

Foster Parent Training Committee Action Items
for March 23, 2006 Training Council Meeting – *Summary of Feedback (5-15-06)*

1. Support the Foster Parent Training Committee’s recommendations that pre-placement, foundation and ongoing foster parent training be mandated – Accomplish this by accepting the guiding principle, six goals, and pre-placement, foundation and ongoing foster parent training recommendations – *The action from the Training Council was as follows: The Training Council endorses the guiding principles and six goals and the idea to develop pre-placement, foundation and ongoing foster parent training as they relate to foster parents, treatment foster parents, and adoptive parents.*

Guiding Principle: All children who are placed in foster care or for adoption deserve well-trained and supported resource families. In order to develop the knowledge and skills of the resource families, pre-placement, foundation, and ongoing training will be made available to resource families who are entrusted with the care of our most vulnerable children.

The six **goals** for foster parent training at all levels – pre-placement, foundation, and ongoing - are:

- Goal 1: Improve the quality of care provided to children who live in foster or adoptive homes.
- Goal 2: Prepare foster and adoptive families for caring for and providing stability for children while in their homes.
- Goal 3: Promote communication, respect, and understanding among all working for the best interest of the child.
- Goal 4: Provide opportunities to mutually explore one’s values, strengths, limitations, and needs as they relate to the compatibility to foster and adopt children.
- Goal 5: Develop an understanding of the child welfare system and the importance of permanency for children.
- Goal 6: Encourage foster and adoptive parent networking and the use of resources.

Pre-Placement Foster Parent Training Recommendations:

- 1) All foster, treatment foster, and pre-adoptive parent licensees will have pre-placement training, based upon the six goals of training and covering all of the content areas, reviewed and discussed with them prior to the placement of a foster child in their care (for content areas see pages 11-12 of the Foster Parent Training Committee Report to the Training Council: March 23, 2006).
- 2) Pre-placement training will be agency-implemented with agencies having flexible modalities in which to provide the pre-placement training.
- 3) In the event that pre-placement training content areas cannot be reviewed and discussed with both foster, treatment foster, and pre-adoptive parent licensees in a home receiving emergency placements or being licensed for specific children, then pre-placement training for the second licensee will be completed in a time frame not to exceed 120 days from initial license.

Foundation Foster Parent Training Recommendations:

- 1) All foster and treatment foster parents will complete foundation training within 24 months of initial licensure.
- 2) The foundation content will be standardized statewide (for content areas see pages 12-13 of the Foster Parent Training Committee Report to the Training Council: March 23, 2006).
- 3) Agencies will have flexible modalities in which to provide the foundation training.
- 4) Foundation training is best delivered in a group setting with a foster or treatment foster parent as one of the trainers; however, this may not be able to be accomplished regularly across the state. So, for foundation training that is provided individual face-to-face, a connection for the foster or treatment foster parent being trained must be made to another/other foster parent(s).

Ongoing Foster Parent Training Recommendations:

- 1) Foster parents will complete 10 hours (treatment foster parents 18 hours) of training per year or 20 hours (treatment foster parents 36 hours) of training in each succeeding two-year re-licensing period following the completion of the foundation training timelines.
 - 2) Licensing agencies can determine the content (based upon the six goals of foster parent training) and modalities of ongoing training for foster parents (more detail about ongoing foster parent training can be found on page 13 of the Foster Parent Training Committee Report to Training Council: March 23, 2006).
 - 3) Foster and treatment foster parents can earn up to 10 training hours per two-year licensing period by providing training to other foster and treatment foster parents.
2. Agree to work with DCFS to identify fiscal resources for foster parent training – Accomplish this by supporting the work of the Fiscal Committee around locating funding for foster parent training and advocating with DCFS for additional fiscal resources, as appropriate – *No formal action taken, however all standing committees of the Training Council refer fiscal related issues to the Fiscal Committee.*
 3. Support the expansion of the pass-through IV-E dollars to include all levels of foster parent training – pre-placement, foundation and ongoing – Accomplish this by accepting the following statements:

Pre-Placement Training

Continue the pass-through of Title IV-E monies to county agencies who agree to provide pre-placement foster parent training prior to placement, in the content areas defined, with the memo to be revised to assure flexibility in delivery modalities (for content areas see pages 11-12 of the Foster Parent Training Committee Report to the Training Council: March 23, 2006).

Foundation Training

Expand the pass-through of Title IV-E monies to county agencies who agree to provide foundation foster parent training to foster parents, in the content areas defined, within 24 months of each initial license, with the memo written to assure flexibility in delivery modalities (for content areas see pages 12-13 of the Foster Parent Training Committee Report to the Training Council: March 23, 2006).

Ongoing Training

Expand the pass-through of Title IV-E monies to county agencies to include ongoing foster parent training activities and costs.

No formal action taken by the Training Council, however this was acknowledged as a recommendation. The Training Council did have some conversation about the drop in the penetration rate and how this will affect the amount of pass-through dollars available for training.

4. Support the training partnerships development and maintenance of pre-placement and foundation level curriculum in multiple modalities (The Foster Parent Training Committee believes that the training partnerships are in the best position to develop and maintain foster parent pre-placement and foundation level training curriculum) – Accomplish this by supporting the current development of pre-placement and foundation training by Western and NEW Partnerships in face-to-face group and face-to-face individual modalities (with CY2006 PEP monies); expand the Foster Parent Training

Committee's charge to include regular review of the pre-placement and foundation goals and curriculum – *No formal action taken as this is presumed under the first action item above – all training partnerships will need to be involved.*

5. Support the roll-out of foster parent pre-placement and foundation level foster parent training, to include Training of Content (TOC) on the curricular materials by the training partnerships – Accomplish this by supporting the training partnerships' central role in the development of pre-placement and foundation foster parent training, to include activities related to making the developed resources available statewide to all licensing agencies; activities include developing the curricular materials, piloting the developed curricular materials, revising and finalizing the curricular materials, providing training to those who will train the curricular materials, and making the curricular materials available – *No formal action taken as this is presumed under the first action item above – all training partnerships will need to be involved.*
6. Support foster parent training as a primary mission of the Training Council (the committee notes that many of the priorities in the PEP are inherent upon quality foster parents) – Accomplish this by updating the Training Council's Strategic Plan to include training for foster parents as a prominent part of the strategic plan – *The action from the Training Council was to add foster parent pre-placement and foundation training to the strategic plan as an interim update until a larger review of the plan occurs and more information from the Foster Parent Training Committee is available about ongoing training and adoptive parent training.*

Notes:

The Training Council requested that the Foster Parent Training Committee consider how training for adoptive parents fit in with the charge of the committee and the foundation and ongoing training recommendations. The committee charge will be revised to reflect this directive and will be brought to the 5-25-06 Training Council Meeting for approval.

When these Action Items were referred to the Training Council on 3-23-06, the term "pre-service" rather than "pre-placement" was utilized. At the 3-30-06 Foster Parent Training Committee Meeting, the committee asked that all references to "pre-service" be changed to "pre-placement" to provide clarity that the training be provided prior to a foster placement. This change will be shared with the Training Council at its' 5-25-06 meeting and approval sought through the approval of the revised committee charge.