



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

FEBRUARY 2025

AT A GLANCE

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MEMBER UPDATES

OAYPA Policy Paper Update

We are pleased to share OAYPA'S Internal Policy Brief called [Report on Current State of Live In Treatment/ Intensive Day Programs for Pregnant and Parenting Youth, their Infants, Children in Ontario](#). This report includes the same background/context included in our system [policy brief](#) but instead of policy recommendations, it includes six agency/association-level recommendations. We encourage you to review this report and reflect on the recommendations in advance of our upcoming OAYPA Member Meeting.

Membership Dues

As we look ahead to an exciting year of advocacy and collaboration, we wanted to kindly remind you that your 2025 membership fees will be due in March. We are so grateful for your continued support and for being a vital part of our Association. Your membership helps drive our mission forward, and together, we'll continue to work passionately with government bodies and funders to make a lasting impact on behalf of all our members. Thank you for your ongoing commitment and for all that you do!

Please access the Membership Renewal Form [here](#).

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!

[Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [X](#)

☀️ **Special Feature:** February's **Agency of the Month** is Columbus House! ☀️

UJIMA PROJECT UPDATE

Tribute Book

To honor the hard work, dedication, and passion of the Ujima Project team, we are excited to share a special tribute in the form of a Dr. Seuss-y inspired [book](#) and [story time video](#). This story is inspired by the spirit, values and principles of the Ujima Project and the remarkable achievements we've accomplished. It encapsulates our partnerships, from SickKids to SmartStart Hubs, our focus on developmental screening with ASQs, and the unwavering commitment of the project team to building capacity and fostering resilience among young parents and their children. We invite you to read/listen to the story and reflect on the journey we've shared. It's a celebration of the collective work and responsibility that defines Ujima and our gratitude for your extraordinary contributions.

SickKids Consultation Sessions

Ujima Project Consultations, facilitated by our partners from SickKids, 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 (bmackillop@Abionacentre.ca) or use the link below to join.

Monthly Every 2nd Wednesday 1:00 – 2:30 pm EST [Click Here to Join](#)

- Feb 12, 2025
- Mar 12, 2025
- Apr 9, 2025
- May 14, 2025
- Jun 11, 2025

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

- Feb 26, 2025
- Mar 26, 2025
- Apr 23, 2025
- May 28, 2025
- Jun 25, 2025

WHAT'S NEW

Charity Village

With elections happening across the provinces and the potential for a federal election at any time, how to navigate political change is top of mind for many nonprofit leaders. Learn how your agency can engage in government relations, lobby for social change, and access government funding, especially

during such an unprecedented time of uncertainty, from nonprofit sector experts in this episode of [Charity Village Connects](#).

Resources



Hanen Centre

Studies show that language skills support children's mental health by allowing them to recognize emotions in themselves and others, talk about those emotions and ultimately use strategies to regulate those emotions. Learn more about the studies and strategies in this Hanen article ["How Do Language Skills Support Children's Mental Health?"](#).

Fundraising

[TELUS Friendly Future Foundation](#) – Community Board Grant; Canadian registered charities are invited to apply for grants that support local, grassroots community-based health and education programs that help youth reach their full potential. Single year funding is up to \$20,000 per year, except for Barrie and Central Ontario, which is up to \$10,000.

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. They are flexible in the types of funding they provide. You can apply for a specific project, an existing program, or general operations. Our grants tend to be up to \$15,000.

Charity Village offers tips for your grant search: Finding and writing grant applications can be very time-consuming as it often requires research not only to locate a grant, but also to find a grant that is best aligned with the work of your organization. Check out this [article by Story Point Consulting](#) for tips to get started on your grant search.

Significant Dates



SIGNIFICANT DATES

- February 2025 [Black History Month](#)
- February 10-11 [NonProfit Appreciation Week](#)
- February 17 [Family Day](#)
- February 26 [Pink Shirt Day](#)
- February 27 [Member meeting \(1-3:30pm\)](#)

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>
<u>Compassion Fatigue & Burnout</u> Register Here	<u>Dr. Upasana Krishnadev</u>	<u>Feb 4, 2025</u>	<u>1:00 – 2:30pm EST</u>
<u>Youth and the Opioid Crisis</u> Register Here	<u>Dr. Tea Rosic</u>	<u>Feb 11, 2025</u>	<u>1:00 – 2:30pm EST</u>
<u>Pharmacology</u> Register Here	<u>Dr. Cecilia Marino</u>	<u>Feb 25, 2025</u>	<u>1:00 – 2:30pm EST</u>
<u>Trauma Part 1</u>	<u>Dr. Susan Dundas and Janine Lawford, MSW</u>	<u>Mar 25, 2025</u>	<u>1:00 – 2:30pm EST</u>
<u>Trauma Part 2</u>	<u>Dr. Susan Dundas and Janine Lawford, MSW</u>	<u>Apr 1, 2025</u>	<u>1:00 – 2:30pm EST</u>
<u>Supporting Indigenous Youth Accessing Care Part 1</u>	<u>Dr. Deb Denard</u>	<u>Apr 15, 2025</u>	<u>1:00 – 2:30pm EST</u>
<u>Land, Water and Resilience Part 2</u>	<u>Dr. Deb Denard</u>	<u>April 29, 2025</u>	<u>1:00 – 2:30pm EST</u>
<u>Life Pathways and Building Community Part 3</u>	<u>Dr. Deb Denard</u>	<u>May 13, 2025</u>	<u>1:00 – 2:30pm EST</u>
<u>Topic Pending</u>	<u>Pending</u>	<u>May 27, 2025</u>	<u>1:00 – 2:30pm EST</u>
<u>Creating Safer Spaces for 2SLGBTQ+ Clients and Families</u>	<u>Cathy Maser, NP</u>	<u>Jun 10, 2025</u>	<u>1:00 – 2:30pm EST</u>
<u>Dissociation</u>	<u>Dr. Upasana Krishnadev and Janine Lawford MSW</u>	<u>June 24, 2025</u>	<u>1:00 – 2:30pm EST</u>

SafeGuards Training

SafeGuards is a unique collaborative partnership dedicated to providing culturally informed knowledge exchange to address trauma and safeguard vulnerable children, youth, adults and families from abuse. OAYYPA is a member of SafeGuards with two of our members on the Board of Directors; Pete Embleton (Youville Centre) and Tamar Meyer (Abiona Centre).

OAYPA agencies are entitled to a 10% discount on all course prices. 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 February/March courses may be of interest to you.

Breaking Intergenerational Transmission of Trauma

Trainer: Lethicia Foadjo, BSW, MSW, RSW

February 11 & 12, 2025; 1:00pm – 4:00pm ET [Learn more and register here](#)

Addressing Trauma and Attachment in the Classroom Environment

Trainer: Janet Cullen, MA, RP & Abby Doner, MSW, RSW

February 14, 2025, 12:30pm – 3:30pm ET [Learn more and register here](#)

Coping with Chronic Racial Trauma: A Black Professional's Path from Survival to Healing

Trainer: Leslie-Ann R. Smith B.A., R.S.W. OCSWSSW, Psychotherapist

March 5 & 6, 2025, 1:00pm – 4:00pm ET [Learn more and register here](#)

Indigenous Perspectives on the Mental Health of Children and Youth

Trainer: Cyndy Baskin, Ph.D.

March 24 & 25, 2025, 1pm-4pm ET [Learn more and register here](#)