

Raymond A. Kent School of Social Work, University of Louisville
The Prevention of Child Maltreatment through Child Welfare Training
on Healthy Marriage and Family Formation

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BACKGROUND: This 5-year (2003-2008), DHHS, ACF, Children's Bureau funded project allows Kentucky to be one of only five states currently to make training on healthy marriage and family formation available to its protection and permanency workforce. The goals of this project are to develop a competency-based training curriculum on healthy marriage and family formation specific to child welfare, and through the training of this curriculum to enhance CHFS' workforce's capacity to provide healthy marriage and family formation services.

METHODOLOGY:

- This project will provide competency-based training for 50 child welfare teams (supervisors and workers), managers, and representatives of faith-based organizations.
- This training will be evaluated through four research studies: training evaluation surveys, intervention fidelity check, client functioning assessment, and statewide client outcome data.
- Following the completion of this training and evaluation, the training program will continue through Kent School of Social Work's Credit for Learning Program.

KEY FINDINGS:

- Year 1 of project has been completed and the curriculum has been developed. The curriculum consists of 6 modules: Elements of healthy couple relationships, issues of couples in transition (divorce/separation), dealing with domestic violence, providing foster, kinship, adoption care, parenting, and engaging community partners around couple issues.
- A pilot training has been conducted with 23 child welfare supervisors and workers from the Lake Cumberland region.
- Preliminary evaluation results from the pilot training indicate worker satisfaction with the training and its content as well as increase in knowledge about couple issues by caseworkers and supervisors participating in the training.

USEFULNESS TO CABINET: The anticipated benefits of this project to the Cabinet include the development of a healthy marriage and family formation curriculum specific to child welfare, development of an integrated training plan and training reinforcement tools, increase in knowledge and skills of child welfare workers, engagement of community partners, and the prevention of child maltreatment through the strengthening of marriages and families.