

Conference Information Package

June 8 – 10, 2005 • Metro Hall, 55 John Street



When neighbourhoods are in crisis...

Throughout the years, communities across Toronto have experienced critical incidents of violence that eventually can lead to breakdown in community networks, relationships and communal co-existence. How can we respond to help these communities and neighbourhoods move beyond the crisis? What resources are needed? What resources are available?

This two-day conference represents a proactive step in tackling these questions. At this conference, stakeholders from a variety of sectors can work together to explore and develop appropriate and effective responses to local community critical and traumatic incidents.

Pre-conference training sessions – Wednesday, June 8, 2005

Register for one of these exciting full-day training sessions, facilitated by Peacebuilders International and the Children's Peace Theatre:

1. Facilitating Healing Circles – Peacebuilders International Healing Circles
2. Conflict Evolution Training – Children's Peace Theatre

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Day I – Thursday, June 9, 2005

Keynote address – What is cultural competence practice in community crisis response?

Tjanara Goreng Goreng is a Wakka Wakka woman born in Longreach in Western Queensland. She is Director for the Centre of Indigenous Education at the University of Melbourne, Sydney, Australia, Founder of the Foundation of Indigenous Trauma Recovery, Co-Director for the Centre for Indigenous Community and Cultural Development, and the Australia Indigenous representative on the International Association of Community Development Board. Tjanara has spent her life working for the healing and recovery of indigenous culture and traditions in our communities and is especially interested in traditional medicine and spirituality. She is a poet, writer and traditional singer.

Youth Trauma Tool launch – Series II

Join Mayor David Miller to launch a new Youth Trauma Tool, which was designed by youth for youth. This tool will help young people connect with the services they need in a crisis.

Lunch panel presentation – Help or hinder? The role of the media during a crisis

This exciting discussion will explore how the media covers critical incidents, particularly ethno-cultural/racial communities, and whether that role has helped or hindered the community process. Panelists include Royson James (Toronto Star), Andy Barry (CBC), Jojo Chinto (City-TV) and Suanne Kelman (Ryerson School of Journalism).



DAY II – Friday, June 10, 2005

Panel presentation – Amendment of the Emergency Management Act (Bill 138): its impact on local communities

This informative panel discussion will outline the recent amendments made to the Emergency Management Act (EMA) and explore its impact on local communities.

And the Beat Speaks: community healing through the arts

Toronto's diverse racial, cultural, ethnic, faith, orientation and ability communities provide a rich pool from which healing and wellness strategies can be learned. Each community expresses and experiences crisis and trauma through a particular lens. And the Beat Speaks will educate you on the various forms of artistic expressions used by different communities for healing and wellness.

Visit the information fair

Visit the booths of various community organization initiatives/projects that will be available throughout the conference. If you would like to participate in the fair, look for more details on the registration form.



Community crisis response: *looking through a cultural lens*

Session highlights

Morning sessions: Day 1

Early traumatic stress intervention for culturally diverse populations

Traumatic events from natural and human causes affect millions of people across the world each year. This session will provide a brief review of theory and evidence-based treatments for early traumatic stress, with a focus on community disasters and emergencies.

Critical incident stress management and debriefing with ethno-specific communities

This workshop will give you an opportunity to get a wider picture of various stressors and how ethno-specific communities manage them. You will learn how debriefing helps us to reduce stress and be energized again from the perspective of ethno-cultural communities.

Cultural trauma and collective identity

This workshop will focus on how trauma that is specific to a cultural group can affect collective identity, and the steps that can be taken to begin a collective healing process.

Understanding and coping with secondary trauma

Secondary trauma is defined as “indirect exposure to trauma through a firsthand account or narrative of a traumatic event.” In this session, you will explore the elements of secondary trauma and ways you can assess and respond.

Spirit injury: deconstructing cultural competence principles and practice in crisis response

This interactive workshop will examine diversity and cultural competence as dominant discourse and the implications for marginalized groups.

Crisis response through a cultural lens

This panel presentation will provide examples of how different groups experience and respond to crisis using their cultural lens, and the intersections that occur.



Mid-afternoon sessions

(12:45 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.) – Day 1

Who do you call?

It is 3:00 in the morning and you hear a loud bang that sounds like a gunshot coming from the front of your home. You hear the sirens going off, and the noise and activity forces you to leave your home to inquire. You open your door and see the body of a young man lying on the sidewalk. What do you do, and who do you call? This panel will outline who responds to such incidents, their roles, responsibilities and cross-functions.

Crisis response: school and community protocols and linkages

This panel presentation will explore the types of linkages and protocols that exist between the school and the community, particularly during a crisis, and how the two are or should be working together to ensure effective psychosocial supports for students and the larger community.

Resident, peer or neighbourhood crisis response teams: how do you get one started?

This panel presentation will outline the exciting and rewarding process used by the Jamestown community located in North Etobicoke and Regent Park to engage their community in crisis response through peer teams.

Community crisis and trauma intervention with children

Although children usually end up coping with trauma on their own, research and experience tells us that children need supportive interventions during this time. This session will outline ways communities can support children through crisis and traumatic incidents.

Community crisis response with youth

Providing appropriate responses to youth who experience violence-induced critical incidents can be a challenging and sometimes complex task. This panel presentation will highlight various strategies and initiatives being used across the City of Toronto.

Funding crisis response work

Responding to community-based crisis is a new phenomenon for organizations that do not carry this type of mandate. This panel presentation will offer you a bird's-eye view of who funds this work and who is open to exploring supporting this work.

Crisis prevention through mediation

Community mediation is not an immediate crisis response, but a long-term strategy to build the capacity of a community to weather a crisis. This workshop will outline the approaches used in community mediation, and ask participants to comment on its usefulness in preparing communities for crisis.

Afternoon sessions

(2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.) – Day 1

Healing principles across cultures

When good communities experience ongoing and compounded violence that induces crisis and trauma, a community healing process is vital to a healthy recovery and must be done in a supportive environment. This interactive session will explore various healing strategies used across cultures, and will identify common principles and practices across cultures that could be shared.

The road to empowerment: moving from crisis to capacity building

On May 2004, Filipino-Canadian student Jeffrey Reodica, 17, was shot by a police officer. Shocked and enraged by what had happened, the community rallied behind the family in its search for justice. A coalition led protest actions, generating support from other communities. This session will outline the painful yet empowering journey travelled by the Filipino community to move from crisis to capacity building.

Spirituality and healing

The panel discussion will review the existing role played by various faith leaders in crisis response, and will evaluate their spiritual significance, values and resources in providing crisis supports.

Grief – cross-cultural sensitivity and self-reflexivity

How can self-reflexivity assist cross-cultural work with grieving persons? This session will explore ways to work with grieving people cross-culturally, and will include a viewing of the video “Behind Closed Doors.”

Peace-making circles: a vehicle for community healing

This interactive session will walk you through the basic principles and tenets of healing circles, and their effectiveness in healing wounded communities.

Conflict evolution and healing

Through the practice of theatre and other disciplines (mediation, journaling, breath work) participants are given the opportunity to play with conflict as a creative force and experience peace as an exhilarating activity.

Day 2 sessions – June 10, 2005

The focus of Day 2 is skill development, capacity building and tool development. Participants will work with skilled facilitators to move through a simulation exercise in one of the focused areas that will enable interactive participatory discussion, planning, organizing and tool/resource development. The following concurrent sessions (10:30 a.m. – 2:15 p.m.) are structured to help you operationalize cultural competence while maximizing your learning.

Healing and community capacity building

Participants will engage in a real-life trial run of a community moving from crisis to healing and capacity building. Skilled facilitators will assist the group in assessing their response and intervention approach through a culturally competent lens, and support the group in developing tools and protocols for future use.

Crisis response and neighbourhood crisis response teams

This exercise will focus on the ins and outs of developing peer or resident crisis response teams. Through the exercise, participants will explore core requirements, working with ethno-racial/cultural and faith based communities, training, community engagement, funding, and sustainability. Skilled facilitators will be on hand to assist through the process and support the group in developing tools and protocols for future use.

Trauma Intervention

Participants will explore the traumatic impact and implications when crisis hits a community that is in a constant state of crisis. Skilled facilitators will be on hand to assist through the process and support the group in developing tools and protocols for future use.

2:30 p.m. session And the Beat Speaks: healing through the arts

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**Space in limited,
so register early.**