

Biographies

Regini David is Co-chair of the Ontario Project for Interclinic Community Organizing (OPICCO) and a Community Legal Worker at West Scarborough Community Legal Services. She has been involved in community development and community organizing at the grassroots level for over 30 years. She is currently coordinating a campaign in Scarborough to legalize rooming houses across the city of Toronto.

Helen Luu is the Advocacy and Outreach Coordinator for the Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario (ACTO). She was the Co-Chair of the Ontario Project for Inter-Clinic Community Organizing (OPICCO) from 2014-2016, and continues to sit on the steering committee. Previously, Helen worked for many years as a community worker in the social services sector.

liz walker is the Provincial Organizer with ISAC (Income Security and Advocacy Centre) for just under three years. liz is the co-secretary with the ODSP Action Coalition. She was Co Chair of OPICCO from 2015-2017.

David Bush is the Workers' Rights Organizer at the Income Security Advocacy Centre. He is also a PhD candidate in the Social and Political Thought program at York University.

OPICCO:

Community Development and Community Organizing in the Clinic System - It's mandated.

Friday, May 18, 2018 • 9:00 am - 12:15 pm

Presenters:

Regini David, Helen Luu, liz walker, David Bush

Workshop Summary:

Community Development work is part of the mandate of community legal clinics. It is spelled out under s. 14(1) of the Legal Aid Services Act and s.3 (f) of the Memorandum of Understanding guiding clinics' work.

This workshop has two parts.

1. Overview

The first session (9:00 – 10:30) will give a brief overview of the Community Development and the role of Ontario Project for Interclinic Community Organizing (OPICCO) in supporting Community Development and organizing. Following that, resource people from specialty clinics will provide an update of some Current Community Development/Community Organizing Initiatives.

2. Community Development/Community Organizing – What is Happening/ What needs to Happen in Your Community and the Southwest Region?

When people directly affected by an issue come together & act collectively, in their shared self-interest, to win improvements in people's lives it can change the balance of power in the community.

In the second session following a break (10:30 -10:45) participants can choose from one of three break out groups organized on the topics discussed in the earlier session (i.e., social assistance, housing and employment).

The breakout groups will be facilitated/resourced with the speakers from the earlier sessions.

Format:

Session #1 presentations will be lecture style. There will be ample opportunity for questions after each presentation.

Session #2 will be in small working groups. Recorders will ensure that actions are identified for further action work.

Learning Outcomes:

- Participants will enhance their appreciation of the importance of Community Development work as part of the mandate of community legal clinics.
- Participants will learn about and enhance their understanding of community development/ community organizing activities within local communities or on a regional and provincial basis in the coming years.
- Participants will be able to identify opportunities to plug into system wide or regional collaborative community development work.
- Participants will be given materials to support their organizing and be able to discuss what else they might need (other than time and resources).