



PART



Using Evidence to Promote Excellence in Child Welfare

PART

Annual General Report

2021

»» Our Purpose

PART's purpose is to promote the understanding and use of evidence-informed practice to ensure the best possible services and outcomes for children, youth and families receiving child welfare services.

»» Our Vision

PART is a recognized international leader and collaborator in evidence-informed practice and knowledge translation to improve outcomes for children, youth and families receiving child welfare services.

»» Our Mission

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

- Identifying and translating the best-level of evidence in user-friendly formats to disseminate to practitioners and agencies.
- Creating organizational and systemic learning environments in organizations, to promote critical thinking and ongoing use of evidence-informed practice and decision-making.



»» Our Team

STAFF:

Sarah Head, Ph.D. Candidate, M.Sc., Executive Director

Auriole Fernandes, Program Coordinator & Events Planner

Kate Bailey, M.S.W., Research & Knowledge Translation Specialist

Carol Lopez-Ricote, M.S.W., Research & Knowledge Translation Specialist

Chantille Davis, MSW, Research & Knowledge Translation Specialist

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Gisèle Hébert

Chair

Arijana Haramincic

Vice-Chair, Member at Large

Rocco Gizzarelli

Treasurer, Grand River Zone

Janice Robinson

Secretary, Grand River Zone

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Gisèle Hébert

Chair

Arijana Haramincic

Vice-Chair, Member at Large

Rocco Gizzarelli

Treasurer, Grand-River Zone

Janice Robinson

Secretary, Grand-River Zone

Elaina Groves

Northern Zone

(Vacant)

Southwest Zone

Vicky Lowrey

Central Zone

Suzanne Elliott

Eastern Zone

Mark Kartusch

Executive Leadership Representative



>> MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR:

As the Chair of PART, I am honored to be serving on this Board and pleased to be an advocate for evidence-informed practice within the child welfare sector. As we wrap up our 13th year, I am excited to see how PART continues to evolve within our sector.

This past year, we at PART have continued to work hard to complete our 2020-2023 Strategic Plan, and we want to thank all our member agencies for your valuable contributions.

I would like to take this time to thank the Executive Directors and Senior Leadership of our member agencies who continue to value and encourage the use of EIP and research in practice and decision making. We have all experienced a unique year at our agencies, managing new pressures and working to adapt to this changing system. It is through evidence informed practice and seeking new ways of practice that will push our system forward. It is your guidance and encouragement at the organizational level that is progressing our policies and practices in the child welfare field.

We would like to thank our member agencies for your continued support and engagement with our services, and the practitioners at your agencies who are committed to professional development and growth. The children, youth and families served by your organizations deserve to receive the most effective services, and it has been clear that this has been the forefront of your service decisions

Lastly, thank you to PART staff. I would like to commend the entire team for their hard work and ability to be flexible and adaptable to the ever-changing child welfare field. Thank you to the PART team for listening to the sector's needs and working to ensure that research and knowledge is accessible to all levels of service across the country. We appreciate your dedication to ensuring best practices are met.

Gisèle Hébert
PART Chair



» MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Thank you all for another successful year at PART. We are honored to be working alongside you and your organizations in the child welfare system. PART is passionate about research and evidence-informed practice at both the individual and organizational level within the child welfare system. We are proud to help ensure the best possible services and outcomes for children, youth and families receiving child welfare services across the country.

Thank you to our Board of Directors for your continued guidance and support. As we have moved PART forward this past year, we were reminded how lucky we are to have such a great group of motivated individuals as the backbone of this organization. Your dedication to ensuring best services are met throughout the child welfare landscape in Canada is commendable, and we are looking forward to our continued journey into 2021.

Thank you to PART staff Auriole, Kate, Carol and Chantille, for working so hard to prioritize the needs of our member agencies. We always highlight that we are a small and mighty organization and watching you all envision and produce valuable resources in the field is remarkable. You are all leaders of evidence-informed practice, and I am proud of your contributions to the child welfare sector.

Finally, I wanted to say a BIG thank you to our member agencies. We recognize that this past year has been difficult for many, but we have consistently been amazed to watch the child welfare practitioners across our country work tirelessly to make sure that our children, youth and families still receive the best possible services during our global experience with COVID-19. We have watched your organizations and practitioners work harder than ever- in new ways- that often go without recognition and appreciation from the wider community. PART wants to acknowledge how critical you have been to the lives of so many during this time- you should all be very proud.

Our membership drives PART and EIP forward in our sector, and without your dedication to continuous learning and professional development we would not be here today. Our membership reminds us daily of the desire that you all have to improve the wellbeing of the children, youth, and families you support. Your devotion to prioritizing the needs of the children, youth and families is inspiring. We at PART are honored to be supporting your research and evidence-informed practice needs. We will continue to serve you as best as we can and are always like to hear how we can best assist you in your work.

Sarah Head, Ph.D. Candidate, M.Sc.
Executive Director



>> FINANCIAL STATEMENT

PRACTICE AND RESEARCH TOGETHER ASSOCIATION

Statement of Operations

Year ended March 31, 2021

	2021	2020
Revenues:		
Membership Fees	\$366,542	\$380,833
Interest and other	1,198	\$2,086
	\$367,740	\$382,919
Expenses:		
Salaries and Benefits	\$299,749	\$328,808
Office Administration	24,416	32,968
Professional and Consulting Fees	17,288	27,151
Memberships and Subscriptions	14,459	13,679
Travel	2,472	7,712
Training and Development	536	802
Special Projects - Evaluation	-	7,186
	\$358,920	\$418,306
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	8,820	(35,387)

A complete set of the financial statements, audited by Hogg, Shain & Scheck CPAs, is available on request.



» LOOKING BACK at 2020/2021



Strategic Plan 2020-2023

With the help of Proforem Inc. and Courage Group International, PART finalized our Strategic Plan for 2020-2023. We received much support from member agencies and PART users during our Environmental Scan. PART continues to find ways to operationalize our strategic plan and are excited to continue implementing changes to our organization to better support the PART community and the children, youth and families that are supported by the child welfare system.



Child Welfare and COVID-19

In 2020 and early 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic illuminated the need for stronger research on how to best support children, youth and families facing adverse situations. Many of the children, youth, and families we support struggled, and gaps within practices and procedures in many support service systems were highlighted. Child welfare practitioners continued to be called upon to support the protection, economic, and health needs of our communities. PART responded to the need of the child welfare system by focusing several of our resources on research pertaining to COVID-19, as well as brought in researchers/presenters to discuss ways to best support some of the most vulnerable and marginalized populations that we aim to serve- as these populations were often impacted the most.



PART

Using Evidence to Promote Excellence in Child Welfare

COVID-19 and Child Welfare

Pandemics, such as the current outbreak of COVID-19, can have a wide range of economic and social consequences on a country, specifically on those who are most vulnerable. Existing systems and structures designed to provide support and services to vulnerable populations face increased demands during this time, and are often taxed beyond their capacity (Sistovaris, 2020). Due to the heightened risk of harm that children and youth in care may experience due to a pandemic and the policies implemented to contain the virus (Sistovaris, 2020), it is important that child welfare agencies ensure continuity of care during this period (O'Brien, Webster and Herrick, 2007).

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, PART has created a resource that collates and summarizes research literature and other sources of information to support child, youth, and family services agencies during this crisis. The highlighted literature will be explored through an evidence-informed practice lens, to encourage practitioners to critically think about and evaluate information in relation to the needs of supported children, youth and families.

Part 1: Learning about Child Welfare and Pandemics

Part 2: Health and Wellbeing of Children, Youth and Families During COVID-19 Pandemic

Part 3: Technology-based Supports and Interventions During COVID-19 Pandemic

Part 4: Resources to Support Social Workers and Child Welfare Practitioners During Covid-19 Pandemics

Please see our website
www.partcanada.org for
more resources
pertaining to COVID-19.





Themes of 2020

Each year, with the help of Link PARTners and stakeholders, PART selects three to four themes that our resources will focus on. Based on survey results, the themes of 2020 are:

1. Promoting Wellbeing of Children in Out of Home Care
2. Supporting Vulnerable Families in Child Welfare
3. Children with Disabilities and other Support Needs

The majority of PARTicles and Webinars published in fiscal year 2020 will fall into one of these theme categories. If new and exciting research is published outside of these areas, OR we receive feedback from the child welfare sector that a new topic would be of interest to practitioners, PART will make exceptions.



PARTnerships

In 2020 we welcomed several new agencies into our membership. We would like to welcome Children's Aid Foundation of Canada, Jewish Child and Family Service of Manitoba, Rural and Northern Child and Family Services Manitoba, Child and Family Services Western Manitoba and Child and Family Services of Central Manitoba. We are pleased to see the desire to build a strong community of evidence-informed practice within the child welfare sector continue to grow across Canada



Rising Researchers Webinar Series

In the summer of 2020, we at PART recognized that many academics/researchers, specifically those in Postdoctoral and Doctoral programs, experienced changes to their academic programs and a reduction in opportunities to build their CVs during these unprecedented times (ex. reduction in teaching opportunities, conference presentations/posters, etc.). To support our partnering academic institutions, we created a summer webinar series titled "Rising Researchers". This series allows us to highlight new research being done in the field of child welfare from four Doctoral/Post Doctoral students across the country. Our selected Rising Researcher Webinars included the following presentations:

1. Examining the Intersections of HIV, Risk and Motherhood: Supporting Families Affected by HIV in Child Welfare Practice by Dr. Allyson Ion, a recent PhD graduate at McMaster University
 2. Trends in Child Maltreatment-related Investigations Involving Black and White Families in Ontario, Canada by Kofi Antwi-Boasiako, a Doctoral Candidate at the University of Toronto
 3. Implementing Trauma-informed Care in Residential Child Welfare Settings through Social Innovation by Dr. Denise Brend, a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Université de Sherbrooke
- Alone, Stoned, and Afraid: Risks and Motives associated with Cannabis Use in Youth who have Experienced Psychosis by Amar Ghelani, a Doctoral Candidate at Wilfrid Laurier University.





Resources in 2020/2021

PARTicles/Reports

Month	Title of PARTicle
April 2020	Power & Boundaries in Child Welfare
May 2020	Supporting Isolated and/or Rural Families
June 2020	FASD: Supporting Children and Youth with Prenatal Alcohol Exposure
July 2020	Supporting Women Who Use Alcohol During Pregnancy: Interventions and Approaches
August 2020	Children and Youth Living in Out-of-Home Care: Family and Community Connections
September 2020	Attachment Disorders
October 2020	Supporting Parents who use Opioids
November 2020	Peer Safety for Children in OOH Care
January 2021	Family Finding
February 2021	Conduct Disorder
March 2021	Overrepresentation and Disproportionality of Black and Indigenous Children

Webinars

Date of Webinar	Title of Presentation
April 7, 2020	From Surviving to Thriving: Factors Associated with Vulnerability and Resilience among Childhood Abuse Survivors
April 21, 2020	Understanding and Preventing Caregiver strain in Resource Parents
May 5, 2020	Perspectives and Recommendations from Parents, Attorneys, and Child Welfare Professionals on Supporting Disabled Parents and Their Families
May 19, 2020	The Transitional Approach of Virtual Supervised Visits within Child Protection Services
June 16, 2020	Quality of Life Among Children and Adolescents in Foster Family Homes
June 30, 2020	Examining the Intersections of HIV, Risk and Motherhood: Supporting Families Affected by HIV in Child Welfare Practice
July 14, 2020	Social Support for Foster Parents: Research-Supported Information for Helping Families



July 20, 2020	Trends in Child Maltreatment-related Investigations Involving Black and White Families in Ontario, Canada
July 28, 2020	Implementing Trauma-informed Care in Residential Child Welfare Settings through Social Innovation
August 18, 2020	Alone, Stoned, and Afraid: Risks and Motives associated with Cannabis Use in Youth who have Experienced Psychosis
September 22, 2020	Birth Parents beyond Child Removal: Why should we care?
October 6, 2020	The Co-Creating Evidence Study: Highlights of a National Evaluation of Multi-service Programs for Pregnant and Parenting Women with Substance Use Concerns
October 20, 2020	Mothers Abused by Intimate Partners: Comparisons of Women Whose Children were Removed by Child Protective Services and Those Whose Were Not
November 3, 2020	Impact of COVID-19 on Mental Health and Well-Being of Caregivers and Families of Autistic People
November 24, 2020	Towards Healthy Outcomes for Individuals with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)
December 15, 2020	PART's Evaluation of the Evidence-informed Decision-Making Training
January 26, 2021	Cuts Both Ways: Ethnicity, Poverty, and the Social Gradient in Child Welfare Interventions. Evidence from England, UK
February 4, 2021	Decision Making at Substantiation in Cases Involving Racialized Families: Child Protection Workers' Perceptions of Influential Factors
February 16, 2021	A Bad Combination: Lived Experiences of Youth Involved in the Foster Care and Juvenile Justice Systems
February 23, 2021	Trauma & the Black Youth Experience
March 9, 2021	Working in Colonial Violence and Racism: Unsettling White Settler Child & Youth Care
March 18, 2021	Advancing Innovative Community Partnerships that Strengthen Families, are Culturally Responsive, Address Disproportionality and Reduce Children/Youth Growing Up in Care: Journey to Zero.
March 23, 2021	Equity Concerns in the Context of COVID-19: A Look at First Nations, Inuit, And Métis Communities in Canada

Trauma-informed Care in Child Welfare Conference 2020

Chronic and/or cumulative experiences of trauma can cause complex and far-reaching negative impacts in the lives of children, youth and families. As our collective understandings of trauma have grown, the child welfare sector has responded by increasingly prioritizing services and programs that are guided by a trauma-informed lens. PART held an online conference that focused on the experience of Trauma and Trauma-informed Care within Child Welfare Services, welcoming 7 speakers, within 5 presentations during our half day conference on October 28th, 2020.



1. Dr. Delphine Collin-Vezina: Trauma-informed Practice and Trauma-informed Care within the Child Welfare Sector
2. Dr. Maegan Rides at the Door & Dr. Ashley Trautman: Considerations for Culturally Grounded Trauma-informed Child Welfare Services
3. Dr. Erin Barnett & Logan Seely: Building a Trauma-informed Community Response to our Youngest Victims of the Opioid Crisis
4. Charmaine Lane, MSc. RP: Trauma and the Black Youth Experience
5. Dr. Denise Brend: Polaris: Implementing Trauma-informed care in Residential Services for Adolescents

Remote Learning Activities

During 2020, we adapted our resources to better support the needs of our practitioners and member agencies who were experiencing new “work from home” mandates. To continue to support the learning and development of our practitioners, we created *Remote Learning Activities* for practitioners and teams to continue their EIP professional development from the comfort of their homes. These activities can be completed individually, or as a team during online team meetings.

All of these Resources can be found in our archives on the website at www.partcanada.org.

MOVING FORWARD into 2021



Focus on Building Foster Parents and Kinship Families

Foster parents and kinship families are invaluable resources to our child welfare organizations and system across the country. We have received feedback that many foster parents and kinship families find our resources and services very helpful to the support they offer children, youth and families. In 2021, we hope to streamline our services to better involve foster families and kinship families and hear how we can better support this group of individuals who benefit so greatly from this type of professional development. We will work with Link PARTners to create resources and tools to help foster, resource and kinship families better utilize our services.



Focus on System Collaboration

Families involved with the child welfare system often also are engaged with other public agencies and supports. Collaboration between and among agencies improves service delivery and the experiences of children and families who deal with multiple organizations to address child welfare and safety needs. Interagency collaborations are not only critical in the delivery of services, but also are key to ensuring the sustainable



success of the children and families they serve. In 2021, PART is committed to promoting evidence informed practice with a goal of sustainability of children and family safety. With this, we are looking to not only continue to expand across child welfare agencies across Canada, but also with other systems that intertwine with child welfare.



Themes of 2021

Each year, with the help of Link PARTners and stakeholders, PART selects three to four themes that our resources will focus on. Based on survey results, the themes of 2021 will be:

1. Overrepresented Populations in Child Welfare
2. Practice Approaches in Child Welfare
3. Children and Youth Coping and Adjustment



Conference 2021

Theme: Children and Families First: Engaging the Voices of Children & Families in Child Welfare Research and Service Provision

This one-day conference will highlight recent child welfare research that has included the voices of children, youth, and families involved with the child welfare system. A specific focus will be placed on populations whose voices have often been excluded from the literature. Speakers will include:

1. Presenter: Marko Barrek-Tinaz (Past Youth in Care)
2. Presenter: Dr. June Paul
Title: Experiences and perceptions of support, health, and wellbeing among transgender and nonbinary former foster youth of color
3. Presenters: Suzanne Robertson, MSW and Carey Sinclair (Knowledge Keeper)
Title: Indigenous mother's experiences of power and control in child welfare: Families being heard
4. Presenters: Charlotte Akuoko-Barfi, Dr. Tearney McDermott, Dr. Henry Parada
Title: We Were in White Homes as Black Children
5. Presenters: Dr. Daniel Keyser and Dr. Haksoon Ahn
Title: African American Parents' Voices in Early Childhood Mental Health and Child Welfare
6. Large Group Discussion: *Engaging Voices of Children, Youth and Families in your Work*





NEW AT PART: Resources

Ask a Researcher-Archived

PART has received feedback that our Ask a Researcher service/resource is very helpful to practitioners. Our Ask a Researcher resource enables child welfare practitioners to request support from PART staff to interpret research findings, interpret literature and ask about specific areas of practice in the current literature. We have been asked to create a space to highlight Ask a Researcher questions that have been asked by colleagues within our membership. In 2021, we will be introducing a new resource that highlights these questions. The Archived - Ask a Researcher page will be the questions that your colleagues throughout Canada have asked PART. This portal allows all our members to read through these questions and better understand the topic pertaining to child welfare research.



Using Evidence to Promote Excellence in Child Welfare

Best Practices in Service Delivery: Collaboration and Partnerships with Stakeholders in Other Systems

Research Question:

What are the best practices in developing partnerships and collaborations with stakeholders in the community or in other systems, such as the mental health system?

Key terms used:

Partnership

Collaboration

Best Practices

Child Welfare

Mental Health

Community Partners

Literature Review

Many of the children, youth, and families that we support within Child Welfare have complex needs. It is often difficult for Child Welfare agencies to work and act alone when trying to support co-occurring needs within the home and the community. To provide the most effective services for the children, youth, and families we work with, we often must rely on collaborating with other systems and sectors to ensure that the services we are offering are cohesive. In order to build strong collaborations with other social services systems and sectors, we must develop both internal and external partnerships with other systems that our families may be involved with. This task can often be difficult as the inherent foundations and theories each system are often built on may differ. The following articles discuss collaborations that the child welfare system has with different sectors and systems (predominantly mental health).

Articles

Bai, Wells, and Hillemeier, 2009: *Coordination between child welfare agencies and mental health service providers, children's service use, and outcomes*

This is older but it is a longitudinal analysis of data from a 36-month period in the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being (NSCAW). It focuses on Interorganizational relationships (IORs) between child welfare agencies and mental health service providers. Authors found that having greater

Rapid Reports/Research Reviews

Based on suggestions from the membership, PART will begin to publish Rapid Report (or Research Reviews). This resource will include written reports that may not have a



large enough literature base for a full PARTicle. These reviews will be similar to PARTicles (in the fact they are answering research questions), however, they will be shorter, and more practice based. For example, we will be publishing a report for the Ontario Provincial Kinship Committee for Kin Week 2021.

Kin Week 2021



Brief Report on Key Issues and Trends in Kinship Care: Racial Equity and Strengths-Based Practice

Report prepared by Marianna Healey, MSW, RSW on behalf of PART Canada

Context

Since the 1980s, child welfare systems in many countries around the world have seen a continual rise in the number of children living with relatives and other kin-like caregivers. Since kin caregivers have unique circumstances, challenges, and strengths compared to other resource caregivers such as foster parents and group home staff, child welfare services must be responsive and adapt appropriately. Given this need, the remainder of this brief report and resource guide will centre itself around two key issues in kinship child welfare services:

1. Racial inequities in kinship care, particularly understanding disproportionality and disparities amongst Black and Indigenous children and youth in kin care; and
2. Strengths-based service models for working with kinship families, specifically looking at the Signs of Safety practice approach as an example.

Key Issue #1: Racial Equity in Kinship Care

Guiding Questions: What is known about racial disproportionality and/or racial disparities in kinship care in Canada? How do social worker biases, assessments, and decisions contribute to racial inequities? What can practitioners do to reduce racial inequities in kinship care?



Bylaws

A review of PART Bylaws will take place in 2021 to ensure that the organization and Board is running as intended. Some suggestions for change throughout the Bylaws will be brought to the membership. Suggestions will include wording, updating practices to reflect the year 2021, and expanding on membership opportunities.



New PARTnerships in 2021

It has been a goal of PART's to better include Indigenous Research, Knowledge and Ways of Knowing in our resources and materials as we as a country aim to rectify the damages done to our Indigenous Peoples throughout the past century. We have been working to better recognize Eurocentric ways of research and knowledge generation, and to better highlight the voices and needs of those most impacted by colonialism and residential schools. We are happy to welcome two new organizations to our membership in 2021, Kunuwanimano Child and Family Services and Dnaagdawenmag Binnoojiyag Child and Family Services as part of our mission to better serve and support Indigenous children, youth and families within the child welfare system in Canada.



MEMBER AGENCIES & LINK PARTNERS

ONTARIO:

1. Children's Aid Society of Algoma – Krista Budau
2. Chatham-Kent Children's Services – Lori Weber & Ashley Parker
3. Family and Children's Services of Frontenac, Lennox and Addington – Kaitlyn Green
4. Bruce Grey Child & Family Services – Cheryl Grant
5. Children's Aid Society of Haldimand and Norfolk – Kim Burns
6. Halton Children's Aid Society – Donna Miles
7. Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton – Sabrina Palumbo
8. Highland Shores Children's Aid – Carrie West
9. Huron-Perth Children's Aid Society – Kendra Baker
10. Family & Children's Services of Lanark, Leeds & Grenville – Vickie Holmes, Tammy Green & Kitty Wittkie
11. Children's Aid Society of London & Middlesex – Colleen Innes
12. Valoris for Children & Adults of Prescott-Russell – Madeleine Lalonde & Sylvie Duchesne
13. Family & Children's Services Niagara – Sarah Milmine
14. Children's Aid Society of the Districts of Nipissing and Parry – Erin Truswell
15. Children's Aid Society of Ottawa – André Fontaine
16. Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies – Helen Halbert
17. Children's Aid Society of Oxford County – Tina Diamond & Mike Bratton
18. Peel Children's Aid Society – Helen Doulos, Jolanta Rasteniene, & Danielle Ungara
19. Family and Children's Services County of Renfrew, City of Pembroke – Beckie Kenrick
20. Children's Aid Society of the Districts of Sudbury and Manitoulin – Julie Moore
21. North-Eastern Ontario Family & Children's Services – Tina Kerr-Hardy
22. Catholic Children's Aid Society of Toronto – Kate Schumaker & Tanya Morton

MANITOBA:

23. Winnipeg Child and Family Services – Debbie Besant
24. General Authority of Manitoba – Del Bruneau

NUNAVUT

25. Government of Nunavut – Soneni Burombo

BRITISH COLUMBIA:

26. Government of British Columbia – Alaina Hawken

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES:

27. Government of Northwest Territories – Kailee Smith & Susan Fitzky





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INTERACTIVE
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