



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

325 North Salisbury Street • Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-2409
Mail Service Center 2409

Michael F. Easley, Governor
Carmen Hooker Odom, Secretary

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

December 22, 2003

Dear County Director of Social Services

**Re: Training of Trainers Opportunity
Attention Children's Services Supervisors and Agency Trainers
Interdependent Living Curriculum:
Working effectively with adolescents moving toward adulthood**

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, in collaboration with Southeastern Network, was awarded a grant in 2000 by ACYF to create a youth development-focused curriculum for practitioners who work with adolescents in foster care. The resulting curriculum was developed with the input of youth in care, young adults who had left the foster care system, and Independent Living professionals from eight southeastern states including North Carolina. The curriculum has been trained throughout the southeastern United States and has been determined to be effective in helping workers empower youth to develop their own personal and external resources. Participants from training sessions in other participating states said the following about the training:

"I think the Interdependent Living Curriculum is outstanding. As a former foster youth, I feel that if I knew about the tools in this curriculum, it would have made my transition from foster care into society better".

"This was an excellent learning experience. Every counselor should take this training. The state should make it mandatory for all new counselors".

"This training is filled with the perspectives of youth who have been through the system. The youth in the training video are honest, open and genuine in conveying their thoughts. Practitioners will feel renewed and leave with a tool chest of innovative ideas".

Now, at the end of the grant, we have an opportunity to train and certify individuals in North Carolina who will then be able to continue this training beyond this year. Gary Sanford, who wrote the curriculum will be co-training with Joan McAllister, state coordinator of the NC LINKS program, and Shaquana Ewing Hildebrand, a former foster youth and current college student. The class will be limited to 24 individuals, with no

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more than two participants from a single county.

This training of trainers will be held in Charlotte, North Carolina on February 3, 4, and 5 at the Charlotte (CPCC) Regional Training Center. Please consider approving participation by individuals in your agency who would 1) be able to attend all three days of the training; 2) would be willing and able to train other agency staff and/or providers who work with adolescents in foster care. To register staff, use the Registration form for the Children's Services Statewide Training Partnership, available at <http://www.dhhs.state.nc.us/dss/childrenservices/> The registrations should be sent directly to:

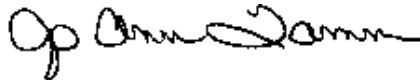
Central Piedmont Community College, West Campus
3210 CPCC West Campus Drive
Charlotte, North Carolina 28208
Attn: Bonnie English

Forms may be faxed to 704-395-2101. Registrations will be accepted until available slots are filled. A short waiting list will be established to assure maximal use of this opportunity.

This training will be particularly helpful to counties that want to move their LINKS Independent Living program to a more effective level. While the curriculum is not specific to LINKS policy, the underlying philosophy and approach may strengthen your existing or developing LINKS program, as well as your entire foster care program.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



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

JAL/jm

cc: Pheon Beal
Sherry Bradsher
Family Support and Child Welfare Services Managers
Children's Programs Representatives

FSCWS-36-03