

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

CHILDREN'S DIVISION

P. O. BOX 88

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

June 16, 2020

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: CHILDREN'S DIVISION AND CONTRACTED STAFF

FROM: DAVID WOOD, DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: LEARNING CIRCLES ON PARENT ENGAGEMENT AND VISITS WITH CHILDREN

DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this memorandum is to notify team members that 'Learning Circles' on *Parent Engagement* and *Visits with Children* are available. The Learning Circles are in response to the Program Improvement Plan (PIP) and must be completed no later than July 31, 2020. The Learning Circles will also be available as a future resource.

Learning Circles are a follow-up to the PIP webinars that were introduced to team members through Memo [CD20-09](#). The goals related to the Learning Circles for the PIP are:

- To strengthen the quality and quantity of interaction between practitioners and children who are being served through FCS or Foster Care.
- Improve parent engagement through full implementation of the CD Practice Model.

Learning Circles are a facilitated discussion used to ensure transfer of learning occurs around quality worker/child visitation and parent engagement with parents. Learning circle topics may also be used as resource in the future with other learning opportunities.

The *Visits with Children* Learning Circle conversation focuses on how utilizing the Signs of Safety tools allow team members the opportunity to elicit information from children in a thorough and thoughtful way. The guided discussion for the *Parent Engagement* Learning Circle concentrates on the importance of parent engagement and using Signs of Safety tools with parents during visits.

Learning Circles were developed using the Signs of Safety framework and tools to assist in the transfer of learning conversations. It is recommended that Learning Circles be facilitated by a Power of Partnership (POP) facilitator or a practice leader from the Practice Leader Development Program (PLDP).

How to Set Up a Learning Circle

- Learning Circles can be facilitated virtually during a circuit meeting or other scheduled event.
- Learning Circles can be a 30 to 45 minute transfer of learning discussion.
- The PowerPoints for both of Learning Circles are posted on the Signs of Safety intranet page.
- De-identified case examples are available on the Signs of Safety intranet page to support the Learning Circle PowerPoints. Team members may also use circuit specific case examples.
- There are instructions on how to set-up Learning Circles on the ELC to allow for training credit and does include 210 credit. The instructions are posted on the Signs of Safety intranet page. Contracted team members should contact JoDene.Bogart@dss.mo.gov with completion of the Learning Circles.

All of the Learning Circle supporting documents have been posted on the [Signs of Safety page](#) on the intranet.

NECESSARY ACTION	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review this memorandum with all Children’s Division staff. 2. Review revised Child Welfare Manual chapters as indicated below. 3. All questions should be cleared through normal supervisory channels and directed to: 	
PDS CONTACT Crystal Wilson 573-581-3312 Ext. 222 Crystal.L.Wilson@dss.mo.gov	MANAGER CONTACT Kara Wilcox 573-526-9707 Kara.B.Wilcox-Bauer@dss.mo.gov
CHILD WELFARE MANUAL REVISIONS N/A	
FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS N/A	
REFERENCE DOCUMENTS AND RESOURCES Signs of Safety – Children’s Division	

RELATED STATUTE

N/A