

Competencies Addressed

- 204-01-016 Knows how to adjust one's own communication strategies to conform to family members' cultural, personal, and interpersonal styles.
- 207-01-013 Knows how to help families strengthen their capacity by mobilizing and enlisting assistance from the resources available to them.
- 210-01-006 Understands the importance of biological fathers in children's lives and of involving fathers and their families as potential permanency resources for children.
- 210-02-014 Knows strategies to approach, engage, and educate previously absent or non-involved family members.
- 210-02-015 Knows how to implement case mining strategies to identify potential permanency resources for children.

Training authored by the Director of the
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For More Information, Contact

Ohio Child Welfare Training Program Regional Training Centers

Central Ohio Regional Training Center
Franklin County Children Services
614-278-5910

East Central Ohio Regional Training Center
Guernsey County Children Services Board
740-432-2355

North Central Ohio Regional Training Center
*Cuyahoga County Department of Children and
Family Services*
216-881-2027

Northwest Ohio Regional Training Center
Lucas County Children Services
419-213-3506

Northeast Ohio Regional Training Center
Summit County Children Services
330-379-2003

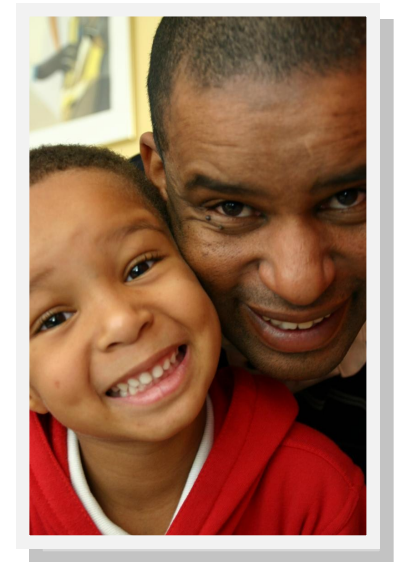
Southeast Ohio Regional Training Center
Athens County Children Services Board
740-592-9082

Southwest Ohio Regional Training Center
*Butler County Department of Job and Family
Services*
513-248-1936

Western Ohio Regional Training Center
Greene County Children Services Board
937-427-4540



Overview of Fatherhood: Empowering Fathers to Improve Their Child's Life



A Six-Hour Training
Offered by the
Ohio Child Welfare Training
Program for PCSA
Caseworkers and Supervisors

Why This Training is Important to Child Welfare: What the Research Says

For many years, fathers in the child welfare system have largely been ignored. Several reasons for this include difficulty in locating fathers, case-workers' bias against fathers, mothers' reluctance to cooperate in identifying fathers, and the belief that involving fathers was **not** important to the child welfare case.

However, research according to the National Fatherhood Initiative has shown that a father's involvement in his children's lives is vital. Children whose fathers are **not** involved are more likely to:

- Demonstrate increased violence
- Abuse alcohol & drugs
- Have poor school performance
- Be involved in the criminal justice system (boys)
- Experience higher rates of depression

Research (Pruett, 2000) has also shown that fathers who **are** involved in their children's lives have children who tend to:

- Have higher educational outcomes
- Start school with higher academic readiness
- Handle stress and frustration more effectively
- Be more emotionally secure
- Have better social connections with peers

Note: This training can be found in E-Track under the code 210-23-ODJFS-I-S

Why This Training is Important to Child Welfare: Best Practice

In 2009, Ohio's Federal Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) found that Ohio continues to lack consistency in engaging fathers, assessing and meeting the service needs of parents (particularly fathers), and involving families (particular fathers) in case planning. As a result, the training *Overview of Fatherhood: Empowering Fathers to Improve Their Child's Life* was developed to make caseworkers and supervisors aware of the importance of fathers.

Furthermore, according to OAC § 5101:2-42-05 (effective December 19, 2008), "...unless it is not in the child's best interest, the PCSA or PCPA shall explore placement with a non-custodial parent **before** considering other relatives."

Training Overview

This training will discuss the definition of fathers, the importance of father involvement, and the price of not involving fathers. It will also provide information on various mechanisms and resources for locating fathers, since looking through the Yellow Pages is not enough anymore. It will identify both barriers to and tips for engagement. Finally, it will present fatherhood initiatives at the federal, state, and local levels that can be used as valuable resources for working with fathers in child welfare.

Training Objectives

- To review how the child benefits by being connected to a father, as well as detriments related to not being connected.
- To identify cultural roles and definitions of fathers
- To consider fathers in different situations, including in child welfare
- To learn the needs of fathers in child welfare.
- To understand the role of fatherhood practitioner groups
- To explore how to locate fathers and other kin as a permanent connection.

