



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

June 2024

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OAYPA Policy Paper Survey Update

We are so pleased to update you on the progress of the OAYPA Policy Paper Research Project survey completion. We achieved a **100% participation rate** and are so appreciative of the efforts made by all 20 member agencies. We had responses from 119 service providers, with 48 of those respondents interested in being interviewed. Once we have the bot responses are cleaned up, we will have a more accurate count for the service users, but at this point it looks like 340 service users completed the survey with 210 interested in being interviewed. If you are interested in the completion rate for your agency, please email Bev bmackillop@Abionacentre.ca.

This policy paper is a critical tool that OAYPA will use to advocate to government and other provincial partners for increased investments and other supports to our sector to achieve a comprehensive system of services for young parents and their children across the province. This collective voice will send a strong united message to the Ontario government and other provincial partners that the members of OAYPA are working effectively and efficiently to improve the outcomes of young families across the province.

Next Steps: For those individuals (providers and service users) who identified interest in being interviewed; WLU, will be following up to schedule focus group discussions. Please note that due to the high interest, WLU will not be able to interview everyone but will take a proportional approach to ensure equal responses across member agencies. If you have any questions, please reach out to Bev.

Get Involved

Safeguards has experienced turnover in its director positions this year. They are seeking a new director from OAYPA, ideally to step into the treasurer role. As Safeguards plans to expand nationally, the ideal candidate should be a member of the agency's leadership team, so they can tap into this individual's expertise in scaling up large projects. There are 4-6 meetings a year (some virtual, some in-person). If you are interested in this rewarding experience, please reach out to Peter Embleton at director@youvillecentre.org

What's New



Annual Membership Dues

Your membership dues have come due. We appreciate your role as a contributing member of our association. Your support is invaluable to our mission, and we eagerly anticipate an active year of advocacy with government bodies and funders on behalf of our members. Additionally, we are excited about finalizing our new three-year strategic plan and achieving the associated action goals. The membership form can be found [here](#) or attached to the email.

Abiona Centre's Baby Love Program Collaboration Announcement

Abiona Centre is excited to announce a partnership with Dr. Wittenberg (SickKids) and Douglas Stewart (Competency Consultants & Associates), to conduct an Anti-Black Racism review of Baby Love. This initiative aims to enhance accessibility for young mothers who are Black or African Canadian.

Focus Group Participation Call: Abiona Centre is seeking the participation of staff trained to deliver the Baby Love program and Black and African Canadian young mothers who have attended the program. We invite these agencies to join upcoming focus groups (focus group dates to be shared shortly) led by our consultant, Douglas Stewart. These sessions are critical in gathering insights and feedback to enhance the program's effectiveness and inclusivity. If your agency is interested in participating in these focus groups, please contact Barbara Smith at bsmith@abionacentre.ca or 416-425-6348.

We are confident that this collaboration will lead to significant improvements in the Baby Love program, making it more inclusive and accessible to the Black and African Canadian community's young mothers.

Postpartum Midwifery Care Clinic at St. Michael's Hospital

OAYPA members often collaborate with various sectors including local hospitals, community health centres and primary health care providers such as midwives to improve equitable access to specialized services and improve outcomes for our young families. St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto is demonstrating a health equity approach to support vulnerable populations is a wonderful example of how partnerships within our communities can be developed. This unique model of care, which aligns

with our strong commitment to equity and addressing the social and structural determinants of health, addresses the primary care gaps we are facing in Ontario, thus helping to ensure that young parents and their infants/children have access to the right services at the right time.

The new Postpartum Midwifery Care Clinic at St. Michael's Hospital provides up to six weeks of postpartum care for women and their newborns who gave birth at St. Michael's. The clinic is prioritizing patients who do not have a primary care provider or have barriers to accessing care, so they can receive care in a timely way and avoid the escalation of issues that may lead to visits to emergency departments.

The clinic is staffed by two midwives who provide the full scope of midwifery postpartum care. This includes assessment of postpartum bleeding, suture care, post-caesarean section wound care to avoid infections, lactation support, as well as routine well baby care, weight checks and jaundice follow-ups for the newborn. The clinic also supports health system navigation and mental health assessment. Midwives are highly trained and well positioned to provide excellent, holistic postpartum care to moms and babies. They are health-care professionals who provide government-funded expert primary care to pregnant people and their newborns. As midwives are experts in low-risk pregnancy and birth, midwifery clients will not see a physician unless there are concerns or complications. If complications arise, midwives can consult with physicians or, if necessary, transfer a client's care to a physician. If care is transferred, midwives continue to support their clients and resume primary care when it is possible. You don't need a referral from a doctor to have a midwife, just [contact your local clinic](#) directly.

More info about the Postpartum Midwifery Care Clinic at St. Michael's Hospital can be found [here](#).

Resources



Early Relational Health – Report and Messaging Guide

In their new report, *Early Relational Health: A Review of Research Principles and Perspectives*, lead authors Dr. Junlei Li and Thelma Ramirez from the Harvard University Graduate School of Education explore the science and practical applications of Early Relational Health, presenting a valuable resource for practitioners working to advance the health and well-being of children and families.

This [Report](#) has a companion [Video](#) and [Messaging Guide](#), *How to communicate Effectively about Early Relational Health – What it is and Why it Matters*. The Messaging Guide was developed to support the communication needs of health and social service providers.

Key Takeaways:

- Early Relational Health is about the positive, nurturing interactions between parents/caregivers and their infants/toddlers. These simple and ordinary moments take place in the daily routines of being together. And they make children and their caregivers healthier for a lifetime.
- Starting in infancy, children learn and grow from their interactions with other human beings. These early relational experiences are essential to every aspect of the infant's development, including the social-emotional, cognitive, physical, and physiological.

- The benefits of Early Relational Health are reciprocal for babies and adults. Practicing Early Relational Health triggers changes to the adult brain that strengthen caregivers' mental and physical health. These changes reduce symptoms of anxiety and depression and improve stress resilience and physical health.
- It's essential to recognize that parents want to do what's best for their children, that they have the capacity to parent, and that professionals should act as a partner to parents, in a supportive role.
- Meeting parents' and children's basic needs is essential to enabling them to engage in responsive caregiving interactions. But such resources as reliable childcare, paid family leave, a safe, affordable place to live and play, and nutritious food aren't distributed equally across neighborhoods and regions, and these disparities are felt most along racial and economic lines.

FROM THE ONTARIO NONPROFIT NETWORK

New Iteration of Working for Workers Act Tabled with Skills Development Focus

The Ontario government recently tabled its fifth iteration of the Working for Workers Act, 2024 which aims to prioritize skill development and training, remove barriers to employment, protect frontline workers, and support women by expanding existing programs, and creating new streams that are targeted to priority-demographic groups like [youth and newcomers](#). Moreover, the province has made a commitment to increasing fairness for jobseekers and employees by proposing measures like requiring employers to disclose in publicly advertised job postings whether a position is vacant and responding to applicants they have interviewed for those jobs and increasing the [minimum wage](#) from \$16.55 to \$17.20 effective as of Oct 1, 2024. The Ministry stated that it would consult with stakeholders to develop an education-first approach to implement these changes.

While this new legislation provides some support for some workers, it does not address key employment standards gaps like paid sick days. Despite the expansion of many skills development programs, targeted training and skills development initiatives for nonprofit workers to attain in-demand skills continue to be left out – putting the sector at a disadvantage. ONN will continue to seek clarification on some of the proposed measures, and what effect they would have on the sector, as well as participate in stakeholder consultations.

New Childcare Funding Formula Expected by 2025

Ontario has [announced](#) that by January 2025, there will be a new funding formula in place for childcare service providers who have opted into the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care program. This long-awaited formula, consulted on for over a year, will dictate whether nonprofit childcare providers can afford to provide families with \$10-a-day childcare. For the program to work, the government's [funding formula](#) must reflect the true cost of service delivery that facilitates high quality childcare. Without an adequate funding formula, as we have already seen, providers are forced to stop offering \$10/day care or reduce services to keep the doors open. If the new funding formula reflects what nonprofit providers have been sharing in consultations, it has the potential to make affordable childcare a reality.

New Federal Advocacy Resource

The Federal Youth Secretariat has released a great [resource](#) that summarizes where to find information on what the Government of Canada is doing on an issue, and how to use it to prepare for meetings with officials. It includes an overview of mandate letters, the speech from the throne, the budget, government structure, and more.

Significant Dates



All Month [National Indigenous History Month](#)

All Month [Pride Season - Women and Gender Equality Canada](#)

June 13 OAYPA Member meeting (Virtual, 1pm – 3:30pm)

June 16 [Fathers' Day 2024 in Canada](#)

June 21 [National Indigenous Peoples Day 2024 in Canada](#)

June 27 [Canadian Multiculturalism Day - Canada.ca](#)

Professional Development

Free Ages and Stages Questionnaire/ Developmental Support Plan Training

Through Ujima Project funding, we will continue to accept names of staff to be trained in ASQ/DSPs. Our spring cohort includes 10 OAYPA staff who will be trained in this evidence-based screening tool. IEMHP will be holding “open call” trainings in the Fall and the Winter of each fiscal year, to provide an opportunity for new staff members to receive the training that the rest of your teams have received. Spaces are limited, the Fall cohort is open to OAYPA exclusively, until June 12th, when it will open it to the public, first-come-first-served. Another cohort, and this same opportunity will be available for the Winter 2025 cohort as well. If anyone is interested in receiving this free training, please contact Bev with staff name, role and email at bmackillop@Abionacentre.ca.

Indigenous Cultural Safety Training

The City and Aboriginal Labor Force Development Circle (ALFDC) would like to share an [Indigenous Cultural Safety](#) online training opportunity available through San'yas. This training is focused on uprooting anti-Indigenous racism and promoting cultural safety for Indigenous people in Canada. Some of the key benefits you can expect from this training include:

- Increased confidence working with Indigenous people and contributes to reconciliation
- Contributes to safer practices and safer workplaces
- Contributes to better outcomes for patients and clients
- A key component of organizational cultural safety strategies

San'yas courses start every Monday. The training sessions run for 8 weeks with no set time to be logged onto the platform. Facilitators are on hand to assist and enhance the learner experience. The suggested amount of time to complete the training is 8-10 hours dependent on the individual learning style. Please note that all group purchases and registrations are done through leresha.lickers@phsa.ca. For single seat purchases you can make payment and register [here](#).