



PART



Using Evidence to Promote Excellence in Child Welfare

PART

Annual General Report

2015

»» Our Vision

"To promote the understanding and use of evidence-informed practice at all levels of the child welfare system to ensure the best possible services and outcomes for vulnerable children and families".



»» Our Mission

PART's mission is to increase the capacity of child welfare organizations and practitioners to utilize research to improve outcomes for children and families by:

- Identifying and packaging evidence in user-friendly formats to disseminate to child welfare practitioners and agencies;
- Promoting the use of evidence-informed practice by using a range of program elements such as PARTicles, webinars, learning events and electronic journal access;
- Creating organizational and systemic learning environments in child welfare organizations to promote critical thinking and ongoing use of evidence in practice.



»» Our Team



STAFF:

Kristen Lwin, M.S.W., Ph.D. Student, Executive Director
Auriole Fernandes, Program Coordinator & Events Planner
Julia Wedeles, B.S.W., Implementation Specialist
Sarah Head, M.Sc., B.Sc., Implementation Specialist
Chris Morris, M.S.W., B.A., placement student
Eavan Brady, M.S.W., Ph.D. Student, Research Assistant

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Gisèle Hébert	Chair
Arijana Tomicic	Vice-Chair, Eastern Zone
Daniel Moore	Treasurer, Grand River Zone
Stephen Doig	Secretary, Southwest Zone
Mary Ballantyne	OACAS Representative

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Gisèle Hébert	Chair
Arijana Tomicic	Vice-Chair Eastern Zone
Daniel Moore	Treasurer, Grand River Zone
Stephen Doig	Secretary, Southwest Zone
Richard Lambert-Belanger	Northeast Zone
David Rivard	Local Director's Representative
Janice Robinson	Central Zone
(Vacant)	Northern Zone
Mark Kartusch	Member at Large
Mary Ballantyne	OACAS Representative



» MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR:

2014 has been a significant move forward for PART and evidence-informed practice in child welfare. As a board, we have been focused on how evidence-informed practice can shift child welfare practice through the examination of PART's strategic plan and governance review. We are committed to promoting positive outcomes for children and families served by the child welfare system through guiding PART as an evidence-informed practice child welfare focused organization.

As members of the child welfare community and PART board members, we feel responsible for the strategic direction and future of PART – to focus on ongoing knowledge building and bridging child welfare practitioners and researchers in order to better the lives of marginalized children and families. PART began as a grassroots organization, developed through the curiosity and initiative of a few, with a similar focus today. PART is a small organization doing big work, and continues to be innovative in their delivery and resource production.

Child welfare is fortunate to have the resources of PART. Not many fields can say they have a dedicated organization to support evidence-informed practice and individualized knowledge translation. We will work toward ensuring you, our members, continue to receive support from PART through the three-year strategic plan.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Board members for their contributions to keeping PART nimble and moving forward with their planning and thinking. It has been a dynamic year for the Board dealing with change, but through it all, we have persevered and helped build a wonderful organization.

As for the staff at PART, we thank you for your hard work and commitment to bringing evidence-informed practice to the field of child welfare. The entire PART team play a leadership role and are dedicated to keeping PART innovative. We are excited to set the stage for you to lead the way in evidence-informed practice in the province and throughout Canada.

Thank you to all of our members for your continued support.

Gisèle Hébert
PART Chair



MESSAGE FROM THE PART EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As a team, PART has gone through many changes over the year. Our Implementation Specialist, Eavan Brady, has moved on to doctoral studies in her home country, Ireland, but we are lucky to have her continue working with us on a contract basis. We have welcomed two new Implementation Specialists, Julia Wedeles and Sarah Head. Julia has been with PART since her placement as a BSW student in 2013, and Sarah is new to the team since May 2015. We are also fortunate to be working with Chris Morris, a MSW placement student, another great addition to the team. It is the people who make PART what it is today; innovative, unique, nimble, responsive, and a great place to work.

We have made some unique contributions to the field this year. We surveyed Link PARTners about their experiences as evidence-informed practice champions within their organizations, and learned about their organizational and individual needs. As well, we surveyed all of our members, from practitioners to executive directors. In order to support you in the best ways possible, we needed to hear from you, and we would like to thank you for meeting our requests and responding with your unique needs. The results indicate that PART should focus on how research can be used in practice, and one of the ways we have answered are some significant additions to our PARTicles, in order to make using research a daily part of child welfare practice.

To support our associate members and members who work with Indigenous people, we have developed a framework for promoting and increasing the amount and use of Indigenous focused research. This will be an ongoing process and inevitably will change over time, always conferring with our Indigenous partners.

Lastly, we are excited to have the opportunity to work on our 2015 to 2018 strategic plan. We have examined our strengths and needs and are working towards better supporting child welfare practitioners use of research in their daily practice. Our board has been tireless and committed to ensuring that PART is best able to serve the child welfare community through research. We are thankful to our dedicated board for focusing on the needs of child welfare practitioners across Canada.

Kristen Lwin
Executive Director



» FINANCIAL STATEMENT – DRAFT

PRACTICE AND RESEARCH TOGETHER ASSOCIATION

Statements of Operations and Changes in Net Assets

For the year ended March 31, 2015

	2015	2014
Revenue:		
Membership	\$ 535,000	\$ 555,000
Sales of resource materials	1,906	17,982
Other	69,690	1,099
	\$ 606,596	\$ 574,081
Expenditures:		
Salaries & benefits	258,333	336,840
Purchased services	56,047	34,707
Guidebook reprint	-	28,501
Training & development	12,992	30,157
Membership & subscription	12,685	15,010
Travel & meetings	2,579	10,335
Special projects	8,853	780
Office administration	31,262	36,300
	382,751	492,630
Excess of revenue over expenses	\$ 223,845	\$ 81,451
Net assets, beginning of year	226,718	145,267
Net assets, end of year	\$ 450,563	\$ 226,718

A complete set of draft audited financial statements, prepared by Horn Almand Chartered Accountants, is available by request.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

»» Hamilton Catholic Children's Aid Society – An Evidence-informed Practice Evaluation

Over the last year we have confirmed a partnership between PART and Hamilton CCAS. PART will be working with the agency to focus on the use of research in practice for individual practitioners and supervisors. Specifically, we are aiming to increase the use of evidence in decision-making and ongoing child welfare practice. This is an innovative program that will come in the form of five sessions for supervisors and five sessions for practitioners. Using research in child welfare does not stop at the organization, and as a field we need to move our focus to individual practitioners. Child welfare practice is comprised of decisions and we need to ensure these decisions are being made through critical thinking and the examination of research. PART will focus on promoting supervisors' understanding of evidence-informed practice, their ability to motivate practitioners' use of evidence-informed practice, understanding of research methodologies, and practical team implementation strategies. The initiative will be evaluated using a randomized control wait-list design, allowing us to draw inferences and isolate whether the intervention has any effect on workers, including the contextual factors, such as self-efficacy and organizational climate. The implementation and evaluation will take place over the next year and provide a strong base for the child welfare decision-making intervention literature.

»» Link PARTner Evaluation

Over the past year we have been working with Dr. Bowen McBeath (Portland State University) and Dr. Michael Austin (University of California, Berkley) to develop an evaluation of the Link PARTner role. The survey focused on what Link PARTners need from PART and their individual organizations, as well as their use of evidence-informed practice, their organization's use of evidence-informed practice, and how they envision the ideal Link PARTner role. The survey has guided our development of the Link PARTner Hub on the PART website, and will assist member organizations in choosing a Link PARTner who has the key qualities to excel in the position. We look forward to analyzing the data further to ensure that Link PARTners are receiving the information and support they require to promote evidence-informed practice within their respective organizations.



»» Supporting the use of research in practice

To better understand how we can support our members we surveyed all levels of our member agencies. There were many overarching themes across practitioners, supervisors, and senior management:

- The use of research in practice is not well understood;
- Within each program element, PART needs to be explicit in how the research can be used;
- Organizations need a shift in culture and value the use of research in daily practice;
- Practitioners at all levels of the organization lack the time to access and apply research to practice.

We are working towards addressing your needs and applying what we learned from the survey to support your use of research in child welfare, the addition to our PARTicles is a great example.

»» Collaboration

Performance Indicator PARTicles

We have recently supported the field and OACAS in its examination of key performance indicators with the development of three PARTicles:

- Recurrence
- Time to permanency
- Placement stability

These PARTicles are available for use by any child welfare organization in Ontario in the public reporting of the first three performance indicators.



»» Integrating OnLAC data into practice – Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council

PART has been asked to support principal investigators, Elisa Romano and Tessa Bell (University of Ottawa) and Connie Cheung (Child Welfare Institute), in their initiative to teach various levels of child welfare (e.g., practitioners, supervisors, foster parents) about the use and integration of OnLAC (Ontario Looking After Children) data. PART staff currently sits on the advisory committee, have contributed to the development of senior management modules, and will support the execution of certain modules.

»» Canadian Institute of Health Research Grant – McMaster University

PART is named on a team grant recently awarded to Dr. Christine Wekerle, Associate Professor at McMaster University. The grant focuses on assessing health risks and resilience of male youth who have experienced sexual violence and is a multi-year study. Dr. Wekerle's team has been awarded over a million dollars to complete this study. PART will be the lead on dissemination of the findings of this important study to the field.

»» YouthREX - York University

Dr. Uzo Anucha, Associate Professor York University, was awarded a large grant to develop a knowledge translation and mobilization forum for child and youth workers across Ontario. PART supported Dr. Anucha in her proposal and is now named on the YouthREX board and advisory committee, contributing from our unique experience in Canada.



MEMBER AGENCIES & LINK PARTNERS:

ONTARIO:

1. Children's Aid Society of Algoma – Krista Budau
2. Brant Family and Children's Services – Gissele Taraba
3. Chatham-Kent Children's Services – Shelley Thibert
4. Dufferin Child and Family Services – Marianne Breadner; Nadia Watt & Kim Evans
5. Durham Children's Aid Society – Carrie Shannon & Sharon Dorcas
6. Family and Children's Services of Frontenac, Lennox and Addington – Linda Braithwaite
7. Bruce Grey Child & Family Services – Julie Lipsett
8. Family and Children's Services of Guelph and Wellington County – Laurie Thyssen & Anne Marie Simpson
9. Children's Aid Society of Haldimand and Norfolk – Kim Burns & Anne-Marie Watson
10. Halton Children's Aid Society – Donna Miles
11. Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton – Alexandra Mlekuz & Sabrina Palumbo
12. Children's Aid Society of Hamilton – Ingrid Hauth
13. Highland Shores Children's Aid – Angus Francis
14. Huron-Perth Children's Aid Society – Maxine McCaulay
15. Valoris for Children & Adults of Prescott-Russell – Madeleine Lalonde, Myriam Legault & Sylvie Duchesne
16. Kawartha-Haliburton Children's Aid Society – Jennifer Rodman
17. Kenora-Rainy River Districts Child and Family Services – Betty-Anne Johnson (not a member as of 2015/16)
18. Family and Children's Services of Lanark, Leeds and Grenville – Emily McFadden (not a member as of 2015/16)
19. Family & Children's Services Niagara – Sarah Milmine & Dee Neuman
20. Children's Aid Society of the Districts of Nipissing and Parry – Erin Truswell
21. Children's Aid Society of Ottawa – Christian Hackbusch & Andre Fontaine
22. Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies – Sharon Evans
23. Children's Aid Society of Oxford County – Gissele Taraba
24. Peel Children's Aid Society – Helen Doulos, Brenda Moody, Danielle Ungara & Prasad Nair
25. Family and Children's Services County of Renfrew, City of Pembroke – Suzanne Elliott
26. Sarnia-Lambton Children's Aid Society – Heather Collins, Elaine Schieck & Glenda Warn
27. Family & Children's Services of St. Thomas and Elgin County – Adri Hewitt
28. Children's Aid Society of the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry – Cynthia McLeod & Nathalie Fouquette



29. Children's Aid Society of the Districts of Sudbury and Manitoulin – Ginette Demers & Julie Moore
30. North Eastern Ontario Family & Children's Services – Catherine Simunovic & Tina Kerr-Hardy
31. Catholic Children's Aid Society of Toronto – Kate Schumaker
32. Children's Aid Society of Toronto – Nancy Ansong-Danquah
33. Family and Children's Services of the Waterloo Region – Jill Stoddart & Angela Perkins

MANITOBA:

34. Winnipeg Child and Family Services – Alana Brownlee
35. General Authority of Manitoba – Jan Christianson-Wood
36. Office of the Children's Advocate – Ainsley Krone

NUNAVUT:

37. Government of Nunavut – Mark Arnold & Syd Parlour

BRITISH COLUMBIA:

38. Government of British Columbia – Jennie Ireland; Rhonda Shears & Michele Melville-Gaumont

Webinar for PART by Dr. Susan Kemp on “*Strengths-based Practice and Parental Engagement in Child Welfare Services: An Empirical Examination*”

“We appreciate being asked to share our work. We are very grateful for your work bridging practice and research. So important to do this!”

Susan P. Kemp PhD
Professor
University of Washington School of Social Work





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