

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

January – March 2026

The TFI Family Services Training Department is pleased to present a quarterly list of exciting and informative trainings. Please share the list with any current or potential foster or adoptive parents, relative or kinship providers, or child welfare professionals who may be interested in attending.

All trainings are virtual unless otherwise specified in the training description.

Training Enrollment

Kansas

TFI/MNS staff members should enroll through the agency learning management system, as well as through the Kansas Children's Alliance site. Foster/adoptive parents, relative/kinship providers, and other child welfare professionals should enroll through the Kansas Children's Alliance website at learn.childdaily.org/account/login. A free account is required to enroll. If you do not have an account, please select the "Create Account" option on their training page. When prompted for a code, please use **LEARN**. You will receive an automated e-mail confirming your enrollment, as well as the link and additional information for the training(s) you have selected.

Other States

TFI/MNS staff members should enroll through the agency learning management system. Foster/adoptive parents, relative/kinship providers, and other child welfare professionals located outside of Kansas should enroll through EventBrite at <https://mnstraining.eventbrite.com>. Once you have selected the class(es) you want, enter **TFI** as the promotional code at checkout. You will receive an automated e-mail confirming your enrollment. A separate e-mail will be sent from the trainer with your login information approximately 24 hours prior to the start time.

****Per Children's Alliance: Cameras are required to be on during all virtual trainings.****

If you do not receive the link to your class by the morning of the training, or you have any questions or concerns, please e-mail the Training Specialists' Supervisor, Marion Morris, at mmorris@teammns.org.

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LIVE WEBINAR TRAININGS

Aggressive Behaviors Understanding and Managing

This training will help the audience to understand aggressive behaviors and anger in children. Understand underlying issues that can cause aggressive behaviors. Help the audience to recognize the aggression process in a child and identify ways to work with the child through that process. Provide crisis intervention/management, parenting strategies, and techniques to help with aggressive children, as well as, all other children. Provide information on different forms of discipline and its role in teaching children to become self-disciplined and make healthy choices.

- *March 25, 2026* *10:00am-11:00am* *Trainer: Jocelyn Goerzen* *CA # 13617*

Attachment, Separation, Grief, and Loss

This training will identify the challenges of facing attachment, separation, grief, and loss due to the transitional nature of caring for foster children; examine the different attachment styles; assist foster parents in cultivating their abilities to be thoughtful and responsive to their foster child's needs; and identify coping skills and strategies for foster parents and children as they progress toward the formation of more healthy and secure attachments. Participants will also explore the 5 stages of grief, with examples of how they may be expressed in the foster care system; will gain knowledge in preventative measures; and will identify coping skills and resilience factors to manage grief and loss.

- *March 26, 2026* *10:00am-12:00pm* *Trainer: Jocelyn Goerzen* *CA # 13618*

Crisis Intervention and Verbal De-escalation

Participants will be able to understand that behavior has meaning, identify crisis behavior and differentiate between typical misbehavior and a crisis. Attendees will learn the stages of crisis and interventions that can be used during a crisis, as well as gain knowledge in de-escalation techniques.

- *March 24, 2026* *2:00pm-4:00pm* *Trainer: Jocelyn Goerzen* *CA # 13614*

Difficult Conversations: Talking with Teens About Healthy vs. Unhealthy Relationships

This course will walk through ways to practice skills, build trust, and initiate difficult conversations. This course will also cover building towards positive and healthy foundations. Learners will also be provided more topic-specific information about boundaries, consent, navigating breakups, and more.

- *February 26, 2026* *6:00pm-8:00pm* *Trainer: Alistair Smith* *CA # 13589*

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Gender, Sexual, and Romantic Minorities 101 (LGBTQIAP2S+ Comprehensive Introduction)

This introductory course will address positive, negative, and neutral messages regarding GSRM, teach the difference between gender identity, gender expression, gender attribution, and sex assigned at birth. This training also teaches the difference between physical/sexual attraction vs. emotional/romantic attraction through the split attraction model. Also discussed will be some of the most commonly used pronouns and how to use them, some language do's and don'ts, and gender inclusive language.

- *January 31, 2026* *9:00am-12:30pm* *Trainer: Alistair Smith* *CA # 13556*

Improving Foster Placement Stability

Participants will be able to define disruption and learn factors that contribute to disruptions in foster care. Participants will gain an understanding in why disruptions occur and be able to recognize the stages of disruption. Finally, participants will learn ways to prevent disruptions and strategies to improve placement stability.

- *March 5, 2026* *10:00am-11:30am* *Trainer: Jocelyn Goerzen* *CA # 13600*

Mental Health Basics

Participants will be able to identify stigma and/ or assumptions about mental illness diagnosis; define and understand basic mental health diagnosis, symptoms and common treatments; and learn how to apply strategies and coping skills to manage behavior and symptoms.

- *February 12, 2026* *2:00pm-3:30pm* *Trainer: Jocelyn Goerzen* *CA # 13578*

Parenting Gender, Sexual, and Romantic Minority Youth in Foster Care

Pre-requisite: Gender, Sexual, and Romantic Minorities (GSRM) 101

course will discuss LGBTQIAP2S+ youth experiences in foster care, challenges they face including minority stress, their unique needs, and the best way to support them according to both youth themselves and evidence-based research. This course will also discuss what foster family acceptance looks like, recommendations, and tips.

- *January 31, 2026* *2:00pm-4:00pm* *Trainer: Alistair Smith* *CA # 13557*



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Preparing Foster Children for Independent Living

This training offers a compassionate look at the experiences and challenges youth may encounter while navigating the foster care system. Participants will learn how to understand a child's transition plan, through a trauma-informed lens, and discover supportive ways to walk alongside them as they work toward their goals. The training also highlights practical resources that help youth build safety, connection, confidence, and skills as they move toward adulthood at their own pace.

- *March 4, 2026* *10:00am-12:00pm* *Trainer: Jocelyn Goerzen* *CA # 13597*

Teen Talk

Teen Talk is an interactive training designed to help caregivers, educators, and professionals understand the unique challenges and opportunities of working with teenagers. This 2-hour session blends neuroscience, practical communication tools, and real-world scenarios to equip participants with strategies that foster trust, connection, and resilience.

- *March 25, 2026* *6:00pm-8:00pm* *Trainer: Jocelyn Goerzen* *CA # 13616*

The Dynamics of Domestic Violence and Its Impact on Children

This training will go over the dynamics of domestic violence, including: types of abuse; the cycle of abuse; the power and control wheel; batterer behavior; how batterers use children in abusive relationships; and the impact of trauma. The training will also cover short- and long-term effects of domestic violence on children, including developmental and cognitive impacts, attachment issues, and trust issues. Finally, this training will discuss helping children recover after witnessing or experiencing domestic violence, including intervention and support strategies and coping strategies.

- *March 5, 2026* *6:00pm-8:00pm* *Trainer: Alistair Smith* *CA # 13599*

The Dynamics of Teen Dating Violence

This training discusses the dynamics of teen dating violence, the power and control wheel, myths and facts, warning signs, the cycle of abuse, abuse and technology, tips on talking to teens about unhealthy and abusive relationships and setting home rules and boundaries to stay safe.

- *February 10, 2026* *1:00pm-2:30pm* *Trainer: Alistair Smith* *CA # 13572*



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TRAINER BIOGRAPHIES

Alistair Smith (they/them) is a Training Specialist with TFI Family Services in Southeast Kansas. Alistair holds both a B.S. and M.A. in Communication from Pittsburg State University. They worked as a victim-advocate for survivors of domestic and sexual violence and stalking, specializing in supporting college student survivors. They are a Kansas Academy for Victim Assistance graduate and a former nationally-accredited advocate. Alistair has spent 10+ years educating youth and adults on topics related to mental health and wellbeing, substance abuse prevention, sex education, healthy and unhealthy relationships, the LGBTQIAP2S+ community, sexual and domestic violence response and prevention, human trafficking response and prevention, trauma-informed care, and compassion fatigue and secondary trauma. They believe in building equitable trauma-informed spaces to learn where people can address their biases, find new perspectives, practice empathy, and take steps toward growth. Alistair encourages learners to embrace exploration and remember that learning isn't always a neat linear perfect process. To quote their favorite educator, "Take chances, make mistakes, and get messy!"

Jocelyn Goerzen is a Training Specialist in Area 8 out of the Wellington, KS office for TFI Family Services. She has over two decades of experience in child welfare and mental health. Jocelyn has cultivated a deep commitment to fostering positive outcomes for children and families. Her professional journey in addition to her extensive experience as a foster parent for approximately 18 years includes various roles in a Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP), spanning from working as a Mental Health Technician and advancing to supervisory positions and the Education and Independent Living Coordinator. She played a pivotal role in developing and implementing programs designed to support the educational and life skills needs of youth in care. Jocelyn's niche in Child Welfare is parenting teens that have lived in foster care and helping them adjust to post-adoption life. Jocelyn's career is distinguished by her hands-on experience and leadership in both direct care and program development, underscoring her expertise in the field of child welfare and her unwavering commitment to improving the lives of young people and their families.