

# Kansas Child Welfare Professional Training Program

# NEWSLETTER

## Announcements

**Excellence in Supervision Conference** is provided for DCF Prevention and Protection Services' Supervisors and emerging leaders, as well as supervisors from contract-based management agencies. The conference provides ongoing learning opportunities for child welfare supervisors.

The 2018 conference will be held in Manhattan, Kansas at the Bluemont Hotel, Sept. 19-21, 2018. To reserve a room for the conference, please call 1-785-473-7091. Special Speakers for the conference will be:

- Todd Frye, Ph.D., LCPC, LCMFT MidAmerica Nazarene University School of Behavioral Sciences and Counseling presenting Diagnostic and Statistical Manual Overview and Training
- Opening Keynote, Vicki Hitzges, "Customer Care and Teamwork"
- Special Guest Speaker, Lyndy Phillips, "Laugh More, Stress Less".
- Special Guest Speaker, Chip Lutz, "Speak the Language! Leading the Generations"
- Closing Keynote, Rhett Laubach, "Falling Back in Love with Your Job/Working in the 30%Zone"

## Spotlight News

**Core Overview for Supervisors** - Jaine Rhoads, with the Institute for Human Services (IHS), completed training the course, *Core Overview for Supervisors*, with the exception of Module 3, on June 18-19, 2018 at the Wichita Service Center. This opportunity was a time-effective way for supervisors to learn about Core training and offer support to their teams. A total of 59 staff from DCF, KVC and SFCS participated in this training.

**Mastering the Art of Supervision** pilot training, instructed by Sherrie Gross, finished 12 total days of training offered from Oct. 2017 to June 2018. Each staff member was able to earn 39 BSRB approved general social work CEUs.

**KCWPTP** website: [www.kcwptp.ks.gov](http://www.kcwptp.ks.gov)

## Upcoming Trainings

### New Round of KCWPTP Core Training

Sept. 11, 2018, Garden City  
Oct. 2, 2018, Topeka  
Nov. 14, 2018, Wichita

### New Round of Assessor Training

#### Topeka

Module 7—Aug. 28-30, 2018  
Module 8—Sept. 25-27, 2018  
Tier 1—Oct. 23-25, 2018  
& Nov. 27-29, 2018  
Tier 2—January 8-10, 2019  
& Feb. 5-7, 2019

### Why Bring Dads into the Picture

Sept. 5, 2018, Chanute  
Nov. 15, 2018, Great Bend

### Social Work Safety Awareness Training

Aug. 8, 2018, Wichita  
Sept. 6, 2018, Garden City  
Oct. 10, 2018, Kansas City

### Bridges Out of Poverty Training

Oct. 4, 2018, Topeka  
Feb. 21, 2019, Salina



# KCWPTP Updates

## Simulation Work Group

The simulation work group, formed out of the KCWPTP Steering Committee, is exploring possibilities for various creative types of simulation trainings. Simulations offer opportunities to learn about valuable, real-life situations in a safe training environment. One upcoming simulation training will incorporate documentation skills into the Interviewing Skills training. This simulation will be held in the Training Lab at the DCF Administration Building.

## KCWPTP Core Module 3 Training

KCWPTP Core Module 3: Legal Aspects of Child Protective Services was revised. Future Module 3 trainings will be one-day trainings. For participants needing to attend KCWPTP Core Module 3 to complete their round of Core training, you may contact your PPS Regional trainer. Additional slots have been opened up in regularly scheduled classes and two new classes have been added to accommodate make-up needs.

To view the available dates, please access the [DCF Training Center](#) and search KCWPTP Core Module 3.

### **BSRB Social Work CEU's are available at no cost!**

Access [DCF Training Center](#) to see what is available. Simply type DCFCEU into the search box and all eligible DCF courses with BSRB approved SW CEUS will be listed.

## Did You Know?

- The American social work profession was founded in the late 19th century to ensure that immigrants and other vulnerable people learned tools and skills to help them escape economic and social poverty.
- The first social work class was offered in 1898 at Columbia University.
- Jane Addams, a social work pioneer, was the first woman to receive a Nobel Peace Prize in 1931. She established settlement houses in Chicago to provide social services for poor immigrants.



## DCF PPS Academy

To address social worker vacancies within DCF, on April 23, 2018, Secretary Meier-Hummel announced newly created positions within DCF for unlicensed child protection specialists. The new positions are required to have a four-year degree in a related field such as psychology, sociology or other human services related fields. To accommodate the training needs for these newly opened positions, the PPS Academy was created in early June.

The PPS Academy is an intensive, four-week series of trainings that begins week one with opportunities for onboarding, shadowing and completion of required online trainings. As participants move into week two, they are introduced to a live, instructor-led training on Investigation and Assessment. From there the participants return to the office to complete week three assignments and any remaining shadowing and computer applications trainings. To finish up the Academy, week four is comprised of a full week of live instructor-led trainings, including subjects such as: worker safety, ethics, confidentiality, mandated reporting, boundaries, policies, cultural issues, ICPS, MEPA, ICWA, critical thinking skills, the assessment process, documentation, interviewing, court, engagement and active case reviews.

Five groups have completed or started the PPS Academy, for a total of 73 participants. New participants are currently being assigned to groups six and seven. Trainings have been held in Topeka, Wichita, Salina and Hays, prioritizing convenient regional locations for staff.

PPS Training Administrator, Sherrie Gross, along with PPS Regional trainers Julie Janzing (Wichita), Todd Scheuerman (West), Reshida Rone (KC) and Cade Smith (East) provided various components of the PPS Academy trainings.

After completing all components of the PPS Academy, the participants may then take a caseload applicable to their new position. In the weeks following the PPS Academy, staff will participate in additional required trainings such as Interviewing Skills, Facilitated Discussions on time management, self-care and safety risk assessments and have further shadowing opportunities and online trainings.



## This Month's Testimonial

I was part of the 2016 pilot program as a veteran PPS staff for the Core Module training. I was honored to be able to provide my feedback on the Core training prior to it being extended to our social workers and contracted providers.

What I enjoyed most was making connections with my fellow trainees. Having the opportunity to participate in the trainings with the same people each time was excellent. I met DCF staff who I only had a name for, and now I have a face. I also made valuable, ongoing, working relationships with some of our contract staff.

The trainers from Ohio had a plethora of knowledge. They came to training each day with a positive, upbeat attitude, which engaged the whole class to soak in all the information they had to provide. They provided real-life examples from their

practice in Ohio, which related to the material we reviewed, to make the concepts more memorable.

My favorite part of Core was Module 7, *Child Development Implications for Family-Centered Protective Services*, trained by Dr. Georgette Constantinou, an expert in Pediatric Psychiatry and Psychology. I enjoyed reviewing the theories of child development, especially regarding attachment. Attachment in the first year of life is crucial to a child's brain development and his/her bond with caregivers, having long lasting effects toward successful adulthood. I hope social workers continue to focus on this area and guide their practice around the research on attachment we know today.

— **Kaleena Erwin, LBSW**

Learning is not attained by chance, it must be sought for with **ardor and diligence.**

~ *Abigail Adams*



## KCWPTP Steering Committee Members

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## Getting to know KCWPTP Steering Committee member Christy Sanders—Saint Francis Community Services



Christy Sanders

My name is Christy Sanders and I graduated from the KU with both my bachelor ('91) and master ('93) degrees in social work, which means I've been a social worker for 25 years. I did my practicum at DCF (then SRS) investigating physical abuse/neglect cases. My first "real" job was investigating sexual abuse allegations at the EMCU, where I worked from '93-'95. Next, I worked as a therapist for the Wichita Child Guidance Center based out of the Wichita Children's Home from '95-'97. From '97-'01, I worked as a therapist on the residential campus of Youthville. Next, I worked as an Adoption/Foster Care Homes Supervisor and a trainer at Kansas Children's Service League from '01-'08. I had a brief three-month stint as a social worker at Rainbows United, and then came to work at Saint Francis Community Services (SFCS) as Training Director from '09-present time.

On a personal note, I like hanging out with my friends and I love animals. I currently have one pug named Roy and three cats. In fact, my current most pressing project at work is trying to get a Pets at Work program up and running so I can bring the critters with me a couple times a month. I begrudgingly go to the gym thanks to mother nature and gravity, but I really don't like any type of exercise. While I don't necessarily enjoy yard work, I do love looking at my yard once it's all mowed and the plants are blooming.



<https://kansas.kvc.org/>



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