

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

CHILDREN'S DIVISION

P. O. BOX 88

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

August 17, 2012

**What's Inside:**

Transracial  
Parenting in Foster  
Care and Adoption

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: REGIONAL EXECUTIVE STAFF, CIRCUIT MANAGERS, AND CHILDREN'S DIVISION STAFF

FROM: CANDACE A. SHIVELY, DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: TRANSRACIAL PARENTING IN FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION

DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this memorandum is to introduce policy revision regarding transracial parenting training.

Memo CS00-18 introduced the Transracial Parenting Project in June, 2000. The North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC) developed the project consisting of three components; a Self Awareness Tool, Training Curriculum, and Parenting Resource Manual. Since that time additional training curriculums have been published.

Children's Division policy no longer specifies the Transracial Parenting Project as the sole training resource to meet the need of providing training and support to those resource parents who wish to explore whether fostering or adopting a child of a different culture is appropriate for their family.

The training curriculum should include but is not limited to:

- Information that highlights the important issues involved in caring for a child of another race, culture, or ethnicity. Including but not limited to identity development, family issues, community resources
- Information to educate parents on what it truly means to parent a child (ren) of a different race, culture, or ethnicity
- Strategies to help parents explore ways to prepare for parenting a child (ren) of a different race, culture, or ethnicity

The expectation is that the training facilitator will have experience in parenting a child of a different culture. This could enrich the quality of the discussion, answer unmet needs of those currently parenting, and encourage the development of support groups.

In-service training credit for up to six (6) hours may be earned with submission of documentation that transracial parenting training was completed.

<b>NECESSARY ACTION</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Review this memorandum with all Children’s Division staff.</li> <li>2. Review revised Child Welfare Manual chapters as indicated below.</li> <li>3. All questions should be cleared through normal supervisory channels and directed to:</li> </ol>	
<b>PDS CONTACT</b> Elizabeth Tattershall 573-522-1191 <a href="mailto:Elizabeth.Tattershall@dss.mo.gov">Elizabeth.Tattershall@dss.mo.gov</a>	<b>DEPUTY DIRECTOR</b> Marta Halter 573-751-2427 <a href="mailto:Marta.Halter@dss.mo.gov">Marta.Halter@dss.mo.gov</a>
<b>CHILD WELFARE MANUAL REVISIONS</b> <a href="#">Resource Provider Training STARS In-Service Training, 6.2.5</a> <a href="#">Support Groups for Foster, Kinship and Adoptive Parents Transracial Parenting, 6.6.2</a>	
<b>FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS</b>	
N/A	
<b>REFERENCE DOCUMENTS AND RESOURCES</b>	
N/A	
<b>RELATED STATUTE</b>	
N/A	
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE RULE</b>	
N/A	
<b>COUNCIL ON ACCREDITATION (COA) STANDARDS</b>	
N/A	
<b>CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES REVIEW (CFSR)</b>	
N/A	
<b>PROTECTIVE FACTORS</b> N/A Parental Resilience Social Connections Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development Concrete Support in Times of Need Social and Emotional Competence of Children	
<b>FACES REQUIREMENTS</b>	
N/A	