

Trainer News from the OCWTP

Field Experience

If you do not have recent field experience (within the past three years) in a public or private children service agency, you will soon have an added responsibility for updating your child welfare experience. Current field experience will enhance your credibility and help you develop more appropriate TOL strategies. This responsibility is being phased in, starting with **Core trainers only**. RTCs will assist you in arranging to spend a few hours “in the field” doing such things as shadowing a worker on a home visit, observing a family group conference, and/or interviewing workers. **Core trainers** have received a letter explaining how to participate in a field experience. **If you do not currently train a Core workshop, you do not need to participate in a field experience at this time.**

MEPA Corner

Have you ever had a question raised during training about MEPA that you found challenging to answer? The new “MEPA Corner” in the *Common Ground* newsletter is a way for you to get the right answers to those difficult questions. Each edition of the *Common Ground* will feature training-related MEPA questions with responses by ODJFS. Send your MEPA questions for inclusion in the *Common Ground* to Charlotte Osterman at costerman@ihs-trainet.com.

Trainer Information

Please remember to update your contact information with IHS and with the RTCs any time you have changes in address, phone number, or email.

If your trainer fee is to be paid to your employing agency, you must alert the RTCs of your need each time you train. The RTC will make sure your agency’s tax I.D. number is on the trainer contract. Unfortunately, our system won’t allow a tax I.D. number to be associated with a trainer.

NSDTA Conference

The National Staff Development and Training Association’s 19th Annual Professional Development Institute will be held September 10-13, 2006, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Congratulations to Jayne Schooler, an OCWTP trainer, who will receive an award at this conference. To find out more about NSDTA and the conference, go to: <http://nsdta.aphsa.org>