



CWTS Connection

Inspiring Excellence and Innovation through Learning



A monthly newsletter for Colorado's child welfare learning community

August 2023

LEARNER COVE

New Required WBT: Educational Rights for Students in Foster Care

Based on recent legislation, Child Welfare Educational Liaisons (CWELs) and child welfare caseworkers and supervisors are required to take this new 1.5-hour WBT with guidance on their roles and responsibilities to improve educational stability for young people experiencing foster care. In addition to explaining rights, roles, and responsibilities, this training explores the educational resources available in your community and how you can collaborate with other agencies to provide children and youth in care a stable educational experience. After initial completion, this course is required every two years for CWELs and to maintain certification as a caseworker or supervisor in Colorado.



A Learning Space Especially for FEM Facilitators

If you are a FEM facilitator, you are cordially invited to come together every month in a safe space to share successes, challenges, questions, and practice ideas with other facilitators from across the state at the Family Engagement Meeting Facilitator Learning Exchange! In 90-minute roundtables held monthly, you'll learn from others and share your knowledge and experience around all the challenging FEM facilitation topics—state-level best practices, getting more supports and family to the table, virtual versus in-person meetings, tricky family dynamics, youth voice, and many more. Come as often as you can to deepen your skills in facilitating family engagement meetings!

Preventing Serious Harm to Children and Youth (In-Person Training Options Available!)

Supervisors, join Sleep Tight, the Kids Are All Right: Supervisory Practice to Prevent Serious Harm, a comprehensive hybrid course that provides a safe space to acknowledge your fears and adopt strategies to support thorough assessments that produce robust safety and support plans that can mitigate risk for children and youth. Both in-person and virtual dates are now available!

Looking for Learning?

SUPERVISOR SPOT

A Coachlike Approach to Leadership

Calling all supervisors! Do you find yourself getting lost in the day-to-day tasks and requirements of leadership when the reason you became a supervisor was to focus on supporting and growing your team? As leaders, you are shaping and influencing the way people will show up in their work, and the choices you make have direct connections to things like staff's willingness to fail (and learn from those mistakes!), openness to receiving feedback, and ability to become effective leaders themselves. One way to positively influence those you lead is to weave coaching skills into your conversations. Join the course **Coaching Skills for Leaders**, a highly interactive, personalized course where leaders explore how to bring depth, intention, and presence into the things they already do. The next cohort begins September 12 with a three-day virtual workshop and provides opportunities to connect and practice with other leaders, for a total of 30 credit hours. Given the experiential nature and unique structure of this course, space is limited, so reach out to [Stacy Walsh](#) to register or learn more!

Best Practice Starts with Supervisors

You know, and every bit of research shows, that the supervisor role within child welfare is where best practice begins! It is a powerful and (sometimes lonely) pivotal role in the work we do. Come together monthly with other supervisors to share data, best practices, and tools and (even more important) to build a supportive community of talented supervisors across the state.

Join us for these upcoming **[Supervisor Learning Exchanges](#)**:

- September 21: They Like Me, They Like Me Not: Getting Feedback Around Your Impact as a Leader
- October 13: The Right Stuff: Writing Meaningful Performance Evaluations

FOSTERING AND KINSHIP CONNECTION

Love Them One Day at a Time: Letting Go of a Child or Youth

As a former foster parent, I was inundated with advice and unsolicited reminders that my time with "Johnny" was to be short-lived and definitely temporary. In my head, I was aware of this fact, and I actually wanted that to be and stay true.

After seven short months, caring for that 9-year-old began to alter the rational and logical thinking that I had held about his permanency from the beginning. I began to wonder how we might get along in two years, three years. I began to imagine him at various ages and at significant developmental milestones. Friends and family noted that my intentions and energies were shifting, as much as I tried to deny it to them (and to myself). Somewhere deep inside, I knew it was true. ([Read about letting go of foster children](#))

BREATHING SPACE

What Is the Opposite of Triggers?

I have always been enamored with words and, like you, have seen the power a single word can have. I have just come across just such a word—glimmers!



In our work, we are primed to feel *triggers* and encouraged to know what our triggers are. Yet, we are not at all taught to know our *glimmers*, a term I learned from Deb Dana, a licensed clinical social worker specializing in complex trauma. According to Dana, a glimmer is a small moment when our biology is in a place of connection or regulation, which cues our nervous system to feel safe or calm. ([Read about glimmers](#))

UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS

September 11–15: [Colorado Youth Awareness Week](#)

September 11–15: [Child Welfare Worker Appreciation Week](#)

Tuesday, September 12, 1–2:30 PM: [FEM Facilitator Learning Exchange 2: Keeping Your Family Meeting Process Healthy](#)

Thursday, September 21, 11 AM–12:30 PM: [Supervisor Learning Exchange 2: They Like Me, They Like Me Not: Getting Feedback Around Your Impact as a Leader](#)

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](#)

