

ssa week 1 agenda

Social Service Assistant Training

Week 1: September 26 – 28 | Week 2: October 3 – 5

Portland State University Child Welfare Partnership Training Unit | 626 High Street NE, Suite 400
Salem, OR 97301 | cwpsalem.pdx.edu | (503) 315-4267

Wednesday, September 26

Introductions Cultural Humility

Shantika Green
Jose Maciel
Kirstin O'Dell

9:00 – 10:30

- Housekeeping, training room guidelines, and evaluation process.
- Honoring the role of the SSA to empower families and to keep children safe.
- Values, beliefs, and biases are addressed.
- Intercultural communication.

Visitation Purpose, Procedure, and Rule

Shantika Green
Jose Maciel

10:30 – 12:00

- Purpose of visitation.
- Procedure and rule regarding visits.

Using the Oregon Practice Model to Ensure Safe and Meaningful Visits

Shantika Green
Jose Maciel

1:00 – 4:00

- Understanding safety threats and protective capacities.
- Roles of safety service providers.
- Monitoring child safety.
- Communicating concerns.

Review of Key Content

Shantika Green
Jose Maciel

4:00 – 4:30

- Structured activity to review key content:
 - Mandatory reporting.
 - Child welfare ethics and DHS values.
 - Secondary traumatic stress.
 - The impact of State and Federal Law on Child Welfare Practice.

Thursday, September 27

Special Considerations for Visits

Jose Maciel
Shantika Green

9:00 – 2:00

- Sexual abuse and alleged offenders.
- Domestic violence.
- Mental health issues.

ssa week 1 agenda

Monthly Contact

Shantika Green
Jose Maciel

2:00 – 4:00

- The role of the SSA in completing monthly contacts and monitoring child safety.
- Types of information to gather during face-to-face contact.

Self-Care

Shantika Green
Jose Maciel

4:00 – 4:30

- Identifying professional challenges.
- Strategies for building resilience.

Friday, September 28

Engagement Strategies for the Contact Professional

Dan Garris
Daniel Schneider

9:00 – 12:00

- Introduction to Stages of Change.
- Dealing with resistance.
- Communication strategies.

Understanding Visits from the Parent's Perspective

Dan Garris
Daniel Schneider

1:00 – 2:30

- Parent panel comprised of Parent Mentors from Morrison Center.

Engagement Strategies for the Contact Professional (cont.)

Dan Garris
Daniel Schneider

2:30 – 4:00

ssa week 2 agenda

Wednesday, October 3

Supporting Safe and Successful Visitation: Tips, Tools, and Techniques Joanna Crawford **9:00 – 4:30**

- Understanding normal child development and how trauma, grief, and loss impact a child's development.
- Providing parents with support to have successful visits.
- Providing feedback to parents.
- When to step in and when to stay out.

Thursday, October 4

Substance Abuse Andrea Bellows
Jose Maciel **9:00 – 12:00**

- The process of addiction.
- Understanding and responding to substance abusing clients.

Foster Parent Panel Dan Garris **1:00 – 2:30**

- Gaining information on how to communicate and work effectively with foster parents.

Observation & Documentation Daniel Schneider
Mike Hansen **2:30 – 4:30**

- What to look for.
- Required documentation.
- Writing a case note.
- Who gets what information?
- OR-Kids documentation of contacts and case notes.

Friday, October 5

Preparing for Court & Testifying Daniel Schneider **9:00 – 2:30**

- Presentation skills 101.
- Overview of the juvenile court process.
- Understanding courtroom demeanor.
- Practice presenting for success in court.

Group Wisdom – SSA Panel Shantika Green
Daniel Schneider **2:30 – 3:30**

- Effective strategies for getting the job done.

Closing and Evaluations Shantika Green
Daniel Schneider **3:30 – 4:00**
