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WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE - WIC

DIVISION 9. PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES [10000 - 18999.98] (*Division 9 added by Stats. 1965, Ch. 1784.*)

PART 4. SERVICES FOR THE CARE OF CHILDREN [16000 - 16589] (*Heading of Part 4 amended by Stats. 1978, Ch. 429.*)

CHAPTER 3. Child Welfare Training [16200 - 16215] (*Chapter 3 added by Stats. 1987, Ch. 1310, Sec. 1.*)

ARTICLE 2. Child Welfare Training Program [16205 - 16208] (*Article 2 added by Stats. 1987, Ch. 1310, Sec. 1.*)

16205. The department shall select and award a grant to a private nonprofit or public entity for the purpose of establishing a statewide multipurpose child welfare training program.

(*Added by Stats. 1987, Ch. 1310, Sec. 1.*)

16206. (a) The purpose of the program is to develop and implement statewide coordinated training programs designed specifically to meet the needs of county child protective services social workers assigned emergency response, family maintenance, family reunification, permanent placement, and adoption responsibilities. It is the intent of the Legislature that the program include training for other agencies under contract with county welfare departments to provide child welfare services. In addition, the program shall provide training programs for persons defined as a mandated reporter pursuant to the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act (Article 2.5 (commencing with Section 11164) of Chapter 2 of Title 1 of Part 4 of the Penal Code). The program shall provide the services required in this section to the extent possible within the total allocation. If allocations are insufficient, the department, in consultation with the grantee or grantees and the Child Welfare Training Advisory Board, shall prioritize the efforts of the program, giving primary attention to the most urgently needed services. County child protective services social workers assigned emergency response responsibilities shall receive first priority for training pursuant to this section.

(b) The training program shall provide practice-relevant training for mandated child abuse reporters and all members of the child welfare delivery system that will address critical issues affecting the well-being of children, and shall develop curriculum materials and training resources for use in meeting staff development needs of mandated child abuse reporters and child welfare personnel in public and private agency settings.

(c) The training provided pursuant to this section shall include all of the following:

- (1) Crisis intervention.
- (2) Investigative techniques.
- (3) Rules of evidence.
- (4) Indicators of abuse and neglect.
- (5) Assessment criteria, including the application of guidelines for assessment of relatives for placement according to the criteria described in Section 361.3.
- (6) Intervention strategies.
- (7) Legal requirements of child protection, including requirements of child abuse reporting laws.
- (8) Case management.
- (9) Use of community resources.

(10) Information regarding the dynamics and effects of domestic violence upon families and children, including indicators and dynamics of teen dating violence.

(11) Post-traumatic stress disorder and the causes, symptoms, and treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder in children and the types of and behavioral manifestation of trauma, loss, and grief.

(12) The importance of maintaining relationships with individuals who are important to a child in out-of-home placement, including methods to identify those individuals, consistent with the child's best interests, including, but not limited to, asking the child about individuals who are important, and ways to maintain and support those relationships.

(13) The legal duties of a child protective services social worker, in order to protect the legal rights and safety of children and families from the initial time of contact during investigation through treatment.

(14) The information described in subdivision (d) of Section 16501.4.

(15) The information described in subdivision (i) of Section 16521.5. The program may use the curriculum created pursuant to subdivision (h), and described in subdivision (i), of Section 16521.5.

(d) The training provided pursuant to this section may also include any or all of the following:

(1) Child development and parenting.

(2) Intake, interviewing, and initial assessment.

(3) Casework and treatment.

(4) Medical aspects of child abuse and neglect.

(e) The training program in each county shall assess the program's performance at least annually and forward it to the State Department of Social Services for an evaluation. The assessment shall include, at a minimum, all of the following:

(1) Workforce data, including education, qualifications, and demographics.

(2) The number of persons trained.

(3) The type of training provided.

(4) The degree to which the training is perceived by participants as useful in practice.

(5) Any additional information or data deemed necessary by the department for reporting, oversight, and monitoring purposes.

(f) The training program shall provide practice-relevant training to county child protective services social workers who screen referrals for child abuse or neglect and for all workers assigned to provide emergency response, family maintenance, family reunification, and permanent placement services. The training shall be developed in consultation with the Child Welfare Training Advisory Board and domestic violence victims' advocates and other public and private agencies that provide programs for victims of domestic violence or programs of intervention for perpetrators.

(Amended (as amended by Stats. 2017, Ch. 24, Sec. 48) by Stats. 2017, Ch. 714, Sec. 3. (AB 1006) Effective January 1, 2018.)

16207. Nothing in this chapter is intended to replace training requirements established by the department in regulations contained in Sections 30-196 and 30-272 of the department's manual of policies and procedures.

(Added by Stats. 1987, Ch. 1310, Sec. 1.)

16208. (a) (1) The department, in consultation with the Child Welfare Training Advisory Board, shall contract with the University of California or the California State University system to develop a statewide protocol for telephone screening of emergency response referrals to protect children from abuse and neglect, to be called the Emergency Response Protocol. The department shall seek the advice of the California Children's Lobby in the development of this protocol.

(2) The Emergency Response Protocol shall incorporate written procedures for screening each referral of abuse or neglect to assess whether abuse of another family or household member is occurring. This additional domestic violence assessment and referral criteria shall be developed by the department in consultation with domestic violence victims' advocates, and other public and private agencies that provide programs for victims of domestic violence or programs of intervention for perpetrators and the County Welfare Directors Association.

(b) The department shall utilize available child welfare training funds in the development of the protocol.

(c) The department shall incorporate the protocol into the child welfare training program described in this article no later than February 15, 1992.

(Amended by Stats. 1996, Ch. 1139, Sec. 13. Effective January 1, 1997.)