

PFSA Offers Train-the-Trainer for Mandated Reporters – March 8 -9, 2016 in Harrisburg, PA

The recent, significant changes to our Child Protective Services Law (CPSL) necessitate clarification in both policy and practice regarding Mandated Reporter Training. Pennsylvania Family Support Alliance (PFSA) realizes the immense responsibility organizations have to prepare staff to be knowledgeable, proficient, and confident in their roles as mandated reporters of child abuse. PFSA has more than 20 years' experience in training professionals on this subject and has trained thousands of mandated reporters across the state.

Many schools, service agencies and other organizations across the state have benefitted from utilizing PFSA's *"Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse"* Train-the-Trainer (TTT) Program. TTT helps organizations build and expand in-house expertise and capabilities to offer Mandated Reporter Training. The organization chooses which staff will become their in-house resource; these professionals are called "organizational trainers." By designating a staff person as your organizational trainer, you give your staff the best possible training and ongoing support in their roles as mandated reporters.

PFSA is the only approved entity in Pennsylvania able to offer Train-the-Trainer (TTT). Our curriculum is approved for Act 48 credits and meets all requirements under both Act 126 (Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse requirement) and Act 31 for required training of mandated reporters.

It is strongly recommended that there be someone available within the organization who is well-versed in child abuse and neglect and the Child Protective Service Law and is able to answer questions and provide technical assistance to your staff. Designating someone in your organization as the on-site "training expert" will enhance and benefit your organization as you refine your child safety policy/procedures. After participating in the TTT Program, trainers will have knowledge, experience, access to materials, PFSA's support, resources and updates to regulations to train your staff and volunteers to keep everyone up-to-date on meeting requirements.

What does an organizational trainer do?

The organizational trainer teaches PFSA's *"Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse"* course content to his/her colleagues within their organization. The trainer helps participants complete the activities and answers questions, especially regarding specific situations that come up within their organization. Staff with experience working with the child welfare system and who possess a high comfort level training colleagues makes excellent candidates for TTT.

How does PFSA prepare organizational trainers for this important role?

Our TTT session is two full days of instruction, practice sessions and review of our comprehensive Trainer's Guide. TTT is taught by our corps of master trainers, professionals with decades of experience who have been providing PFSA's training in the field. The Trainer's Guide, included in the TTT session, is an organizational tool for arranging facilities, people, time, and materials for training. It also presents information to improve general training skills. During the TTT,

participants will learn how to use the guide when facilitating organizational trainings. After participating in the TTT Program, trainers will have knowledge and experience to keep everyone up-to-date on mandated reporter requirements.

What does an organization with staff approved to train PFSA's curriculum receive?

- Two full days of training by PFSA's expert child welfare trainers.
- An assurance that you will be using PFSA's acclaimed curriculum, Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse which is approved by Departments of Human Services, Education and State.
- Ongoing technical assistance related to adult learning principles and policy and practice clarification from PFSA's expert child welfare staff and trainers.
- Routine educational opportunities related to best practices on a range of topics related to training mandated reporters.
- PFSA staff will upload information for CE's to Department of State for all licensed professionals trained by an approved trainer.
 - 5 FREE online, on demand training sessions

What happens after the TTT session?

If you've ever had the experience of attending training, but not having support to actually use the training when it's needed on the job, you understand the importance of ongoing technical assistance. PFSA views the TTT session as just the beginning of equipping mandated reporters with the skills they need to protect kids. In addition to the comprehensive training session and guide, we provide free update trainings whenever there are amendments to the CPSL, ongoing technical assistance regarding mandated reporting (when you call our toll-free number, you speak directly with our expert staff) and trainer development teleconferences to increase the skill and expertise of the organizational trainers.

How do we participate in PFSA's TTT program?

You can register online at http://www.pa-fsa.org/Calendar/view_645/detail/cid_645/570 or complete and submit the attached application, contract, and payment form. Your organization will enter into a three-year partnership with PFSA in order to insure continuity of training and availability of resources.

Attached you will find 4 informational documents:

- PFSA Cover letter TTT – provides an overview
- PFSA TTT Application Packet – to be completed when requesting a training session
- PFSA TTT Contract – detailed partnership agreement
- PFSA Payment Form – submit with completed application and contract

We look forward to the opportunity to partner with your organization!

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have ANY questions or concerns.