



COLORADO
Office of Children,
Youth & Families
Division of Child Welfare

Child Welfare Training System

CWTS Connection

Inspiring Excellence and Innovation through Learning



A monthly newsletter for Colorado's child welfare learning community

August 2022

Do You Love Learning? Do You Have a Passion for Facilitation?

The CWTS is currently recruiting for facilitators to be a part of our Learning and Development Pool. The Learning and Development Pool offers professionals in or working with child welfare the opportunity to expand their impact on a paid/contracted basis. While prior experience facilitating is always helpful, an enthusiasm for professional development and experience within the field of child welfare are what the CWTS is most interested in. Currently, we are looking for individuals with experience working with the Differential Response model in Colorado and/or for individuals with specific knowledge in assessment, ongoing case services, youth services, permanency (including kinship, foster care, and adoption), or Trails.

If you are interested, please reach out to the CWTS Learning Delivery Manager, Kelly Parsons, kelly.k.parsons@cuanschutz.edu.

LEARNER COVE

Simplified Registration Process for New Caseworker Academy

The CWTS is extremely excited to announce the implementation of a one-click registration process for the New Caseworker Academy (Fundamentals of Colorado Child Welfare Casework Practice) courses for both new caseworkers needing the full Fundamentals series and new hotline workers needing only the Hotline/RED Team course. ([Continue reading about this change](#))



Fear Less: Protecting Yourself in the Field

Have you ever been concerned about your safety when out in the field? Join this one-of-a-kind, hands-on caseworker safety course where you'll engage with certified Krav Maga instructors in a private studio space to learn hands-on self-defense and escape techniques. Build your skills, gain confidence, and walk away from this course ready to handle anything that comes your way on the job.

Culturally Humble Casework

The work of diversity, equity, and inclusion is not simple or static, nor should it be minimized to one course. Join this two-part virtual seminar to what it means to be culturally humble in your work, the biases you face both internally and externally, and the responsibility you hold as an agent of change.

Naming the Elephant in the Room

Despite a growing awareness of the presence and impact of anti-Black racism in child welfare, conversations about race continue to be uncomfortable, which can lead us to avoid these conversations rather than approach them courageously. Each topic-based Naming the Elephant in the Room conversation session is designed to be a brave space to engage in difficult but necessary dialogue about critical issues in child welfare as they relate to working with families from Black communities. Join these new conversations facilitated by Kamilah Clayton!

Looking for Learning?

Find an Open Seat

FOSTERING AND KINSHIP CONNECTION

Find acceptance and validation at the Foster Parent Learning Exchange!

Being a resource caregiver brings both triumphs and challenges, and it's not always easy to find supports who understand what you and your family are experiencing. Join us for biweekly topic-based sessions to share resources, support, parenting revelations, and tips for navigating child welfare processes. Upcoming topics include the following:

- Food Insecurity in Our Children
- Attention and Control—Two Must-Haves for Children and Youth
- “I Am Grieving”: Steps to Help Children and Youth
- Five Steps to Keep Your Child Regulated
- Why Holidays Are Spooky
- Why Gratitude Does Not Look Like Gratitude in Children
- Gift Giving: Is This Too Much?

Find Other Caregiver Courses

BREATHING SPACE

A Sense of Social Connectedness

How connected do you feel? Much has been said about practices for cultivating a sense of social connectedness. Decades of psychology research have taught us that this is a key to happiness. ([Continue reading about connectedness](#))



MEANINGFUL MEDIA



Continuing the CALL TO ACTION

The Kempe Center's 2022 Monthly Series

Equality
Power
Equity
Justice
Advocacy
Voice
Fairness

Be the Change

Radio Kempe

Call to Action Podcast Series: Deep Listening—The Power of Parents' Perspectives

LISTEN

Listen to the 27-minute Radio Kempe podcast on the power of parents' expertise and perspectives with David Tobis.

For more information, visit <http://www.continuingthecalltoaction.org/>.

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS?

New Regional Learning Coordinator Joins the CWTS

Jessica Wheeldon joined CWTS as a Regional Learning Coordinator in May. Jessica's passion for facilitation is fueled by the fact that over the past decade, the field of child welfare has realized, researched, and reconciled a fair amount about keeping children safe *with* their families. This progress offers the potential to transform our practices to be less traumatic for the families we serve and our workforce. We also know that pre-service and ongoing training for caseworkers significantly improves their retention rates—and consistent caseworkers improve permanency rates. Jessica is excited to facilitate learning for our newest caseworkers in a way that prepares them for a career of meaningful work with families and colleagues.



UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS

Child Welfare Worker Appreciation

Although we appreciate you every week of the year, September 12–16 is the formally recognized Child Welfare Worker Appreciation Week. The NCWWI and the Children's Bureau are hosting a one-hour virtual recognition event on Tuesday, September 13, at 3:00 PM EDT. This event is about taking time to reflect, connect, and recharge. Register for the event with the NCWWI. Thank you for everything that you do in service of children and families!



Supervisor Learning Exchange #2: Supporting Workers With Not

Knowing Everything

As a supervisor, you know that caseworkers (especially those newer to the work) can never know it ALL. In fact, sometimes the savviest workers are those who don't pretend to have all the answers themselves but who instead know how to go about finding the right person to answer the question! Helping caseworkers to have realistic expectations for themselves and their work is paramount to worker success and retention. A key part of this is you, the supervisor, creating a culture where it's not only okay to not have all the answers and to ask for help, but it's actually celebrated! In this month's Supervisor Learning Exchange, we invite you to join fellow supervisors across the state to share ideas and learning related to supporting caseworkers with not knowing everything.

- Wednesday, September 7, 12–1:30 PM
- Thursday, September 8, 12–1:30 PM

Saturday, August 27, 9–10:30 AM: Foster Parent Learning Exchange: Food Insecurity in Our Children

Thursday, September 8, 4–5:30 PM: Foster Parent Learning Exchange: Attention and Control—Two Must-Haves for Children and Youth

Saturday, September 24, 9–10:30 AM: Foster Parent Learning Exchange: “I Am Grieving”: Steps to Help Children and Youth

October 3–6, Kempe's A Call to Action Conference: Join a projected international community of 3,000 individuals striving to change child welfare as we know it

Thursday, October 13, 4–5:30 PM: Foster Parent Learning Exchange: Five Steps to Keep Your Child Regulated

Do Your Colleagues Know What You Know?

Make sure everyone on your team is in the loop and receiving the latest updates by signing up for the CWTS newsletter.

Contact Newsletter Editor

