

Executive Summary **Worker Safety in Child Welfare Practice**

Course Description

The Worker Safety in Child Welfare Practice Training conveys the understanding that danger and risk does exist in the practice of child welfare to the paraprofessional worker. The training provides information to assist the worker in assessing potential threat and strategies to practice to maintain safety. The course utilizes lecturette, case studies, small group interaction, and case scenarios to help participants integrate the information.

Target Audience

This training is appropriate for paraprofessional workers. Workers will be exposed to information regarding the safety in the practice of child welfare.

Outcome Objectives

1. Develop skills in preparing for an interaction with clients to maintain safety for all participants.
2. Identify at least three possible signs of danger, taking signals from the client, the environment, and from themselves, while working as a child welfare worker.
3. Identify at least three methods of avoiding or mitigating danger while working as a child welfare worker.
4. Describe common family dynamics that can contribute to a crisis and explain when; how to terminate an interaction due to safety concerns; and how to leave a dangerous situation swiftly.
5. Explain at least three effective crisis intervention techniques that can be used to assist families in crisis and describe effective communication skills that can be used to defuse or successfully prevent violent outbursts.
6. Given a case example or scenario, the trainee will be able to demonstrate the steps necessary for preparation for a transportation and/or visit with personal safety in mind, including determining risk factors, being well informed about case information, and knowing the geographic area.
7. The trainee will be able to recognize the difference between 'awareness' and 'hyper-vigilance' and values the importance of acknowledging internal reactions as a possible signal that a 'real threat' is present.

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

BEFORE the training

1. Supervisors should ask the trainee to name some of the hazards that a worker might face in the course of child welfare work.
2. Supervisors should ask the trainee to list some of the trainees common practices used to keep the trainee safe.
3. Supervisors should communicate their expectations for worker safety to the trainee.

AFTER the training

1. Supervisors should ask the trainee to identify the high risk areas for child welfare work within the county and the high risk time periods.
2. Supervisors should ask the trainee to identify 3 new strategies for safety and review the county's expectations about safety.