

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES

Michael Colbert, Director, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

Jennifer Justice, Deputy Director, Office of Families and Children

PUBLIC CHILDREN SERVICES ASSOCIATION OF OHIO

Crystal Allen, Executive Director
Scott Britton, Assistant Director

REGIONAL TRAINING CENTERS

Juliana Harrison

Central Ohio RTC, Franklin County CSB
Columbus (614) 278-5909

Brian Wear

East Central Ohio RTC, Guernsey County CSB
Cambridge (740) 432-2355

Mark McMillian

North Central Ohio RTC, Cuyahoga County DCFS
Cleveland (216) 432-3357

Jeanne Bennett

Northeast Ohio RTC, Summit County CSB
Akron (330) 379-2003

Tom Swindel

Northwest Ohio RTC, Lucas County CSB
Toledo (419) 213-3506

Paula Marx

Southeast Ohio RTC, Athens County CSB
Athens (740) 592-9082

Darren Varnado

Southwest Ohio RTC, Butler County DJFS
Cincinnati (513) 248-1936

Dale Hotaling

Western Ohio RTC, Greene County CSB
Beavercreek (937) 427-4540

SUBCONTRACT AGENCIES

Sara Fiser

Adopt America
sefiser@hotmail.com

Kathy Franz

Northeast Ohio Adoption Services
KFranz@noas.com

Julius Jackson

Adoption Network Cleveland
julius@adoptionnetwork.org

Mikki Holmes

United Methodist Children's Home
mxholmes@fcs.co.franklin.oh.us

Pam Ross

Children's Home of Cincinnati
pross@thechildrenshomecinti.org

STATE COORDINATOR

Institute for Human Services

Ronald C. Hughes, Director

Judith S. Ryeus, Program Director

Columbus (614) 251-6000
www.ihs-trainet.com

OCWTP WEBSITE

www.ocwtp.net
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FOSTER AND ADOPTION TRAINING

Fundamental, Related,
and Specialized
Course and Topic Areas

Providing the Right Training,
For the Right People,
At the Right Time

Ohio Child Welfare Training Program

The Ohio Child Welfare Training Program

The Ohio Child Welfare Training Program (OCWTP) is a cooperative effort of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, the Public Children Services Association of Ohio, the eight Regional Training Centers, and the Institute for Human Services. The goal of the program is to provide high quality, competency-based, in-service training for caregivers in public child welfare agencies throughout Ohio. Program activities include assessment of training needs, development of curricula, development of trainers, coaches and other resources, training of trainers, delivery of training, evaluation of training programs, and consultation to local agencies. All training is designed to promote culturally-competent child welfare practice.

The OCWTP's Regional Training Centers will provide training to meet the training needs of all caregivers. For further information, contact your Regional Training Center Coordinator or Institute for Human Services staff.

Foster Care Fundamental Series

923-FF2-S: Development of Infants and Toddlers: The Effects of Abuse and Neglect

Participants will explore the impact of abuse and neglect and separation from primary families on the development of infants and toddlers. Participants will be provided with parenting tips and strategies to more effectively meet the developmental needs of infants and toddlers in their care. Effective communication skills and advocacy strategies with members of the child welfare team are introduced.

923-FF3-S: Development of Preschoolers and School-Age Children: The Effects of Abuse and Neglect

Understanding how children develop from birth through adolescence is critical to effective parenting, especially for children in out-of-home care. Normal developmental patterns of preschool through elementary school-aged children are addressed, including the impact of cultural differences. Strategies to more effectively meet the developmental needs of the children are addressed. Caregivers will learn effective communication skills and advocacy strategies.

923-FF4-S: Development of Adolescents: The Effects of Abuse and Neglect

Parenting is a 24-hour responsibility, full of demands, expectations, and challenges for any parent. For caregivers the challenge is magnified by the special needs of the adolescents placed in their home. Understanding how children develop from birth through adolescence is critical to effective parenting, especially for adolescents in out-of-home care. Normal adolescent development is addressed, including cultural differences. Parenting tips and strategies to more effectively meet the needs of the teens in their care, based on developmental levels are provided.

923-FF5-S: Healthy Sexual Development of Children and Teens

Although many sexual behaviors are normal for children, such incidents frequently catch us off-guard and raise a number of questions such as, "Is this normal?" "Should I be worried?" "What should I do?" This training will introduce basic concepts of sexual development and introduce the Johnson continuum of childhood sexual behavior. Normal sexual behaviors for children from birth to adolescence will be outlined along with factors which may influence a child's sexual behaviors. The training will help foster parents know when a child's sexual expression is normative and developmentally appropriate; how to discuss sexual issues with children and adolescents in a way that is consistent with their developmental level; and how to maintain a supportive and safe environment with children and adolescents that encourages healthy sexual development.

923-FF6-S: Recognizing and Responding to Children Who Have Been Sexually Abused

This workshop is designed for caregivers and adoptive parents who are caring for children who have been sexually abused. Participants will learn that children in care, or who have been adopted, may not have disclosed sexual abuse they have experienced. Participants learn the definition and dynamics of sexual abuse of children. Participants develop understanding of the characteristics of caregivers that can best adjust to the needs children who have been sexually abused. Extensive parenting strategies to prepare the home to receive sexually abused children as well as strategies to enhance their ongoing care will be addressed.

924-FF7-S: Understanding and Building Attachment

This workshop addresses the initiation and development of attachment in children, and is designed for licensed caregivers with placement experience. The first half of the training distinguishes characteristics of secure attachment from those of insecure attachment, and provides information on how the crisis created by separation and placement impacts and is impacted by the child's attachment pattern. The last half of the workshop presents a template for parenting children with insecure attachment.

925-FF8-S: Discipline in Foster Care: Managing Our Behaviors to Manage Theirs

Behavior management with children is much broader than simply stopping negative behaviors. Discipline involves enhancing the caregivers' ability to guide the child and enhance their self-esteem. This workshop focuses on understanding the caregivers' overall style of parenting and their approach to children. By exploring how changing the caregivers' approach and parenting strategies impact the child's behavior, participants learn to individualize discipline to the needs and issues of each child.

926-FF9-S: Foster Families and How They Grow: Understanding the Effects of Fostering

This workshop, specifically designed for recently licensed caregivers will assist caregivers in understanding and dealing with the challenges unique to fostering. Caregivers will learn about emerging roles and barriers to fulfilling those roles. Stages of foster family adjustment and the changing family relationships for everyone touched by the challenge of foster care will be addressed. Strategies to assist foster caregivers in developing strategies to build a healthy fostering experience will be introduced.

926-FF10-S: Defusing Crisis Situations Safely and Sanely

This workshop helps caregivers understand anger as an unmet need, identify the stages of a developing crisis and build corresponding de-escalation skills. Participants will learn to recognize the role of body language and personal space in defusing tense situations. Assessment of one's values, expectations, responses to anger and personal temperament can defuse a situation or contribute to even greater escalation.

927-FF11-S: Cultural Issues in Foster Care: Dealing with the Dynamics of Difference

This workshop will explore the importance of culture in a foster family. Participants will learn to differentiate culture from race, ethnicity, or gender. Common cultural misconceptions and conflicts, particularly those involving foster families, will be addressed. Ethnocentrism, stereotyping, prejudice, discrimination, and the formation of racial identity for children will be presented. Participants will develop parenting strategies to assist foster children in the formation of strong, healthy, identity formation and self-esteem.

928-FF12-S: Relating to Primary Families: Understanding Challenges, Issues, and Strategies for Success

When a child enters foster care, the experience can be the most traumatic event of his or her life, even more than the abuse that led to the removal. The transition from removal to reconnection to reunification (permanency) is a fragile process for all who are part of that process. Caregivers are now expected to facilitate visits and encourage and participate in other forms of interaction between foster children and their birth families. The goal of this workshop is to provide information about why the involvement of caregivers with primary families is critical for the child and families. This workshop will enhance caregiver's skills in engaging primary families, managing conflict, defusing issues, and developing strategies of support to expedite permanency for children.

941-FF14-S: Fostering Self-Reliance in Children and Youth: Roots and Wings

Caregivers must equip their children for independence as they grow into adulthood. The process of enhancing a child's ability to be self-reliant begins around 18 months of age and continues into young adulthood. Caregivers begin this process with the simplest learning opportunities in daily living skills; they increase the complexity of the activities and skills as the child succeeds and matures. Building self-reliant adults is an intentional process. Tools to foster self-reliance in children of all ages and developmental levels are introduced.

Fundamental Caregiver Topic Area

Fundamental workshops address topics essential to all caregivers. These trainings build on knowledge gained during Pre-service Training and provide the framework for "best practice". They allow caregivers to develop fundamental skills, enhancing confidence and capacity to adapt parenting styles to meet the needs of children placed in the home.

922- Role of the Child Protection Team

Working with casework staff
Collaborate as member of casework team
Involved in achievement of case plan goals

923- Developmental Issues in Maltreated Children

Healthy child development
Developmental problems in children due to abuse, neglect
Healthy sexual development

924- Attachment, Separation, and Placement

Recognize and understand insecure attachment and the importance of attachment
Development of healthy attachments

925-Constructive Behavior Management

Parenting styles
Understanding problem behaviors
Appropriate discipline and behavior management strategies

926- Promoting Placement Stability

Roles, responsibilities, and stresses of foster caregiving
Caregivings impact on marriage or adult intimate relationships
Helping children adjust to caregiving home
Identification, prevention, and controlling crisis in caregiving families

927- Cultural Foundations

Cultural competence
Impact of culture for a child and family
Interact with children and their families in a culturally supportive way
Assist children resolve issues related to cultural differences

928- Primary Families

Plan, arrange, and support child regarding visitation between child and primary family
Work with primary family towards permanency
Ability to coach, advise primary family in safely parenting children

929- Permanency

Permanency planning
Reunification
Adoption
Adoption Subsidies



Specialized Caregiver Topic Areas

Specialized workshops offer training on knowledge and skills in a specific, specialized area of foster care or adoption.

940- Specialized Parenting Strategies in Development

941- Building Self-Reliance, Resilience, and Independence in Children

Skills to assist children's ability to thrive in adulthood
Identity issues of young adults
Independent living resources

942- Parenting Children who are Pregnant or Parenting

Ability to help, support, and educate adolescents whose parents or are pregnant

943- Parenting Children who have been Maltreated

Providing care to children who have been physically abused; neglected; sexually abused
Dynamics of child sexual abuse

944- Parenting Children who have Sexually Abused Others

Providing care to children who have sexually abused others

945- Family Safety

Provide safe environment for all members in caregiving home
Use crisis intervention, verbal de-escalation techniques to ensure safety
Critical incident reports

946- Providing Care to Children who have Fragile Medical Conditions

Providing daily care, access respite services, and support to children and primary family who have fragile medical conditions
Collaborating with treatment team and service providers

947- Managing Placement Transitions

Assist in reunification process; support child and primary family
Placement transition process; emotional and, behavioral reactions
Effects of separation on child

948- Promoting Post Adoption Family Stability

Transition from foster/kinship parent to adoptive parent; legal, emotional, psychological differences
Ability to help a child through adoption issues: loss, control, identity, mixed loyalties

949- Enhancing Children's Connections

Understands benefits of promoting connections for children
Collaborate with birth family to promote wellbeing and permanence for child
Lifebooks
Openness in adoption

950- Legal and Ethical Issues for Caregivers

Legal responsibilities in caregiving practice
Juvenile court
Confidentiality and other legal liability issues

951- Coaching and Mentoring Primary Families and Other Caregivers

Assessing learning needs of primary families
Coaching and mentoring of primary families

952- Preventing Placement Disruptions

Identify signs of placement disruptions
Assist children in adjusting to their caregiving home

Related Caregiver Topic Areas

Related workshops provide information from other practice fields that can refine and enhance a caregiver's skills.

980- Written and Verbal Communication

Principles of recording information for case record
Personal communication styles

981- Culture and Diversity

Working with culturally-diverse client populations

983- Developmental Disorders

Recognizing and caring for children with developmental disabilities and delays
Advocating of specialized services
Characteristics of adult developmental disabilities and their effect on children

984- Community Violence, Gangs, and Cults

Caring for children involved in community violence, gangs and culture

985- Human Sexuality

Development of healthy sexual behavior
Adolescent sexual development

987- Impact of Caregiving, Adoptive Parenting on Families with Diverse Structures

Caregiving as a single parent
Managing roles of parent/spouse/partner

988- Substance Abuse

Recognition of indicators of drug and alcohol abuse
Working with parents who substances
Caring for children who abuse substances; coordination of services

989- Self-Care for Caregivers and Adoptive Parents

Managing caregiving family life
Recognizing signs and symptoms of personal stress
Development of stress coping skills

990- Health Issues

Medical conditions and health problems of children and families; AIDS; SIDS
Caring for children with illness or medical condition

991- Trauma

993- Domestic and Family Violence

Dynamics of family violence; considerations in treatment; community resources
Ensure safety of children during visits with family

994- Meeting Children's Educational Needs

Advocate and support children in school setting
Understand Individualized Educational Plans; 504 Plans; Transitional Plans
Assist in college and university applications

995- Mental Health Problems

Recognizing indicators of developmental delays, emotional and behavioral disturbances
Coordination and support of specialized services