

ssa week 1 agenda

Social Service Assistant Training

Week 1: April 23 - 25 | Week 2: May 2 - 4

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

Monday, April 23

Introductions Cultural Humility

Jennifer Scholes
Kirstin O'Dell
Shantika Green

9:00 – 10:30

- Honoring the role of the SSA to empower families and to keep children safe.
- Values, beliefs, and biases are addressed.
- Intercultural communication.

Mandatory Reporting and Types of Abuse

Shantika Green
Jennifer Scholes

10:30 – 1:30

- Responsibility of being a mandatory reporter.
- Recognizing types of abuse.

Child Sexual Abuse

Jennifer Scholes
Shantika Green

1:30 – 3:00

- Overview of sexual abuse dynamics.
- Considerations for supervising visits.

Visitation: Purpose and Policy

Shantika Green
Jennifer Scholes

3:00 – 4:30

- Purpose of visitation.
- Policy regarding visits.

Tuesday, April 24

Using the OSM to Ensure Safe and Meaningful Visits

Shantika Green
Jose Maciel

9:00 – 12:00

- Understanding safety threats and protective capacities.
- Roles of Safety Service Providers.
- Monitoring child safety.
- Communicating concerns.

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Monthly Contact

Shantika Green
Jose Maciel

1:00 – 3:00

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

Domestic Violence

Jennifer Scholes
Shantika Green

3:00 – 4:30

- Overview of dynamics of domestic violence.
- Supervising visits when domestic violence is an issue.

Friday, April 25

Engagement Strategies for the Contact Professional (Part 1)

Daniel Schneider
Jennifer Scholes

9:00 – 12:00

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

Understanding Visits from the Parent's Perspective

Daniel Schneider
Jennifer Scholes

1:00 – 2:30

- Parent panel comprised of Parent Mentors from Morrison Center.

Engagement Strategies for the Contact Professional (Part 2)

Daniel Schneider
Jennifer Scholes

2:30 – 4:30

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Wednesday, May 2

Supporting Safe and Successful Visitation: Tips, Tools, and Techniques

Joanna Crawford
Jennifer Scholes

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, May 3

Substance Abuse

Jay Wurscher
Jennifer Scholes

9:00 – 12:00

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

Foster Parent Panel

Jennifer Scholes
Dan Garris

1:00 – 2:00

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

Group Wisdom – SSA Panel

Jennifer Scholes
Dan Garris

2:00 – 3:00

- Effective strategies for getting the job done.

Professional Parameters

Jennifer Scholes
Dan Garris

3:00 – 4:30

- Setting boundaries.
- Conflict of Interest policy.

Friday, May 4

Documentation and Testifying

Jennifer Scholes
Mike Hansen

9:00 – 2:00

- What's required?
- Who gets information?
- Understanding courtroom demeanor.
- Practice testifying.

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Vicarious Trauma and Self-Care

Jennifer Scholes
Daniel Schneider

2:00 – 4:00

- Identify professional challenges.
- Develop strategies for building resilience and the effect of secondary trauma.

Closing

Jennifer Scholes
Daniel Schneider

4:00 – 4:30