

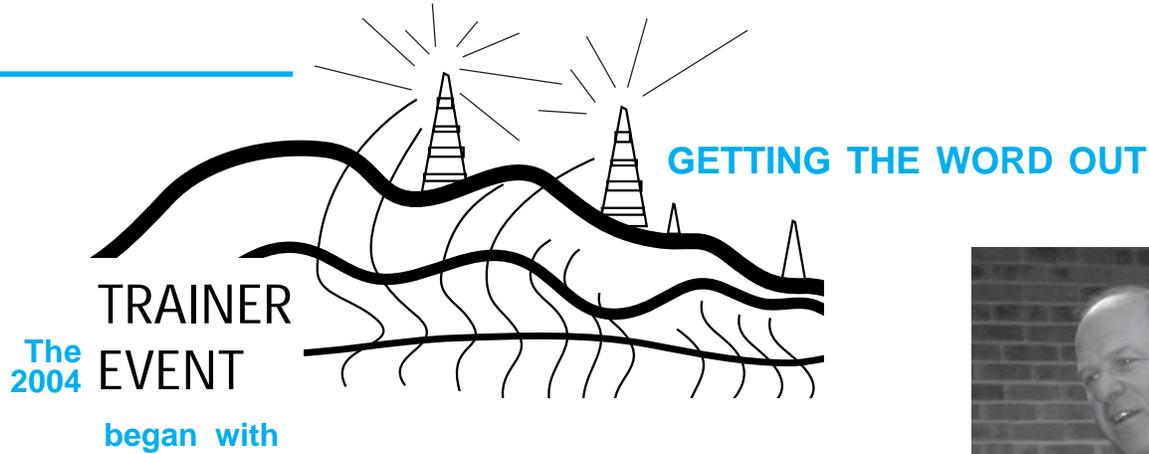


OHIO
CHILD
WELFARE
TRAINING
PROGRAM

COMMON GROUND

A FORUM FOR SHARING IDEAS, OPINIONS, AND INNOVATIONS IN CHILD WELFARE TRAINING

ISSUE #27, June 2004 www.ocwtp.com



a Scavenger Hunt to break the ice. Everyone had a rousingly good time. Everything was found except a great grandmother and a size six shoe (you look for it!). Jodi Wadel, the keynote speaker, presented a model for identifying emotional competencies necessary for successful leadership.

After lunch, Lyn Bissonnette thanked the group for their efforts in broadening the knowledge and skill base of Ohio's PCSA staff.

Following Lyn, Rick Smith, Deputy Director of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, rose to speak. He decided to throw away his speech and presented a powerful reminiscence of his early days in the field. He told how, as a county Director, he wanted to be involved in a child welfare case and began interacting with a teenage girl who was in residential treatment. She had been through numerous placements because



Rick Smith, Deputy Director Office of Children and Families



Lyn Bissonnette, Program Administrator, Office of Children and Families

of acting out. Her therapist thought she would benefit from seeing her mother after a 10 year separation. She prepared for this meeting by writing a poem to her mother asking why her mother had left her. Rick read this poem, and it was an emotional moment for everyone in the audience, reminding us that we are in this field to help abused and neglected children, and their families; and, that our work is of primary importance.

Tom Swindel presented Patty Harrelson the 6th Annual Linda Pope Award. Patty was the first Exceptional Service Award (now High Achievement Award) recipient in 2001. Sharon Chun Wetterau was presented the 2004 High Achievement Award by Mary Kay Hawkins.

The afternoon consisted of three sessions: "Ethics in Training" (Denise Goodman), "Keeping Fit in the Fast Lane" (Jodi Wadel), and "Wounded Bear" (Shianne Eagleheart). It was a really beautiful day, and we thank all of you who attended. **Next year's Trainer Event is scheduled for Monday, March 14, 2005.** Mark your calendar now—you won't want to miss it.

PowerPoint : Keeping it SMART and SIMPLE

OCWTP trainers are using PowerPoint more and more to enhance their trainings. Here are some suggestions for designing effective presentations:

1 *Less is Definitely More!*

Limit the number of images on each slide. This helps participants focus on the main idea of the slide and keeps the trainer organized. Trainers are less likely to overlook something if the slides have one idea.

2 *When Using Fonts: Keep it Clean and Simple*

Serif fonts (with the little feet on the tops and bottoms of letters, such as Times New Roman) do not read as well on the screen. Serif fonts are best used in bodies of text, such as books or handouts. Sanserif fonts, Helvetica and Arial, appear cleaner and are best used in short lines of text or headlines. It's okay to use one font for the header and another for the body of the text.

3 *Text: The Rule of 6!*

Limit the slides to 6 lines per slide and six words per line. Highlight major points with graphics and fill in the details.

4 *Sound and Video Clips*

Trainees should have the opportunity to applaud and acknowledge responses. Avoid unnecessary sound and video clips. Screeching brakes can distract and annoy trainees.

5 *Color: Big or Little Splash?*

Bright colors add energy and highlight the major themes of the slide show. However, limiting the colors to three per slide is most effective. While most trainees enjoy a natural rainbow, too much color on a slide distracts the eye from your message. Contrast the text and background carefully (e.g., red or purple text on a green slide is difficult to read and disrupts the trainees' concentration).

There are a lot of elements to consider when developing a PP presentation. We have just listed the most obvious. In order to help you further, the OCWTP is planning PowerPoint TOTs for beginning PowerPoint users. Registration is limited to 10 per workshop for hands-on skill acquisition.

Prerequisites: Trainers must have at least two years of experience in the OCWTP. Trainers must bring their own laptops, extension cords, and curricula to this highly experiential workshop. If you're interested, contact Debra Sparrow at IHS, 614/251-6000, or dsparrow@ihs-trainet.com. Dates to be announced.

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT TOT: DECEMBER

MARK YOUR CALENDAR, Nan Beeler is conducting a TOT on Curriculum Development, December 1 and 2, 2004, open to all trainers. Trainers who live in the Southwest Ohio Regional Training Center (SWORTC) area should contact Paula Garbett at the RTC 513/946-2163. All others should contact Debra Sparrow at IHS to register (614/251-6000).

FROM IHS:

IHS is developing a more effective trainer database for the Foster Caregiver Training Program. RTCs will find it easier to locate and contact trainers. **We need the help of each foster caregiver trainer** to ensure that RTCs easily identify trainers for their training needs. As foster caregiver trainers, you will receive a survey asking for email addresses; two-sentence descriptions of each workshop trained for Foster Caregivers, and their related competencies; where you are willing to travel to train; and if there are exceptions to those travel parameters (e.g., willing to travel statewide if two or more workshops are offered within 24 hours). Call or email Kathy Kelley (not Betsy Keefer) at kkelley@ihs-trainet.com if you do not receive your survey by June 7, 2004.

Caseworker Core Revision Pilots

The first Core module, Mission of Child Protective Services, was piloted in April; the second, Engaging Families in Child Protective Services, was piloted in May. Evaluations were done using pre/post knowledge tests, and focus group questions. IHS will be "fine tuning" the curriculum and evaluation methodology from information gathered during the Core pilots.

Work continues on the remainder of the revised Core curricula. Additional workshops include: Legal Issues in Family-Centered Child Protective Services; Assessment in Family-Centered Child Protective Services; Investigative Processes; Casework Process and Case Planning; The Effects of Abuse and Neglect on Child Development; Separation, Loss and Reunification in Family-Centered Child Protective Services. These workshops will be piloted in SWORTC through April 2005.



Sharon Chun Wettreau receiving the 2004 High Achievement Award from Mary Kay Hawkins

GETTING THE WORD OUT

Good information, important networking, old friends, great food, AND, continued inspiration: the Trainer Event!



Patty Harrelson, winner of the 6th Annual Linda Pope Award



Shianne Eagleheart, presenter



Jodie Wadel, presenter



AROUND THE REGIONS

CORTC:

The Central Ohio Regional Training Center/Franklin County Children Services Professional Development Department announces new staff:

Sylvia Carter, January 2004, office manager. Sylvia worked for 15 years as an administrative assistant and a program coordinator for The Ohio State University.

Sarah Tornichio, January 2004, additional Foster Parent Education Coordinator. Sarah will be working closely with Angie Rogers as the foster parent education program expands.

Teresa Coffey, March 2004, librarian/media technician. Teresa was employed as a reserve coordinator at Columbus State Community College library.

ECORTC:

Natalie Knowlton is the new clerical support staff member. Natalie provides training support, enhancing RTC operations working on foster parent training, and serves as the main data entry person. The RTC also congratulates Darla Gorscak's twins, who are graduating from high school this June.

In addition, Brian Wear reports the 10th Annual Canton Supervisory Conference attracted 50 supervisors from as far west as Darke County and as far North as Cuyohoga County. The conference theme, Inspirational Leadership, focused on helping supervisors motivate, identify, and create a better work environment. The new Carlisle Village Inn, Sugarcreek, Ohio, was a great location. They are going back in March of 2005 for the 11th conference!

SEORTC:

Nichole Stewart is the new administrative assistant, and **David Jackson** began in December 2003 as their new RTC Coordinator.

WORTC:

The Western Ohio Regional Training Center has (finally!) hired Kristin Townsend as coordinator of foster parent training. Kristin's most recent experience is as a phone screener for Greene County Children Services. She was a Caseworker III, and will be a great addition to the WORTC team.

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COMMON GROUND is designed to inform trainers in the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program about issues, events, and trade secrets that will enhance the work of trainers in the program. You are encouraged to speak out. The editorial staff invites guest columnists, suggestions about materials or useful techniques, and topics for discussion in future issues.

The Editorial Staff reserves the right to condense and edit all materials submitted for publication.

COMMON GROUND is published three times a year. Send your material for future issues to:

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