The Power of Kinship Care: The Challenges of Strengths-based Assessment

**Curriculum:** Placement: Relatives/grandparents as caregivers.

**Date/time:** Friday, March 2, 2018 • 8:45 AM – 12:00 PM

**Location:** GVSU Pew Campus, Bicycle Factory
201 Front Avenue SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504

**Social Work CECHs:** 3 hours • Approval #MICEC-0004

**Cost:** Free to all MDHHS and private agency child welfare workers; $49 all others

**Presenter:** Jill Worrall, PhD

**Training objectives:** As a result of this training, participants will be prepared to:
- Distinguish critical intergenerational issues related to permanency for children in need of kinship care.
- Expand assessment, and planning skills to assure for the safety and well-being of the child in kinship care.
- Understand the importance of inclusive care processes found in community-based multidisciplinary work necessary to support the child and kinship caregiver.

**Description:** Grandparents raising grandchildren and family members caring full-time for related children are not new phenomena. Kin caregivers are frequently called upon to care for children after they have been subjected to abuse, neglect, or unsatisfactory living conditions. It is not surprising that many children experience physical and psychological problems and learning difficulties. It is the role of the state to promote the establishment of services and policies that ensure the safety of children who are in need of care and protection. When a child is placed with kin, many systems (medical, legal, education, mental health) converge, and the worker must coordinate cross-discipline services to support the needs of the kin caregiver and the child. While it is argued that the use of kin usually affords the least disruptive environment, it is essential that the strengths of the family be assessed to assure for the safety and development of the child. Beyond meeting regulatory requirements set out by law, what are the key practice issues when considering family assessments, supervision, and support for kin care? In addition, workers must assure that assessments respect cultural differences found within families caring for kin. This training will examine the current debates in kinship care by discussing current research and promising practice information concerning kinship care. This training will utilize exercises, small and large group discussions, and visual displays.

Dr. Jill Worrall is being sponsored by the Lake Michigan College Foundation.
Broken...But Fixable: Assessing and Addressing the Cost of Your Work

**Curriculum:** Secondary trauma: Self-care for workers.

**Date/time:** Thursday, May 17, 2018 • 8:45 AM – 12:00 PM

**Location:** GVSU Pew Campus, Bicycle Factory
201 Front Avenue SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504

**Social Work CECHs:** 3 hours • Approval #MICEC-0004
**Cost:** Free to all MDHHS and private agency child welfare workers; $49 all others

**Presenter:** Shyra Williams, LMSW

**Training objectives:** As a result of this training, participants will be prepared to:
- Recognize the signs, contributing factors, and differences between vicarious trauma and compassion fatigue.
- Use personal assessment tools to identify what aspects of themselves may show evidence of vicarious trauma.
- Apply practical strategies to address and transform their vicarious trauma.

**Description:** Whether it is your first day on the job or you have been working in the field for a decade, if you work with traumatized individuals, there is a cost to you in doing your work. Come take a few hours to explore and assess how this work has impacted you and learn new practical strategies to address and transform your vicarious trauma. This training will utilize exercises, small and large group discussions, and visual displays.

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Navigating Higher Education for Youth Exiting Foster Care or Adopted from Foster Care

**Curriculum:** Education issues: Navigating higher education with youth.

**Date/time:** Friday, June 22, 2018 • 8:45 AM – 12:00 PM

**Location:** GVSU Pew Campus, Bicycle Factory
201 Front Avenue SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504

**Social Work CECHs:** 3 hours • Approval #MICEC-0004
**Cost:** Free to all MDHHS and private agency child welfare workers; $49 all others

**Presenter:** Stacey Goodson, BA

**Training objectives:** As a result of this training, participants will be prepared to:
- Identify resources available for current/former foster youth to financially provide for higher education.
- Understand how to navigate and encourage current/former foster youth to attend higher education.
- Identify tangible solutions for (former) foster parents to support them with their child’s education needs.

**Description:** This training will assist and guide child welfare staff in identifying resources for youth who are currently in foster care or who were adopted from foster care, for higher education. This training will also help to identify financial resources for higher education. This training will utilize small and large group discussions and visual displays.