DATE: October 15, 2010
TO: Regional Directors
THROUGH: Peter Digre, Assistant Secretary for Operations David L. Fairbanks, Assistant Secretary for Programs
FROM: Alan Abramowitz, State Director, Office of Family Safety
SUBJECT: The Child Welfare Training and Certification Rule 65C-33, Florida Administrative Code

REQUIRED ACTION: Attend Webinar Trainings 10/27/10; 11/8/10; 11/9/10
DATE DUE: Effective Immediately

PURPOSE: The purpose of this memorandum is two-fold; (1) To announce that Rule 65C-33, F.A.C., the Child Welfare Training and Certification Rule, became effective on October 14, 2010; and (2) To announce the dates of several upcoming web-based trainings regarding the new rule.

BACKGROUND: Chapter 402.731, Florida Statutes, authorizes the Department “...to create certification programs for its employees and service providers to ensure that only qualified employees and service providers provide client services.” In addition, Chapter 402.40, Florida Statutes, requires the Department to develop rules in order to “…develop minimum standards for a certification process that ensures that participants have successfully attained the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to competently carry out their work responsibilities…”

The Department initiated rule development for a training and certification rule in October 2007. The Department held public workshops in December 2007, filed the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in November 2008, and held public hearings in December 2008. The Department received extensive public comments regarding this proposed rule chapter. The rule was suspended in January 2009, in order to allow the Department to address all comments received and build rule-required Field Based Performance Assessments. The promulgation process began again in 2010 in order for the rule to take effect.

The promulgated rule codifies a number of policies regarding minimum training and child welfare certification standards. The rule serves to apply uniform minimum standards for initial and ongoing training and certification to all individuals (both Department and non-Department employees) working in the field of child welfare/child protection in the state of Florida. The rule took effect on October 14th, 2010. The complete text of the rule is attached and may be accessed through this link: https://www.firules.org/gateway/ChapterHome.asp?Chapter=65C-33

The Child Welfare Training and Certification Rule (65C-33, F.A.C.) The Development and Promulgation of the Child Welfare Training and Certification Rule has been one step of a larger effort in redesigning of the statewide pre-services, or minimum training standards,
framework. Changes that have been completed to the larger pre-services training framework since Spring 2008 have included:

- Revised Field Based Performance Assessments (FBPAs) which are a requirement of the Child Welfare Certification process described in this rule. The FBPAs were revised to align with the Quality Assurance standards for investigations and case management, as well as, core principles of family centered practice. The revised FBPA's were developed through a series of statewide workgroups comprised of representatives from the Department, CBCs and Sheriffs' Offices and built upon pre-existing FBPAs.

- Modernization of SkillNET, the statewide data base that tracks training and certification requirements, the system now meets current technical standards.

- The development and statewide implementation of a new, statutorily required, single, and integrated pre-service curriculum. The new curriculum builds skills that are necessary to use the state’s child welfare information system, Florida Safe Families Network (FSFN), as well as, incorporating core principles of family centered practice.

- Re-designed the required new supervisor training, “Supervising for Excellence,” incorporating both the “Mentoring Through Qualitative Discussion” supervisory training and family centered practice principles;

- Clarification of certification requirements and the reinstatement of recertification for child protection professionals and child welfare trainers through the 65C-33, F.A.C.; and

**ACTION REQUIRED:** Please disseminate this information to all child welfare staff. Additionally, in order to support implementation of the new Certification and Training Rule, three webinars hosted by Florida's Center for the Advancement of Child Welfare Practice, are available on the following dates:

- Wednesday, October 27, 1:00pm – 4:00pm (EDT)
- Monday, November 8, 1:00pm – 4:00pm (EDT)
- Tuesday, November 9, 9:00am – 12:00pm (EDT)

Please note that the content for each of these webinars is identical. Multiple dates are being scheduled to accommodate participant’s varying schedules. To register for any of these webinars, please refer to the attached Webinar Event Invitation.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Should you have any questions, please contact Arlene Carey at: (850) 921-1928 or via email at: Arlene_Carey@dcf.state.fl.us or Matthew Claps, Chief of Practice and Training, at (850) 922-8779 or via e-mail at Matthew_Claps@dcf.state.fl.us

cc: Circuit Administrators  
   CBC CEO’s  
   Sheriff’s Offices
Live Webinar Event Invitation

Hosted by: Florida’s Center for the Advancement of Child Welfare Practice

The Department of Children and Families invites you to participate in:

“The Training and Certification Rule (65C-33, F.A.C.)” - A Live Webinar

Dates:
Wednesday, October 27, 1:00pm - 4:00pm
Monday, November 8, 1:00pm - 4:00pm
Tuesday, November 9, 9:00am - 12:00pm

Presented by: Arlene S. Carey, DCF; Lisa Nelson, Brevard Family Partnership; and Bruce Bryant, USF Training Academy

Certificates available upon completion of training

Before the webinar

First Time Users: you MUST install a small program in order to view the video portion of this webinar!
To save time before the meeting, check your system to make sure it is ready to use Microsoft Office Live Meeting. (Click on Accept, Install, and Join)

Pre-registration for the Webinar is required. Use the link below to register.

AUDIO Tel: 888-808-6959 Participant Code: 6567215873#

To register for the meeting copy and paste this link into your browser:
https://www.livemeeting.com/lrs/8000362188/Registration.aspx?pageName=hz2n7gmcn8jx5sqd

If you have technical questions or concerns please contact Center Support staff at centersupport@fmhi.usf.edu