Events Calendar

Tuesday, July 2, 2024

AAISA 2024 Q2 Professional Development Offerings Start Date

Date and Time: Tuesday, July 2 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Cost: Free

We are excited to announce the AAISA 2024 Q2 Professional Development course offerings for July, August, and September. These courses are designed to support settlement and integration sector workers by providing essential training and knowledge. Here are the courses available this quarter:

Settlement Transition Process (Self-Paced), Start Date: July 2, 2024, **End Date:** August 12, 2024, **Registration Closing Date:** June 25, 2024,

Description: Learn about acculturation, settlement, acculturative stress, and post-traumatic stress. Understand the role of settlement agencies and strategies to address settlement challenges. **Register:** Click here to register

Basic Counseling in a Cross-Cultural Context (Self-Paced), Start Date: July 15, 2024, **End Date:** August 26, 2024, **Registration Closing Date:** July 5, 2024,

Description: Define the counseling role with clients and develop the necessary attitudes, skills, and knowledge for effectiveness. **Register:** Click here to register

Trauma-Informed Care (Self-Paced), Start Date: July 29, 2024, **End Date:** September 9, 2024, **Registration Closing Date:** July 22, 2024

Description: Understand trauma, its manifestations, and a trauma-informed approach. Learn strategies to support newcomers in crises and ensure the wellbeing of practitioners. **Register:** Click here to register

Foundations of Case Management I (Self-Paced), Start Date: August 1, 2024, **End Date:** September 16, 2024, **Registration Closing Date:** July 23, 2024

Description: Gain familiarity with the transtheoretical model of change and principles of motivational interviewing for effective case management. **Register:** Click here to register

Immigration Processes and Mechanics (Self-Paced), Start Date: August 8, 2024, **End Date:** September 1, 2024, **Registration Closing Date:** July 30, 2024,

Description: Introduction to the Canadian Immigration System, its history, policies, and current issues. Learn about immigrants' categories, streams, and application processes. **Register:** Click here to register

Stigma and Discrimination in Mental Health and Mental Wellness Support (Self-Paced), Start Date: August 14, 2024, **End Date:** September 25, 2024, **Registration Closing Date:** August 5, 2024,

Description: Understand the impact of stigma and discrimination on mental health clients. Learn skills and strategies to improve interactions and support. **Register:** Click here to register

Organizational Audit Tool (Self-Paced), Start Date: August 26, 2024, **End Date:** October 7, 2024, **Registration Closing Date:** August 15, 2024,

Description: Identify organizational strengths and barriers in meeting newcomers' mental health needs. Learn how to complete and apply findings from the audit tool. **Register:** Click here to register

Understanding Culturally Safe Mental Health and Mental Wellness (Self-Paced), Start Date: September 16, 2024, **End Date:** October 28, 2024, **Registration Closing Date:** September 6, 2024,

Description: Explore diverse cultural perspectives on mental health, promote self-awareness, and strive for stigma-free conversations about mental well-being. **Register:** Click here to register

Comprendre la santé mentale et le bien-être mental culturellement sécurisants (Self-Paced), Start Date: September 23, 2024, **End Date:** November 7, 2024, **Registration Closing Date:** September 12, 2024,

Description: Similar to the course above, but offered in French. Learn about cultural sensitivity and support for mental health clients. **Register:** Click here to register

All courses are free for AAISA members. The cost for non-members may vary by course and number of participants. Precedence for seats will be given to AAISA members. For more information and to register, please visit: AAISA Professional Development.For any questions, please contact: pd@aaisa.ca."

Wednesday, July 3, 2024

Language curriculum as a tool to combat gender-based violence

Date and Time: Wednesday, July 3 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm

Cost: Free

Registration: Language curriculum as a tool to combat gender-based violence Registration, Wed, 3 Jul 2024 at 1:30 PM | Eventbrite

"Immigrant survivors of domestic violence experience multiple barriers to navigating support systems. These barriers include unfamiliarity with resources, language, isolation, and lack of suitable resources. Community services are often siloed and unaware of existing gaps in providing support for this demographic.

In this webinar, we will present community-based research, share promising practices for empowering immigrant survivors, and invite a discussion on how to help lower barriers and increase accessibility to services through leveraging collaboration between settlement, mental health, and victim services.

Join this webinar hosted by Robin McGeough to learn about:

- Gender-based violence in immigrant communities
- The role of language instruction for newcomers in Canada in addressing violence

- Strategies for responding to gender-based violence through community collaboration

Speaker:

Robin McGeough

Robin (he/him) is the Gender Equity and Sexual Diversity Coordinator with the Inter-Cultural Association (ICA) of Greater Victoria, British Columbia. His work involves supporting clients, staff, and the community around gender, sexuality and identity. Robin facilitates the Q+ Crew, a support group for 2SLGBTQ+ newcomers and refugees seeking peer-driven mental health support. His passion for connecting with people, lifting diverse voices, and lowering barriers has found a welcome home at the ICA."

Monday, July 8, 2024

Digital Inclusion & Mental Health Micro-Learning Series

Date and Time: Monday, July 8 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm

Cost: Free

Registration: Webinar Registration - Zoom

"This series is designed to help service providers address Afghan newcomers' mental health concerns by ensuring they have access to technological resources. The series will focus on three scenarios, based on real experiences, with clients who engage with technological tools to support their mental health.

Upcoming Dates:

- Jun 24, 2024 12:30 PM EST
- Jul 8, 2024 12:30 PM EST
- Jul 15, 2024 12:30 PM EST
- Jul 22, 2024 12:30 PM EST"

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

LGBTQ+ Responsive URM Programs and Services

Date and Time: Tuesday, July 9 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Cost: Free

Registration: Webinar Registration - Zoom

"What will this webinar cover?

For unaccompanied refugee minors (URMs), identifying as a member of the LGBTQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning) community adds layers of complexity to their experiences, often intensifying feelings of isolation and vulnerability. LGBTQ+ URMs often encounter compounded discrimination and are disproportionately affected by violence, homelessness, and lack of access to essential services. Considering the uni

que challenges these individuals face, it is crucial to prioritize support within this community to create safe and affirming environments for youth to thrive. This webinar is designed to equip URM service providers with the knowledge and tools needed to effectively address these disparities. By focusing on actionable strategies for fostering inclusivity, implementing LGBTQ+ affirming placements, and offering client-centered guidance and resources, participants will be empowered to play a pivotal role in creating safer and more supportive environments for all LGBTQ+ URM clients.

Is this webinar for me?

This webinar is geared toward URM direct service providers, managers, and others in refugee resettlement who want to enhance their support of LGBTQ+ URM clients. No prior working experience or knowledge of the LGBTQ+ community is required to participate. However, basic understanding of LGBTQ+ content will be beneficial, as this webinar will only briefly review foundational concepts. See Switchboard's archived webinar Understanding and Serving LGBTQ+ Refugee and Newcomer Clients for an introduction to supporting this population.

Why should I participate?

After participating in this 75-minute session, you will be able to: Identify the unique risks and challenges to LGBTQ+ individuals, focusing on unaccompanied refugee minors (URMs) Develop strategies to foster inclusivity, address biases, and enforce anti-discrimination policies to create a safe and affirming environment for LGBTQ+ URM"

Wednesday, July 10, 2024

PRAIDA: Strategies for Supporting Asylum Seekers in Canada

Date and Time: Wednesday, July 10 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Cost: Free

Registration: https://newcomernavigation.zoom.us/webinar/register/7917163162925/WN_VH12VkSSSuydWz1HGTaoiA

"Join us for a webinar on PRAIDA, the only institutional Canadian program for the reception and integration of asylum seekers, boasting over 60 years of expertise in working with migrant populations in Quebec. The program has adapted over time to various migration waves and changes in Canadian and American immigration policies. More recently, the additional protocol to the Safe Third Country Agreement (STCA) has raised new issues, particularly regarding access to asylum. Its application along the entire Canada-U.S. border has impacted the profile of the clientele served and traditional migration routes, necessitating new responses to address these challenges. This webinar will outline the unprecedented situation Canada is facing concerning the arrival of asylum seekers and how PRAIDA has adeptly adapted to meet the needs of these individuals.

Learning Objectives:

1.   Provide an overview of the situation regarding the arrival of asylum seekers in Quebec and Canada.

2.   Become familiar with the mandate and service offerings of PRAIDA.

3.   Understand the impacts of the additional protocol to the Safe Third Country Agreement.

Speakers:

Alexis Jobin-Théberge, Senior Advisor, Conseiller cadre partenariat, Programme régional d'accueil et d'intégration des demandeurs d'asile (PRAIDA), Direction des services intégrés de première ligne

Alexis is a professional working with asylum seekers and refugees in Montreal and formerly in São Paulo, Brazil. Ambitious and passionate about human rights advocacy, migration movements, geopolitics, and public international law. Alexis has completed advanced studies in international law and international politics, as well as in international development management and humanitarian action, in Canada and Brazil. His academic and professional journey has led him to study the causes and mechanisms of irregular migration and its various routes.

Karissa De Cotis, Social Worker, Programme régional d'accueil et d'intégration des demandeurs d'asile (PRAIDA)

Karissa is social worker with experience in child protection and refugee care, currently working within the Integrated University Health and Social Services Centres in Montreal, Quebec. She completed her undergraduate degree in International Development Studies and Political Science and proceeded to work in prevention, aftercare, and reintegration programs in the field of anti-trafficking in Cambodia. After completing her Master's degree in social work at McGill University in 2019, Karissa began her career at the Regional Program for the Settlement and Integration of Asylum Seekers (PRAIDA). She spent 4 years working on PRAIDA's team for unaccompanied minors, offering a psychosocial follow up from their arrival into their settlement in Quebec. She now holds the position of team leader, building on her skillset of intercultural intervention, trauma-informed care, and clinical support. Passionate about developing meaningful cross-sectoral partnerships and understanding global migration trends, she is devoted to developing processes and applying best practice to support unaccompanied and separated children in their integration into Canada."

Thursday, July 11, 2024

Supporting Newcomers' Access to Early Childhood Services

Date and Time: Thursday, July 11 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Cost: Free

Registration: Webinar Registration - Zoom

"What will this webinar cover?

Publicly funded early childhood services can support newcomer refugee and immigrant families by helping children build a strong foundation and families thrive as they resettle in a new country. However, refugee and immigrant families are less likely to enroll and participate in these services than other eligible families.

This webinar will present strategies and lessons learned from the field on how refugee service providers can support families' access to child care and early education, early intervention, and maternal, infant, and early childhood home-visiting services. A panel discussion with resettlement leaders will address common barriers to participation and share approaches to boosting family access to, and comfort with, the available services.

Is this webinar for me?

This webinar is designed for refugee service providers and community stakeholders who want to support refugee and immigrant families with young children by connecting them to early childhood services that support their children's holistic development and school readiness, while enabling parents to pursue employment and professional development opportunities.

Why should I participate?

After participating in this 75-minute session, you will be able to

-Identify three types of early childhood services and their distinguishing characteristics.

-Explain how early childhood services can support child development and family well-being with a focus on refugee and newcomer children and families.

-Describe common challenges newcomers experience in accessing early childhood services.

-Apply at least one strategy to enhance newcomers' access to early childhood services in your community."

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Digital Inclusion & Mental Health Micro-Learning Series

Date and Time: Monday, July 15 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm

Cost: Free

Registration: [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

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Tuesday, July 16, 2024

How Do Provincial and Municipal Governments Utilize Research?

Date and Time: Tuesday, July 16 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Cost: Free

Registration: Meeting Registration - Zoom

"How do governments use research? How can academics improve the impact of their research? Past P2P workshops have examined these questions among federal government departments. In this workshop, we expand the question to examine the use of research among provincial and municipal governments. This workshop is ideal for academics, graduate students, and independent researchers interested in designing, conducting, and disseminating policy-relevant research, as well as practitioners interested in improving the relevance of evidence-based data collection within their organizations."

Friday, July 19, 2024

Providing Culturally Sensitive Guidance on Caregiving Practices to Newcomers

Date and Time: Friday, July 19 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm

Cost: Free

Registration: Webinar Registration - Zoom

"What will this webinar cover?

During resettlement, newcomer caregivers face numerous challenges adjusting to their new cultural context, which can significantly affect their caregiving practices for children and youth. Although some families receive a brief cultural orientation upon arriving in the United States, further education on U.S. child welfare policies, positive parenting strategies, and parental rights and responsibilities is essential to prevent misunderstandings. Providers working with newcomer caregivers must understand the inherent difficulties of parenting in a new culture and approach caregiving topics with sensitivity. This webinar will address cultural adaptation barriers that impact parenting decisions, offer strengths-based and trauma-informed strategies for educating newcomer parents on their caregiving rights and responsibilities, and provide positive parenting recommendations.

Is this webinar for me?

This webinar is designed for direct service providers, school staff, and agency leaders who work with newcomer caregivers and families.

Why should I participate?

After participating in this 75-minute session, you will be able to:

-Identify common challenges faced by newcomer parents in the U.S. and explain how they affect parenting skills

-Describe the impacts of having culturally sensitive and strengths-based conversations about caregiving with newcomers

-Apply trauma-informed strategies when educating newcomer caregivers on U.S. child-rearing laws, norms, and behavior management"

Fundamentals Of Trauma-Informed Casework Supervision Of Refugee Service Providers

Date and Time: Friday, July 19 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

Cost: Free

Due Date for Registration: July 19, 2024

Registration: Fundamentals of Trauma-Informed Casework Supervision of Refugee Service Providers - Switchboard (switchboardta.org)

"Switchboard is pleased to announce a free online certificate course on *Fundamentals of Trauma-Informed Casework Supervision of Refugee Service Providers*, which will meet in four 90-minute sessions on Thursdays from August 15 to September 5, 2024:

- August 15, 22, 29, and September 5 from 1:00 – 2:30 PM ET

This course is among the first National Association of Social Workers-accredited Switchboard courses! Upon successful completion of the course requirements, you will earn 10 continuing education units/credits that can be applied to your professional licensure.

What will this certificate course cover?

Refugee service providers work in a dynamically evolving and trauma-exposed environment. Casework supervisors, especially those new to their roles, can find it difficult to navigate these challenges while supporting their teams. In this certificate course, you will learn about the widespread impact of trauma in resettlement work and how to recognize the signs and symptoms as they show up in your staff. By completing the course, you will gain a pragmatic framework for building an effective cross-cultural, trauma-informed approach to casework supervision.

Is this certificate course for me?

This course is geared toward managers and supervisors interested in improving their trauma-informed support and supervision skills. The course will be most relevant for casework supervisors and managers who have been in their roles between six and 18 months. Participants are expected to bring a foundational skillset in case management and a basic understanding of their core roles and responsibilities as supervisors. *This course will not cover the basics of case management.*

Why should I participate?

Upon completing this course, learners will be able to:

- Describe three key fundamentals of casework supervision in the context of services for newcomers

- Describe potential impacts of trauma in casework and apply practical skills in **trauma-informed** supervision

- Apply practical skills in **culturally aware** supervision, including strategies that consider socio-cultural context

- Apply practical skills in **supportive** supervision, including strategies for staff care and self-care

Eligibility

The course is open to 50 staff members who serve ORR-eligible populations, including at state agencies, resettlement agencies and affiliates, and ethnic community-based organizations. Applicants must currently supervise at least one caseworker, case manager, or similar position. Applicants are expected to seek full support from their supervisor/director for course participation prior to submitting an application.

Format

This course is designed to be completed by individual participants. Multiple staff members from the same organization may individually apply for the course. In a combination of four live workshops and independent activity, the total time commitment will be approximately **10 hours** over four weeks from August 15 to September 5, 2024. The synchronous sessions will not be recorded to provide all learners with maximum comfort and interactivity.

- Course Schedule: Synchronous Zoom sessions will be held once a week on Thursdays:
  Thursday, August 15, 1:00 – 2:30 PM ET
  Thursday, August 22, 1:00 – 2:30 PM ET
  Thursday, August 29, 1:00 – 2:30 PM ET
  Thursday, September 5, 1:00 – 2:30 PM ET
- Commitment to attend all four synchronous sessions is required.
- Attendance and active participation are expected of accepted learners, including participation in breakout activities and discussions, as well as written dialogue exchanges with fellow learners and the course instructor in the course's online course player.
- Independent activity includes pre-readings, reflections, discussions, and assignments, accessible within the online course player.
- Optional virtual office hours will be offered to course participants.

Submit your application by **Friday, July 19,** and set a tentative hold on your calendar. Accepted learners will be notified by **Thursday, July 25.** "

Monday, July 22, 2024

Digital Inclusion & Mental Health Micro-Learning Series

Date and Time: Monday, July 22 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm

Cost: Free

Registration: Webinar Registration - Zoom

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- Jul 15, 2024 12:30 PM EST

- Jul 22, 2024 12:30 PM EST"

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Unlocking Nurse Retention Success: Strategies for Internationally Educated Nurses.

Date and Time: Wednesday, July 24 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Cost: Free

Registration: https://newcomernavigation.zoom.us/webinar/register/4017141612901/WN_8qeiyArYRRqU838_XpfOdw

"Did you know that nurse turnover costs healthcare organizations millions annually? During this health human resource crisis, it's just as crucial to retain nurses in the workplace as to recruit them. Join our engaging session to explore the new national nurse retention toolkit. We'll provide essential guidance tailored to the unique considerations faced by those who represent nearly two thirds of the increase in nurses; those who received their education outside of Canada. Bring your questions and real-world scenarios — we'll address them live. Don't miss this opportunity to transform nurse retention in your organization."

Research Matters Event: Evaluating the Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel Initiative

Date and Time: Wednesday, July 24 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm

Cost: Free

Registration: Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams

"Join the Evaluation Division as they present an overview of the rapid evaluation of our Ukraine response and the Canada-Ukraine authorization for emergency travel measures. Gain insight into the effectiveness and efficiency of IRCC's response and learn about the challenges and successes that will help us enhance future emergency travel measures. The presentation will cover:

- the approach, methodology, findings and recommendations for improvement;
- the capacity of IRCC and government partners to administer the Ukraine response;
- the early outcomes of individuals who arrived in Canada through this initiative.

Presentation – for IRCC employees (GCDOCS)

Presentation – for external participants (GCcollab)

Slido (Q&A and Polls\feedback survey)

This presentation will be recorded so please ensure that your **camera** is turned off and your **microphone** is on mute throughout the event.

We look forward to having you attend the event!"

Asylum Program Division of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) - Technical Briefings

Date and Time: Wednesday, July 24 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Cost: Free

Registration: Via email - Fanny.Tremblay@cic.gc.ca

We are reaching out today to let you know that the Asylum Program Division of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) is offering technical briefings on asylum claim processes. The technical briefing was developed to help front-line workers and government organizations gain a better understanding of the procedures involved in processing claims submitted by asylum seekers, as well as the supports and services they may be able to access while their claim is being processed. Please note that the information sessions are geared towards front-line workers and public servants from various community organizations and municipal, provincial and other governmental organizations who work with asylum seekers. Our briefings are virtual, via MS Teams, and last about 30 minutes. We also allow time after the presentation for questions. Below is an overview of what is covered.

1. Introduction to the Canadian Refugee Protection Programs

- Quick overview of the refugee resettlement and asylum programs
- Overview of the asylum application process

2. Key information for asylum claimants

- Application guides
- Representation
- Change of address

3. Four asylum processes by which an asylum claim can be processed

- IRCC Inland STEP Process
- CBSA One-Touch Process
- CBSA End to End Process
- CBSA (Furthered) Inland

4. Access & Coverages

- Work Permit
- Study Permit
- Interim Federal Health Program

5. Supports

- Direct Financial Support
- Housing
- Settlement Program

6. Sample of key asylum documents

7. Q&A Session

- Opportunity for attendees to ask questions and seek clarifications

Upcoming technical briefing dates

- July 24: 2:00 to 3:00 pm (Eastern Time)
- August 14: 10:00 to 11:00 am (Eastern Time)
- September 25: 2:00 to 3:00 pm (Eastern Time)

- October 15: 10:00 to 11:00 am (Eastern Time) - FRENCH
- October 30: 2:00 to 3:00 pm (Eastern Time)
- November 13: 10:00 to 11:00 am (Eastern Time)
- December 11: 2:00 to 3:00 pm (Eastern Time)

If you would like to participate, please send an email to Fanny.Tremblay@cic.gc.ca with your name, organization, and email address, and specify which session you wish to attend."

Thursday, July 25, 2024

Cultural Validation: Ensuring Organizations Are Conducting Cultural Humility And Language Justice

Date and Time: Thursday, July 25 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm

Cost: Free

Registration: Cultural Validation: Ensuring Organizations are Conducting Cultural Humility and Language Justice - Switchboard (switchboardta.org)

"The IRC and CARRE invite you to a webinar spotlighting the importance of Cultural Validation in resource development for children and families who have experienced forced displacement, and the necessity of cultural humility and language justice throughout the process, happening **Thursday July 25th, 2024, 12-1:30 pm PST/3-4:30 pm EST.** This webinar will feature the foundations of the cultural validation process; examples of cultural validation in resource development by and for the communities we work alongside; and the adaptation of the " 2024 Cultural Validation and Translation Review Toolkit," guiding providers on how to implement the cultural validation process within their own organization. We are delighted to be conducting this collaborative session alongside NRC-RIM and Equity Languages!

What is this webinar about?

When developing materials and resources in different languages for diverse cultural communities, it is important that service providers ensure the materials are linguistically relevant, accurate, and culturally informed. Literal translation of documents from English to another language can lead to misunderstandings, cause offense, or result in unintended messages, particularly, if documents are translated without considering cultural nuances and references of the target audience.

Cultural Validation is the process of bilingual, bicultural community members reviewing and providing feedback on content to ensure materials have the best possible framing and approach for the intended audience.

Why should you attend?

After participating in this 90-minute webinar, you will be able to:

- Describe the cultural validation process and its importance
- Identify ways providers can support families who have been forcibly displaced through the development of materials and program enhancements that have gone through the cultural validation process
- Hear examples of cultural validation in practice and the impact of this work
- Learn actionable steps that you can take to implement the cultural validation process in your organization"

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Comprendre la santé mentale et le bien-être mental culturellement sécurisants (Self-Paced), Start Date: September 23, 2024, **End Date:** November 7, 2024, **Registration Closing Date:** September 12, 2024,

Description: Similar to the course above, but offered in French. Learn about cultural sensitivity and support for mental health clients. **Register:** [Click here to register](#)

All courses are free for AAISA members. The cost for non-members may vary by course and number of participants. Precedence for seats will be given to AAISA members. For more information and to register, please visit: [AAISA Professional Development](#).For any questions, please contact: pd@aaisa.ca."