



# CWTS Connection

Inspiring Excellence and Innovation through Learning



A monthly newsletter for Colorado's child welfare learning community

## March 2024

### LEARNER COVE

#### Changes to Caregiver Certification

At the direction of the Colorado Division of Child Welfare, CWTS is now offering **NTDC Certification Training for Colorado Foster and Adoptive Caregivers** as the certifying foster parent curriculum for Colorado (Foster Parent Fundamentals is no longer offered). The new **Kinship Caregiver Fundamentals** training, designed by CWTS to meet the specific and different needs of kinship caregivers, is also available. [Read more about this change](#), and if you work with or certify foster, adoptive, or kinship caregivers, please confirm with those families that they are attending the correct certification program, as determined by their county or certifying organization.



#### Deepen Your Capacity to Connect with Families

When we recognize and build protective factors, we help create better outcomes with families. Join **Harnessing Protective Factors with Families** to practice strategies that support caregivers in actively building their resilience, knowledge, and ability to activate protective factors and capacities.

#### Train-the-Trainer Available for Treatment Foster Care

The Colorado Division of Child Welfare is offering a statewide Pressley Ridge training opportunity for all county departments and child placement agencies who are ready to implement Treatment Foster Care. As part of expanding Colorado's treatment/placement services continuum, DCW is committed to expanding and building up these critical levels of family-based care for some of our most vulnerable children and youth. Visit the [application](#) for more details and dates for three upcoming cohorts.

#### Avoid the Rush—Explore the Updated LMS Now!

The fiscal year will be over before we know it so we encourage you to log in now and explore the updated LMS. [Tutorials](#), [FAQs](#), and [other resources](#) can be accessed on the CWTS website, as well as the recorded [CWTS Learning Management System DCW Town Hall](#). Verify your training credits and certificates to avoid recertification delays.

# FOSTERING AND KINSHIP CONNECTION

## Finish Strong: Supporting Foster and Kinship Youth to the End of the School Year

Like many adults, youth can struggle to complete tasks or programs, and, yes, this includes school. Even if kids head to school with excitement in the fall, by spring the effort of sitting through the school day can feel big.

Helping our youth complete the school year starts with empathizing with the rigor and diligence that is required for being in school. Acclimating to a full day in an actual classroom presents many of the same challenges that adults face when asked to return to the office after several years of working remotely. ([Read about supporting youth to finish out the school year](#))

[Find Caregiver Courses](#)

## BREATHING SPACE

### Nurturing Resilience: Building Tiny Habits to Combat Stress

You know how demanding this job can be. You are doing this job because you find value in the work. For some of us, we can forget at times to prioritize our well-being. I get it—there is so much to do.

That is why I find such an attraction to managing stress by cultivating tiny habits that, when practiced consistently, can make a significant impact on our overall resilience. (Here comes a sales pitch...) ([Read about the power of tiny habits](#))



## MEANINGFUL MEDIA

### News from the Human Rights Campaign

HRC's Youth Well-Being Program has released the Black LGBTQ+ Youth Report, which presents extensive data and guidelines that can be used by parents, caregivers, school administrators, educators, counselors, and other youth-serving professionals to better understand and support Black LGBTQ+ youth. The report exists to provide insight on how allies can provide a safe and affirming space for Black LGBTQ+ youth to live in their truth. [Read the full report.](#)

Also, check out Project THRIVE's upcoming spring webinars.

Wednesday, March 27, 4–5 PM ET: [2023 Youth Report: LGBTQ+ Youth with Disabilities](#)

Thursday, April 25, 4–5 PM ET: [Support-Ed: Supporting Sex-Education Advocates](#)

Thursday, May 23, 4–5 PM ET: [Sextortion: What You Need to Know](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS

**Tuesday, April 2, 10–11:30 AM: Caseworker Learning Exchange 5: I Have One of Those? Fundamentals Resources Recap**

**Monday, April 8, 9–10:30 AM: Small-Size County Connection**

**Tuesday, April 9, 1–2:30 PM: FEM Facilitator Learning Exchange 8: Youth Voice: The Forest**

**Tuesday, April 16: Help Desk closed**

**Wednesday, April 17, 12–1:30 PM: DR Learning Exchange 4: Group Supervision...There's a Structure for That?**

**Thursday, April 18, 10–11:30 AM: Supervisor Learning Exchange 9: There's More Than One Way. Nontraditional Learning Opportunities for Your Team**

**Thursday, April 18, 10:30 AM–12 PM: Large-Size County Connection**

**Friday, April 26, 11 AM–12 PM: Medium-Size County Connection**

**Monday, May 27: Help Desk closed**

---

### **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**

