

## Tips for Training this Curriculum

This module introduces trainees to challenges related to assessing families who are experiencing substance abuse, mental health, and / or intimate partner violence. It is strongly recommended that trainees complete the foundation block and all other 100 level assessment block content prior to attending this module.

This training is activity based and relies on the trainer to include content identified as “Key points for trainers” in the facilitation of the activities.

The appendix includes key information from the SDM Policy Manual about substance abuse, mental health, and intimate partner violence. Trainers should be very familiar with this information prior to training this module.

Some content in this curriculum was developed by NCCD and the Northern California Training Academy as part of the Safety Organized Practice Curriculum. Please note, not all California Counties are actively practicing Safety Organized Practice. However, the framework, principles and concepts are integrated throughout the curriculum as tools and best practices. Safety Organized Practice (SOP) is a collaborative practice approach that emphasizes the importance of teamwork in child welfare. SOP aims to build and strengthen partnerships with the child welfare agency and within a family by involving their informal support networks of friends and family members. A central belief in SOP is that all families have strengths. SOP uses strategies and techniques that align with the belief that a child and his or her family are the central focus, and that the partnership exists in an effort to find solutions that ensure safety, permanency, and well-being for children. Safety Organized Practice is informed by an integration of practices and approaches including:

- Solution-focused practice<sup>1</sup>
- Signs of Safety<sup>2</sup>
- Structured Decision making<sup>3</sup>
- Child and family engagement<sup>4</sup>
- Risk and safety assessment research
- Group Supervision and Interactional Supervision<sup>5</sup>
- Appreciative Inquiry<sup>6</sup>
- Motivational Interviewing<sup>7</sup>
- Consultation and Information Sharing Framework<sup>8</sup>
- Cultural Humility
- Trauma-informed practice

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<sup>1</sup> Berg, I.K. and De Jong, P. (1996). Solution-building conversations: co-constructing a sense of competence with clients. *Families in Society*, pp. 376-391; de Shazer, S. (1985). *Keys to solution in brief therapy*. NY: Norton; Saleebey, D. (Ed.). (1992). *The strengths perspective in social work practice*. NY: Longman.

<sup>2</sup> Turnell, A. (2004). Relationship grounded, safety organized child protection practice: dreamtime or real time option for child welfare? *Protecting Children*, 19(2): 14-25; Turnell, A. & Edwards, S. (1999). *Signs of Safety: A safety and solution oriented approach to child protection casework*. NY: WW Norton; Parker, S. (2010). *Family Safety Circles: Identifying people for their safety network*. Perth, Australia: Aspirations Consultancy.

<sup>3</sup> Children's Research Center. (2008). *Structured Decision Making: An evidence-based practice approach to human services*. Madison: Author.

<sup>4</sup> Weld, N. (2008). The three houses tool: building safety and positive change. In M. Calder (Ed.) *Contemporary risk assessment in safeguarding children*. Lyme Regis: Russell House Publishing.

<sup>5</sup> Lohrbach, S. (2008). Group supervision in child protection practice. *Social Work Now*, 40, pp. 19-24.

<sup>6</sup> Cooperrider, D. L. (1990). Positive image, positive action: The affirmative basis of organizing. In S. Srivasta, D.L. Cooperrider and Associates (Eds.). *Appreciative management and leadership: The power of positive thought and action in organization*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.

<sup>7</sup> Miller, W.R. & Rollnick, S. (2012). *Motivational Interviewing*, (3<sup>rd</sup> Ed.). NY: Guilford Press.

<sup>8</sup> Lohrbach, S. (1999). *Child Protection Practice Framework - Consultation and Information Sharing*. Unpublished manuscript; Lohrbach, S. & Sawyer, R. (2003). Family Group Decision Making: a process reflecting partnership based practice. *Protecting Children*. 19(2):12-15.