

Promoting Child Well-Being and Permanency Through Healthy Relationships

September 12, 2013, 2:00 – 3:30 PM EDT

Webinar Question and Answer

Question: How many of the children in care are in kinship situations?

Answer: *From Debra Gilmore, National Resource Center for Healthy Marriage and Families*

According to the AFCARS data, there are almost 108,000 children who are designated being in foster care and in a relative placement.

You should note that that does not capture all the children who may be informally placed, so parents who may be actually involved with Child Welfare Services, but their children have not been formally removed from them and they may be using a relative as a resource, a temporary resource. Or they may or may not be involved in child welfare and they're using a relative as a permanent or semi-permanent resource. Those kids would not be captured in these specifics.

Question: Is there a cost to doing the online course [through the National Resource Center for Healthy Marriage and Families Virtual Training Center]?

Answers: *From Debra Gilmore, National Resource Center for Healthy Marriage and Families*

There is no cost to any of our courses. It is a resource to you. It will always be a free resource to you.

Question: What is the availability of training in my own state?

Answer: *From David Schramm, Project Leader, Healthy Relationship and Marriage Education Training Project (Missouri)*

The grant - the cooperative agreement with the Children's Bureau -- actually ends at the end of this month. But we're definitely open to talking offline if you want to e-mail me about the possibility of doing a face-to-face training or a train the trainer option, which we haven't done with other States because we've been so busy.

But we're happy to talk more about that and discuss opportunities to travel and do trainings.

From Debra Gilmore National Resource Center for Healthy Marriage and Families

The Resource Center also provides Integration Institutes. The Integration Institutes give an overview that is very similar to our introductory course that I showed online and are one-day trainings brought to states.

We generally try to bring in a range of stakeholders, who may be able to be supports and partners in the community, with the idea of taking a holistic approach.

Everyone leaves the Integration Institute with an action plan that helps them strategically decide how to go about doing whatever their individualized goal is for integration. And the National Resource Center for Healthy Marriage and Families also can provide some tailored training and technical assistance to stakeholders.

Contact the Resource Center by email at info@HealthyMarriageandFamilies.org or through the training and technical assistance form under the “Training, Technical Assistance, and Events” tab on our website, www.HealthyMarriageandFamilies.org.

Ted Futris, National Resource Center for Healthy Marriage and Families

There is a partnership across multiple States within cooperative extension and so I encourage folks, in addition to reaching out to the National Resource Center, to also reach out to your State’s cooperative extension specialist.

Every land grant university within a State has specialists who support family programming and engaging in conversation with that specialist to see if this is a resource that they have available or they could work with you to try to bring to your State as well.

Question: Did you (Sue) sense any feedback or were there any barriers to components into services – from leadership or front line staff. Do you have any suggestions for dealing with barriers to integrating relationship education?

Answer: *Sue Tew-Warming, Consultant, 2 Consulting, Inc. (Iowa)*

Here in Iowa we didn’t really have any barriers. The biggest barrier was just getting staff to trainings. I would say if there are barriers, I would really encourage you to show them the resources you’re talking about. Show them the online opportunities and information.

I think that once people looked at the information then they really bought into it. Before that there was a little resistance. I think the two other things to make sure that people realize are (1) that this isn’t for domestic violence or anything - people have to want to have a healthy relationship; (2) and the other thing is that we’re not promoting marriage.

That was one thing we heard a few times here in Iowa. Well, we’re not promoting marriage. Well, no, that’s not what this training’s about. The training’s about healthy relationships and if there is a marriage to have a healthy marriage.

So I think those were the biggest things: show them the resources and then show them that information online too would be helpful.

Amanda Ratliff, Program Coordinator, Parents as Teachers Program (North Carolina)

No, no major barriers other than travel and budgeting and things like that - budgeting to get to the sites for the training.

Question: Can relationship education be used with single parents who are not married?

Answer: *From David Schramm, Project Leader, Healthy Relationship and Marriage Education Training Project (Missouri)*

That's a great question and it's actually something I wanted to clarify. Many child welfare professionals say, "Wow, most of the people I work with are single. How does this apply to them?" And we say, "Absolutely it applies to them."

Most single parents will eventually re-partner. In fact, many of them re-partner with multiple partners over time. And so what better time to get this information to folks than when they're single and that will help them to make healthier choices that will impact their child. So absolutely for single parents, yes.

Sue Tew-Warming, Consultant, 2 Consulting, Inc. (Iowa)

I just want to just add the same kind of comment. Here in Iowa, where most of our young people that may be single parents, this has been probably the most effective with our young adults so they can really learn what a healthy relationship is.

So they were in a relationship. They'll get back in a relationship. And that is probably the biggest impact that we've seen is with the young adults.

Question: Where can I find the slides from this webinar?

Answer: Visit the National Resource Center for Healthy Marriage and Families website at www.HealthyMarriageandFamilies.org/events-archive to download a copy of the slides, recording, transcript, and Q & A document from today's webinar.

Question: Who should I contact if I have more questions about this webinar?

Answer: Visit the National Resource Center for Healthy Marriage and Families website at www.HealthyMarriageandFamilies.org or email us at info@HealthyMarriageandFamilies.org.