



Provincial Autism and Mental Health Training Program

Booster Session Overview Fall 2023

FALL 2023 BOOSTER SESSIONS

- 1) Gender, Sexuality, Autism & Mental Health (English + French)
- 2) A Collaborative Service Delivery Model for Autistic Children and Youth Experiencing Mental Health Challenges (English)
- 3) Enhancing Support for Underserved Communities: Towards Cultural Competence (English)
- 4) How to support Parents and Caregivers of Autistic Children and Youth (English + French)
- 5) Recognizing Autism in Female Children & Youth (English & French)

Eligibility: Must have received a certificate of completion for the Foundational and/or Advanced Trainings from Provincial Autism and Mental Health Training Program.

Sessions Overview

GENDER, SEXUALITY, AUTISM & MENTAL HEALTH

Date/Time: Thursday, September 21, 2023, 10:30-12:00 pm (English)

Date/Time: Thursday, September 21, 2023, 2:00-3:30 pm (French)

Speaker: Dr. Isabelle Hénault

Language: English & French

Length: 90 Minutes

Description: The concept of sexuality, gender and gendering is a central preoccupation for many adolescents, with autistic children and youth having their own unique experiences as well. The purpose of this session is to help autism and mental health professionals better support the specific needs of autistic children and youth who are experiencing mental health challenges and are also navigating their sexuality and gender identity, including transgender and non-binary youth. Educational and clinical intervention tools will be highlighted.

A COLLABORATIVE SERVICE DELIVERY MODEL FOR AUTISTIC CHILDREN AND YOUTH EXPERIENCING MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGES

Date: Tuesday, October 17, 2023

Time Options: 1:00-2:30 pm

Speakers: Karen Dillon & Shona Casola

Language: English

Length: 90 Minutes

Description: This session will provide an overview of the Ontario Autism Program Urgent Response Service (URS) framework and lived experience of both providers and families within this service stream. Presenters will share the vision for a collaborative service delivery model where providers operate as partners to support autistic children and youth experiencing mental health challenges.

Through the use of real case examples, early program evaluation results and the family experience, presenters will outline the service delivery model and lessons learned with emphasis on recommendations for other community providers to best support this population.

ENHANCING SUPPORT FOR UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES: TOWARDS CULTURAL COMPETENCE

Date: Friday, October 27, 2023

Time Options: 10:00-11:30 pm

Speakers: Dr. Kira Vimalakanthan & Dr. Shivajan Sivapalan

Language: English

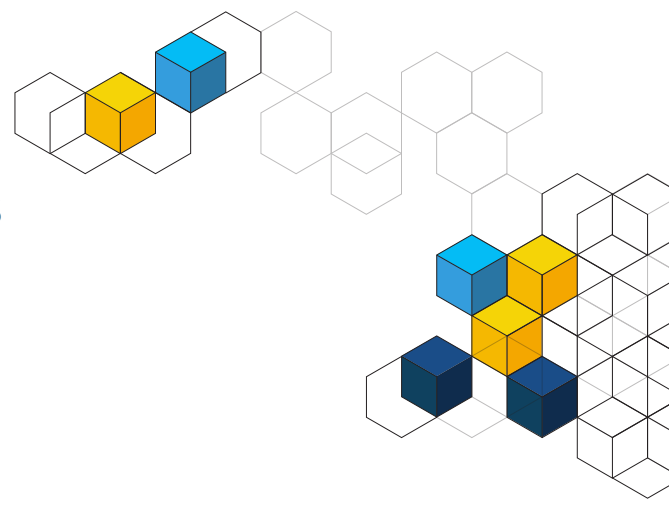
Length: 90 Minutes

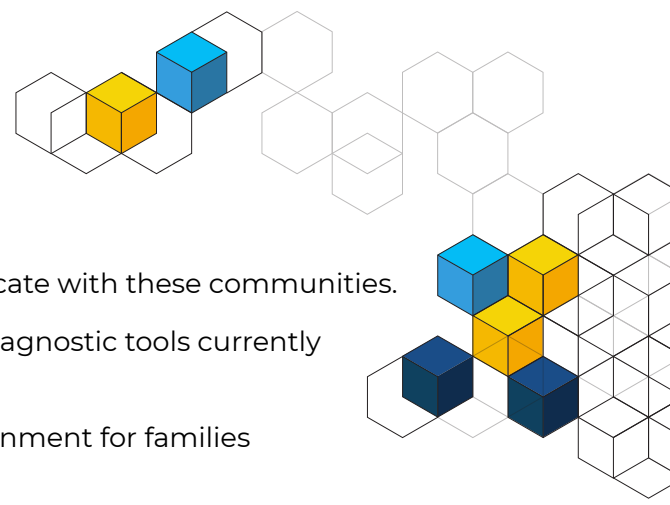
Description: There exists a significant delay in the diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder among children from racialized backgrounds compared to their non-racialized counterparts. Factors such as cultural customs, language barriers, and the value systems of newcomer families can complicate effective communication with healthcare providers, leading to delays in diagnosis and early intervention opportunities.

Current strategies for promoting child development, recognizing early signs of autism and other developmental disorders, and ensuring timely intervention, may not be as effective for racialized communities in Canada. Various racial and ethnic groups may interpret and utilize these strategies differently due to their culturally-influenced health beliefs and behaviors.

To address this issue, culturally responsive approaches must consider how cultural beliefs and values can impact the reception and acceptance of health promotion messages. Discrimination and bias have serious consequences, and increasing cultural awareness can help alleviate some of these harmful interactions. In our increasingly diverse society, culture plays a significant role in defining one's sense of belonging and identity. Therefore, being culturally competent and responsive is essential in forming and maintaining meaningful relationships.

This booster session will highlight strategies and share insights gained to more effectively engage and support underserved communities; specifically, South Asian, Black, Tagalog-, Mandarin- and Cantonese-speaking communities.





The goals of this webinar are to:

- 1) To help equip service providers with a better understanding of the barriers these communities face.
- 2) To highlight strategies on how to more effectively communicate with these communities.
- 3) To review some of the concerns around the screening and diagnostic tools currently used for autism spectrum disorder.
- 4) To highlight strategies to help create a more inclusive environment for families during diagnostic and treatment pathways.

HOW TO SUPPORT PARENTS, FAMILIES AND CAREGIVERS OF AUTISTIC CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Date: Tuesday, November 7, 2023, 10:30-12:00 pm (English)

Date: Wednesday, November 8, 2023, 10:30-12:00 pm (French)

Speaker : Dr. Marie-Hélène Prud'homme

Language: English & French

Length: 90 Minutes

Description: Families and caregivers of autistic children and youth face unique challenges; in this workshop, we seek to understand their reality and look into how to support the integral role they play as parents, caregivers, siblings, and grandparents. We will look into the roles and responsibilities of these families and caregivers, how to support their emotional well-being from the announcement of the diagnosis to the many different life transitions, and present tools and programs that you can use to accompany them.

RECOGNIZING AUTISM IN FEMALE CHILDREN & YOUTH

Date: Tuesday, November 21, 2023, 10:30-12:00 pm (English)

Date: Tuesday, November 21, 2023, 2:00-3:30 pm (French)

Speaker: Dr. Isabelle Hénault

Language: English

Length: 90 Minutes

Description: Diagnosis of ASD in females has been a challenge for many years due to the lack of understanding and recognition of their complex characteristics. Dr. Hénault has been involved in developing guidelines to address the problem of diagnosing ASD in females (co-written with Pr. Tony Attwood, V. Pasin & B. Wicker, 2020).

During her presentation, she will discuss the history of diagnostics and the characteristics of the female profile of ASD (abilities, social profile and camouflaging strategies). Different assessment questionnaires will be presented, and finally, research, references books and services dedicated to females with ASD will be presented.



The registration link will be emailed directly to trainees who have completed the Foundational and/or Advanced Trainings from the Provincial Autism and Mental Health Training Program.

MORE SESSIONS TO BE ANNOUNCED FOR WINTER 2024!