



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

325 North Salisbury Street • MSC 2412 • Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-2412  
Courier # 56-20-25

Michael F. Easley, Governor  
Carmen Hooker Odom, Secretary

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

October 24, 2003

**Dear County Director of Social Services:**

**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 Parents Association, is pleased to announce a train the trainer opportunity designed **especially for foster and adoptive parents who wish to be certified as MAPP-GPS Leaders/trainers.** This opportunity will certify experienced foster and adoptive parents to co-lead MAPP groups in partnership with a certified MAPP-GPS social work co-leader from a licensing agency such as a county DSS or a private child placing agency. The Child Welfare Institute, the developer of MAPP-GPS strongly recommends that this curriculum is presented to prospective foster and adoptive parents through a partnership of one agency representative and one experienced foster or adoptive parent. Research has shown that parents are more open to listening and trying new ideas from other parents. The MAPP-GPS program was one of the first to mobilize this research with a written curriculum.

The train-the-trainer for foster and adoptive parents will teach them the MAPP-GPS curriculum as well as effective training and presentation skills. It would be helpful for MAPP-GPS parent co-leader candidates to 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 social work co-leaders.

Your foster and adoptive parents may have already received information about this opportunity through attendance at the North Carolina Foster Parent Association Regional Conferences. This opportunity will also be highlighted in future editions of *Fostering Perspectives*. Foster or  
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adoptive parents interested in becoming certified as MAPP-GPS parent co-leaders will need a letter from the agency with whom they will be training 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 shared expectations regarding the partnership and about their initial and ongoing development as MAPP-GPS parent co-leaders.

In the past, the MAPP-GPS Leader certification has been difficult for foster and adoptive parents to attend because of the scheduling and time commitment that it requires. However, the Division will offer an opportunity for foster and adoptive parents to attend the train-the-trainer primarily over two weekends. This will hopefully enable more 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 8-11, 2004 and on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, January 23-25, 2004 in the Raleigh area. There will be no registration cost. Hotel, travel and food expenses are the responsibility of the parent 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

**Dates of Training:** January 8-11 and 23-25, 2004

**Times of Training:** 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day.

**Location:** St. Francis of Assisi Church in Raleigh, North Carolina

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.

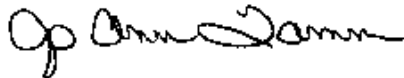


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Should you have questions about this course, please contact Joanne Scaturro at (919) 733-7672 or [Joanne2653@aol.com](mailto:Joanne2653@aol.com). If you have questions about the registration process, please contact Clarence Lamb at (919) 733-7672 or [Clarence.Lamb@ncmail.net](mailto:Clarence.Lamb@ncmail.net).

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jo Ann Lamm". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Jo Ann Lamm, Program Administrator  
Family Support and Child Welfare Services Section

JL/rbb

Cc: Pheon Beal  
Sherry Bradsher  
Sarah Barham  
Family Support and Child Welfare Team Leaders

**FSCWS-27-03**