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Dirty House or Safety Threat?

Pre-requisite: "Safety Training" or "Managing Sufficient Safety" with Preservice web based Safety Module

Trainer: Chris Howe

Registration 8:30, Workshop: 9-2

Fee: \$15.00/member

Offered in two locations

October 23, 2008
Turtleback Golf & Conference Center
West Allen Road
Rice Lake
715-234-6607

October 24, 2008
Holiday Inn Express
W10170 Highway 54 East
Black River Falls
715-284-0888

Register Online at:
<http://www.uwrf.edu/wpartnership>

For information, contact:
 Western Wisconsin Partnership
 UW-River Falls
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DESCRIPTION: Child welfare workers frequently encounter "dirty house" situations. Assessing home conditions is a challenge! Home conditions often deviate from generally accepted community standards, but are they unsafe? This four hour training provides a tool to use to evaluate home conditions using the safety standards. Slides of actual homes will be used to help participants distinguish between "just a dirty house" and an "unsafe house". Participants will also use a case example (slides and written case information) to assess home conditions against the safety threshold criteria and protective capacities, and develop a safety plan if necessary.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- Describe home conditions in specific, concrete terms
- Use a tool to evaluate and document home conditions
- Describe home conditions that are unsafe vs. those that deviate from community standards
- Describe how unsafe home conditions meet the threshold criteria
- Develop sufficient safety plans to address unsafe home conditions
- Discuss ways to use the assessment process and tool with other agency staff or service providers who work with families
- Develop confidence in making safety assessments of dirty houses and explaining decisions based on safety to families, reporting persons, law enforcement, etc.

TARGET AUDIENCE: This training is appropriate for agency staff with responsibilities for CPS services, both initial assessment and ongoing; and for Juvenile Justice staff who include home visits as part of service provision. This includes both social workers and paraprofessionals who take after-hours calls, or who assist in monitoring protective or safety plans.

NOTE: Participants need to have completed Safety foundation training prior to attending this session

Chris Howe, BSW, MSSW supervises a combined team of CPS investigators and ongoing workers for Winnebago County Department of Human Services. She has prior experience at Winnebago County DHS as a CPS ongoing worker, an in-home therapist, and as a supervisor for their in-home therapy program and CPS. In addition to her current supervisory position, Chris teaches graduate and undergraduate social work classes for both UW-Oshkosh and UW-Green Bay. Her BSW is from UW-Oshkosh and she received her MSSW from UW - Madison.

