**23rd Annual African American Advisory Council Institute Registration Information**

**Registration**

To register for this institute, please complete the form. You may return the form to the Training Registration Office by fax: 217.557.4349, by mail: DCFS Office of Training, 406 E. Monroe St., Station 122, Springfield, IL 62701 or by email: DCFSTraining@illinois.gov.

**Training Credit Information**

DCFS clock hour and CEU credit will be given to everyone who attends conference general sessions and workshop sessions. To receive training credit, please attend the *entire* workshop or training session and make sure to get your attendance sheet stamped. If you are more than 15 minutes late for a session, or if you fail to get your form stamped at the end of the conference, you will *not* receive credit for attending.

**Site Information**

This institute will be held at Governors State University, 1 University Parkway in University Park; phone number: 708.534.5000

**Travel Reimbursement**

**Please note that no travel will be reimbursed in accordance with the travel restrictions in Governor Rauner’s Executive Order 15-08.** There will also be no compensatory or overtime provided by DCFS.

**Cancellations**

In the event that you need to cancel your conference registration, please call the DCFS Registration Unit (877.800-3393).

Directions: Please select one workshop on pages 2 & 3. Brief workshop descriptions are given for each one. After you have decided on the workshop you would like to attend, please enter your first and second workshop selection numbers on the Registration. You will need to scan, fax or mail the Registration Form only to the DCFS Registration Unit to register. Pages 2 & 3 are only for your use in selecting your workshops.

**Workshop Descriptions**

**Workshop 1: Ensuring Supports to High School Students for a Successful Approach to Life:** Completing your education means more than just graduating from high school. Receiving sustainable educational support and advocacy from family, caseworkers and friends is essential.

This workshop will focus on necessary academic and social support services. Moreover, it will provide outreach and linkage between the student and the professional. Available resources to help guide a student’s success and positive outlook on life will also be discussed.

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**Workshop 2: Assessing Youth Skill Sets to Maximize their Gifts:**Being diligent in identifying youth’s interests, hobbies and all around skills may be helpful in motivating them educationally and vocationally. All youth possess gifts and talents that if properly developed and used, will produce positive results for them now and in the future. This will also enhance their ability to determine goals for themselves. The challenge is that oftentimes many youth and those working with them are unaware of or have not tapped into this potential.

This workshop is designed to provide advocates with strategies on how to assess a youth’s potential gifts and talents that can be used to support their personal economy, as they move towards independence and successful adults in life.

**Workshop 3: Eighteen (18): Ready or Not:** In Illinois and other states around the country, eighteen (18) is the age of majority. What does this mean for DCFS youth, especially those impatiently anticipating emancipation? Are they adequately prepared for self-sufficiency? If not, what opportunities will be made available to assist them in achieving self-sufficiency prior to emancipation?

This workshop is designed to examine our advocacy role and responsibilities for preparing youth for successful transition to independence and life after DCFS.

**Workshop 4: What Role does Child Welfare Play in Helping Adolescents Navigate through the Violence in their Daily Lives:** This workshop will be one that challenges workers to think outside the normal parameters of child welfare, but more so as parents of these wards. It will set up scenarios and ask how workers would approach the matter with a young person that has been exposed to a violent situation.

**Workshop 5**: **Evidence Based Strategies Proven to Motivate Adolescents in Care to Overcome Barriers:** The Department, along with its Purchase of Services (POS) partners utilizes data in hopes of providing better outcomes for our adolescents in care. The Department uses a plethora of data sources for the purpose of information gathering, as well as performance-based monitoring.

This workshop will examine how the use of evidence-based strategies has proven to motivate adolescents in care to overcome barriers. Moreover, the workshop will focus on the need to improve outcomes for adolescents as it relates to the three main outcome domains: *Safety, Well-Being and Permanency*. This workshop will assist all staff levels in understanding the complexities of data and to make it more user friendly.

**Workshop 6: Interrupting Racial Disproportionality and Disparities in Child Welfare Outcomes:**  This workshop will review National, State and County data on disproportionality and disparities experienced by children and families of color. It will identify key child welfare decision-making points where racial disproportionality occurs. Presenters will discuss the importance of engaging stakeholders throughout the child welfare ecology to address racial disproportionality and disparities. They will help attendees understand racism as social and legal constructs manifesting individually, culturally and institutionally in child welfare and review the “Racial Equity Impact Assessment” (REIA) method and tool to identify unintended negative impacts on policies, procedures and practices effecting families of color.