

Executive Summary

Course Title: “Cultural Considerations in Providing Services to Immigrant and/or Latino Families and Gang Dynamics”

Outline of Training:

This one day training is designed to raise awareness of the issues regarding working with Latino families in the child welfare system. Participants will understand Latino families in Northern California by exploring and understand the process of Migration from an Immigrants perspective and understand Sluzi’s model of adaptation to mainstream culture. The impact of acculturation will be explored based on the Mexican American Psychiatric Prevalence Study conducted by Aguilar-Gaxiola, et al, 2000. Participants will discuss how the impact of acculturation affects the Latino family in role development, clashing of cultures, appropriate and inappropriate methods of coping and adaptation, including but not limited to: high rates of teen pregnancy, gang involvement, substance abuse, domestic violence, and the burgeoning problem of organized crime in the Border States.

Target Audience:

This is an advanced training designed for seasoned social workers, new social workers or other providers who work with Latino families in the child welfare system. This training addresses the cultural issues which impact how services are provided to Latino families. It is designed to assist workers in engaging these families and addressing sensitive issues with Latino families.

Outcome Objectives for Participants:

1. Participant will discuss how migration and acculturation factors contribute to the impairment of attachments and risk for trauma.
2. Participant will understand how family roles are impacted: personalismo, familialismo, machismo, marianismo, by the process of acculturation.
3. Participant will understand the current trends in Disparities in Health Delivery of Services for Latinos in California (Center for Health Disparities, UC Davis, 2008)
4. Participant will be able to integrate successful engagement strategies with these populations, migrants, indigenous groups, gang involved, substance abusing, traumatized groups.
5. Participant will be able to describe promising and evidence based practices for working with Latinos.

Ways that Supervisors can support the Transfer of Learning from the classroom to the job...

BEFORE the training

The supervisors can review the executive summary with the worker and identify an objective to focus on with the staff member. The supervisors can encourage the workers to actively participate in the trainings. Also, they can encourage the workers to ask questions in the training and discuss the different challenges that have experiences in their work with Latino families on their case loads

AFTER the training

It would be helpful for the supervisors to have a debriefing meeting with the workers to identify what has been learned in the training in order to assist each worker in developing their own action plans. Supervisors should encourage the workers that attended the training to share the information learned with other co-workers. Through individual or group supervision, supervisors could continue to monitor each worker’s progress in working with Latino families and assure full implementation of the action plans.