

12:00 Lunch

**12:45 Orientation to the ISBP initiative and Contracting with Government**

*Lisa Price and Heather Kere Quelleng*

**1:45 One Vision, One Voice: What the Recommendations Mean to the ISBP Initiative**

*Kike Ojo*



Kike is the Project Manager for *One Vision One Voice: Changing the Child Welfare System for African Canadian Families*, a community-led project facilitated by the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies. Kike has worked in the field of child welfare in Ontario for over 10 years, advancing an equity agenda to address services to all marginalized people. Prior to her child welfare career, Kike worked within multiple social service sectors, and within the community, in both the US and Canada and has presented numerous keynotes, guest lectures and workshops.

Kike's work and volunteer efforts earned her several awards and recognitions. Her formal education includes a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology with a minor in International Justice and Human Rights from McMaster University, a Master of Arts in Sociology and Equity Studies in Education from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto and a Bachelor of Education, University of Toronto. Additionally, Kike is a certified alternative dispute resolution mediator.

2:45 Break

**3:00 Black Fathers in Toronto**

*Brandon Hay, MES (Business)*



Brandon founded the Black Daddies Club in 2007 in response to the isolation he felt as a new Black father as well as to the lack of forums and spaces for Black men to discuss parenting issues and concerns facing the Black community as a whole. The main goals of the organization are to change the image of the "absent Black father" that is prevalent in the media and to assist young Black men to become better fathers. In so doing, BDC aims to support Black children, families and the larger community.

Starting in 2013, Brandon along with two other researchers, led the research project titled, *Gathering Our Voices*, which was designed to address the paucity of information on the lived experiences of Black fathers in Toronto. The research project sought to inform current literature on the issues, challenges, opportunities and successes associated with Black fatherhood in the City of Toronto from the perspective of Black fathers themselves, their partners, family members and friends.

4:00 Wrap-up

**PC4 PROGRAM**

**Innovative Supports for Black Parents (ISBP) Initiative**

**February 6 • 8:45 am – 4:15 pm**



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## 8:45 Introduction

### 9:15 Welcome to the BYAP Eco-System – Setting the Stage

*Andre Lyn and Heather Kere Quelleng*



#### **André Lyn**

André Lyn currently works for the Ontario Ministry of Children and Youth Services to provide leadership in the implementation of the Ontario Black Youth Action Plan (BYAP) which targets the GTHA as well as Ottawa and Windsor. Andre is the Project Lead for the establishment of a Backbone Entity to support the overall coordination and alignment of initiatives under BYAP. This work will be guided by a Collective Impact, Cultural

Identity (CI2) and Anti-Black Racism framework with the goal of improving outcomes for Black children, youth and their families.

Andre is a social justice advocate committed to affordable housing and homelessness. He supported the creation of a documentary on homelessness in Peel and contributed to a chapter on women living in homelessness in Women's Mental Health.

Andre supported the design and development of a comprehensive website, clearinghouse and virtual library on homelessness research – The Homeless Hub. He taught in the Community Development program at Sheridan, was Senior Manager with United Way Peel, and was an active member of the Peel Poverty Reduction Strategy Committee.



#### **Heather Kere Quelleng, Senior Policy Analyst, Ministry of Children and Youth Services**

Heather is a Registered Social Worker and an award-winning equity advocate, consultant and community development professional with over two decades of experience working with marginalized communities both locally and abroad.

With a background in youth justice and education, Heather works to build capacity and create positive systemic change.

Heather's advocacy led to the first-ever Ryerson Task-force on Anti-Racism and the eventual creation of Ryerson's Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in 2012. In Cameroon West Africa, she helped lay the ground work for a capacity building program for young women entitled Footsteps, which has subsequently mentored some of Cameroon's most successful youth leaders and entrepreneurs.

Heather is the recipient of numerous public accolades, including the provincial Lincoln Alexander Community Award for her extensive work in the area of anti-racism. She holds a Bachelor of Social Work degree from Ryerson University and is currently completing a Master of Social Work degree at Memorial University of Newfoundland – her research interests include anti-Black racism & Black mothering.

### 9:15 Supporting Black Families by Engaging Black Fathers Through Barber Shops *Dalton Higgins*



Dalton is a celebrity publicist & PR strategist, National Magazine Award-winning journalist, broadcaster and author who has written six books that interweave the worlds of digital culture, hip hop and popular culture into one potent mix. He is also Canada's foremost expert on hip hop, the leading youth sub-culture of this generation. Dalton has been hailed as an important voice on fatherhood for a new generation of diverse, technology-driven dads. In his book

Fatherhood 4.0, which contains candid interviews with some of Canada's most acclaimed black and racialized personalities, public figures, intellectuals, entertainers and athletes including Argos vice chairman Mike "Pinball" Clemons, best-selling author Lawrence Hill (Book of Negroes), Toronto International Film Festival's artistic director Cameron Bailey, CBC Metro Morning radio host Matt Galloway, Higgins is credited with helping to kick start a cool "progressive" diverse dads movement – a modern day menaissance! Higgins is a longtime facilitator with the More Than A Haircut barbershop and black fatherhood advocacy program having conducted workshops with black and racialized fathers over the last 10 years.

## 10:15 Break

### 10:45 Developing and Sustaining a Community of Practice in the Context of BYAP: Panel Presentation and Discussion

*Steven Savvaidis, Janet Allingham, Andre Lyn*



#### **Steven Savvaidis**

Steven is the Manager of the Program Training and Consultation Centre at Cancer Care Ontario where he oversees the planning and delivery of training, and knowledge exchange initiatives to build capacity for community-based tobacco control. Prior to his work at PTCC, Steven worked within the Ministry of Health Promotion, where he supported the roll-out and implementation of the expanded Smoke-free Ontario Strategy. From 2001-2004, Steven was a planning analyst at Cancer Care Ontario.



#### **Janet Allingham, RN, BScN, IBCLC, MA,**

Janet is the mother of two adult children; grandmother of four children aged 4-9 years old. She graduated from McGill School of Nursing. Janet worked in hospitals and home care in Montreal, for VON in Toronto and as a public health nurse in Eastern Ontario. In 2007 Janet received her **Ma** from Carleton University, specializing in Health Literacy. Janet has been an International Board Certified Lactation Consultant since 2001. She is a member of the Ottawa Valley Lactation Consultants and has been Meetings Chair since 2014. Janet has experience with several Communities of Practice, Amnesty International, Canadian Parents for French, and Ottawa Valley Lactation Consultants.