Executive Summary

Course Title: **Disorder of Children and Adolescents: Understanding Diagnoses and Medication**

Course Description:
This one day training will focus on mental health disorders commonly found in children who are placed in the foster care system. The training will include an overview of: behavioral disorders, mood disorders, anxiety disorders, and diagnoses associated with developmental delays. In addition to this overview, participants will be informed about medications used in the treatment of these disorders and an overview of evidenced based practice. The training will utilize exercise, didactic lecture, activities, and video presentations.   Behavioral intervention techniques will be discussed: specifically focusing on helping those in child welfare and foster parents intervene in a more effective manner. The training emphasizes a strength-based approach addressing appropriate communication and strategies for managing difficult behavior.

Target Audience:
The training will be targeted to child welfare workers, foster parents, and those persons interested in learning more about disorders, medications and intervention strategies in working with children and adolescents with mental health disorders.

Learning Objectives:
As a result of this training participants will…
1. be able to recognize symptoms associated with common mental health diagnoses of children and youth
2. become familiar with medications used in treating disorders of childhood
3. identify effective strategies and behavioral management techniques for the more common diagnoses
4. have a better understanding of the therapeutic process, including evidenced based practice
5. develop effective methods of communication for working with family members of children and youth with mental health diagnoses
6. explore the etiology of trauma and resulting mental health diagnoses

Prior to the training, supervisors can:
- review objectives with staff members and identify learning objectives for employee development
- request that staff members share training information with team members upon their return

Following the training, supervisors can:
- identify further training needs for the supervisee
- review training information for congruence with agency expectations
- review training information with supervisee and discuss cases in which information is applicable to cases