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**SEXUAL ABUSE  
INTERVENTION  
COURSE AND CONTENT**

**Providing the Right Training  
for the Right People  
at the Right Time**

**Ohio Child Welfare Training Program**

**The Sexual Abuse Intervention Series**

is designed to:

- Help caseworkers and supervisors learn about new literature and research on child sexual abuse. The field is changing rapidly and staff who work for protective services must stay current in order to protect children and strengthen families.
- Provide caseworkers and supervisors with concrete information about the differences between sexual abuse and other forms of child abuse and neglect. Because of these differences, child protective services must approach and handle sexual abuse cases differently than other cases.
- Provide specialized knowledge about sexual abuse in six areas of necessary proficiency: current, foundational understanding of the field; child sexual development; investigation skills; working with juveniles who have sexually abused others; decisions about reunification and case closure; and empowering foster and adoptive parents to help children who have been sexually abused.
- Prepare staff to work with children who have been sexually abused. Child sexual abuse can be traumatic for many children. The knowledge and skills to help children who have been victimized may help prevent the trauma from continuing into adulthood.

*The OCWTP Sexual Abuse Intervention Series provides workshops to help caseworkers develop the knowledge and skills necessary for providing investigative, ongoing family services, and placement services to children who have been sexually abused and their families. Completing the “Overview of Child Sexual Abuse Workshop” is required before attending the other workshops in the series. Workers may then attend any or all of the workshops that meet their training needs. The series also includes a workshop for supervisors.*

## Workshop Descriptions

### **203-CSA1-S: Overview of Child Sexual Abuse**

#### **12 hours**

This workshop provides an important foundation to all caseworkers who handle child sexual abuse cases. The field of child sexual abuse is changing rapidly. This workshop is designed to provide caseworkers with the latest content information about child sexual abuse and caseworker practice including: definitions; victim, offender, and non-offending parent dynamics; the role of the caseworker and others in case investigation and planning; the importance of collaboration in sexual abuse cases; and how emotional responses and values can help or hurt their work.

**This workshop is a prerequisite for sexual abuse workshops in the series.**

### **203-CSA2-S: Sexuality of Children: Healthy Sexual Behaviors and Behaviors that Cause Concern**

#### **6 hours**

To recognize and address problematic sexual behavior in children, caseworkers must first know what is considered to be normal and healthy at various stages of development. In this workshop, participants will learn normal development of children’s sexual knowledge and behavior. They will also learn how sexual abuse can affect sexual development and how to distinguish normal sexual exploration behaviors from sexual behaviors that cause concern. Finally, caseworkers will explore practical information and interventions to help manage common behaviors that may be exhibited by children who have been sexually abused or exposed to a highly sexualized environment.

**Prerequisite: 203-CSA1-S: Overview of Child Sexual Abuse**

### **203-CSA3-S: Investigating Child Sexual Abuse Cases**

#### **12 hours**

This training identifies and discusses factors that should be considered when conducting a quality driven and competent investigation of a sexual abuse case. Caseworkers will learn the structure of an interview with an alleged child victim, the non-offending parent and the alleged perpetrator, as well as the necessary components of these investigations. Emphasis will be placed on completing a total investigation, while promoting the decision-making skills necessary in order for a caseworker to make a fair and accurate disposition when investigating complicated cases of child sexual abuse.

**Prerequisite: 203-CSA1-S: Overview of Child Sexual Abuse**

### **203-CSA4-S: Adolescents with Illegal Sexual Behavior**

#### **12 hours**

Caseworkers are seeing an increase in the number of children and teens who perpetrate sex crimes against other youth. This workshop will help caseworkers assess sexual behavior and risk; identify and work with parents and out-of-home caregivers; understand the dynamics and issues involved in working with this population and their victims; recognize and obtain offense specific assessments; and develop case plans.

**Prerequisite: 203-CSA1-S: Overview of Child Sexual Abuse**

### **203-CSA5-S: Empowering Foster and Adoptive Parents to Parent Children who have been Sexually Abused**

#### **12 hours**

Caseworkers who must place children who have been sexually abused in foster, adoptive or kinship homes have a difficult time finding parents who can handle the challenge. The child who has been sexually abused may have especially upsetting behaviors that can disrupt a placement. This workshop will help the worker empower caregivers to handle the unique challenges of caring for a child or teen who has been sexually abused. Components of the workshop include: skills and qualities that successful caregivers share; strategies for handling behavior problems; providing support to caregivers when a crisis unfolds; and third party investigations.

**Prerequisite: 203-CSA1-S: Overview of Child Sexual Abuse**

### **203-CSA6-S: Family Reunification and Case Closure in Child Sexual Abuse**

#### **6 hours**

This workshop prepares workers to make two of the most important decisions in a sexual abuse case: if and when to reunify a family after sexual abuse and when to close a sexual abuse

case. The research tells us that many sex offenders, without adequate treatment, struggle to control their behavior and that they have an almost compulsive need to sexually offend. This makes case closure and reunification very complicated. This workshop includes information caseworkers need in order to protect children from re-abuse such as: how to develop and implement a safety plan; mental health milestones that must be achieved before attempting reunification or case closure; and the process for carefully managing the closing of a case or a family's reunification.

**Prerequisite: 203-CSA1-S: Overview of Child Sexual Abuse**

### **522-1-S: Supervisory Issues in Child Sexual Abuse**

#### **5 days**

The field of child sexual abuse is changing rapidly. This workshop is designed to provide supervisors and administrators with the latest content information about child sexual abuse and caseworker practice, while at the same time helping supervisors enhance their supervisory skills. Sexual abuse content areas include: investigating sexual abuse cases, juveniles who sexually abused others, case closure and family reunification, therapeutic issues, family assessment and empowering foster/adoptive caregivers in child sexual abuse cases. In addition, the training will examine supervisory and administrative issues and "transfer of learning." This training is a total of five days and should be scheduled in two-day/three-day blocks or three-day/two-day blocks, with up to six weeks in between the blocks.