



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

July 2024

AT A GLANCE

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OAYPA Member Meeting Update

Member Meeting and Materials (June 13, 2024)

Great to see so many of you at our June 13th member meeting. For those who missed it, here are the links to the meeting [minutes](#). The 2024 – 2027 Strategic Plan was the major focus of our member meeting, and we were able to finalize our new [Directions, Objectives and Key Actions](#). The [Value Statements](#) have also been finalized and approved by members.

As you know, we are working on the sustainability of the Ujima Project.

Action Item:

1. Pending funding (not confirmed), we would like to know if your agency is interested in participating in the next phase of the Ujima Project.
2. If the answer is YES to the above question, how many staff would your agency require (increments of 2 – (1) Early Literacy Specialist, (1) Family Navigator)?

Please email Bev (bmackillop@Abionacentre.ca) **on or before July 3, 2024**

Our next Member Meeting date is September 26, 2024 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Get Involved

TOGETHER FOR TOMORROW

CMHO Conference: Call for Presentations

Children's Mental Health Ontario is thrilled to announce the call for presentations for North America's largest child and youth mental health and addictions conference happening November 18-19, 2024, at the Marriott Toronto Eaton Centre! Join nearly 700 leaders in child and youth mental health and addictions as we come together under the conference theme of *Together for Tomorrow: Better Outcomes for Infants, Children, Youth and Families*.

Be a part of advancing better outcomes by submitting a presentation proposal!

The CMHO Conference team is seeking workshop and poster presentations that move us towards our shared goal of better and equitable mental health and addictions outcomes for infants, children, young people and families by:

- Empowering clinicians and enhancing front-line care
- Building organizational culture and capacity
- Driving systems level change and improvement

We are looking for unique, innovative and interactive presentations that raise youth and family voice and provide practical and tangible ways for attendees to implement change, improve practice and/or support sustained approaches and new ways of thinking. Presentations that demonstrate and integrate approaches that advance equity, reconciliation, anti-racism and anti-oppression and those that bring an intersectional lens will be prioritized.

[You can find more details about the submission guidelines and process here.](#)

Deadline to submit is July 5, 2024.



Expanding Horizons 2025: Call for Presentations

Calling all service providers, practitioners, community leaders, researchers, etc.! Submissions are welcomed for 90-minute concurrent sessions to be delivered in-person on May 7 or 8, 2025 as a workshop or presentation. Expanding Horizons strives to promote evidence-based programs, spotlight promising supports, feature emerging research, celebrate community successes, and translate science into meaningful practice with children prenatal to six years of age.

Submission Deadline: September 30, 2024 (11:59 pm EST)

Submission Acceptance: by November 13, 2024 (whether accepted or not)

For inquiries: iemhp.expandinghorizons@sickkids.ca

For more details on abstract submission and to apply, please click [here](#)

What's New



MCCSS Meetings and Proposal

We have been in close contact with our MCCSS Young Parent Services colleagues and met recently with the Child Welfare Branch to discuss alignment between Ujima Project and [child welfare reform](#) (specifically the strategic pillar of community-based prevention services to enhance family wellbeing). With both groups, we have made explicit our goal of securing sustainable block funding to ensure the continuity of this initiative. Over the summer, we are finalizing an “Ujima 2.0” proposal/budget for MCCSS to continue to sustain our current 9 Hubs and potentially expand to additional sites. We have received indication that MCCSS is amenable to receiving a proposal in September after the budget funding envelopes have been finalized. As we have demonstrated with Ujima Project, we are stronger when we work together and as such, will be working on a **shared OAYPA proposal** rather than at an individual agency-level to secure continued Ujima funding.

OAYPA Policy Paper

We are working with researchers from Wilfred Laurier to finalize the OAYPA policy paper (expected final draft – late July). We will use this advocacy tool to influence policy direction regarding YPI services in Ontario. Thank you to those who participated in the provider survey and promoted the survey to your clients!

Funders Luncheon and Follow-up Meetings

We were invited to a funders luncheon in May hosted by current Ujima Project funder with representatives from 8 foundations to discuss our sector, the Ujima Project and goal of continued funding. Several foundations have shown interest in supporting our project and have secured two individual funder follow-up meetings to talk in more depth about the possibility of continued funding. The presentation was well-received, and we are optimistic about forming strategic partnerships that will provide financial support and enhance the reach and impact of our project. and have secured two individual funder follow-up meetings to talk in more depth about the possibility of continued funding.

Meeting with Minister of MCCSS

Rose of Sharon hosted a meeting last week between OAYPA and **Hon. Michael Parsa** (Minster of Children, Community and Social Services). Ekuu, Gillian and Tamar discussed the work of our sector, the successes of the Ujima Project and our goal of sustainable MCCSS funding. Promising outcome: He requested a follow-up meeting!



Resources



Ontario Association of Interval and Transition Houses: A [new resource](#) is now available which summarizes the available housing options and support for survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) in Ontario. Developed by OAITH in collaboration with the Ontario Municipal Services Association (OMSSA) and the Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario (ACTO), the **Housing Options & Supports for Survivors** resource provides wide range of types of support related to system navigation and affordable housing, family court, criminal court, housing, social services, healthcare, education, training, childcare and child protection.

Free Equity, Diversity Inclusion Courses: [Nonprofitready.org](https://www.nonprofitready.org)

Toronto Initiative for Diversity and Excellence: [TIDE](#) Training Resources with a Keynote Presentation from Mindfest 2021 – [Implicit Bias and Diversity](#)

Ontario Native Women's Association: [Love Builds the Bundle 2SLGBTQQIA and Toolkit](#) which includes a glossary of terms video resources and information about the Two-Spirit Movement and coming out.

National Association of Friendship Centres: [Gender-Base Analysis Toolkit](#) meant to be a culturally informed and Indigenous centered with resources drawn from 2SLGBTQQIA+ and IndigiQueer experiences.

Significant Dates



July 1: Canada Day; National; [Canadian Heritage](#)

July 24, 2024: [National Self Care Day](#)

August 12, 2024: [International Youth Day | August 12 - Calendar](#)

October 2-6, 2026: [WAIMH Toronto 2026](#): Save the date! The 19th World Congress of the World Association for Infant Mental Health (WAIMH) is to be held in Toronto, Canada October 2nd-6th, 2026. The Congress theme is Harmony in Diversity: Nurturing the Youngest Minds Around the World. Stay tuned for further information!

Professional Development

SickKids Education Session

July 3, 2024 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm [Register Here](#)

Stress Management and Resiliency in Mental Health Care Providers, presented by Dr. Cecilia Marino.

Learning objectives:

- Learn about burnout and its relationship with chronic stress
- Learn how to assess early signs of burnout
- Exploring the connection between stress management, resilience and burnout prevention

Free ASQ/ DSP Training

Through Ujima Project funding, we will continue to accept names of staff to be trained in Ages and Stages Questionnaire and Developmental Support Plans. 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.