

August 2009 State Liaison Officer Update e-Newsletter

Welcome to the August 2009 SLO Update e-Newsletter. In this month's e-Newsletter:

➤ *Free On-Line Leadership Academy for Supervisors-*

The National Child Welfare Workforce Institute, a member of the T/TA network of the Children's Bureau, has developed *The Leadership Academy for Supervisors*, a free online training resource that will begin in September 2009. This training is offered for supervisors in public and tribal child welfare agencies and in contracted private agencies that provide traditional child welfare services. The training is intended to enhance the leadership skills of supervisors in the child welfare system and to facilitate peer network interaction. Using a learning approach that includes real case scenarios, small group learning over time, team-based problem-solving and practice, and learning reinforcement, the online training offers supervisors a unique opportunity to learn at their own pace. To preview the training and to get on the mailing list, go to: <http://www.ncwwi.org/super.htm>.

➤ *Substance Abuse and Mental Health Information from SAMHSA's eNetwork-*

Many children and families come to the attention of the child welfare system due to substance use disorders or mental health issues. The availability of accurate and current information on substance abuse and mental health is critical to the child welfare field. The SAMHSA eNetwork offers a quick and easy way to get email updates on new substance abuse and mental health information. It's free and only takes two clicks to subscribe. Select the topics that are important to you and stay current with the news and information you need. Take a minute to check it out. You'll be glad you did. To get more information on SAMHSA's eNetwork, go to: http://ncadistore.samhsa.gov/enetwork/SAMHSA_Get_Email_Updates.html

➤ *Training Toolkit to Help Children Exposed to Domestic Violence-*

The Family Violence Prevention Fund, with support from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, has produced a training toolkit for resource families (foster parents, kinship care givers and adoptive families) of children exposed to domestic violence. The toolkit includes a three hour curriculum entitled *Connect: Supporting Children Exposed to Domestic Violence* and related tools such as videos, Power Point presentations and mini-magazines. The toolkit contents are designed as a basic training session on the dynamics of domestic violence, the impact of exposure to domestic violence on children, and strategies for supporting children who have been exposed to violence. To request a CD of the toolkit, email: childrensteam@endabuse.org. To learn more about the Family Violence Prevention Fund and the toolkit, go to: <http://endabuse.org/content/features/detail/1314/>.

➤ *SLO Listserv Archives-*

Did you know that the SLO Listserv includes archives of past postings? The SLO Listserv archives include a search feature that allows searches of previous postings by subject. The archives are a great way to find information on previous topics and to see if the information you want posted has been discussed in the past. Also included is a listing of other available discussion forums that are open for you to join. To access the SLO Listserv archives:

Go to the link: <http://listserve.icfi.com/read/?forum=slo>. The link is included at the bottom of each SLO Listserv communication you receive. At the Forum Login page, enter your individual email address <User.name@Mycompany.com> and the password: [*list default PW*]. Only members of the SLO (listserv) discussion forum will be able to access this information. Select *Search* from the navigation tabs on the left side of the screen to get to SLO forum.

➤ *August Child Safety Article-*

Action for Child Protection's August Child Safety Article is entitled "Judging Home Conditions as a Present Danger." The article provides information about how to assess reports of families living in dangerous conditions. The article emphasizes the need to determine whether present danger exists in the home in order to judge whether immediate CPS action is required. Using a real case example, the article provides specific guidance on determining present danger. To view the complete article, click on: http://www.actionchildprotection.org/documents/2009/pdf/Judging_Home_Conditions_as_a_Present_Danger_-_August2009_1.pdf.

➤ *Domestic Violence Webinar-*

Domestic violence (DV) often is seen in families reported to the child welfare system for child maltreatment. It is important that the child welfare field is aware of the connection between DV and child abuse and neglect and includes DV programs as community stakeholders in reviewing, assessing, and improving States' capacity to meet the needs of children and families. On Wednesday, September 23, 2009 at 1:00 pm EST, the National Resource Center for Child Protective Services (NRCCPS) will host a webinar about the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) process and the role of the domestic violence community. Watch the SLO Listserv for a reminder and information on accessing the webinar.