

## Attachment Issues in Foster Care

- **Outline of Training:**
  - This 6 hour training focuses on the wide range of Attachment Issues that arise for our Youth and caregivers within the Child Welfare System
  - This course focuses on the issues of:
    - i. Social, emotional and behavioral development for children and the impact on attachment to caregivers
    - ii. Brain / neuro-development as well as the impact of trauma / abuse / neglect on the attachment process;
    - iii. Relationship and clinical interventions / strategies, DSM-IV TR diagnostic criteria
  - This course includes a blending of interactive and didactic training. Training modalities for this course will include: a didactic, PowerPoint format presentation, integration of short video clips, small and large group discussions as well as individual and small group exercises.
- **Target Audience:** Foster, relative and adoptive caregivers; Group home, mental health, child welfare, and education agency staff / providers.
- **Outcome Objectives for Participants:**
  - Participants will identify the critical importance that a healthy attachment serves in the lives of all children, particularly youth in foster care.
  - Participants will understand the connection between cognitive, emotional and behavioral symptoms of attachment challenges exhibited by youth in foster care.
  - Participants will learn the relationship between grief and loss, identity formation, relationship building and resiliency as it relates to attachment work with youth in foster care.
  - Participants will review relevant research, DSM-IV diagnostic criteria, evidence based treatment, multi-disciplinary treatment interventions and outcomes data related to attachment
  - Participants will discuss the practical applications of these principles into their work with youth and families that are dealing with attachment issues.
- **Ways that Supervisors (when applicable) can support the Transfer of Learning from the classroom to the work with Youth in foster care:**
  - **Before the training:** The supervisor can meet with the caregiver to review the executive summary, identify an objective to focus on with the caregiver, identify 1-2 children / youth that are intensely dealing with attachment issues for the caregiver to effectively work with in their home.
  - **After the training:** The supervisor can meet with the caregiver and ask to review the course material to collaborate in developing an action plan for working with their identified youth(s) and discuss further training that could support this caregiver's continued professional growth.