



**North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Social Services**

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Courier # 56-20-25

Michael F. Easley, Governor
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November 15, 2008

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Director of Private Group Home, CCI or Child Placing Agency; Director of Family Preservation, Family Support or Family Resource Center Program Director of N.C. Schools of Social Work, Field Education Program

**SUBJECT: Training Calendar for Winter/Spring 2009
NCDSS Family Support and Child Welfare Services**

We are very pleased to announce that the Winter/Spring 2009 Family Support and Child Welfare Services training schedule is now complete and **can be accessed on-line**. In an effort to be fiscally responsible during this time of budgetary restrictions, we will not be mailing a hard copy version of the training calendar to your agency during this calendar period. However, you and your staff can continue to check for available courses online and submit a registration application on-line as soon as registration opens for the particular course.

As we strive to remain responsive both to the emerging learning needs of our workforce as well as the program related needs identified from our state's recent CFSSR and subsequent Program Improvement Plan, we wish to highlight some of the outstanding training opportunities featured in our training schedule:

To assist counties in meeting the mandatory child and family team training requirement, *Step by Step: An Introduction to Child and Family Teams* trainings will continue to be offered in large numbers to make it more easily accessible to county staff. (see DSS Administrative Letter, FSCWS-01-08, New Mandated Training Requirements). Information about *Step by Step: An Introduction to Child and Family Teams* training including training dates and locations can be found in the 200 Series, Tier 1 section of the training calendar. Information about *Anchors Away! The Role of the Facilitator* training including training dates and locations can be found in the 200 Series, Tier 2 calendar section.

To help make training more easily accessible, we continue to move forward with advancements in on-line learning. The following courses are now 100% online and readily available to staff:

- *Child Development in Families at Risk* contains the same content of the previously offered two-day classroom training and blended learning format. The *Child Development in Families at Risk* online learning format was developed by the Family and Children's Resource Program, part of the Jordan Institute for Families at the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Social Work.
- *Introduction to the Monthly Foster Care Contact Record*. This 90-minute, self-paced online course will teach participants why the Contact Record was developed and, through an interactive case scenario, how to use it. Developed by the Family and Children's Resource Program, part of the Jordan Institute for Families at the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Social Work, this course will open on Monday, November 24, 2008. After this date anyone with an ncswLearn.org account may access and take this course via the Personalized Learning Portfolio (PLP) / Online Courses section of the website. No registration will be required.

This course is required for all child welfare social workers who provide services to children in out-of-home care. All social workers who provide services to children in out-of-home care must complete this course by April 1, 2009. *Introduction to the Monthly Foster Care Contact Record* is also relevant (but not required) for all other county child welfare staff. Completion of this training can help individuals meet the 24-hour continuing education requirement. For a more detailed course description please refer to the training calendar under the 300 series tab, or log in to ncswLearn.org.

- *Methamphetamine: What a Social Worker Needs to Know* is a self-paced online course designed to familiarize the worker with the signs of methamphetamine (meth) use and production and the hazards meth poses to families. This online course is a revision of the first day of the previously-offered two-day curriculum, *Responding to Families and Communities Impacted by Methamphetamine*. This online course is available now and no registration is required. Anyone with an ncswLearn.org account may access this self-paced online course via the Personalized Learning Portfolio (PLP) Online Courses section of the website. Please look for a complete description of this training in the 300 series section of the training calendar.

Our training web site, www.ncswLearn.org: A tool for human services training in North Carolina continues to expand with features that will help you manage and track the learning needs and training progress of your staff. Through this site, child welfare and adult services social workers and their supervisors can access their Personalized Learning Portfolio (PLP) that enables them to: take an online course, find a training at a glance, apply to register for training online, track their training attendance history, update their own personnel information, and view which trainings are required, recommended, or elective for them based on their job functions.

We are very pleased to announce a new feature to www.ncswLearn.org our Learning Site for Human Services Professionals. The Division has responded to requests for a convenient way to track workers' attendance at county training events in the ncswLearn.org database. This new feature will allow NC human services professionals, workers, supervisors, and County DSS training managers using ncswLearn.org to enter and track worker's attendance at county trainings and other professional development NOT provided or sponsored by the NC Division of Social Services and/or the NC Division of Aging and Adult Services.

It will be up to your agency to decide how to implement this new tool, who will enter data and who is responsible for the validity of information entered. **Trainings entered using this tool do not count toward the required pre-service or required in-service NC child welfare**

training courses. Trainings provided or sponsored by the Division are already automatically tracked in ncswLearn.org and should not be entered using this tool.

This tool is available for your agency's convenience; you are not required to use it. We suggest that training attendees should always retain hard copies of completion certificates for verification purposes. For more information about this new feature, please contact the ncswLearn.org website administrators via the Help section. Should you or your staff members have questions about specific courses or registration, please contact the appropriate registrar according to the course name of the training for which you are registering.

Please feel free to address any other questions, comments or suggestions to Teresa Turner, Team Leader for Staff Development, (919) 733-7672 or email: Teresa.Turner@ncmail.net. Should you or your staff members have questions about specific courses or registration, please contact the appropriate registrar according to the course name of the training for which you are registering.

As www.ncswLearn.org continues to expand with features that will help you manager and track the learning needs and training progress of your staff, we continue to be excited about the new developments in training delivery and are looking forward to pursuing technology further to help meet the needs of county staff. Thank you for your on-going support in these endeavors.

Sincerely,



Charisse Johnson, Chief
Child Welfare Services

cc: Sherry Bradsher
Children's Program Representatives
Work First Representatives
Family Support and Child Welfare Services Team Leaders
Local Business Liaisons

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