



# Department of Children & Youth

## Southwest Ohio Regional Training Center

*420 Wards Corner Rd., Suite J, Loveland, OH 45140 (513)248-1269*

### STAFF & SUPERVISOR ONGOING TRAININGS Summer 2025

Link for anyone with an OH ID: [Log In | OH ID | Ohio's State Digital Identity Standard](#)

Link for Guest Registration Information: [SWORTC – Ohio CAPS](#)

Date	Training	Session ID	Trainer	Time	Location
07/10/2025 and 07/11/2025 <b>Meets OAC Training Requirement</b>	Domestic Violence: Facts and Fundamentals	16614	Brian Bethel	9:00 to 4:00	SWORTC
07/16/2025	Grief: Exploring the Journey of Loss	19258	Linda Davis	9:00 to 4:00	Virtual
07/17/2025	Engaging Youth in Transition Planning	22764	Johanna Pearce & Lamar King	9:00 to 4:00	SWORTC
07/18/2025	Strength-Driven Leadership: Transformative Communication	22053	Ruby Johnston	9:00 to 4:00	SWORTC

07/21/2025	Assessing, Preparing, and Supporting Adoptive Parents Who Care for Children who have Experienced Trauma	19986	Ruby Johnston	9:00 to 4:00	SWORTC
07/22/2025	Working with Parents of Limited Cognitive Functioning	19627	Jody Johnston Pawel	9:00 to 4:00	Virtual
07/24/2025	Child and Adolescent Violence	19680	Dr. Paul Martin	9:00 to 4:00	SWORTC
07/25/2025	Children whose Parents are Incarcerated	19681	Dr. Paul Martin	9:00 to 4:00	SWORTC
07/28/2025	Cannabis and Child Safety: The Law, the Science, and Why they Matter	21836	Matt Butler	9:00 to 12:15	Virtual
07/29/2026	A World of Opportunities: Substance Use Indicators - Hidden in Plain Sight	20396	Tamme Smith	9:00 to 12:00	Virtual
08/04/2025	Applying Personal Values and Diversity Considerations to Child Sexual Abuse Cases	21342	Mary Eck	10:00 to 2:45	Virtual
08/04/2025	Cannabis and Child Safety: The Law, the Science, and Why they Matter	21681	Matt Butler	9:00 to 12:15	Virtual
08/06/2025	Street Smart Ohio Series: Everything Marijuana	21280	Shawn Bain	9:00 to 12:15	Virtual

08/07/2025	The Lasting Impact of Military Service on Families Involved in Child Welfare: Once a Warrior, always a Warrior	18987	Mary Hatcher	9:00 to 4:00	SWORTC
08/11/2025	Sibling Sexual Abuse: It's All Relative	21645	Brian Bethel	9:00 to 4:00	SWORTC
08/12/2024	Specialized, Third-Party and Ongoing Case Investigations	18903	Warne Edwards	10:00 to 2:45	Virtual
08/13/2025	Ethics for Supervisors: From Aristotle to Instagram	19901	Warne Edwards	9:00 to 12:15	Virtual
08/14/2025	How to Identify and Address Microaggressions in Today's Climate	19493	Dan Huston	9:00 to 12:15	Virtual
08/18/2025	Survival in the Workplace: Observation, Awareness, Options	20701	Tom Durflinger	9:00 to 12:00	SWORTC
08/18/2025	Survival in the Workplace: Observation, Awareness, Options	20702	Tom Durflinger	1:00 to 4:00	SWORTC
08/20/2025	Lifebooks: A Journey to the Future While Embracing the Past	19265	Linda Davis	9:00 to 4:00	Virtual
08/20/2025	Gathering the Right Information: Essential Skills for Child Protection Screeners	22527	Lori Merkel	9:00 to 4:00	Virtual

08/26/2025	Immigration and Child Welfare Issues	19718	Katy Mercer	9:00 to 4:00	Virtual
09/05/2025	Discovering Wellness	19504	Jayne Schooler	9:00 to 4:00	SWORTC
09/09/2025	Burnout, Secondary Trauma and Self Care	22884	Faye Perkins	9:00 to 4:00	SWORTC
09/15/2025	Ethics and Child Protection: What Everyone Should Know	21855	Matt Butler	10:00 to 3:00	Virtual
09/16/2025	Elements of Empathy: Why Empathy Matters	19721	Kelly Mettler	9:00 to 12:15	Virtual
09/17/2025	Anxiety Disorders: Joy, Fear, Anger, Disgust and Sadness all Working Together	19269	Linda Davis	9:00 to 4:00	Virtual
09/17/2025	Supervision for the Stages: Facilitating Supervisee Growth Along all levels of Professional Development	19896	Stacy Simera	9:00 to 12:15	Virtual
09/18/2025	Level Up: Time Management and Organization in Child Welfare	18761	Lauri Wolfe	9:00 to 12:00	Virtual
09/22/2025	The Appalachian Culture	21680	Brian Bethel	9:00 to 4:00	SWORTC

09/24/2025	Silent Danger: Recognizing and Responding to Strangulation in Child Abuse and Domestic Violence Cases	22192	Paula Walters	9:00 to 4:00	SWORTC
09/25/2025	Distinguishing Between Poverty and Neglect	22148	Dave Thomas	9:00 to 4:00	SWORTC
09/29/2025	Burnout, Secondary Trauma, and Self- Care	22884	Faye Perkins	9:00 to 4:00	SWORTC
09/29/2025	Talking About Cannabis: Culture, Ethics, and the Child Welfare Professional	21833	Matt Butler	9:00 to 12:15	Virtual

## Workshop Descriptions

### **Domestic Violence: Facts and Fundamentals**

Despite the growing prevalence of domestic violence in our society, it remains one of the most under-reported crimes in the United States. Unfortunately, the secrecy surrounding the issue of intimate partner violence has only served to perpetuate many myths and misconceptions about the causes and treatment of domestic violence. Child welfare professionals are commonly some of the first professionals who serve families in which domestic violence is present. Therefore, child welfare professionals must maintain competencies for working with all parties in domestic violence cases.

This educational curriculum offers an overview of domestic violence. Participants will be exposed to the dynamic of domestic violence, specific laws that address domestic violence in the state of Ohio, as well as specific strategies for assessing risk in domestic violence cases and developing and implementing safe plans once domestic violence is identified.

**Completion of this learning meets OAC training requirements (5108:2-33-55; 5108:2-33-56) for domestic violence.**

## **Grief: Exploring the Journey of Loss**

This workshop will present theoretical methods for dealing with loss and grief. The difference between normal grief (uncomplicated grief) and grief and depression (complicated grief) will be discussed and outlined. The bereaving process will be defined, and indicators and instruments that therapist use will be provided, which will help to assess loss and bereavement.

A variety of specific and practical therapeutic techniques will be discussed to assist in coping with grief and loss. The Model of Complicated Mourning/Grief will be discussed, and we will explore how grief affects family systems. Ambiguous loss will be discussed so participants will recognize how this type of loss describes the loss children and parents experience in child welfare.

Activities will be presented that will help children process their loss when they are mourning the loss of an attachment figure. Some of the activities/techniques that will be presented and discussed, which assist in the release of emotions for children and adults, are loss boxes, grief river, mapping the influence of the loss, grief drawer, memory books, journaling, and narrative storytelling. Large and small group discussions will occur, as well as discussing different case examples (film characters from Steel Magnolia, Manchester by the Sea, and Philomena), which will illustrate the theories and techniques

## **Engaging Youth in Transition Planning**

Transition planning is a personal process, and young people must fully participate. The Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoption Act of 2008 includes a requirement that a youth-directed transition plan be developed 90 days prior to a youth turning 18. However, it is important that we recognize that transition planning begins well before this time.

This training provides a definition of transition planning, examines the benefits of youth engagement, and outlines the transition planning process. In addition, participants will learn about the Foster Club's Transition Planning Toolkit - a document that helps transitioning adolescents develop their plans for the future.

It is recommended (not required) that participants attend Positive Youth Development: The Vital Link prior to attending this workshop.

## **Strength-Driven Leadership: Transformative Communication**

Strength-based, solution-focused communication is essential in child protection supervision because it fosters a culture of positivity, collaboration, and growth. This approach emphasizes the inherent strengths of individuals and teams, focusing on solutions rather than dwelling on problems. By recognizing and building on what is already working, supervisors can empower their staff to feel valued, capable, and motivated to overcome challenges.

In the high-stress, emotionally demanding environment of child welfare, this communication style helps create a sense of stability and encouragement, which is crucial for both the well-being of caseworkers and the children and families they serve. Understanding and applying strength-based, solution-focused communication allows supervisors to address conflicts, provide feedback, and set goals in ways that uplift and support their team members. It shifts the focus from blame or criticism to problem-solving and collaboration.

For example, instead of asking, “Why didn’t this task get done?” a supervisor might ask, “What support or resources would help ensure this task is completed in the future?” This subtle shift reframes challenges as opportunities for growth, creating a safer and more productive space for dialogue.

By modeling this communication style, supervisors not only enhance team morale but also influence a broader cultural shift in the organization toward resilience, optimism, and shared accountability

## **Assessing, Preparing, and Supporting Adoptive Parents Who Care for Children who have Experienced Trauma**

When a child enters a foster or adoptive home following a history of abuse, neglect and trauma, that child will greatly impact the family. Often, the foster or adoptive family is broadsided by shattered expectations - the experience is nothing like they expected. They are confronted by confusing emotions and feel unequipped for the journey. This workshop addresses a key need – narrowing the gap between the expectations of the foster/adopt family and the reality of the experiences they may encounter. The goal of this workshop is to provide another layer of assessment skills and preparation for the foster/adoption assessor and to provide additional strategies for supporting families after finalization.



## **Working with Parents of Limited Cognitive Functioning**

In this highly interactive workshop, we discuss how to identify and meet the special needs of parents with three types of cognitive limitations: learning disabilities, mental health issues, and developmental delays. We share service options and available resources, discuss special case planning issues, and explore what parenting skills these parents may have difficulty learning. Then we apply what we've learned to real life and case studies.

## **Child and Adolescent Violence**

This is an in-depth discussion about violence perpetrated by children and adolescents, as well as solutions for curbing this violence. We will discuss types and causation of violence, signs of violence and how to respond, risk factors, treatment and prevention, as well as legal implications of violence in children.

## **Children whose Parents are Incarcerated**

We will take an in-depth look at how the incarceration of a parent impacts the child, the community, and society at large. Additionally, we will examine unique therapeutic needs, mental health issues, and permanency planning needs that these children will have. We will then look at intervention strategies.

## **Cannabis and Child Safety: The Law, the Science, and Why they Matter**

This training is designed to help learners understand some of the complexities of where cannabis legalization currently stands in Ohio and the United States, and to help learners integrate this knowledge with their role as child welfare professionals, to assist with keeping children and their families safe and healthy.

## **A World of Opportunities: Substance Use Indicators - Hidden in Plain Sight**

Learn about Ohio's drug trends while virtually exploring various settings and types of drug paraphernalia. Learn how to identify possible substance misuse through symptoms/signs. Finally, arm yourself with resources to support someone struggling with a substance use challenge.

## **Applying Personal Values and Diversity Considerations to Child Sexual Abuse Cases**

This training is part of the [Sexual Abuse Intervention Series \(SAIS\)](#)

In this course, you will gain a deeper understanding of the impact your personal values and beliefs may have on your work with child sexual abuse cases and learn how to effectively navigate working with diverse populations. Come to this workshop open and prepared to explore your own values and implicit biases, as well as common stereotypes and beliefs.

**Prerequisite:** Key Concepts of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion v2 (self-directed)

### **Street Smart Ohio Series: Everything Marijuana**

Marijuana affects so many families and so many lives in Ohio. Marijuana use has often been referred to as a “gateway” drug, leading to harder drug use. The instructor doesn’t use this term and doesn’t believe Marijuana use causes a person to use harder drugs; the instructor does believe there is a correlation between Marijuana use and the use of harder drugs.

Marijuana has changed more than any other drug in recent years with the addition of Cannabis concentrates such as “Dabs” and “Shatter” making this drug more potent and dangerous. Ohio State law has changed, creating Medical Marijuana and Recreational Marijuana available to Ohioans, and everyone needs to become familiar with these laws.

### **The Lasting Impact of Military Service on Families Involved in Child Welfare: Once a Warrior, always a Warrior**

This workshop will provide information to caseworkers who have families on their caseload with military backgrounds to help them better understand the dynamics of these families. This understanding will include the impact of military culture and types of service, as well as an overview of common mental health issues and readjustment challenges many veterans face.

This workshop will also explore the impact of military service on the family, emphasizing parenting. Participants will also gain important information on resources and support available for veterans and families.

## **Sibling Sexual Abuse: It's All Relative**

This workshop will provide an overview of the current data associated with sibling sexual trauma. Specific strategies will be offered to assist professionals who serve children and families impacted by sibling sexual abuse.

## **Specialized, Third-Party and Ongoing Case Investigations**

This course is designed for child protection caseworkers and supervisors to enhance their knowledge in specialized, third-party, and ongoing case investigations.

Learners will gain a deep understanding of the unique characteristics, procedures, and collaboration strategies required for these investigations, focusing on the Ohio Administrative Code rules.

Through a combination of lectures, discussions, and activities, learners will be equipped with the knowledge to effectively manage and document specialized investigations within the Ohio Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (Ohio SACWIS).

## **Ethics for Supervisors: From Aristotle to Instagram**

This course is designed to teach supervisors the history of ethics, the NASW best practice standards and how to apply ethics in modern practice in child and adult protective services.

Supervisors will be able to recognize and describe ethical solutions for Ethical issues in modern practice in child and adult protective services.

## **How to Identify and Address Microaggressions in Today's Climate**

It's crucial for supervisors, workers, and clients to know how to identify and respond to micro-aggressions, either by talking about them or walking away. These conversations are essential to affect change, but they are also hard and uncomfortable. Microaggressions can be defined as thinly veiled, everyday instances of racism, homophobia, sexism (and more) that one experiences or

witnesses in the workplace or toward a client. Sometimes it is an insult, other times it is an errant comment or gesture.

Whether intentional or unintentional, a microaggression communicates hostile, derogatory or negative viewpoints to others. Workshop goals are to create awareness of and provide ways of confronting these harmful comments and actions.

### **Survival in the Workplace: Observation, Awareness, Options**

Becoming more aware of your surroundings, and your ability to see details often overlooked is critical in surviving workplace violence. This workshop will help participants understand potential dangers and what to do to stay safe.

Participants will learn de-escalation techniques that can help control out of control subjects; learn the types of people and situations that may pose a risk. Participants will be given survival strategies should a violent encounter happen in the workplace.

Participants will review real-life events that show both good and bad responses to violence, along with the ability to practice techniques.

NOTE: this workshop is not about teaching self-defense/martial arts tactics, but rather safety responses to potential threats.

### **Lifebooks: A Journey to the Future While Embracing the Past**

This workshop will discuss and answer the following questions about Lifebooks: why, who, what, when, and how. Philosophy, theory, and State Guidelines will be outlined to emphasize the importance of starting a Lifebook early in the child's life.

Techniques will be presented to guide the caseworker, parent, foster caregiver, and child to work together to create a natural opportunity to understand the circumstances of the foster care and/or adoptive placement. Resources and sample pages of Lifebooks will be discussed and provided.

## **Gathering the Right Information: Essential Skills for Child Protection Screeners**

Effective Screening is the foundation of child protection work, ensuring that reports of abuse and neglect are accurately documented and appropriately prioritized.

This course equips learners with the skills to gather clear, detailed, and relevant information while maintaining neutrality and objectivity.

Through interactive exercises and real-world scenarios, learners will explore how personal biases can influence decision-making and apply strategies to stay focused on facts. They will practice using effective engagement techniques to build rapport with referral sources, ask strategic follow-up questions to clarify vague or incomplete details, and differentiate between facts and opinions. Emphasis will be placed on documenting referrals in a way that meets agency standards and supports sound decision-making.

By the end of this course, learners will be able to confidently apply definitions of abuse and neglect to categorize and prioritize referrals accurately. Whether new to screening or looking to refine their skills, this course provides essential tools to enhance accuracy, consistency, and professionalism in child protection screening decisions.

## **Immigration and Child Welfare Issues**

Immigrant families constitute a large and growing portion of the national population.

Almost one-fourth of children and youth in the United States are either immigrants or children of immigrants. Workshop participants will learn about the different legal statuses of immigrant families, the problems these families face in the child welfare system, and additional legal protections for undocumented youth.

## **Discovering Wellness: Looking at Seven Areas of Well-being**

It's true, parenting children from challenging backgrounds can be incredibly demanding, and it's easy to neglect one's own well-being in the process. Parker Palmer's perspective on self-care is a powerful reminder of its importance. By taking care of ourselves, we are better equipped to care for others.

In this interactive workshop, we focus on the seven areas of wellness that offers will provide a comprehensive approach to self-care.

## **Ethics and Child Protection: What Everyone Should Know**

Every day, child protection professionals face tough ethical decisions that can impact children, families, and their own careers. This course will help you make sense of ethical principles, spot potential dilemmas, and apply a practical decision-making model to real-world situations.

Through discussions and case scenarios, you'll gain tools to navigate tricky situations with confidence, minimize bias, and stay aligned with professional standards—all while keeping kids and families at the center of your work.

## **Elements of Empathy: Why Empathy Matters**

In this interactive and thought-provoking training, learners will obtain content as to why empathy matters when collaborating with co-workers, families, and older adults. Through the course, learners will be provided with knowledge about empathy, as well as develop skills to assure that empathy becomes part of their practice in the workplace.

## **Anxiety Disorders: Joy, Fear, Anger, Disgust and Sadness all Working Together**

In this workshop, the different types of anxiety that adults and children experience will be explored. The following DSM criteria will be explored: separation anxiety disorder, selective mutism, specific phobia, social anxiety (social phobia), panic disorder, agoraphobia, and generalized anxiety disorder.

The statistical prevalence and treatment methods will also be identified and discussed for each criterion. Case examples will be discussed from Hollywood films and actors/authors. Large and small in-depth group discussions will occur as participants explore the psychological significances in the case examples and apply those discussions to the regulations of emotions and the diagnoses of anxiety disorders.

## **Supervision for the Stages: Facilitating Supervisee Growth Along all levels of Professional Development**

The goal of this workshop is to help supervisors in the social service fields identify skills and interventions that serve to promote supervisee growth along all stages of professional development. Participants will gain familiarity with general supervisory principles as well as phase-specific considerations to help foster development of the novice student to the senior professional, including attention to licensure gatekeeping.

## **Level Up: Time Management and Organization in Child Welfare**

Child protection is an extremely demanding line of work. Without appropriate time management and organization skills and tools, caseworkers can become overwhelmed and stressed, which can negatively impact children and families. This course provides a balanced discussion between barriers that can hinder productivity and solutions moving forward. Emphasis is also placed on blocking out time for self-care, which is not only critical for overall well-being, but can also promote job satisfaction and retention.

## **The Appalachian Culture**

The Appalachian region embodies a culture that is steeped in traditions of families, love of country, and faith. However, families within the Appalachian culture have often been stigmatized and misrepresented, leading to the perpetuation of many myths and misconceptions. Since there has been a great migration of the Appalachian culture, it is paramount that social service professionals gain insight into the cultural experiences of Appalachia. This training will introduce participants to the culture and social issues of Appalachia. Moreover, learners will be provided with practical strategies for engaging children and families of Appalachia in child welfare practice.

## **Silent Danger: Recognizing and Responding to Strangulation in Child Abuse and Domestic Violence Cases**

Strangulation has been identified as one of the most lethal forms of domestic violence and sexual assault. Strangulation is an ultimate form of power and control, where the batterer can demonstrate control over the victim's next breath: It may have devastating psychological effects or a potentially fatal outcome. In strangulation, unconsciousness may occur within seconds and death within minutes. Death can occur in the days following the incident as well. When domestic violence perpetrators choke (strangle) their victims, not only is this felonious assault, but it may be an attempted homicide. Strangulation is often considered the "last warning shot" before homicide.

**\*Disclaimer:** This training contains real-life images, case studies, and first-hand experiences related to strangulation, child abuse, and domestic violence. Some of the content is graphic in nature and may be distressing or triggering for participants, particularly those with personal or professional exposure to trauma. The material presented is intended to provide critical education and awareness for child protective services caseworkers and staff to enhance their ability to identify, assess, and respond to cases involving strangulation and its potential consequences. Participants are encouraged to practice self-care and step away if needed. If at any point you feel overwhelmed, please take the necessary steps to ensure your well-being. Resources for support will be made available.



## **Distinguishing Between Poverty and Neglect**

This course explores the nuances related to child neglect versus the consequences of poverty. Learners will explore Ohio Revised Code sections, including the definition of neglect, and apply them to case vignettes. By the end of this course, personal biases and the assessment of families alleged to be neglectful will be explored, as will data related to child poverty. Neglect of children will also be framed within Ohio's Screening Guidelines and the Comprehensive Assessment and Planning Model (CAPM) framework.

### **Objectives**

- Define poverty and neglect as outlined by the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) and Ohio Administrative Code (OAC).
- Recognize the impact of personal biases and societal stereotypes about poverty that can influence their decision-making processes and interactions with families experiencing poverty.
- Distinguish poverty-related challenges from situations of child neglect.
- Identify strategies for working effectively with families from different socioeconomic backgrounds.
- Apply the Comprehensive Assessment and Planning Model (CAPM) to assess safety, risk, and service planning without conflating poverty with neglect.

## **Burnout, Secondary Trauma, and Self-Care**

While burnout and secondary trauma are becoming more frequently discussed in the field of social services and exposure to trauma in helping work, symptoms of each often go unrecognized or mislabeled. This presentation seeks to provide an overview of the continuum of reactions experienced by helping professionals due to exposure to secondary and primary trauma in their work. A range of self-care domains will be discussed.

The facilitator will guide participants through several experiential activities including a chair yoga demonstration, breathing exercises, guided meditation, and the development of an individualized self-care plan using SMART goals and the latest research in behavior management.

## **Talking About Cannabis: Culture, Ethics, and the Child Welfare Professional**

This training is designed to help learners understand some of the complexities of where cannabis legalization currently stands in Ohio and the United States, and to help learners integrate this knowledge with their role as child welfare professionals, in order to assist with keeping children and their families safe and healthy.