

FOSTER PARENT NEWS

DCS TRAINING NEWSLETTER

DCS Newsletter Color Code

- DCS Opportunities of Training Credit
- 3rd Party Opportunities for Training Credit
- Resources / Entertainment / Information



[CLICK HERE TO TAKE OUR CONFERENCE SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE](#)

THANK YOU TO BOTH PARTICIPANTS AND STAFF FOR MAKING THIS YEAR GREAT!

[CLICK HERE](#) **Online Trainings**

[CLICK HERE](#) **Foster Parent Training Resources**

[CLICK HERE](#) **CALENDAR OF LIVE TRAININGS**

TBRI is in TN!

Click [HERE](#) to learn more about the TBRI, Trust-Based Relational Intervention, Program by the Karyn Purvis Institute for Child Development.

In partnership with Safe and Secure Tennessee, and the Memphis Family Connection Center, DCS is excited to implement this program within the DCS system.

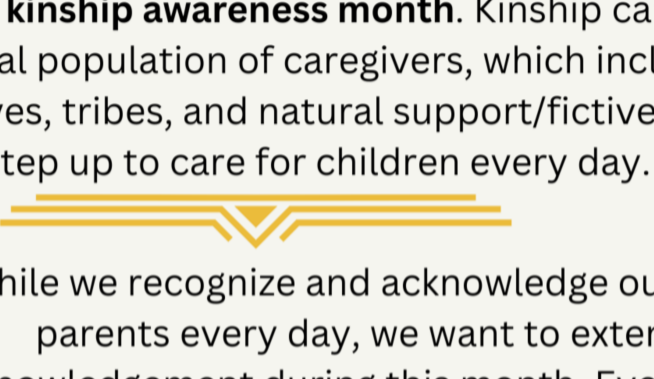
Safe & Secure Tennessee

memphis family connection center

The Introductory Training for Foster Parents will be Sat, **October 22, 9am - 11am CST**

Click [HERE](#) to Register

Thank you to Show Hope and Safe and Secure TN for providing scholarships to DCS staff to become TBRI Practitioners.



NEW Foster Parent Support Program!

Department of Children's Services
Foster Parent Regional Training Contacts

REGIONAL FOSTER PARENT SUPPORT PROGRAM - OCTOBER MEETINGS: WHY OUR KIDS BEHAVE THE WAY THEY DO (AND WHAT WE CAN DO ABOUT IT)

- Middle Grand Region** Tues., October 4, 5:30pm - 7:30pm CST [REGISTER NOW >](#)
- East Grand Region** Tue, October 25, 4:30pm - 6:30pm CST [REGISTER NOW >](#)
- West Grand Region** Thu, October 27, 5:30pm - 7:30pm CST [REGISTER NOW >](#)

For more information on this opportunity, please click [HERE](#).

The National Foster Parent Association designates **September as kinship awareness month.** Kinship care describes a special population of caregivers, which includes biological relatives, tribes, and natural support/fictive kin, all of whom step up to care for children every day.

While we recognize and acknowledge our kinship foster parents every day, we want to extend a special acknowledgement during this month. Every one of you are invaluable partners and agents of change in child welfare. The work you do deserves recognition daily because we cannot do this work without each and every one of you! The commitment you make daily impacts some of the most vulnerable children in Tennessee.

Be on the lookout for our **SEVEN Golden Quotes of Thanks** to our Kinship Families in this newsletter

EPSD&T
Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment

Program of checkups and health care services for children from birth until age 21 to detect and treat health problems.

EPSD&T's are covered by Blue Care Tennessee and is called Select Kids

Click [HERE](#) to visit the BlueCross BlueShield website regarding EPD&T

EPSD&T checkups are FREE for all children who have TennCare.

[LEARN MORE](#)

FOSTER PARENTS CAN CONNECT WITH THE SELECTKIDS TEAM AT BLUECROSS BLUESHIELD

MON-FRI: 7:00AM - 5:00PM CST

PHONE: 1-888-422-2963

E-MAIL: SELECTKIDS_QM@BCBST.COM

As the training officer for statewide kinship families, I thank you for opening your homes, your hearts, and your lives to care for TN's vulnerable children. Each of you carry unique skills and traits; but, you also share together as kinship champions of child welfare. We know the journey isn't always easy, but it is always made better by you. As I tell you in training, in those hardest moments, remember the why and remember the difference you make simply by saying "yes" every day to keep persevering.

Our regional kinship coordinators join me in honoring you in their own words below; carry these with you and reflect upon them when the journey grows weary.

With Genuine Gratitude,
Felicia Lazarus, Training Officer 1

TN-KEY FOSTER PARENT CO-TRAINERS NEEDED!

For more info and to view the criteria, click [HERE](#)

To apply, click [HERE](#)

DCS Foster Parent Training Team would like to spotlight an amazing individual who has assisted with fostering and recruiting for over 30 years.

Peggy Carroll is a Foster Parent Advocate in the TN Valley region. She was an active foster parent for over 24 years across the state who personally worked with those children, she adopted 2 herself and found adoptive homes for countless others.

Mrs. Carroll is the vice president of the McMinn Co. foster care association, nursery Sunday school teacher for her church, and a major funds raiser for places like Isaiah House.

"As an advocate, she is kind, patient, understanding and compassionate. I can always count on her to help in times of vacancies or if other advocates need help."

- Jennifer McGhee Program Director, Foster Parent Advocacy & Mentorship

VIDEO Of the Month

Click [HERE](#)

What is Self-Regulation?

What is Self Regulation?

TikTok Of the Month

Click [HERE](#)

heartmindednomads

Be the One: Talk, Listen, Connect

Suicide Awareness & Prevention Webinar

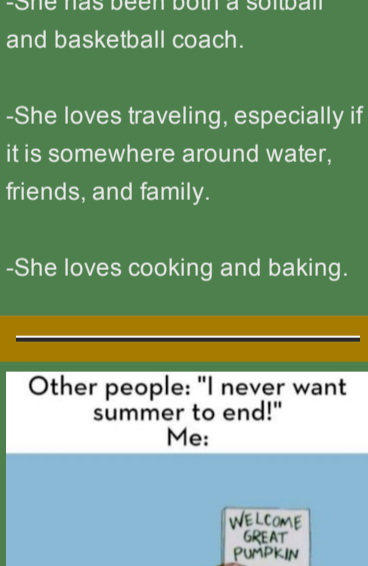
September 1 @ 1:00-3:00pm CST

September 27 @ 1:00-3:00pm CST

*2hr Training Credit

Click [HERE](#) for Details and Registration

Get to Know the Training Team!



Tracy has been with the state for 21 years and has been involved in many initiatives through the years including COA, Sim Labs, QSR, and CFSR.

Tracy has been with the training division for 13 years with the majority of that working with DCS staff and supervisors. She currently manages Foster Parent training for the eastern half of the state and Kinship Foster Parent training for the entire state. In addition, she manages the Medical Resources and Information courses and CPR/FA compliance and waiver requests for the state.

Prior to training, she worked primarily in CPS both as a case manager and a supervisor. She also has experience in FPS, FCIP, FSS, and Foster Care supervision.

Tracy teaches Child Welfare I and II at the University of Tennessee and has been teaching at the collegiate level for 12 years.

If you REALLY knew Tracy, you would know that:

- She LOVES sports and is a lifelong UT fan.
- She has been both a softball and basketball coach.
- She loves traveling, especially if it is somewhere around water, friends, and family.
- She loves cooking and baking.

Other people: "I never want summer to end!"

Me:

WELCOME BACK TO FALL!

WHEN YOU GET TO A PLACE WHERE YOU UNDERSTAND THAT LOVE AND BELONGING (YOUR WORTHINESS) IS A BIRTHRIGHT AND NOT SOMETHING YOU HAVE TO EARN. ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE.

- BRENE BROWN

In the midst of confusion, fear, anger, or stress, you are a light for someone you are someone that cares for them. Someone that they know. Someone they can trust. Someone that can provide safety amid the storm. As a kinship foster parent, you provide that shelter. We thank you for stepping up and changing the dynamics of your home and family to be that shelter.

-Bryan Clark NE KC

3.5 hr Training Credit

Communicating for Conflict Resolution

September 19 8:30-12:00pm CST

[REGISTER NOW >](#)

Reaction Awareness

9/27 @ 8:30am-12:00pm CST

How to Show Up During Conflict

*3.5hr Training Credit

[REGISTER NOW >](#)

I have been the Kinship Care Coordinator for the Knox Region for nearly 10 years, working with Kinship Foster Families accepting placement of children from the Knox Region. These families are often undergoing unplanned lifestyle changes while meeting the Department's requirements to become fully approved foster homes. Grandparents, great aunts and uncles, aunts and uncles, mothers, sisters, pastors, friends' parents, teachers, and neighbors have all reformatted their homes and routines to make space for children who would otherwise be left to the care of strangers. I cannot thank them enough.

Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Being known and having people with whom you belong can be some of the most important building blocks to life-long success for children in foster care. Familiar smells, rituals and sayings all make a place feel like home when your home of origin is virtually laying in shambles. So many changes have been made in the last decade to support the needs of Kinship Families. Our Kinship Foster Parents rise to the challenge and share trauma competence with their support systems, at large. We have come a long way, and yet we are far from arriving. Thank you for joining us in the journey.

-Joy Bice Knox KC

October Calendar

Click the links below to register

- 9/26 - Lunch and Learn: Head Trauma
- 9/27 - What Foster Parents Need to Know - Human Trafficking in TN
- 10/4 - Middle Grand Region Foster Parent Support Program
- 10/6 - Loving and Letting Go
- 10/8 - Trauma Informed Parenting Strategies (T.I.P.S.)
- 10/10 - Medical Resources and Information (M.R.I.) Refresher
- 10/13 - Supporting Children During Holidays and Special Events
- 10/17 - Engaging and Parenting Teens
- 10/20 - Helping Children Make Transitions
- 10/22 - Introduction to TBRI for Parents
- 10/25 - East Grand Region Foster Parent Support Program
- 10/25 - Creating Normalcy Through Prudent Parenting
- 10/25 - Internet Safety
- 10/27 - CFM for Foster Parents
- 10/27 - West Grand Regional Foster Parent Support Program
- 11/1 - Creating Teachable Moments

Upcoming Fall Classes

November 11 from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm CST

1 hour Training Credit

Making the Holidays Happier

Webinar Announcement

The Upper Cumberland region would like to recognize our many Kinship Foster Parents for the wonderful work you are doing. Kinship Caregivers serve such a special role across the state of Tennessee. As a Kinship Foster Parent, you step in to provide care for vulnerable children when they most need it. We might have called you or knocked on your door during the day or in the middle of the night, and you answered. Then you allow us, often on very short notice, to assess your home and family. You make changes to your home to ensure that the children placed with you will be safe and protected.

You make changes in your own lives to ensure that the children are provided for first. You've opened your home to children you know so they can stay within their family, community, school, or church. You follow through on all the many things that we ask of you and still put the children you are caring for above everything else. You give so much and ask for little in return because you are doing this for the children you care so much about. We could not do this without you, and we Thank and Appreciate You!

-Michael Wilson Upper Cumberland KC

Parent the Identified Child

5 TIPS FOR PARENTING A CHILD WITH ADHD

December 6, 5:30 to 6:30 PM CT

1 hour Training Credit

Maintaining Balance in Life

Webinar Announcement

COPING WITH CHILD WITHDRAWS OR RUN AWAYS

***1 hr Training Credit**

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13 11:00AM-12:00PM CST

Child Welfare Community Lunch and Learn Series: Tennessee Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program

PAIRING CONSEQUENCES WITH DISCIPLINE FOR CHILDREN WITH TRAUMA

NAMI Basics

Statewide Zoom Class

The fundamentals of caring for you, your family, and your child with mental illness.

Classes Forming Now - Limited Space Available

Dates: Saturdays: 10/22, 10/29, and 11/5

Time: 9:00am - 2:30pm CST

*Up to 15-hours of trauma/therapeutic training credit

Click [HERE](#) for more details!

HELPFUL LINKS

- Foster Parent Training
- Training Calendar
- Online Training
- Self-Care
- DCS Talks Podcast
- Child Welfare Resources
- Regional Training Contact
- DCS Listens Registration
- Birth Children Resources
- Unsung Hero of the Month

TRAUMA-RESPONSIVE PARENTING STRATEGIES FOR PARENTS AND PROFESSIONALS

NOVEMBER 9, 2022

Virtual Conference from 10:30 am to 4:30 pm CST

*Approved for trauma and therapeutic training credit

\$50.00 Registration

Thank you for the enormous job you have taken on in caring for a child in need. It is not easy to be a kinship parent. The rush to get your home in compliance with DCS policy for the child to be placed. The rush to gather documents, rearrange your home, get fingerprinted, attend court, appointments, CFM's and Court. We know it is not easy to get through the process of becoming fully approved, especially while caring for the child; but you do it anyway. Your time and dedication to the child placed in your home does not go unnoticed. You are changing a life, one day at a time. We appreciate you and are here to support you along the way.

- Karen Brown Smoky KC

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