

On behalf of POAO I am pleased to provide a summary of our ongoing partnership with an important research project. POAO is considered a Program Advisory Committee member for the: **Integrating Brain Injury, Mental Health, and Addictions. This project is funded by Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, 2017/18, Health System Research Fund Program-Award.** This important opportunity was first recognized during the planning of workshops during the 2015 POAO Symposium (London). The workshop was a venue to present the vital need for such a research funded program to deal with Brain Injury in the offender population (institution and community).

POAO is now a Program Advisory Committee (PAC) member. Our Association is able to leverage our members' skills, professional experiences and our resources such as our communication strategies (website/workshops/symposiums/PO Week etc) to assist the research project in dissemination of findings, promote key discoveries into our work, increase knowledge transfer and raise awareness related to brain diseases and disorders.

There are many on the research team and our main contacts to date have been Dr. Angela Colantonio, Principal Investigator of the University of Toronto and Catherine Wiseman-Hakes, Co-Investigator University of Toronto, and Vincy Chan, Co-Investigator Toronto Rehabilitation Institute – UHN. Dr. Colantonio's researched statistics into the number of women with acquired brain injuries given domestic violence victimization were referenced by a keynote speaker at the HSJCC (Human Services and Justice Coordinating Committee) conference in 2017. As noted during our recent ADM meeting, the research project has been informed regarding the process for Youth Justice Research process and possible commitments.

Attached are the terms of reference.

Karen Tinning

Youth Policy Director/ POAO Board Member, 2018