

a monthly newsletter from
the Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center



COUNTY CONNECTION



December 2022

Bridge Update

Submitted by: Kari Giles

Important Announcements

- Please ask trainees to check their email and cell phone numbers in the “**Contact Preferences**” section of their demographics area in Bridge. If we have a workshop cancellation due to inclement weather, this is how we will be contacting registered trainees.



Please Update Your Notification Preferences

How would you like to be alerted when an event you are registered for is cancelled (i.e. snow, instructor emergency, etc)?

Email +

SMS Text

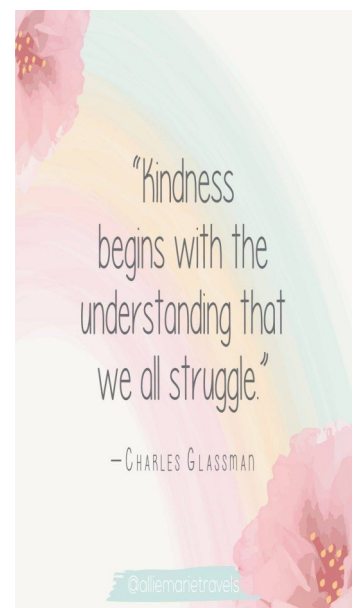
* Please note standard text message fees apply. Check with your phone carrier for more details.

Thank you for updating/confirming your demographic information. The deidentified demographic data may be used within analyses or evaluations of our curricular offerings. This data may be shared within internal and external reports, presentations, or other products in an aggregate and/or anonymized fashion. A 'Decline to Answer' option is available for all demographic fields.

- If anyone is logging into E-Learn and receives a message that their account is archived, they will need to log into Bridge and update their user profile before regaining E-Learn access.
- Liaisons are CC'ed on all INA notifications, however, the supervisors are the ones that need to approve the INA in their “**Approval Queue**”. Unless they directly supervise the worker, **liaisons will NOT see the trainee’s INA** in their “Approval Queue”.
- When a trainee leaves your agency, please make sure to enter a “**Termination Date**” in their demographics, otherwise the trainee will continue to be incorrectly associated with your agency.

Inside this Issue:

Bridge Update	1-3
Caseworker Certification Series Update	3-4
CWEL Information Sessions	4
FOS Multi-day Policy	5
Julie Mueller	6
Regional Team Contact Information	7



Continued on page 2...

i Agency Hire Date *

1 / 31 / 2022

Which of the following best describes your role under the Agency? If your role is unknown, please keep the default of Direct Service Worker. *

Direct Service Worker

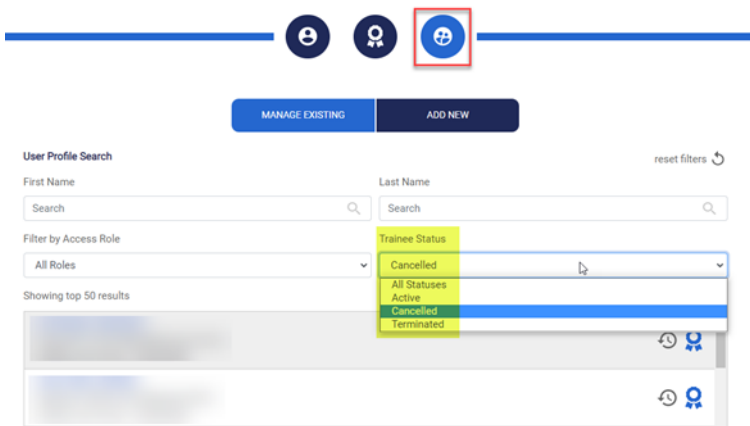
i Effective Date of Current Role *

1 / 31 / 2022

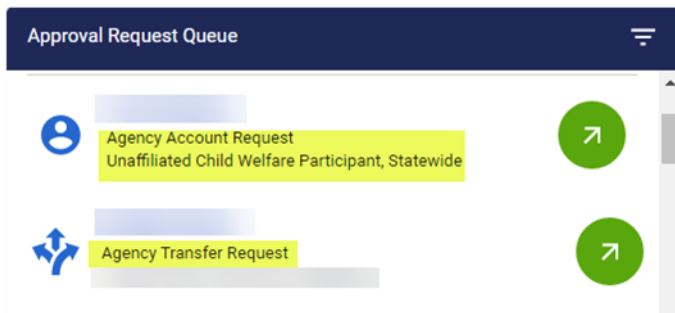
Termination Date

MM / DD / YYYY

- Please make a point of looking for any trainees that are in **“Cancelled”** status. Go to the **“Manage Users”** screen, click on the **“Trainee Status”** dropdown, and select **“Cancelled”** (see screenshot below). Trainees that are in this status are typically missing demographic information, for example: their date of birth, email, or a **“Termination Date”** (see previous bullet point). Once you have checked their demographic information and filled in any blanks, please contact Kara Muir via the Bridge Helpdesk at BridgeHD@pitt.edu to have the trainee’s record resolved.



- Please check your approval queue regularly for **“Agency Account Requests”** and **“Agency Transfer Requests”**. These are requests from either new trainees that are requesting to be affiliated with your agency or they are trainees with existing Bridge accounts and are transferring from another agency. If you do not know the trainee, please reject it - **do not ignore it**.
- We have received a few questions through the helpdesk regarding resource parents and their affiliation with your agency. If you receive a genuine request from a resource parent, but you do not want them to be tied to your agency, you can reject the request and the resource parent will still have the ability to login into the system and complete any required material. The only requests that will not go to a liaison’s approval queue are requests for executive level access. These will need to be approved by a PACWRC administrator.



Coming Soon to Bridge

- The ability for a trainee, supervisor of the trainee, liaison, and executive level staff to view and print the trainee's completed INA via the trainee's workshop history.
- When a trainee's certification is approved, the default date of certification will be the current date by which it is approved by the agency. In addition, the agency will now have the ability to update it to the last day of the completed **online** component within that certification track.

For Further Assistance

- For anyone who would like to set up a one-on-one Bridge training via Microsoft Teams, please contact BridgeHD@pitt.edu. This training can be for new liaisons or for anyone who may need a refresher.
- We would also love to hear any feedback, suggestions, and ideas you may have about Bridge via our online form at <http://forms.cwrc.pitt.edu/BridgeFeedback/>.
- If you have any technical issues or questions, please email the Bridge team at BridgeHD@pitt.edu.



Caseworker Certification Series Update

Foundations Update

We wanted to update you on steps we have put in place to improve the pace at which staff are able to start Foundations. First, we have set a goal for all new hires to have the opportunity to attend the first instructor-led module (2) within 3 weeks of their start with your agency. Below are actions we have put into place to support that goal, while we evaluate longer-term strategies.

- Increased some class size caps (1-2 additional participants).
- Creating a second simulation space (repurposing an existing room) in the Mechanicsburg office.
- Will offer an invite-only virtual series when there are enough staff to run an additional statewide Foundations series but not enough new staff in a particular region to run an in-person series. The "invite only" part is to ensure in-person remains the primary method of delivery.
- Accelerating efforts to increase our capacity to deliver the simulation parts of the series.
- Increased communication with our stakeholders for collaborative problem solving and increased understanding of series requirements.

However, we need your help.

First, please have your training liaison contact their Regional Resource Specialist ([University of Pittsburgh: Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center - Organizational Effectiveness / Regional Teams](#)) if you have staff that are not scheduled to attend the first in-person module of Foundations (module 2) within 3 weeks of their hire date. We will work with every county for an appropriate solution. Please note: the new series may be 100% virtual if we don't have sufficient numbers in a particular region to hold an in-person series.

Second, please let our team know of any county-based barriers on this issue. For example, we are aware that some of you have to receive approval from your Commissioners for staff to attend training outside of your county, which can cause further delays. The more we know about the barriers, the better our solutions will be.

Continued on page 4...

Continued from page 3...

And finally, continue to join us to share your ideas and to learn more about our training updates. Two opportunities are coming up in January:

Topic: All County Training Call

Time: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://pitt.zoom.us/j/98450920175?from=addon>

Topic: Foundations Advisor Support Call

Time: Jan 31, 2023 01:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://pitt.zoom.us/j/99407423502>

Thanks again for your support.

Mike Byers, MSW



CWEL Information Sessions

Submitted by: Laura Borish

Thanks to all who attended our November CWEL Information session. We had over 50 participants! Here is the information for our remaining information session, which will be held in January 2023:

County and OCYF staff interested in earning a Master's degree in Social Work through the Child Welfare Education for Leadership (CWEL) Program are invited to join the CWEL Team for a general information session. Those attending will learn about the application process, participating schools, and the benefits available to CWEL students. The information session will be held via Zoom on the following date:

Wednesday, January 25, 2023 from 9:00-10:00am.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://pitt.zoom.us/j/93958089318>

Meeting ID: 939 5808 9318

Passcode: CWEL

Those planning to attend do not have to register, simply copy and paste the link into your calendar and join us on the date of the meeting.

The CWEL Team is also available to provide presentations to County Commissioners, Advisory Boards, Agency Leadership Teams, and Agency Staff Members.

For more information and to schedule a presentation, please contact Laura Borish, CWEL Agency Coordinator at lbb14@pitt.edu or 412-334-9122.

FOS Multi-day Training Policy

Submitted by: Andrea Bowersox

The Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center wanted to update everyone on a recent multi-day training policy change that impacts the new supervisor certification series Foundations of Supervision (FOS). **Please note this multi-day training policy change only impacts the new supervisor series** (specifically FOS Module 2 and Module 6).

To better support counties when emergency situations occur in the midst of day 2 of an FOS training session, we have revised our FOS Multi-day Training Policy where if an emergency situation occurs in the afternoon of day 2, which requires the participant to leave the training, then the participant will only need to make up day 2 of the session, not both days of the training. Previously, if a participant missed any portion of the 2-day training for FOS, the participant needed to retake the entire module.

More detailed information regarding the policy is included below:

- If participant knows in advance that they cannot attend all days of a multiday training, another workshop must be chosen.
- FOS participants are eligible when they miss the 2nd half or less of the last day of a multi-day training and follows the procedures below:
 - * Must be for unplanned emergencies.
 - * If the participant is missing more than a half day of the second day of the training, they must make up the entire course.
 - ◇ The half day is denoted by the instructor-designated lunch break.
- As a certification course, the participant must make every attempt to make up the missed day prior to the start of the next module, but no later than 3 months from the missed day.
- The Resource Specialists will support the county to register the participant (either themselves or through registration process) in a make-up of day 2.
- The county designee (training liaison, supervisor, administrator) must notify the Resource Center of a missed training day as soon as possible but within 10 business days.

If you have any questions, please contact your regional resource specialist.

Thank you for your continued support of the Resource Center.

Julia Mueller

Submitted by: Shayla Jones

The Youth Advisory Board would like to take a moment to recognize Julia Mueller. Known as “a wonder woman in the making”, Julia is an active alum of YAB, utilizing its platform to promote positive change in the child welfare system. Julia is always willing to lend her voice, sharing her experiences to educate political leaders, stakeholders, and working professionals about what it means to be an older youth in foster care. Julia’s advocacy efforts have not gone unnoticed. Julia was honored at the 30th anniversary Pennsylvania Permanency Conference Recognition Banquet, hosted by the Pennsylvania Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network and Independent Living Services. The award honors current or former foster youth who have raised awareness about the challenges of foster care and have demonstrated leadership, innovation, and advocacy on behalf of themselves and their peers in the system. Now serving as a Young Adult Consultant for the Center for the States, Julia is a leader that is making life-long changes for not only herself, but for communities across Pennsylvania.



Regional Team Contact Information

Our local number is 717-795-9048

Our fax number is 717-795-8013

Registration and winter weather number 1-877-297-7488

Central	
Nick Ranney , <i>Regional Team Supervisor</i>	ner20@pitt.edu
Mackenzie Seiler , <i>Practice Improvement Specialist</i>	mas739@pitt.edu
Christina Fatzinger , <i>Practice Improvement Specialist</i>	cmf27@pitt.edu
Emily Patterson , <i>Practice Improvement Specialist</i>	emily.patterson@pitt.edu
David Vactor , <i>Practice Improvement Specialist</i>	djv20@pitt.edu
Mike Danner , <i>Resource Specialist</i>	mjd12@pitt.edu
Northeast	
Jody Price , <i>Regional Team Supervisor</i>	jlp78@pitt.edu
Elyse Coldren-Baker , <i>Practice Improvement Specialist</i>	elc195@pitt.edu
Jill Ferraro , <i>Practice Improvement Specialist</i>	jab462@pitt.edu
Jayne Toczylousky , <i>Practice Improvement Specialist</i>	jat115@pitt.edu
Maricar Williams , <i>Resource Specialist</i>	man86@pitt.edu
Southeast	
Russell Cripps , <i>Regional Team Supervisor</i>	ruc17@pitt.edu
Angela Plantz , <i>Practice Improvement Specialist</i>	anp202@pitt.edu
Colleen Cox , <i>Practice Improvement Specialist</i>	coc31@pitt.edu
Eliza White , <i>Practice Improvement Specialist</i>	eaw81@pitt.edu
Jessica Wittman , <i>Resource Specialist</i>	jms137@pitt.edu
Western	
Tammie Weaver , <i>Regional Team Supervisor</i>	tmw89@pitt.edu
Adam Garrity , <i>Practice Improvement Specialist</i>	adg105@pitt.edu
Michael McClure , <i>Practice Improvement Specialist</i>	mjm298@pitt.edu
Jennifer Caruso , <i>Practice Improvement Specialist</i>	jcar@pitt.edu
Cassie Kreckel , <i>Practice Improvement Specialist</i>	cek83@pitt.edu
Veronica King , <i>Resource Specialist</i>	vek21@pitt.edu

