

## CWS3021W Promoting Birth and Foster Family Partnerships Supervisor Training Follow-up Guide

<p><b>Course Description</b></p>	<p>This course deals with one of the core principles of family engagement and Family Foster Care by promoting meaningful partnerships between foster and birth families. Particular attention is given to the understanding of SHARED PARENTING with the agency, birth and foster/resource parents, and increasing PARENT-CHILD INTERACTION opportunities through “Bridging the Gap”. This partnership focuses on promoting safety, well being, and permanency for children. Topics include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dealing with assumptions of each team member to enhance communication.</li> <li>2. Acknowledging the roles, responsibilities and opportunities of birth parents, foster/resource parents, and LDSS staff in promoting these partnerships.</li> <li>3. Increasing opportunities in which foster/resource parents can work with the child’s birth family and increase Parent-Child Interactions and communication through Bridging the Gap.</li> <li>4. Understanding the purpose and process of conducting Ice-Breaker Meetings.</li> <li>5. Considering innovative practices for using foster parents on the team</li> </ol>
<p><b>Purpose</b></p>	<p>Please choose any of the following field practice activities to facilitate discussions with your worker on how training supports their ability to effectively develop and document case plans collaboratively with families.</p>
<p><b>Field Practice Activities to Support the Application of Learning</b></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Discuss the meaning of <b>Shared Parenting</b> (also identified in PRIDE) and how this concept affects an agency’s practice with birth and foster families. <b>Completion date:</b> _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Invite the worker to discuss different <b>Parent- Child Interactions</b> through “Bridging the Gap” and how these interactions can support and increase visits with or without the worker’s attendance/direct supervision, thereby providing more communication and understanding between the foster and birth families. <b>Completion date:</b> _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Have the worker identify how promoting a <b>partnership</b> between foster/resource parents and birth parents helps children enhance their family connections and well- being with all sets of parents. <b>Completion date:</b> _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Have the worker discuss the purpose, key concepts, and necessary steps of the initial “<b>Ice-Breaker Meeting</b>”. What does the worker see as benefits and challenges in facilitating such a meeting? <b>Completion date:</b> _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Ask worker: How do you envision your practice being different after attending CWS3021W? Identify some previously held beliefs, knowledge and/or skills that were either challenged or enhanced. <b>Completion date:</b> _____</p>

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**Summary of Caseworkers Learning**

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**This activity has been completed and reviewed with the worker.**

Worker:	Date Completed
Supervisor:	Date Reviewed

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**Supervisor Comments:** After collaborating with your worker following his or her completion of CWS3021W, briefly summarize your assessment regarding the worker's self awareness of previously and currently held beliefs, knowledge and/or skill sets and their learning overall as it relates to the importance of promoting birth and foster family partnerships.

**Optional Activity:** Identify one or two follow up items that the supervisor and worker can do as "Next Steps" which will facilitate ongoing professional development for any of the summarized observations noted above.