



CENTER FOR
EXCELLENCE
IN ADVOCACY

TRAINING CATALOGUE



A Skilled Advocate for Every Child

Please reach out to Meghan Johnson (mjohnson@sccalaw.org) or Allie Dolan (adolan@sccalaw.org) to schedule a training.

Whole-Child Representation

WHO WE ARE

The Support Center for Child Advocates has over 40 years of experience advocating for children who have experienced abuse and neglect.

Our Center for Excellence in Advocacy (CEA) builds on this expertise to develop and deliver multidisciplinary trainings to professionals who work with children and families.

WHAT WE DO

We provide high-quality professional development to equip lawyers, social workers, child welfare professionals, educators, and healthcare providers with the tools and information they need to advocate for children, youth, and families.



Child Advocates utilizes a whole-child representation model to support the zealous legal and social service advocacy and to address each child’s unique emotional, physical, educational, and behavioral health needs.

Our Mission

The Center for Excellence in Advocacy believes that every child deserves a strong advocate. Through education, professional development, and systemic advocacy, we work to improve the outcomes of children and families, especially those in involved in the child welfare system, by improving the practice of those who work with them.

Our Vision

A skilled advocate for every child

CONTENT

We offer training topics in the following categories:

- I. Evidence-Based Practices to Support Staff and Services
- II. Child Welfare and Child Advocacy
- III. Trauma and Resilience
- IV. Secondary Traumatic Stress and Wellness
- V. Educational Advocacy

We recognize the impact that racism and other forms of discrimination have on children and families, especially those involved with the child welfare and juvenile justice systems, and strive to include discussions related to race, power, and privilege into all training sessions. We also remain committed to our own learning and growth in this area.

EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICES TO SUPPORT YOUR CLIENTS AND YOUR STAFF

Motivational Interviewing

Motivational Interviewing (MI) is an evidence-based communication practice to support change. MI draws upon the values of partnership, compassion, acceptance, and engaging clients as experts in their own lives, and teaches participants concrete skills to support a method of communication that promotes change. Training in MI requires 6 training hours that can be split into a schedule convenient for your work setting

Learn more about MI here: <https://motivationalinterviewing.org/>

Wellness Recovery Action Plan

Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP) is an evidence-based tool that can help anyone manage life and work stressors more effectively. It helps individuals identify their personal wellness resources and create a plan to use them daily to manage their symptoms and achieve their goals. WRAP was developed by a group of people with lived experience of mental health challenges, led by Mary Ellen Copeland, PhD, in Vermont in 1997, and has created an evidence base as a peer-led tool to support wellness and increase resilience while facing life's adversities. WRAP can teach staff exposed to trauma through work coping skills and wellness tools and build community at your workplace. WRAP seminars are two-day events, and are recommended to be planned in advance to promote attendance at your agency.



Training Coordinator, Allie Dolan, MSS, LSW

CHILD WELFARE AND CHILD ADVOCACY

Overview of the Dependency System

This training provides an overview of Dependency Court for professionals working with or interacting with system-involved youth by discussing laws, protocols, key stages of a dependency case, and how to leverage the system to advocate for the child.

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Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse in Pennsylvania

This training defines child abuse under Pennsylvania Child Protective Services Law, identifies mandated reporter roles, and reviews responsibilities and requirements to report child abuse in Pennsylvania.

This training can be done as a general overview of the law or as a training that meets the Act 31 requirement for Mandated Reporters.

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Human Trafficking: Prevention, Assessment, Advocacy

This training identifies the warning signs of human trafficking and action steps when trafficking is suspected. Participants will gain strategies for both intervention and prevention to keep children safe from trafficking.

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Behavioral Health Advocacy

This training provides strategies for discussing behavioral health care with families, helping clients access appropriate behavioral health services, overcoming obstacles to treatment, and best practices when child clients are prescribed psychotropic medication.

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Advocacy for Children with Complex Medical Needs

This training provides strategies for professionals working with children with complex medical needs to ensure timely and appropriate medical care, communication between parties, and permanency for youth with chronic and complex medical needs.

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Consent for Treatment 101

Children in the child welfare need access to medical and mental health treatment, reproductive healthcare, and educational supports, but advocates helping them may run into issues with obtaining consent for treatment. Learn the laws and ethics guiding informed consent in medical, mental health, reproductive health, and education to help children access the treatment and supports they need.

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Role of the Child Advocate and Collaborating for Improved Outcomes

This training defines the role of the Child Advocate and discuss strategies for improved collaboration and communication, especially in preparation for court hearings and case planning.

KIDS AT COURT: TRAININGS TO IMPROVE THE COURT EXPERIENCE FOR YOUTH AND PROFESSIONALS

Going to Court: Preparing and Supporting the Child

Pennsylvania requires children to appear at court, and there are many benefits of kids attending court. This training will support professionals to best prepare children and older youth for the court experience, including testimony. Participants will gain strategies to plan with children and caregivers how to provide emotional support and process information before, during, and after court.

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Supporting the Client, Family and Self After Court

This interactive session will equip participants to anticipate and respond to both emotional needs and information processing after court to support and caregivers after court and will also provide them with strategies to address stress and fatigue after court.

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Going to Court: Best Practices for Testifying and Appearing at Court for Child Welfare Professionals

This training provides strategies for professionals preparing testimony and appearing at court, and outlines the roles and responsibilities outside of court.

*** This training is for professionals who may have to testify in Dependency Court*



Faculty for the 2024 Kids at Court Conference: Trauma Sensitive Strategies for Attorneys

TRAUMA-INFORMED ADVOCACY: SUPPORTING PROTECTIVE FACTORS FOR CHILDREN

Understanding trauma and protective factors in childhood includes a variety of building blocks. We can create a professional development plan to support your staff's needs with any of the topics below.

Introduction to Trauma and Trauma-Informed Practice

This training introduces the science of trauma and explains how trauma impacts communities, families, and individuals' health and functioning, and provides strategies for trauma-sensitive practice.

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Whole Child Advocacy: Connecting Children with Protective Factors after Trauma

Trauma can impact education, health, and behavioral health. This training builds on foundational information about trauma and provides a next step for trauma-informed advocates by exploring protective factors and how advocates can help people access services, resources, and supportive relationships to help them build resilience, health, and connection.

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Trauma and Resilience Across Child Development Stages

This training examines the unique stages of growing up and what advocates need to know about healthy childhood development, how trauma impacts development at each stage, and how to help children and caregivers access services, resources and opportunities to boost healthy development. Sessions can focus on the needs and development of **infants and toddlers**, **school-aged youth**, or **adolescents** or span infancy through young adulthood.

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Advanced Advocacy Skills for Working with Youth Impacted by Trauma

Trauma can impact education, health, and behavioral health. CEA offers trainings about how trauma impacts these domains and to teach advanced advocacy skills in these areas: **Educational Advocacy**, **Behavioral Health Advocacy**, and **Advocacy for Youth with Complex Medical Needs**.

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Navigating Emotional Conversations with Clients

Trauma-informed care often requires navigating emotional interactions with clients. This training will support participants' capacity to provide trauma-sensitive responses to common situations, including relaying difficult information, preparing for challenging conversations, and case closure or transition

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Let's Talk Boundaries: Trauma-Sensitive Boundary-Setting to Support Clients and Professionals

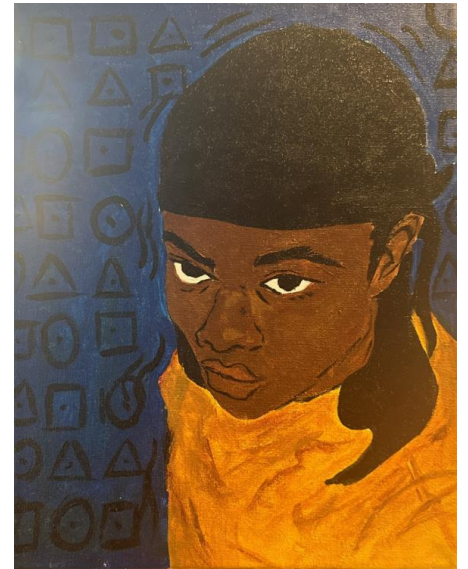
Supporting healthy boundaries is an integral aspect of trauma-informed care. Participants will discuss boundary-setting in child-focused practice and have the opportunity to reflect on their own boundaries, as well as the influence of culture, bias, power, trauma and positionality in boundary-setting. Presenters will provide strategies to communicate about boundaries with children and caregivers, and will discuss developing boundaries about role, work-life balance, availability, home visits, and emotional responses to representing children.

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Assessment, Treatment, and Management of Suicide Risk

This training identifies key vocabulary and statistics, as well as myths and facts about suicide. Provides risk factors, warning signs, protective factors, and strategies for how to respond to clients presenting with suicidal ideation.

This training meets the Act 74 Suicide Prevention training requirement for PA Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Licensed Professional Counselors



Artwork supported through the 2024 Kids at Court Conference. Thank you to The Monkey & The Elephant (M&E) for connecting us to artists, ALIYAH MAJIDAH and K'von.

SECONDARY TRAUMATIC STRESS & WELLNESS

CEA offers a variety of trainings on recognizing and understanding professionals' responses to trauma exposure, including trainings tailored to supervisors, administrators, and organizational leaders.

Secondary Traumatic Stress and Burnout: Strategies to Support Personal Wellness and Professional Competence

Defines and discusses terms related to secondary traumatic stress and provides strategies to help participants build awareness about how stress impacts them, better identify their sources and symptoms of stress, and create healthy coping mechanisms.

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Secondary-Traumatic Stress: Supportive Strategies for Supervisors and Agency Leaders

Don't forget about your supervisors!
We offer trainings specifically geared towards managers.

Secondary Traumatic Stress (STS) is a common experience in professions are exposed to the trauma of others. Supervisors and agency leaders not only manage their own stress responses but also play a critical role in supporting the well-being of their teams. This training will help supervisors recognize their own responses to stress, understand how these reactions can impact their work, and equip them with tools to help their teams mitigate the effects of STS

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Building Blocks of Self-Care: Personal Practice to Enhance Professional Resilience

Introduces self-care as part of best practice and professional competence. Participants will review the basics of self-care and discuss boundary setting, time-management, and mindfulness practice for the workplace.

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Mindfulness Practice

Mindfulness practices can be helpful for professionals who are exposed to trauma, injustice, and work-related stress. Participants will learn and try a variety of mindfulness practices.

Read feedback from our participants:

“Since the training, our team is looking to advocate for more proactive approaches within the agency to offer quality wellness services to our staff.”

“I can't speak enough praise for this training. It was absolutely perfect to help support leaders and address burn out with our teams.”

“I love this training. I would like for this training to be available for my whole department at the school district.”

EDUCATIONAL ADVOCACY

Project YES! (Youth Educational Success) aims to improve the practice of advocates so that children in foster care are met with diligent, informed and zealous advocates who strive to maximize positive educational outcomes and ensure the enforcement of their legal rights. Educational advocacy presentations can be tailored to meet the needs of your staff and are relevant for either child welfare or educational audiences.

Education Issues in Child Welfare Cases

Identifies and addresses the primary educational issues that arise in the context of child welfare. Topics include educational decision-making rights, school stability, truancy and attendance, school discipline, as well as strategies for obtaining special education protections and accommodations.

Special Education

Examines special education protections and accommodations for students with disabilities under both 504 Plans and IEP's. Starting with the basics, this training provides a step-by-step guide to the special education process and players, and progresses to address areas of common concern, such as using special education for in-school behaviors, school discipline of students with disabilities, and how to enforce a student's special education rights.

Impact of Trauma on Education

Describes how the experience of trauma may impact a child's education. Introduces the way that trauma impacts brain development in children and what trauma-motivated behaviors may look like in the classroom. Participants will explore the use of trauma-responsive 504 Plans/IEP's, Positive Behavior Support Plans, safety plans, and other positive approaches to mitigate the effects of trauma and improve educational outcomes for families.



READY TO SCHEDULE?

If you are ready to schedule a training, or have any additional questions, please reach out to our training staff Meghan Johnson (mjohnson@sccalaw.org) or Allie Dolan (adolan@sccalaw.org).

Most of our trainings are 1.5 - 2.0 hours long. However, we can tailor trainings to the needs of the organizations and audiences we work with. We can offer our trainings as a series or stand-alone session, and trainings are available in-person or online.

Fees

Our standard fee for trainings is \$250 per hour but please reach out to discuss further as we may have funding to be flexible with pricing.

Professional Credit:

The Center for Excellence in Advocacy is an approved provider of Continuing Education Units for Pennsylvania licensed Social Workers, Marriage & Family Therapists and Licensed Professional Counselors. We are also an approved Continuing Legal Education Provider for Attorneys licensed in Pennsylvania.



Public Trainings

We also offer trainings that are open to the public, to learn more about any of those sessions visit our website sccalaw.org/training

See what our attendees think of our trainings!



VALUES AND BELIEFS

The following values and beliefs guide us in our practice:

We believe that children, and all individuals, are the experts in their own lives, and that advocates can help to amplify their voices. Our whole-child representation model is at the forefront of what we do. We value a holistic approach to advocacy that includes recognition of both individual and structural realities that impact a child's life and wellbeing.

We believe in the value of lifelong learning; that ongoing education can inform and empower advocates. We draw on our decades of direct representation and advocacy and use skilled and experienced practitioners. We recognize the knowledge and experience of our audiences, we utilize group discussion, experiential learning opportunities, and diverse learning formats. We value self-reflection and seek continuous improvement through participant feedback and evaluation methods.

We believe that every child deserves a skilled advocate. The goal of our training programs is to empower participants to improve service delivery and promote system reform. When we empower our participants to become advocates, we help them effectively aid children and their families in their healing process, teaching them how to advocate for improved service delivery and promote reform.

ONLINE TRAININGS

Our online learning center, [Child Advocates Online](#), brings our trainings to you on-demand. *Child Advocates Online* is a library of over 150+ online trainings, resources, and educational materials geared toward those working with children and families. Topics include preparing for court, behavioral health advocacy, child development, and more. To create a free account, click [here](#).

The screenshot shows the user interface of the Child Advocates Online training center. At the top left is the logo for the Center for Excellence in Advocacy, with the tagline 'A skilled advocate for every child'. To the right is a large blue banner that says 'WELCOME TO CHILD ADVOCATES ONLINE' and features three smiling children. Below the banner, there's a 'My Training' section with a green button to 'See All Assigned Courses & Learning Paths'. Underneath are tabs for 'Not Started', 'In Progress', 'Overdue', and 'Completed'. A search bar is provided for finding courses. Three course cards are displayed: 'Child Advocates Volunteer Attorney Portal', 'Breaking Down Barriers: Exercising Educational Rights for Youth in Congregate Care', and another 'Breaking Down Barriers' course which includes 'CLE CREDIT'. On the right side of the interface, there is a 'News' section with a welcome message and contact information for Sarah Dlugos, the Online Learning Coordinator.

For more information and a list of courses available on *Child Advocates Online*, please contact Sarah Dlugos, Online Learning Coordinator, at sdlugos@sccalaw.org.

THANK YOU FOR CONSIDERING THE CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN ADVOCACY FOR YOUR TRAINING NEEDS!

Follow us on social media to see additional training announcements. Please reach out to Meghan Johnson (mjohnson@sccalaw.org) or Allie Dolan (adolan@sccalaw.org) with any questions.



Support Center for
Child Advocates



@PhillyAdvoKid



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Support Center for
Child Advocates

Support Center for Child Advocates, Center for Excellence in Advocacy is approved by the Pennsylvania State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors to offer continuing education for social workers, marriage and family therapists and professional counselors. Support Center for Child Advocates, Center for Excellence in Advocacy maintains responsibility for the program(s).