



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

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Courier # 56-20-25

Michael F. Easley, Governor
Dempsey Benton, Secretary

Sherry S. Bradsher, Director
(919) 733-3055

May 1, 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 Summer/Fall 2008, NCDSS Family Support and Child Welfare Services

We are very pleased to announce that the Summer/Fall 2008 Family Support and Child Welfare Services training schedule is now complete and **can be accessed on-line**. As soon as printed copies are available, a hard copy will be forwarded to you. In the meantime, you and your staff can check available courses now and submit a registration application on-line as soon as registration opens for the particular course.

As we strive to be responsive to the emerging learning needs of our workforce, there are several changes and additions to the training schedule we want to point out:

- As the result of a new mandatory child and family team training requirement, (see DSS Administrative Letter, FSCWS-01-08, New Mandated Training Requirements), a greater number of child and family team training opportunities are now available. **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, pages 51- 52. Information about *Anchors Away! The Role of the Facilitator* training including training dates and locations can be found in the 200 Series, Tier 2 section, pages 54-55.**
- We continue to move forward with advancements in on-line learning to help make training more accessible to your staff and to improve knowledge acquisition.
- Child Welfare in NC (Pre-Service) is now offered as a blended learning event (part on-line, part classroom). The blended learning event has specific requirements related to technological and supervisory support. **Please refer to page 41 for further information.**
- 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. **Please refer to pages 84-85 for further information.**

- 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.

Two new sections have been recently added to ncswLearn.org:

- **Supervisor Resources** This section allows supervisors to manage all aspects of training related to the employees they supervise directly.
- **County Training Manager Resources** If your county DSS has a designated staff development manager or a training coordinator, he or she can use this section of ncswLearn.org to assess the child welfare training needs of your entire agency.

Also, beginning July 2008, County DSS child welfare workers, supervisors, and training managers will be able to use ncswLearn.org to enter and track worker's attendance at county trainings and other professional development NOT provided or sponsored by the Division's Statewide Training Partnership. **For information about this new feature, please contact the website administrators via the Help section.**

- The Individualized Training Assessment (ITA) tool is available to all county DSS child welfare social workers, supervisors, managers, and administrators. The ITA will help county DSS child welfare workers and supervisors identify and prioritize their training needs. The ITA is divided into two parts. **Part A: Training Requirements** of the ITA provides a comprehensive list of required, recommended, and elective trainings based on the worker's or supervisor's job responsibilities. The new feature now available to workers is **Part B: Self Assessment** of the ITA, which focuses on the worker's training interests and priorities and allows workers to identify a short list of trainings tailored specifically to their needs. The ITA is available via ncswLearn.org through their Personalized Learning Portfolio (PLP).

Also look for these new exciting training opportunities:

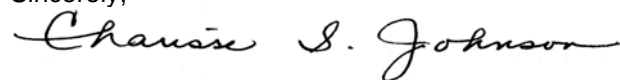
- Testing Our Patience: Investigation and Intervention in High Conflict Custody Cases **(See page 95 for more information)**
- Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) Training: Understanding the Instrument, Ratings and Outcomes **(See page 65 for more information.)**
- Child and Family Teams from the Family's Perspective: A System of Care Cross Agency Curriculum delivered through the Technical Assistance and Learning System **(See page 94 for more information)**

Please see pages 31-33 for information on rules and guidelines for the registration process and pages 36-37 for guidelines and policies for an effective training experience. These guidelines and policies will help you and your staff know what is expected of them and how best to prepare for their learning experience and apply what they've learned back on the job.

Please feel free to address any 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 registration person according to the course name of the training for which you are registering.

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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charisse S. Johnson".

Charisse Johnson, Chief
Family Support and Child Welfare Services

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

FSCWS-19-08