

OACAA Briefing

June 2012



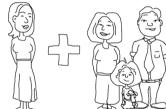
OCATO Spotlight

OCATO Provides Family Development Specialist Training

The Ohio Community Action Training Organization provides Family Development Specialist Training that not only provides valuable information and techniques for intake workers and case managers, but offers 25 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for licensed social workers.

Family Development is an intensive case management program that establishes a framework to work holistically with those seeking comprehensive services at Community Action Agencies. Family Development encourages work with the entire family with the end result of leading them towards self-sufficiency. The three day training that certifies attendees provides tools and techniques to go beyond just providing stabilizing services, to provide a holistic approach to breaking the cycle of poverty.

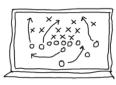
The curriculum for this course was developed by the University of Washington in conjunction with the Community Action Association of Washington State. The training covers five areas:



1. Joining – Through regular personal visits in family homes or other safe meeting places, the Family Development Specialist joins in a long-term partnership with each family member. This part of the training covers interviewing and dialogue skills, building relationships and cultural competency.



2. Assessment – By utilizing a variety of assessment tools, the Family Development Specialist meets with each family to identify barriers to self-sufficiency. The training covers assessing family strengths, patterns and trends, challenges and resources.



3. Planning – The Family Development Specialist supports the family to actively move toward the family's vision of self-sufficiency through the setting and achieving of short-term and long-term goals. The training covers creating well-formed, realistic and achievable goals, and creating plans to reach a family's vision towards self-sufficiency.



4. Support – Ongoing emotional support is the core empowerment technique made possible by the Family Development Specialist, family and community partnership. The training covers evaluating barriers that may prevent families from moving forward.



5. Linking – Throughout the process, each family is linked to the wider community for basic living resources, physical and emotional health resources, socialization opportunities that break isolation patterns, and new family support systems. The training covers connecting families to community partners by providing effective referrals while continuing to support the family.

Regardless of your program area that your intake staff specializes in (i.e. Employment, Housing, Family Support, etc.), Family Development will be a valuable addition to your staff's skill sets, providing hands-on tools to work with

OCATO Spotlight

families across all spectrums. Successful completion of the course certifies participants as a Family Development Specialist for one year and they may be recertified by completing a recertification process yearly.

While most of OCATO's training programs are offered free to members, there is a discounted fee for Family Development Specialist Training (usually \$500 - \$575), but two classes are being offered this July at the special discounted rate of \$250. There will be a class held in Columbus July 18-20 and one in Cleveland July 23-25. To register for one of these classes, contact Lorie McClain at (614) 224-8500 or lorie@oacaa.org.