



# Thinking about Collaboration: Child Welfare and Substance Use Services



**Thursday, February 10 at 12:00 pm to 1:30pm**

**BC Centre of Excellence for Women's Health  
Room E311—4500 Oak Street  
Vancouver, BC**

## **Collaborative models and approaches for increasing capacity to support women and their families who are involved with child welfare because of their substance use**

Tammy MacKenzie, Carolyn Ussher and Diane Smylie will provide an overview of 4 Toronto-based, collaborative initiatives, relevant to the BC context:

- 1. Designing and piloting of an on-line provincial training on substance use for child welfare staff**
- 2. Locating a substance use consultant within child welfare to build capacity through on-site training and consultation with child welfare staff**
- 3. Developing best practice guidelines on substance use for intake staff at child welfare**
- 4. Weaving collaboration between sectors, into a substance use program for pregnant and parenting women and their children**

**Tammy MacKenzie**, M.Ed., is the Manager of the Metro Addiction Assessment Referral Service and the Scarborough Addiction Services Partnership, both programs of the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health in Toronto. She has many years of experience in both front-line and management roles working in substance use services with a particular focus on working from a Harm Reduction approach. Before CAMH, Tammy was employed at the Jean Tweed Centre for seven years and managed their outreach and children service programming.

**Carolyn Ussher**, MSW, is the Manager of Client Services at the Children's Aid Society of Toronto. Carolyn has worked in the child welfare sector for 17 years including many years as an Intake Supervisor. She wrote her Master's Thesis on Harm Reduction in Child Welfare and has taken on a leadership role within her agency and the province in the promotion of harm reduction and holistic supports for families impacted by substance use. She has also taken a lead role in developing collaborative initiatives with substance use services in Toronto.

**Diane Smylie**, MSW, currently works at the BC Centre of Excellence for Women's Health. She has recently moved to BC from Ontario where she worked at the Jean Tweed Centre for Women (and their families) as the Director of Community Integration and Project Development. In that role she focused on collaboration and new programs/ initiatives in response to the needs of substance using women and their children.

***In person***—Space is limited, RSVP to [dsmylie@cw.bc.ca](mailto:dsmylie@cw.bc.ca)

***Virtual attendance***—If there is interest, attendance via web meeting will be offered. Please indicate your interest in this option to [dsmylie@cw.bc.ca](mailto:dsmylie@cw.bc.ca)

*This event is part of the BCCEWH Speaker Series*