

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

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October 2, 2006

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 2007, NCDSS Family Support and Child Welfare Services

We are very pleased to announce that the Winter/Spring 2007 Family Support and Child Welfare Services training calendar 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 can check available courses now and can register on-line as soon as registration opens for the particular course you are interested in attending.

As in the past, our calendar includes training course listings, schedules and registration information. Courses are being offered to child welfare staff, Work First staff, foster parents, and community partners by the NCDSS Family Support and Child Welfare Services Staff Development Team, and members of the NC Statewide Training Partnership. Each course description provides guidance on who may attend and who the course is designed to serve. **Please note that MRS trainings have been incorporated into all of the other offerings since all 100 counties are now implementing MRS strategies.** Courses are listed in alphabetical order by title of the course.

MRS Policy Training and *Cornerstone III: Family-Centered Partnership in Child Welfare Practice* will no longer be offered as stand-alone courses. Instead, MRS policy and the family-centered principles of partnership have been imbedded into pre-service and job specific courses (200 series). Therefore, employees will be able to conduct family assessments and investigative assessments after completion of pre-service. We have also revised our Investigative Assessment curriculum to include Family Assessments, so participants will learn policy and practice related to both types of assessments in one course. This course is titled *Investigative and Family Assessments in Child Welfare Services*.

Other changes to the calendar include the following: *Step by Step: An Introduction to Child and Family Teams* replaces *Setting the Stage for Child and Family Teams: An Agency and Community Orientation* and *Caution: Family Meeting Ahead! A Guide for Social Workers Attending Child and Family Teams*. A new independent living training has been added called *LINKS 201: The Sequel*. Since the number of staff needing *Domestic Violence Policy* training has significantly decreased, we are now only offering this course once in this calendar. However, we have added *Child Welfare Practice for Cases Involving Domestic Violence* which is a new course that includes skills for putting the DV policy into practice.

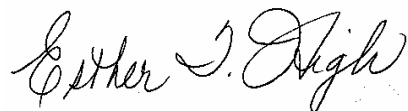
The training calendar offers agencies the opportunity to select and plan the most appropriate workshops for their staff/students. All training listed in this calendar is free of registration fees for all participants employed in a child welfare role. We are pleased to offer training in our five regional training centers, and increasingly in local communities, to promote accessibility for your staff. The expenses of traveling to and from the training, as well as the per diem costs, are the responsibility of the local agency or individual.

Registration may be completed by several different methods. Participants may register on-line by visiting <http://www.ncswlearn.org>. Alternatively, participants may download a registration form by visiting www.dhhs.state.nc.us/dss/training or by copying the registration form located in the Winter/Spring 2007 calendar. Once completed in its entirety, the registration form (revised April 2006) should be faxed to the appropriate registrar listed in the training calendar. Please see pages 28-30 for information on rules and guidelines for the registration process. In addition to registering on-line at www.ncswLearn.org, you can track your training history, or access on-line courses. In order to use this website, participants must have a unique email address. Please see page 31 for more information on this feature.

We continue to value and appreciate the on-going feedback that we receive and welcome your comments and suggestions as we continue to build and refine our competency-based learning system. 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.

Stay tuned for more information concerning revisions to pre-service. We are planning to pilot a blended learning event (part classroom, part on-line) sometime during the spring. We are hopeful that this blended learning event will help meet the needs of county agencies while maintaining the high quality of our curriculum so that we will have well-trained and effective social work staff.

Sincerely,



Esther T. High, Acting Chief
Family Support and Child Welfare Services Section

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