



THE ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETIES (OACAS) PRESENTS
ITS 2010 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CHILD WELFARE AND WELL BEING:
PUTTING CHILDREN FIRST: MAKING A DIFFERENCE

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

FOR PRESENTERS/WORKERS

This four-day international conference is the biggest event in Canada for child welfare experts and professionals working with children. Throughout the conference national and international experts will present their work, research, and programs.

DATES:	June 6, 7, 8, & 9, 2010
LOCATION:	Doubletree by Hilton: Toronto Airport Hotel, 655 Dixon Road, Toronto, Ontario
SUBMISSION DEADLINE:	NOVEMBER 16, 2009

THE PURPOSE

- To promote increased awareness and understanding of issues impacting child welfare practice
- To encourage critical dialogue about the effects of child abuse and neglect as it relates to the safety and well being of children, families and communities
- To identify emerging trends and new practices that demonstrate results
- To build cross sector relationships and networks for those who work with abused children, and their families to increase collaborative program responses
- To identify trends, new programs and research related to foster care, child welfare transformation, child neglect, and child sexual exploitation
- To provide an opportunity for researchers, child welfare professionals and community partners to showcase their collaborative programs

TARGET AUDIENCE

- Child welfare professionals
- Service providers involved with child abuse and neglect, child welfare and well being
- Professionals working with children – health, education, mental health, domestic violence, etc.



- Law Enforcement professionals
- Government representatives (e.g. Ministries of Children and Youth Services, Community and Social Services, Education, Health, Attorney General, Community Safety, Correctional Services, First Nations)
- Child welfare agencies' board members and managers (Leadership)
- Foster parents
- Social work students

SHARE YOUR EXPERTISE AND KNOWLEDGE

The Conference Steering Committee invites you to submit a proposal for presentation/workshops at the 2010 Conference - *Putting Children First: Making a Difference*. The Conference Steering Committee is seeking submissions about successful programs, new research and outcome studies that focus on child safety, child neglect, child pornography/sexual exploitation, foster care, balancing risks and strengths in child welfare practice, community capacity building, and anti-oppressive child welfare practice.

The OACAS is looking for presenters who will inspire attendees to approach child protection and child well being through a different lens.

THEMES

Presentations and workshops should be approximately **45** minutes in length with a **15** minute Q&A session. Presentations should include in-depth information about research, programs and projects and include clinical intervention strategies that address one of the following conference **themes**:

DIRECT SERVICE (front-line, clinical workers, supervisors)

1. The future of foster care: creative approaches to permanency planning, supporting youth into emerging adulthood
2. Balancing strength and risk in practice
3. Child sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and youth
4. Chronic child neglect: community responses, innovative practices and family support
5. How to engage families in child welfare practice: strength based and anti-oppressive practice



In addition presentations/workshops should cover at least one of the following topics:

- Aboriginal/First Nations
- Cultural minorities
- Family
- Parenting
- Legal issues
- Anti-oppressive practice
- New research and research studies
- Innovative partnerships
- Needs of rural communities
- Risk Assessment/Safety Planning

Leadership (board members, senior management and managers)

- Leadership in not for profit organizations
- Strategic planning and management
- Change management

Each presentation/workshop will be followed by a Question & Answer period.

PROPOSALS FOR PRESENTATIONS/WORKSHOPS MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING

1. Title of presentation/workshop
2. A brief description (250 Words) and outline of the presentation, which may be used in all conference advertising material. Please use clear language to describe your presentation/workshop
3. A list of who is involved in the collaborative project/program (funders, community stakeholders, names of presenters)
4. Length of the project/program
5. Indicate which conference theme the presentation is relevant to (theme under service delivery or leadership)
6. A list of resources that will be shared onsite, including handouts or other visual resources
7. Cite any known research or models upon which this project/program/presentation has been developed
8. Proposals must be submitted in the language of presentation (French or English). Translation will not be provided
9. All submissions will be acknowledged upon receipt



CRITERIA FOR ACCEPTING PROPOSALS

All proposals will be evaluated by the Conference Steering Committee based on the following criteria:

1. Relevance to Conference themes and topics
2. Transferability of workshop information to practice
3. Assessment and discussion of new and relevant research or models and outcomes
4. Innovation and originality
5. Planned group activities/interaction
6. Quality, clarity and organization of submission

Proposals will be selected to ensure a varied program across all sectors. Please note that not all submissions will be selected to present.

HANDOUTS

Presenters are asked to provide any materials, tools, templates for distribution to conference participants. Videos and other visual aides are welcome.

Selected presentations PowerPoint and/or presentations handouts will be included with participants' registration material. These materials may be provided to participants on other media (CD/DVD, Memory Sticks). It is the responsibility of presenters to submit electronic handouts to OACAS three (3) weeks prior to the conference.

Selected groups/presenters will be provided with guidelines and support from OACAS staff in order to prepare for the symposium presentation. All selected presentations and handouts will be posted on the OACAS website after the conference.

SPECIAL PUBLICATION

OACAS plans to publish a special publication of selected conference presentations and make it available for sale. While the proposed volume represents potential publication opportunities for contributors, OACAS will not be offering remuneration to contributors. It is the intention of OACAS that sale proceeds will offset publication costs.

It is agreed and understood, if a proposal is accepted for inclusion in the conference program and later selected for publication in the volume which is currently planned, that OACAS has express permission to publish the presentation and, further, that no remuneration will be paid or payable in respect of the publication.



INFORMATIONAL AND COMMERCIAL BOOTHS

NOMINAL CHARGE FOR INFORMATIONAL BOOTHS FOR NON OR NOT FOR PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Organizations can showcase their services, products or available resources via Informational Booths or Commercial Booths. Commercial or Informational Booths are visual displays of available services, resources, and research or outreach programs. Booths will be exhibited in a specific area at the conference and will provide an opportunity to handout informational material and interact with conference attendees during refreshment breaks, pre and post conference events.

Booths may be used to display, distribute materials and research, audio visual products and other items and/or services to conference attendees. Each booth will be provided with a 6' skirted table and backdrop for mounting display/posters included in the booth fee. All other requirements for retail booths (power, additional lighting, A/V, etc) will incur additional charges. Posters, displays and materials are subject to approval of OACAS.

Informational booths should:

- Be Informational
- Describe the major points/highlights of a program, research or service available
- Clearly identify the organization offering the program or service

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING PROPOSALS

1. Submit presentation/workshop presentations online to scoppen@oacas.org prior to **November 16, 2009**
2. Informational or Commercial Booth applications should be submitted online to scoppen@oacas.org on or prior to **March 19, 2010**
3. Identify a contact person. He or she will be the only one contacted regarding the submission. It is the contact person's responsibility to notify all others involved in the submission
4. All submissions will be acknowledged upon receipt

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

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