

North Carolina Department  
Services



of Health and Human

Division of Social Services

2412 Mail Service Center • Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-2412

Michael F. Easley, Governor  
Carmen Hooker Odom, Secretary

Pheon E. Beal, Director  
(919) 733-3055

November 26, 2002

Dear County Director of Social Services and Director of Child Placing Agency:

**ATTENTION:** All Adoption and Foster Home Licensing Supervisors and Social Workers

**SUBJECT: *Model Approach to Partnerships in Parenting-Group Preparation and Selection (MAPP-GPS) Leader Certification for Foster and Adoptive Parents***

The North Carolina Division of Social Services, in collaboration with the North Carolina Foster Parent Association, is pleased to announce a train the trainer curriculum designed **especially for foster and adoptive parents** who wish to be certified as MAPP-GPS Leaders. This training will certify experienced foster and adoptive parents to co-lead MAPP groups in partnership with a licensing agency such as a county DSS or a private child placing agency. The MAPP-GPS curriculum is used as a framework to lead prospective foster and adoptive parents towards assessing and learning 12 key abilities that are necessary for successful foster and/or adoptive parenting. In addition, it will include information pertinent for foster parent leaders including training and presentation skills. The Child Welfare Institute, the developer of this curriculum strongly recommends that MAPP-GPS be presented to prospective foster and adoptive parents through a partnership of one agency representative and one experienced foster or adoptive parent.

MAPP-GPS Leaders who are also foster or adoptive parents must have and use skills different from those required in their foster or adoptive parenting roles. Most importantly, they must have experience with or interest in working with groups of prospective foster and adoptive families. Many foster and adoptive parents have experience working with groups within their communities. For those who have no experience, MAPP-GPS Certification Training will give them information, models, and opportunities for practice and feedback. Because of the complexities of the program, parent co-leaders will be more successful if they have had successful experiences working in teamwork with the agency to build partnerships with children and birth parents through the foster care and/or adoption program. After certification training, parent co-leaders need to use their new skills as soon as possible with a GPS group, preferably within the first two months. Once certified, the parent co-leader should have full responsibility for the facilitation of the group process with the staff co-leader.

Your foster and adoptive parents may have already received information about this opportunity through attendance at the North Carolina Foster Parent Association Conference or through reading *Fostering Perspectives*. Foster parents or adoptive parents interested in becoming certified as MAPP-GPS leaders will need a letter from the agency with whom they will be training once certified indicating a willingness by the agency to partner with them as co-leaders in their MAPP-GPS program. Please talk with parents prior to their attendance about your expectations regarding their partnership with you and about their initial and ongoing development as MAPP-GPS Leaders.

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In the past, the MAPP-GPS Leader certification has been difficult for foster parents to attend because of the scheduling and time commitment that it requires. However, the Division will offer a one-time opportunity for foster parents to attend the course primarily over two weekends. This will hopefully enable more foster parents to attend the training. The training will be provided in seven days rather than eight. It will be offered on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, January 9-12, 2003 and on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, January 24-26, 2003 in the Greensboro/High Point area to provide centralized access for all areas of the state. There will be no registration cost. Hotel, travel, and food expenses are the responsibility of the participant or the sponsoring agency. Agencies are encouraged to pay all or at least part of the expenses for the foster parent or adoptive parent attending. This is one way of showing a desire to partner with the foster or adoptive parent and a commitment to including them as a part of your team.

**Contact Hours:** This train the trainer for MAPP-GPS Leaders is 42 Hours.

**Target Audience:** This training of trainers is for foster and adoptive parents, with two or more years of experience, who will be co-leading MAPP-GPS groups with a staff member of a Department of Social Services or a private child placing agency.

Maximum Number of Participants: 24  
Minimum Number of Participants: 10

### **When and where is the training?**

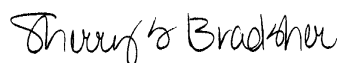
Greensboro/High Point Area  
January 9-12, 2003 and January 24-26, 2003

Interested parents should contact Clarence Lamb at 919-733-7672 to obtain their registration packet. The packet will contain a registration form, an application for certification and information about the MAPP-Certification process. Confirmation and directions will be forwarded to each participant upon receipt of their registration form, application for certification, and a letter from the agency with whom they will be training confirming that this parent will be used as a co-leader by their agency. Completed registration packets should be either faxed to Clarence Lamb at (919) 733-9204 or mailed to him at the NC Division of Social Services, Staff Development Team, 325 N. Salisbury St., Mail Service Center 2412, Raleigh, NC, 27699-2412.

Should you have questions about these courses please contact Sara West at (919) 733-7672 or [sara.west@ncmail.net](mailto:sara.west@ncmail.net). If you have questions about the registration process please contact Clarence Lamb at (919) 733-7672 or [Clarence.Lamb@ncmail.net](mailto:Clarence.Lamb@ncmail.net).

We hope that you are as excited about this training venture as we are.

Sincerely,



Sherry S. Bradsher  
Deputy Director

SSB/rbb

Cc: Pheon Beal Paul LeSieur

Children's Program Representatives  
CS-32-02

Children's Services Team Leaders