



June 29, 2018

PROGRAM MANAGERS, MENTORS AND SUPERVISORS  
MANITOBA CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES AUTHORITIES

**NO COST TRAINING PROGRAM FOR CHILD & FAMILY SERVICE WORKERS**  
**686 Child and Family Services Workers Trained since 1986**

Dear Colleagues:

This coming fall the Family Therapy Program will once again be offering training opportunities in “Family Systems” theory and practice to frontline Child and Family Services workers and case managers. The focus of the training is to **promote systemic thinking in case conceptualization and planning, awareness of the role of the self as a worker and improvement in interview and intervention skills.**

Our unique 20-week long courses provide the opportunity for more **intensive professional development** than can be provided in traditional workshop training. CFS social workers and case managers are invited to **attend one of the three levels of training offered each year.** In the initial training year (Level I), we provide an overview of systemic thinking, theory and practice as well as challenge participants to explore and articulate their own philosophy of practice. In the following year, workers who have completed Level I may enrol in Level II which expands and refines concepts learned in Level I as well as promotes an increased awareness of the self as helper, through case consultations, family of origin work and the use of mindfulness principles. The third and final year of training (Level III) is designed to experientially increase participants’ range of and flexibility in using more advanced interview and brief intervention techniques and skills.

Our training team is mindful of the interrelationship between case management and therapeutic intervention skills. The need for child protection, mandated service and case management objectives creates strain and often polarizes the relationship between workers and clients. One of the overarching goals in our training program is to **bridge the gap between a purely case management response and the development of therapeutic relationships with families** in a timely manner. The use of various systemic frames and methods, mindfulness approaches and increased self-awareness on the part of the worker, can increase family engagement and the development of shared goals between clients and workers.

The attached brochure describes the training and objectives in greater detail. Note that the deadline for applications is **Friday, September 21, 2018**, with classes for Level 1, 2 and 3 beginning the week of October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Interested staff are invited to complete one of the attached application forms and return it to Ola Buhner, Administrative Assistant, via email at [Ola.Buhner@newdirections.mb.ca](mailto:Ola.Buhner@newdirections.mb.ca) or fax at (204) 774-6468. As per our mandate, priority will be given to Child and Family Services Agency staff and is of **no cost** to CFS agencies and authorities. Vacancies will be filled by staff from other agencies on a first come first serve basis.

If you have any questions or comments they can be directed to Jessie Bissoon at (204) 786-7051, ext. 5217 or Ola Buhner, (204) 786-7051, ext. 5269. Please pass this information along to others who might be interested in our training program.

Sincerely,

Jessie Bissoon, M.Ed. AAMFT AS  
Coordinator, Family Therapy Program

Encls.

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