

Making the Most of Child Welfare Institute 2005

This year at Child Welfare Institute we are offering full day workshops on Tuesday and Thursday and half-day workshops on Wednesday. Because this limits the number of workshops you can attend to one per day, you may be struggling with which days and workshops to attend. You can maximize what you get out of the conference by working as a team with your co-workers.

Supervisors: You can help your team to identify workshops of interest to the whole team. The team can then make decisions about who can attend what. After the conference, you can provide your team with opportunities to share what they learned.

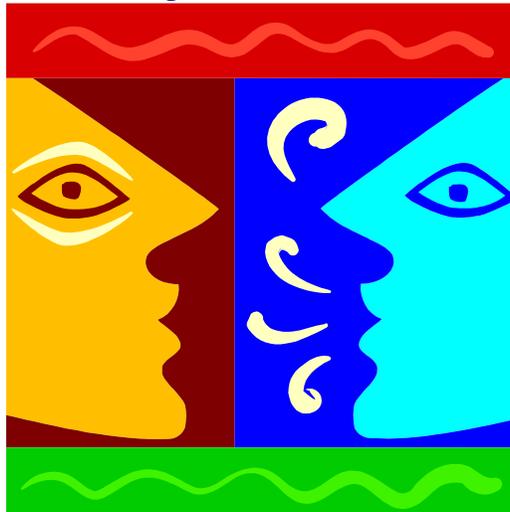
Workshop Participants:

Before the workshop: Talk with the team about what they would like to know from the workshop and be prepared to ask questions to gather that information. Gather challenging case examples to ask presenters about.

During the presentation: Ask questions, take notes, gather handouts (sometimes there are extra copies), and find out if there are other resources for additional information (web links, suggested reading, future training, email addresses).

After the presentation: Share what you learned in a staff meeting, share handouts and other resources.

Finding Your Voice...



Supporting Other Voices

Tuesday Workshops:

TU1 – Self-Care

Live Your Own Sitcom: Take back to share with your co-workers specific ways to use humor appropriately to relieve stress and deescalate negative situations in the workplace.

Tripping the Light Fantastic: You will leave with skills to help you deal with the possibility of vicarious traumatization that can result from working in child welfare. Participants will learn how to leave the job at work and maintain a healthy personal life. Create a team plan for ongoing support on your team to manage vicarious trauma.

The Color Code: A New Way to See Yourself, Your Relationships, and Life: Take the types of personalities and their characteristics back to your team and talk about the personality type of each team member. Talk about ways to better work together as you learn about the strengths and needs of each of your individual personality styles.

TU2 – Emergency Preparedness

This Red Cross presentation talks about what you need to have on hand to be prepared for an emergency. Following the flooding in Southern Utah, and even more currently the flooding from Hurricane Katrina in Louisiana, it was found that not all families were prepared to meet emergencies and Foster Children were put at risk. Talk in your teams about how the information in this workshop can be generalized to prepare for emergency situations in the office and at home.

TU3 – In the Best Interest of the Child: Using Attachment Theory to Inform Permanent Placement Decisions for Children in Foster Care

You will take a basic understanding of attachment theory with you back to your team, and you will be able to help clarify common attachment and bonding theory myths. You can use the information you gain in making more successful and more informed placement decisions.

TU4 – Adopt Care: Many Faces of Adoption Issues

Participants will take away an increased understanding of issues that traumatized children take with them into adoption settings. You can lead discussion with your team of these issues and of the stresses they may bring into the adoptive home and how to help families who choose to adopt traumatized children to be successful.

TU5 – How Caseworkers Can Advocate for Families

You will become familiar with statewide advocacy organizations and learn the benefits of teaming with advocates in working with families. Discuss with your team the challenges you have found in advocating for DCFS families and bring them to the workshop, and look for ways to address those challenges that you can take back to your team.

TU6 – Reducing Risk, Increasing Protection in Youth, Families, and Schools

Look at ways to reduce substance abuse, teen pregnancy, and the school drop out rate when you attend this workshop. Discuss with your team ways to work in your community to help adolescents create success for themselves.

TU7 – Working Cooperatively with Medical Professionals/Underlying Issues and Risks for Substance Exposed Newborns

Participants will leave this workshop with a clearer sense of common issues in substance-exposed newborns and how to create successful investigative relationships between DCFS caseworkers and medical professionals. Assess with your team the questions and concerns that have come up in working with the medical community.

TU8 – Identifying Incidents and Effects of Domestic Violence on Children: “Oh dear, I’ve been assigned a DV case...HELP!”

In this workshop you will find out how domestic violence affects children and families, and how to engage children and families to talk about it. You will take home strategies for managing your DV cases and the value of coordinating with community partners.

TU9 – The Father I hope to be...Location and Engagement of Fathers and Relatives in Permanency Planning

You will leave with a clear understanding of the important role of fathers in child welfare work, and learn how to search for and engage with fathers who are not currently involved with children in DCFS care. Prior to the workshop, assess attitudes and perspectives of your team members toward father involvement and struggles they have in locating and engaging absent fathers.

Wednesday Workshops:

W1 – Empowering Families to Build Communication Skills Through Literature

Learn and share the benefits of including this program in plans for the families on your caseload. Parents can learn ways to communicate more effectively with their children, parenting skills will improve, and parents will feel more confident. This program can be used before children are returned to their parents or after the children have returned home.

W2 – Fatherhood Involvement Program–Why do fathers struggle attaching to their baby?

Learn how the Fatherhood Involvement Program gives men confidence so they feel comfortable in caring for an infant child. The workshop will also include the latest research on crying and discuss helpful tips on how to deal with the stress of inconsolable crying and how crying can lead to shaken baby syndrome.

W3 – Everyone CAN Have a Part to Play – SOAR Into Action

Gather ideas for how to buffer youth from risks that lead to child abuse or other unhealthy behaviors and how to engage individuals and your community to help protect youth from risk.

W4 – Ansell-Casey Life Skills Assessment Training

Before the presentation get feedback from youth in your independent living program and be prepared to discuss some of their needs. Become familiar with the Ansell-Casey tool before the presentation www.caseylifeskills.org

W5 – Transitions of Children from the Ogden Christmas Box House to Kinship and Foster Care Placements

Gather ideas for smoother transitions for children leaving shelter care when they cannot return home and learn creative ways and benefits of letting children and kin or foster parents get to know each other prior to placement.

W6 – A Whole New World: Serving Utah's Refugee Population

Learn about new and effective ways to engage, team, assess, plan, and intervene with this population. Hear first-hand experiences to better understand some of the strengths and needs of this community. Learn about PTSD among this population. Gather resources and learn about the community partners who serve refugees.

W7 – Helping Youth in Foster Care Understand Their Past

Gain insight into the separation and loss issues for youth when in foster care or an adoptive home. Learn and share with others how you can support youth with these issues.

W8 – Serving Pacific Islander Families

Learn and share with others the definitions, geography, and cultures of 7 different categories of Pacific Islanders while debunking the stereotypes about Pacific Islanders. Learn helpful approaches for working with Pacific Islanders including culturally specific community resources.

W9 – Giving a Voice to the Future: Supporting Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning (LGBTQ) Youth in Foster Care

Discuss how you can work to engage, team, assess, plan, and intervene on behalf of this minority population. Local resources will be given and strategies developed in order to allow professionals and community partners to give a voice to these youth.

Thursday Workshops:

TH1 – Cultural Competency with Latinos

Ask the presenters about what resources are available in your specific area. Give the presenters scenarios and get advice on how to best provide services.

TH2 – These Three Things: Addressing Permanency Planning for Children

Before the presentation get feedback from youth in your independent living program and be prepared to discuss some of their needs with the judge. Share some of your team's specific needs in working with the courts.

TH3 – Youth Development: The Vital Link

Learn and share with others some methods for youth development. Bring challenging case examples of your own or of your co-workers' to identify creative solutions.

TH4 – Teaming and Partnering with Incarcerated Parents, the Department of Corrections and Adult Probation and Parole

Share your process of working with the family and ask how to best coordinate your efforts with probation, parole, and corrections. Ask about resources in your area.

TH5 – Evidence-Based Practice for Treating Abused Children/Mental Illness in the Family

Find out what role the caseworker should play in addressing mental health issues. Ask about resources in your area.

TH6 – Coping Skills Employed by Traumatized Children

Find out what things the caseworker can do to minimize trauma when intervening.

TH7 – Assessing Safety and Developing Safety Agreements with Families

Think about how your team currently assesses safety and how it fits in with the National Resource Center information. Share case scenarios so you can get a clear picture of what safety looks like.

TH8 – Many Faces of Trauma: Diagnosis and Treatment of Psychological Trauma

What can caseworkers do to minimize trauma when intervening? Find out what resources are available in your area.

TH9 – Positive Discipline

Learn Positive Parenting strategies to share with the families you serve and your co-workers.