



**18th Annual Meeting
Bayview Wildwood Resort
May 4-5, 2007**

**"POLICY *and* PRACTICE: ASSESSING THE INTEGRATION OF
SERVICES FOR ONTARIO'S CHILDREN AND YOUTH "**

Have we made progress in improving the integration of services for children and youth since the inception of the Ontario Ministry of Children and Youth Services in 2003? This year's conference will engage participants in a critical examination and discussion of our progress.

Focusing on three areas where provincial reforms have been recommended and/or undertaken – Child Welfare, Youth Justice and Mental Health – the sessions will examine how the policies and practices introduced in each of these areas have either improved, or hindered, the integration of services and the impact on children and youth.

After a short review of the 'success factors' highlighted at the SLA 2007 Symposium - *What Works! Successful Tales of Integration* - a Key Note presentation by Dr. Bruce Swan will challenge participants to carefully reflect on those conditions, both personal and organizational, that seem to limit our ability to effectively pursue systems change.

The day will also feature three major presentations by leaders in child welfare, youth justice and mental health who will outline recent reforms to provincial policy and practices, encouraging discussion on how and where these changes have actually improved the integration of services and outcomes for children and youth. Participants will be asked to share their perspectives on where things are working well, and where policy intentions and actual practices differ.

The day will conclude with a panel and participant discussion on the where - and why - we are achieving success; how we might change our approaches; and reflections on the overarching ideas that emerged during the sessions. A summary of the key points and a draft of the Conference Findings will be shared with members the following day.

On Saturday, May 5th, we have invited the Ministers and Deputy Ministers of Children and Youth Services and Health Promotion, and hope they will join us to share their plans and ideas to serve Ontario's children, youth and families in the coming year.

Please plan to attend this year's conference. We would strongly suggest you register early if you wish to attend as 2005 and 2006 were sold out, and available space is limited!