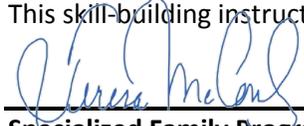


SPECIALIZED FAMILY CARE
Provider Training

Category:	Abuse Related
Title:	Introduction to Child Abuse & Neglect for Specialized Family Care Providers
Materials:	“A Parent’s Guide to Working with Child Protective Services,” “ WVDHHR Child Protective Policy,” “WVDHHR Safe at Home, Family’s Guide to Wraparound”
Goal:	Specialized Family Care Provider knows how child abuse and neglect services are delivered by the Child Welfare System
Credit Hours:	1 Hour
Date Developed:	January 2014, Updated December 2016
Developed by:	Updated by Carol Brewster, December 2016

This skill-building instruction has been approved for Specialized Family Care Provider training by:

	12/29/2016
Specialized Family Program Manager	DATE
	12-21-2016
Content Reviewed and updated by: Carol Brewster, FBCS	DATE

Training Objectives:

- Specialized Family Care Provider knows their role in working with Child Protective Services
- Specialized Family Care Provider knows basic WVDHHR Child Protective Policy and is knowledgeable about the Parent’s Guides
- Specialized Family Care Provider knows what happens when abuse and neglect is reported

Training Procedures:

- Specialized Family Care Provider initiated self-study
- Test completed by Specialized Family Care Provider
- Review of test responses by Family Based Care Specialist and Specialized Family Care Provider

I certify that I have completed all the materials associated with this training module. I feel that I have a basic understanding of the material completed.

Specialized Family Care Provider	Start Time	End Time	Date
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Reviewed by: _____
Family Based Care Specialist **Date**

This Program is funded by the WV Department of Health & Human Resources, Bureau for Children & Families and administered by the Center for Excellence in Disabilities, West Virginia University.
WVDHHR/CED/SFC/ARTICLE/CHILD ABUSE NEGLECT/SFC PROVIDERS JANUARY 2014/Updated December 2016

INTRODUCTION TO CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT

FOR SPECIALIZED FAMILY CARE PROVIDERS

Providers of in home care for children are often parenting due to the removal of a child from his/her biological family due to abuse or neglect. The child's parents have been through a process by Child Protective Services (CPS) which eventually resulted in the placement of the child into your home. A booklet, "A Parent's Guide to Working with Child Protective Services," provided by the WV Department of Health and Human Resources (available for free by DHHR or from our Family Based Care Specialist) describes the process. 1

1. Child Protective Services Gets a Report

Anyone can make a report to CPS of suspected child abuse or neglect, but there are certain persons whose occupations bring them into contact with children and, as such, they are mandated (required) to report any suspected child abuse or neglect. Specialized Family Care Providers are mandated reporters. Others who are required to report are:

- Medical, Dental or Mental Health professionals
- Christian Science Practitioners
- Religious Healers
- Teachers and other school personnel
- Social Service Workers
- Child Care or Foster Care Workers

- Emergency medical services personnel
- Peace officers or law-enforcement officials
- Clergy
- Circuit court judges, family court judges or magistrates
- Humane Officers
- Employees of the Division of Juvenile Services
- Youth camp administrators or counselors
- Employee, coach or volunteer of a group that provides organized activities for children
- Commercial film or photographic print processor

Mandated reporters, who observe or suspect child abuse or neglect, must immediately, and not more than forty-eight hours, report the abuse to the WV Department of Health and Human Resources. The report should be made to the local DHHR, but it is also acceptable to call the statewide toll-free hotline number at 800-352-6513. Reporters must also immediately report, or cause a report to be made to law enforcement, when there is belief that the child has suffered serious physical or sexual abuse or physical assault.

Reports of abuse and neglect made to CPS are kept confidential and will not be made known to the person(s) named in the report.

2. A CPS Worker Checks Out the Report

The CPS worker checks out the report, looking for signs of abuse or neglect. The worker talks with the child, other children in the family, the parents, and any others who know the child including relatives or teachers.

“A Parent’s Guide to Working with Child Protective Services” 1 defines child abuse as “hurting a child’s body or mind” and can include:

- Broken bones
- Burns, bruises or cuts
- Punching, kicking or biting
- Cruel punishment or torture
- Always putting down a child or making him or her feel unloved or scared
- Not trying to stop others from hurting a child

Child sexual abuse is defined as:

- Using a child for sex or prostitution
- Other sexual contact with a child’s body
- Taking sexual pictures

Neglect is defined as not taking care of a child’s basic needs. Those needs include:

- Food, shelter, and being clean,
- Supervision
- Going to School

- Getting Health Care

3. A Safety Plan Is Made for the Child

CPS works to make sure the child is safe. This can include working with the family, while the child remains in the home, setting up goals toward which the family must work. Families are allowed an improvement period of 15 months to work to meet their goals and make the home safer. Sometimes, though, removal needs to be more immediate if it cannot be determined that the child will be safe. Whether the removal is immediate or occurs after an improvement period, the decision is made by going to court and having a judge make the decision. CPS can only remove a child from the home without going to court if the child is in imminent danger.

Placement in a Specialized Family Care Home

When a child who is in state custody is placed within a Specialized Family Care Home, the child has been determined to be eligible for such services due to a developmental disability and meeting requirements for funding (Title XIX Waiver or Personal Care). As the provider/caregiver of a child, who is in state custody, the provider has the continued support of DHHR and other in parenting of the child. Providers are participants on an MDT (multi-disciplinary team) which includes other service workers, who together create a plan for the child's continued care and well-being.

Biological families may be allowed to have visits with the child who is in the SFC home. These visits may be supervised or unsupervised depending upon circumstances and may be held somewhere other than in the SFC home. DHHR workers and the court determine the guidelines for such visits.

WHAT IS WRAPAROUND AND WHO MAY BENEFIT?

As a provider, you may be asked to participate with DHHR in the Wraparound process for a child. A booklet, "*Safe at Home West Virginia, Family's Guide to Wraparound*" provided by the WV Department of Health and Human Resources (available for free by DHHR or from our Family Based Care Specialist) describes the process. 2

Wraparound is designed to help groups of people involved in a family's life, work together to support the family and their child/youth who are returning from, or at risk of being sent to, an out-of-home placement. To participate in the wraparound process, a family must be referred by their WV Department of Health and Human Resources (WV DHHR) case worker, have approval from the multi-disciplinary team (if applicable), and the at-risk youth/child must be between the ages of 12 and 17, in jeopardy of being removed from their home or in need of extra support to return home, and have a diagnosis of severe mental or behavioral disturbance according to a standardized diagnostic manual.

Parenting a Child Who Has Experienced Abuse and Neglect

Parenting any child is hard work. SFC Providers have the additional challenges of parenting the child, who may not only have experienced abuse and neglect, but has developmental difficulties. Behavioral and emotional challenges often surface due to the child's past experiences. Providers can utilize both in and out of home resources as they meet the needs of the child and have the ongoing assistance of professionals, who will continue to remain involved with the provider and child. On-going training is available to assist the family in meeting specific concerns.

1 *A Parent's Guide to Working with Child Protective Services*, Child Protective Services Program, WV Department of Health & Human Resources, 2011 Edition, Channing Bete Company, Inc.

References:

Child Protective Services Program, WVDHHR, *A Parent's Guide to Working with Child Protective Services*, Channing Bete Company, Inc., 2011 Edition

WVDHHR Child Protective Policy. Available at:

<http://www.dhhr.wv.gov/bcf/policy/Documents/child%20Protective%20Services%20Policy.pdf>, March 16, 2016

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2 Child Protective Services Program, WVDHHR, *Safe at Home, Family's Guide to Wraparound*, Rhonda McCormick. Available at:

<http://www.dhhr.wv.gov/bcf/Services/Documents/SAH%20A%20Family's%20Guide%20to%20Wraparound%209-4-15.pdf>, 2015