



Your Role on the Caregiving Team

Virtually Facilitated In-Service Training

Course Description

Caregiving is, by design, a temporary situation and most children and youth today, do not stay permanently in a kinship or foster home. We believe that by helping you see a more complete picture of your role, you will have a better understanding and appreciation of the roles of the other members of the child's team. While you have a critical role as the primary caregiver(s) for children and youth, you are a part of a collaborative, multi-disciplinary team of professionals. Working with this team requires an understanding of your role and responsibilities and the roles and responsibilities of the other team members.

Learning Objectives

At the end of this three-hour module, you will be able to:

- Define the roles and responsibilities of the members of the caregiving team, including the critical role of the caregiver.
- Define the roles and responsibilities of the members of the permanency team, including the critical role of the caregiver.
- Discuss the importance of a "Memory Book".
- Understand the unique dynamics and benefits of kinship care.
- Outline the competencies of an effective caregiver.
- Outline the process for effective dispute resolution.

Key Messages

- Caregivers are an essential part of the team of professionals that works in the best interest of the child.
- A case has been made in court to remove the child from their home. This is a significant action that is not been taken lightly. This can also be done with consent of the guardian or under an agreement. Many steps and decisions are made that reference legislation and policy.
- The caregiving team is actually part of a larger team that can be thought of as the planning for connections and permanency team.
- You are a professional working with other professionals to achieve the important core business of promoting the development, safety and well-being of children youth and families.
- Your first-hand knowledge is integral to the ongoing assessment of the parent-child relationship as it is reflected in the visits.
- Preserving memories is an important record for both the child and the child's family.
- Caregiver competencies are essential to guide the learning journey of the caregiver.
- It is important that caregivers and caseworkers solve disagreements through an informal means — however, when that cannot happen there is a process for effective dispute resolution.

Guided Discussion Questions

1. How are you and the Caseworker/Practitioner working together to carry out the plan for the child/youth?
2. How do you help the child/youth to know what your household rules and expectations are?

Resources

In 2019 a new “Caregiver Competency Profile” was created (approved in January 2020). This competence profile has seven themes or duties that caregivers perform supported by performance indicators or tasks. In the training Caregivers will be introduced to the Caregiver Competency Profile and explore how this will guide their learning journey as a caregiver.

Caregiver Competency Profile

- Supporting children and families with historical trauma, loss and grief
- Maintain a child’s culture
- Collaborate for successful transitions
- Respond to the demands of the caregiving experience
- Work in collaboration with Children’s Services
- Building relationships with the child’s family
- Identify and promote the child/youth’s development