

July Newsletter

Ontario Association of Young Parent Agencies

serving infants, children and young parents - together

Welcome to the New OAYPA Newsletter!

We're excited to share our refreshed newsletter format—designed with you in mind. In this new layout, you'll find clearer updates, easier navigation, and more opportunities to stay connected to the advocacy, programs, and policy work that matters most to OAYPA members across Ontario. Each issue will spotlight key initiatives, partner highlights, and tools to support your work. Thanks for being part of our collective voice—let's keep building momentum together!

Have something you would like to spotlight? Please contact Bev or Tamar.

From Gown to Grin



Claudia Kwandibens celebrates her high school graduation with a surprise appearance from her two-year-old daughter Zara, who popped out from under her gown during Thursday's ceremony at St. Lawrence the Martyr Parish.

Kwandibens was one of 18 students – the largest graduating class to date – to earn their Ontario Secondary School Diploma through alternative education programs at **Regina's Place, Jeanne Scott Parent & Child Resource Centre** and Notre Dame House School. She served as valedictorian for Regina's Place graduates, while Ezekiel Wilson was the valedictorian for Good Shepherd's Notre Dame House School.



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l'Association Ontarienne des Agences pour Jeunes Parents
servir nourissants, enfants et jeunes parents - ensemble

Trauma Informed Supervision - Recap

This month, 21 of our supervisors and managers participated in specialized SafeGuards training focused on applying trauma-informed principles within leadership roles. Recognizing that trauma-informed care extends beyond front-line practice, the training emphasized the importance of supportive supervision and organizational systems. Participants explored how to integrate trauma-informed approaches into everyday leadership practices such as clinical supervision, performance evaluations, incident debriefings, and addressing vicarious trauma and burnout.

This training was provided free of charge to OAYPA member agencies and marks an important step toward fostering resilient, supportive teams and strengthening our commitment to trauma-informed service delivery at every level. According to the post training survey, 100% of the participants were satisfied or very satisfied with the training and 100% of participants shared that their knowledge changed due to this training with training being at the right level. Supervisors who attended the training shared the following testimonials:

I really enjoyed listening to Kathryn, the stories she shares make the practices we do more relatable and helped me to understand a topic or situation more clearly.

Trauma Informed Interviewing, definitely something that I will be putting into my toolbox.

Such an important topic, more time would have been great. I really enjoyed the facilitator's skills. Her laughter, informal approach, and the real-life examples she shared brought so much value to the session.

IN THE NEWS

Ontario Nonprofit Network (ONN)

As the sector stares down a potential recession and government mandates calling for austerity, it is important to reflect on how decades of austerity and under-funding of the nonprofit sector have fundamentally impacted how both the sector and communities serve and show up for those in need. [ONN's new blog](#), "The Domino Effect" explores how without holistic funding approaches, clients are downloaded to less efficient services leading to increased pressure on the sector and tertiary systems as well.

Significant Dates

July 1, 2025 [Canada Day](#)

July 24, 2025 [International Self-Care Day](#)

GET INVOLVED!

Applications are now open for the 5th annual Charity Village Awards! Winners will be celebrated at the upcoming virtual Conference & Awards on Wednesday, November 19, 2025.

Awards for Organizations:

- Best Nonprofit Employer - Diversity, Equity & Inclusion in the Workplace
- Best Nonprofit Employer - Employee Workplace Wellness Program
- Best Nonprofit Employer - Collaborative Project
- Best Nonprofit Employer - Volunteer Program
- Best Nonprofit Employer - Fundraising Campaign
- Awards for Individuals:
 - Most Outstanding Impact – Staff
 - Most Outstanding Impact – Volunteer

Applications for all awards may be submitted personally or by a third-party nomination. Nominations close on July 31, 2025. Click [here](#) for more information and to access the application.



Canadian Women's Foundation

[PODCAST - Reshaping Maternal Care](#)

Andrea Gunraj speaks with Kimberley Okafor, researcher and advocate for maternal health equity, about why improving maternal care in Canada starts with truly listening to marginalized voices. Kimberly shares insights from her work on racial disparities in healthcare, the urgent need for race-based data, and how cultural competency can help save lives.

Hanen Centre

Phonological awareness is one of the most important early literacy skills, but it can be tricky to know how to support it during everyday activities. Here's a fun [Hanen strategy](#) that makes it easy for parents and educators to build phonological awareness while enjoying rhymes with children.

Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion (CCDI)

CCDI's latest report, [Exploring Intersectionality in DEIA and Canadian Workplaces](#), is the first chapter in a new research series addressing how organizations can better recognize and respond to the complexity of identity in the workplace. This report serves as a valuable, evidence-based resource that explores how DEIA professionals interpret intersectionality, and how these interpretations can be used to inform more inclusive and responsive workplace strategies. Download the CCDI 2025 Diversity Calendar [here](#).

Fundraising

Charity Village

How to Develop Corporate Sponsorships

Regardless of your organization's size or focus, you can build valuable partnerships with corporate sponsors. This course will teach you how to approach them effectively and how to build win-win relationships that can last for years. This course is online and self-paced, meaning that you can take it anytime and anywhere. It will take approximately 1.5 hours to complete it. You have 1 year (365 days) to complete the course from the date of purchase. [Click here for more information and to register](#)

Proposal Writing

Every donor and funder require a unique proposal. This [Proposal Writing Course](#) is designed to help you get ahead by writing clear, strategic proposals that align with funder requirements and support your organization's goals. This 100% online course includes certification upon completion and covers the full proposal development process. You'll explore the different types of proposals, learn how to structure your content, define clear goals and objectives, create a complementary budget, and design an evaluation plan that demonstrates impact.

TELUS Canadian Community Board Grant

The [TELUS Canadian Community Board grant](#) provides funding of up to \$20,000 per year to programs that support youth up to age 29 experiencing obstacles to reaching their full potential, with a focus on health or education. Deadlines vary according to region.

*Innovations in Addressing Gender-Based Violence and Trauma and Violence-Informed Health Promotion
October 1-2, 2025*

This bilingual conference will share innovative programs and research on trauma-and violence-informed health promotion in the gender-based violence sector from the Public Health Agency of Canada's "Preventing and Addressing Family Violence: The Health Perspective" investment. Conference programming will include interactive workshops, creative sessions, panel discussions, and networking opportunities designed to foster collaboration and knowledge sharing.

[Click here for more information and to register.](#)

Infant and early mental health is our collective responsibility and [IEMHP's Foundations in Early Well-Being Certificate program](#) is here to help you build the knowledge, skills, and confidence to promote well-being, respond to risk, and influence the systems that surround young children. The Certificate is designed for professionals across Canada who work with young children and families in any setting and who recognize the urgent need for informed, coordinated, and equity-driven mental health promotion in the early years.

This **virtual, part-time program** is designed to deepen the skills of those working across early learning and care, primary health, child welfare, mental health and related sectors. Rooted in IEMHP's Competency Framework, it prepares participants to shift practice, guide systems, and advocate effectively for the youngest minds in our communities.

Structure: 7 online modules combining pre-recorded webinars, reflective journals, quizzes, and live facilitated discussions

Duration: 3–5 hours/week | September 2025 – June 2026

Cost: Pilot-year fee: \$1,225

Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion (CCDI)

- July 8, 1:00 PM [Building 2SLGBTQIA+ safety and inclusion across Canadian workplaces: A panel conversation](#)
- July 29, 1:00 PM [Five years and forward: Black Lives Still Matter](#)
- Aug 5, 1:00 PM [Understanding the importance of DEIA in Canadian environmental challenges](#)

Download the CCDI 2025 Diversity Calendar [here](#).

July 24: [Legal dimensions of the board-ED relationship](#)

Learn the different roles and rights of the board and Executive Director, and how to ensure the rights of each are respected, and no one oversteps their bounds.

August 12: [Legal principles in risk management](#)

Examine the diversity of stakeholders nonprofits affect and the various kinds of risk that nonprofit activities can face.

For over 20 years, the Canadian Women's Foundation has funded programs that prevent gender-based violence and build confidence in girls and young people. But the need for mental health support continues to grow, particularly for trans and nonbinary girls and youth who face many forms of discrimination. As a result of this urgent need, this **free**, self-paced digital course for **youth workers** is now open for enrollment. Created in collaboration with New Room and Pure & Applied, the course was *co-designed with youth workers* and informed by research conducted by Taylor Newberry Consulting. [Click here for more information.](#)

World Association for Infant Mental Health

The 19th World Congress of the World Association for Infant Mental Health (WAIMH) is coming to Toronto in October 2026, and we want you to be a part of it!

This event is co-hosted by Infant and Early Mental Health Promotion (IEMHP) at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto.

We welcome submissions that:

- ✓ Share new or emerging research
- ✓ Reflect diverse cultural and community perspectives
- ✓ Highlight innovative clinical or programmatic approaches
- ✓ Foster cross-disciplinary collaboration

Submission Deadline: December 1, 2025

For more details on topics, guidelines and how to apply, please click [here](#).

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 or more participants. Download the group registration form [here](#). For more information and to browse their list of courses, click [here](#).

TOPIC	PRESENTER	DATE(S)	TIME
Trauma Update: Addressing Critical Elements When Working with Traumatized Children and Youth	Geraldine Crisci	Recorded Webinar (Free)	NA
Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Borderline Personality Disorder or Complex PTSD? Emerging Definitions and Treatment Directions	Stephanie Rabenstein, M.Sc., RMFT, RP	July 9 & 10, 2025	1:00 – 4:00 PM
Using Trauma-Informed Care Principles in Supporting Intergenerational Trauma in First Nation Communities	Cristine Rego, MSW, RSW	July 23 & 24, 2025	1:00 – 4:00 PM
Confronting Suicidal Ideation and High-Risk Behaviour	Elizabeth Scarlett, RP, CFRC	August 12 & 13, 2025	1:00 – 3:00 PM
Navigating the N-Word and Racial Slurs	Natasha Shakespeare, M.Ed.	August 19 & 20, 2025	1:00 – 4:00 PM
Introduction to Motivational Interviewing	Marie Delorme, M.Ed., RSW, Certified MI Trainer	September 24, 25 & October 1, 2, 2025	12:30 – 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.

Trauma-Informed Practice & Complex Trauma			
Approaches Grounded in Trauma Theory, Polyvagal Frameworks and Resilience-Building			
TOPIC	PRESENTER	DATES	TIME

Trauma-Informed Practice: A Strength-Based and Social Justice Approach for Supporting Diverse Communities	Karine Silverwoman, MSW, RSW	July 3, 2025	9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Treating trauma in children, youth and families	Janine Lawford, MSW, RSW	July 21, 2025	9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
The effectiveness of Polyvagal therapy as a treatment modality for trauma	Ian Robertson, MSW, RSW	July 24 & 25, 2025	9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
You are not alone: Exploring ways to support survivors of sexual assault and violence	Karine Silverwoman, MSW, RSW	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
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

Reproductive, Attachment & Relational Mental Health

Attachment and Identity-Based Training to Deepen Therapeutic Understanding and Support Across the Lifespan

TOPIC	PRESENTER	DATE(S)	TIME
Reproductive and perinatal mental illness: An introductory training for health care professionals across various disciplines.	Kristine Anderson, R.Psyc, PMH-C, MA	July 7, 2025	1:00 – 4:00 PM
Better together: Practical integration of cognitive behavioural therapy and attachment theory in therapy.	Rana Pishva, Ph.D. C.Psych	July 30, 2025	9:00 AM – 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

CBT & Integrative Approaches

Evidence-Based Models to Support Flexible, Effective Interventions Across Diverse Client Presentations

TOPIC	PRESENTER	DATE(S)	TIME
CBT for procrastination: New perspectives in mental health.	Sanjay Rao, MBBS, MD, FRC Psych, FRCPC, MBA	July 29, 2025	9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Child, Youth & Adolescent Mental Health

Targeted Tools for Supporting the Evolving Mental Health Needs of Children, Teens and Families

TOPIC	PRESENTER	DATES	TIME
Depression in adolescents: Evaluating 'acting out behaviour' - mad, bad or sad?	Marshall Korenblum, MD, FRCP(C)	July 16, 2025	9:30 AM – 4:00 PM
Self-harm in teenagers: The spectrum from non-suicidal self-injury to suicidality- Reconition, red flags and management approaches.	Dr. Marshall Korenblum, MD, FRCP(C)	July 18, 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

Clinical Communication & Supervision

Strengthen Leadership, Intake, Therapy Sessions and Foundational Communication in Clinical Practice

TOPIC	PRESENTER	DATE(S)	TIME
Certificate for new supervisors: Supervisor training for health and human service professionals.	Susan Geary, PhD, and Marion Langford, M.Ed	July 8, 10, 15 & 17, 2025	9:00 AM – 4:00 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

Digital Mental Health & Modern Challenges

Explore the Impact of Technology, Screen Use and Digital Culture on Mental Well-Being

TOPIC	PRESENTER	DATE(S)	TIME
Always online: Therapeutic approaches in the age of chronic screen use.	Jake Ernst, MSW, RSW	July 7, 2025	9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Psychotherapy with teens: A 21st century approach.	Marshall Korenblum, MD, FRCP(C)	July 9, 2025	9:30 AM – 12:30 PM