

Executive Summary

Course Title: *Grief and Loss*

Outline of Training:

Grief and Loss affects children and adolescents, in the foster care system, in a profound way. We see the impact of loss through a child's verbal expression as well as through behavioral expression. Understanding this impact and improving our ability to employ effective strategies, can have a positive influence on the safety, permanency, and well-being of children in care. Empowering case workers and families to recognize the significance of grief and loss issues is one step toward reducing incidents of maltreatment, decreasing foster care re-entries, and increasing stability of placements.

This interactive training will help us examine grief and loss issues with regard to impact on behavior. We will explore strategies for effective behavior management and will engage in experiential activities that will enhance these skills. The training will use didactic lecture, interactive exercises, and skill building activities to explore these critical issues. A power point presentation will provide the visual background. Video clips will be used to enhance visual learning. Informational handouts will be available to each participant.

Target Audience: New and experienced line staff and supervisors

Outcome Objectives for Participants:

As a result of this training, participants will:

- 1) Identify the stages and elements of grief and loss experienced by children and families in the child welfare system.
- 2) Recognize the importance of maintaining meaningful connections for children with siblings, significant others, and minimizing placements.
- 3) List ways to support placements and caregivers in order to minimize placement disruptions.
- 4) Describe causes, signs, and symptoms of attachment disorder and its implications for placement and treatment.
- 5) Explore cultural issues surrounding grief and loss.
- 6) Link trauma to grief and loss in children and families.

The supervisor will meet with the participant to review the executive summary and learning objectives. The trainee will identify a learning objective of interest and will prepare a list of

questions for the trainer. The staff person will provide a brief summary of the training to identified employee.

The supervisor will meet with the participant following the training to review the list of questions generated by the employee and answers provided during the training. The supervisor will ask the staff person identify additional training information necessary in promoting competence in this topic area.