

ROBERT G. LEWIS

Talking with Teens and Preparing Everyone for Permanent Family Connections

The goal of the training program

The goal of this Training Project is to educate everyone involved in caring for youth on the value of permanence and how they can work collaboratively to create a “permanency oriented” environment for all youth in care. This train-the-trainer component of the training program provides both the philosophical underpinning of a permanency oriented practice, an opportunity for discussion and exploration of permanence for teens as well as practical strategies for implementation.

The intended audience

The audience for the curriculum includes staff at all levels: management, supervisory, caseworkers and, where applicable group-home or residential care staff. In addition, implementation will be more successful if training can be expanded to include allied helping professionals such as therapists and teachers working with the youth, the youth themselves and members of their support system. Finally, this curriculum can be beneficial for recruiters and home-finders, legal staff, CASA workers and others in the court and legal system and post-adoption agencies.

The specific objectives

- The participants will have hands-on experience of a variety of tools for talking to and working with youth to achieve permanence.
- They will explore additional tools for working with those around a youth.
- They will be familiar with a two day curriculum which they can replicate in their own venues.
- They will be introduced to a wide array of tools from *Adolescents and Families for Life: A Toolkit for Supervisors* by R.G.Lewis & M.S.Heffernan, *The Family Bound Program: A Toolkit for Preparing Teens for Permanent Family Connections* by T.Stovell, S.Landers & R.Warsh developed by R.G. Lewis and from the “Talking with teens..” curriculum which they will be able use in their own training/supervisory environments.

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