

WORKSHOP DIRECTORY PAGE

TITLE: Foundations of Independent Living: An Overview

COMP.#: 202-7, 202-8, 202-9, 202-10, 202-11

NO. HRS: 6

DATE: February 2009

COMPETENCY:

- 202-7:** The Child Welfare Professional is able to assess the adolescent's level of ability in critical skills needed for independent living, including problems that may interfere with successful emancipation, and can plan and provide services to prepare adolescents for independent living.
- 202-8:** The Independent Living (IL) Professional understands the history, philosophy, and goals of Pennsylvania's Independent Living Program and the concept of diverse county-based models for provision of Independent Living services.
- 202-9:** The Independent Living (IL) Professional understands Independent Living Program eligibility requirements and the continuum of services that are built upon four major components: education, employment, housing and life skills.
- 202-10:** The Independent Living (IL) Professional understands the process of conducting initial and ongoing assessments of the education, employment, housing and life skill needs of youth. The worker is able to use the assessment process to develop and monitor individualized Independent Living Program plans for youth.
- 202-11:** The Independent Living (IL) Professional understands his/her role in providing a spectrum of training, support, and referral services for youth. The worker is able to secure supplemental services by developing and maintaining collaborative relationships with substitute caregivers, children and youth staff, private provider agencies, school personnel, human service agencies and community members.

WORKSHOP DIRECTORY PAGE (continued)

LEARNING OBJECTIVES: Participants will be able to:

- Describe the social issues of unprepared youth and young adults exiting care.
- Describe the history, philosophy, legislation, and goals of the Pennsylvania Independent Living Program.
- Recognize the importance of permanent connections for youth within the community.
- Identify available resources to promote permanency for youth.
- Describe the roles of collaborative partners that aid in empowering youth.

CALENDAR SUMMARY: Child Welfare Professionals and Independent Living Professionals are serving more and more adolescents who are exiting the substitute care system because they reach age 18. In many instances these youth are expected to support themselves. However, in reality, they are finding it difficult to transition into adulthood because they lack the skills and services necessary to succeed, resulting in high rates of homelessness, poverty, delinquent and criminal behavior, or abuse. This workshop offers information to deepen the workers' knowledge of issues affecting adolescents exiting care, resources available to promote permanency, the continuum of Independent Living services, proper case planning, and required documentation.

Target Audience:

This curriculum is appropriate for anyone who would like a basic understanding of Independent Living and transition work with youth who are leaving a child welfare placement or who have recently transitioned from placement. Those new to the field of Independent Living and transition work and their partners in on-going casework, foster care, juvenile probation and the courts will find this training particularly helpful as will foster parents and those who work in placement settings, schools and community agencies.

Expectations of the Trainer:

The trainer should be a learning resource for the participants and a facilitator of knowledge. The trainer should be knowledgeable about a wide variety of topics concerning Independent Living. These topics include, but are not limited to: social issues of youth, components of the Pennsylvania Independent Living Program, permanent connections, available resources, the continuum of services, case planning, and required documentation.

WORKSHOP DIRECTORY PAGE (continued)

Materials Needed to Present Workshop:

- ✓ Curriculum with Overhead transparencies
- ✓ Handouts
- ✓ Resource Guide
- ✓ Appendices (one copy for trainer)
- ✓ Overhead projector and screen
- ✓ Folders
- ✓ Colored markers
- ✓ Easel stands – Two
- ✓ Two blank easel pads (flip chart paper)
- ✓ Post-it note pads
- ✓ 3x5 index cards
- ✓ Paper strips
- ✓ Blindfold
- ✓ Masking Tape
- ✓ Barrier Signs
- ✓ Wads of Paper
- ✓ Evaluation forms
- ✓ Trainer Prepared Flipcharts- “I Wonder”, “Parking Lot”, “What’s in it for me”, “Education”, “Employment”, “Housing”, “Life Skills”, “Prevention/Wellness” and “Support”

Curriculum Handouts:

- 1. Name Tent (1 page)**
- 2. Idea Catcher (1 page)**
- 3. Agenda – Day #1 (1 Page)**
- 4. Overall Learning Objectives (1 Page)**
- 5. Business Cards (1 Page)**
- 6. Rationale (1 Page)**
- 7. Common Acronyms in Transition and Independent Living (2 pages)**
- 8: 202: Foundations of Independent Living: An Overview Bibliography (1 page)**
- 9. Resource Guide (30 pages)**

WORKSHOP DIRECTORY PAGE (continued)

Curriculum Overheads:

- 1. Agenda – (1 page)**
- 2. Overall Learning Objectives – (1 page)**
- 3. Six Service Areas of PA Independent Living Program (1 Page)**
- 4. The Purpose of PA Independent Living Program (1 Page)**
- 5. Timeline of Services (1 Page)**
- 6. Four PA IL Program Designs(1 Page)**
- 7. Legislation (1 Page)**
- 8. Statistics of Permanent Connections (1 Page)**
- 9. Definition of Permanent Connections (1 Page)**
- 10. Importance of Permanent Connections (1 Page)**
- 11. Definition of Collaborative Partners (1 Page)**
- 12. Definition of Empowering Youth (1 Page)**
- 13. Role of IL Worker – Needs Assessor/Advisor (1 Page)**
- 14. Role of IL Worker – Life Skills Trainer/Teacher/Role Model (1 Page)**
- 15. Role of IL Worker – Supportive Services/Counselor (1 Page)**
- 16. Role of IL Worker – Community Service/Organizer/Advocate (1 Page)**
- 17. Role of IL Worker – Case Manager/Record Keeper (1 Page)**
- 18. Role of IL Worker – Team Facilitator/Coordinator (1 Page)**

Curriculum Appendices: (One copy for Trainer)

- 1. Answer Key-Fact/Myth (1page)**
- 2. Review Bingo (20 pages)**
- 3. Answer Key-Review Bingo (2 pages)**

CREDIT ASSIGNED:

CWTP Credit 6 hrs.

CE for LSW 6 hrs.