate Leadership: Fostering Self-Care and Well-Being in Staff Teams and Organizations	October 30, 2025	1:00 – 4:00 pm
In Between the Missing and Murdered: The Need for Indigenous Led Responses to Human Trafficking	November 25 & 26, 2025	1:00 – 4:00 pm

SickKids CCMH Learning Institute

Strengthen your clinical skills this summer with client-focused, expert-led online training. Browse the summer training to find the sessions that best support your practice—and the clients you serve.

TOPIC	PRESENTER	DATES	TIME
You are not alone: Exploring ways to support survivors of sexual assault and violence	Karine Silverwoman, MSW	Aug 7, 2025	10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Understanding features of trauma: The importance of in-depth trauma screening instruments	Ian Robertson, MSW, RSW	Aug 12, 2025	9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

TOPIC	PRESENTER	DATES	TIME
Grief on the frontlines: Fostering healthy grief in ourselves and those who we support	Andrea Warnick, RN, MA, RP	Sept 19, 2025	9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Certificate in cognitive behaviour therapy (CBT) for children level 1: Core concepts and techniques.	Kathryn Walker, Ph.D., C.Psych, and Daniel Chorney, Ph.D.	Sept 29, 30, Oct 8 & 9, 2025	9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Creative interventions to assess and treat school refusal.	Liana Lowenstein MSW, RSW, CPT-S	Sept 30, 2025	1:00 – 4:00 PM
Exploring the connection between eating disorders and attachment.	Devra Igra, MSW, RSW.	Sept 18 & 19, 2025	9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Conflict management skills: Transform workplace challenges into opportunities for stronger relationships.	Susan Geary, PhD	August 6, 2025	9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Transference and countertransference: Training for mental health professionals.	Natalie Zlodre Choy, MSW, RSW	Sept 24, 2025	9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

