Caseworker Training Opportunities

Caseworker Readiness Activity

Caseworker Core Training - The Ohio Revised Code (ORC) requires that newly hired caseworkers complete 102 hours of Core training within their first year of employment. Core training is designed to provide the fundamental knowledge and skills that caseworkers need to do their jobs. It is provided by the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program (OCWTP). The Caseworker Core Series must be taken in sequence and consists of eight modules and three learning labs. Please refer to the Caseworker Core Checklist.

New and experienced caseworkers also have other types of training available to them through the OCWTP as follows:

Mandated Ongoing Training - After completing the Core Series in their first year, caseworkers are required to attend 36 hours of ongoing training each year thereafter. The workshops attended should be those identified by completing the Individual Training Needs Assessment (ITNA).

Mandated Non-Core Training - Caseworkers are required to receive 12 hours of Domestic Violence training within two years of their date of hire.

Specialized training addresses knowledge and skills needed by caseworkers who work in special program areas or with particular client populations. Training content includes both basic and advanced level coursework. Workers attend specialized training when it is indicated on their Individual Training Needs Assessment (ITNA).

Related Skills training promotes both basic and advanced level knowledge and skills in many relevant topic areas related to casework practice.

Activity:

It is important for you to become familiar with the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program. Visit the OCWTP website at: http://www.ocwtp.net. Go to the section "For Trainees" to learn about the many learning opportunities available to you. You will also find many links to related websites.

Licensing requirements – Although not a requirement for employment with a public child services agency, many caseworkers have chosen to be licensed by the Ohio Counselor, Social Worker and Marriage and Family Therapist Board. To qualify for a license renewal, caseworkers must:
• Complete 30 hours of continuing professional education every two years
• Three hours of the 30 required hours must be in the area of social work ethics

For information on social work licensing in the State of Ohio, go to: http://codes.ohio.gov/oac/4757-7

Individual PCSAs may have their own policies and procedures for ensuring staff receive mandated training. These may include:

• The registration process
• The schedule for training
• Completion process for ITNAS
• Agency reimbursement for travel

The agency may also have its own training opportunities for caseworkers including: in-agency training, mentoring, coaching, and shadowing programs. Community-based, cross-agency training opportunities may exist as well. The agency may also choose to have staff attend additional professional training opportunities provided by child welfare-focused organizations and/or other training resources.

Activity:

What are the agency’s policies and procedures regarding staff training? (e.g. registration process, coverage of job duties, etc.)

Become familiar with Ohio’s learning management system called E-Track. Explore options at: E-Track. Identify three ways you will use E-Track to guide your professional development.

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Identify and list three content areas in which you would like to receive training beyond Caseworker Core.

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Share these with your supervisor and develop a personalized training plan. Remember that not all training must be in the classroom. Webinars, online courses, coaching and self-study are additional options.