



Online Cohort Program

Pennsylvania Family Support Alliance (PFSA) is excited to announce the launch of the **Family Digital Wellness Online Cohort (FDW-OC)**, a new and unique training program and professional development opportunity extended to professionals in child and family-serving fields who have an enthusiastic interest in learning and discussing how digital wellness plays a role in the lives of families within each of our communities.

At its foundation, the FDW-OC is a space where professionals can come together to expand their capacity for creating safe and healthy interactions with digital technology rather than choosing a restrictive and limited approach. It is also where we can learn the skills and understand the experiences that impact our relationship with digital technology.

This program will follow a cohort structure, and all sessions will take place virtually via Zoom between September and February:

- ▶ Two monthly group content sessions (2 hours each)
- ▶ One monthly individual assignment
- ▶ Group discussions

Applications Now Open!

Applications for the FDW-OC are now being accepted! The final deadline for all applications to be considered is August 30, 2024, by 12 p.m. Eastern time. Once submitted, your application will be reviewed, and you will be notified of your acceptance status within one week.

If your application is accepted, we will reach out to you to confirm your acceptance and

attendance in the program. Additional information will follow this outreach.

To apply, visit www.pafsa.org/family-digital-wellness.

If you have any questions, email PFSA Prevention Services Manager Justin Donofrio at jdonofrio@pafsa.org.

**Specific details, including program pricing and session dates/times, are outlined in the FDW-OC Information Guide, which can be accessed on the PFSA website.*



Welcome! We are excited to welcome Terry Clark to our Board of Directors!


Terry is the president and CEO of the Pennsylvania Council of Children, Youth & Family Services, a statewide service that advocates on behalf of providers serving children, youth, and families throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.


Terry's passion for working to improve the commonwealth's child welfare system has spanned 33 years and has led him to numerous roles within the field and across the state.

"I'm honored to be a part of PFSA's statewide board," Terry said. "Much of my career has been dedicated to protecting and providing for the children of Pennsylvania, and as I work alongside PFSA, I will continue to do everything in my power to educate others and to ensure a positive, abuse-free environment for PA kids."

Follow along with us!

 **PA Family Support Alliance**
@ProtectPAKids

 **PFSA**
@pafamilysupportalliance

 **PA Family Support Alliance**
@pa-family-support-alliance

 **PA Family Support Alliance**
@PAFamilySupport



Register for the *Virtual* 2024 PA Child Abuse Prevention Symposium!

PA Child Abuse
**PREVENTION
SYMPOSIUM**

NOV 7th 2024

This unique event delivers content and resources that meet the current needs of families while also shining a light on new and emerging trends. Participants attending this symposium will have an opportunity to learn, engage, and network with expert speakers from across the country presenting on innovative topics that intersect with family support and child abuse prevention practices.

The PA Child Abuse Prevention Symposium will be held virtually via Zoom, and all participants will have an opportunity to attend each session during the event.

REGISTRATION & PRICING

NEW THIS YEAR: TWO registration options! Participants have the option to attend the live session (eligible for continuing education credits) or purchase the recording only (not eligible for continuing education credits). For either option, the recording will be made available the week after the event concludes, and access will be granted for one month.

- ▶ Live (virtual) attendance and recording access: \$125
- ▶ Access to recording only: \$50
- ▶ CBCAP Network member discount: 10% discount when using code, which can be applied to either registration option
- ▶ Continuing education credits: All live attendance registrations are eligible for CEUs, CLEs, or Act 48 credits.

SESSION DETAILS

Creating Concrete Supports for Families and the Confusion Between Poverty and Neglect

Kim Eckel, CEO, Footbridge for Families, & Clare Anderson, Senior Policy Fellow, Chapin Hall-University of Chicago

Introducing the Huntingdon Endangered/At-Risk Youth Response Team (H.E.A.R.T.) Program

Charles T. Streightiff, Chief of Police, Huntingdon Borough Police Department

Prevention Made Possible: Collaborative Strategies for Child Abuse Prevention

Michelle McDyre, Director of Prevention Education and Outreach, Mission Kids Child Advocacy Center

Race, Social Class, and Child Abuse: Content, Strength, and Impact of Stereotypes on Medical Decision-Making

Dr. Cynthia Najdowski, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Psychology at University of Albany

Shifting from Digital Diligence to Digital Wellness

Justin Donofrio, Prevention Services Manager, Pennsylvania Family Support Alliance

To learn more about the event sessions and speakers, visit our PA Child Abuse Prevention Symposium webpage [here](#). Please direct any questions to info@pafsa.org.

MANDATED REPORTER TRAINER SPOTLIGHT

Melissa Haydt

We recently interviewed Melissa, who has been a contracted trainer for PFSA since 2003 — here is what she has to say about why she is so passionate about training mandated reporters.

Why do you care about mandated reporters of child abuse?

I care about mandated reporters because these are the professionals on the front line. These are the individuals who often see and identify child abuse in our children before anyone else. Oftentimes, if it wasn't for them, child abuse would not be identified, reports would not be made, and children would not be protected. By training mandated reporters, they can learn the latest about what is going on in the field of child abuse and develop and enhance their skills to identify child abuse.

I love interacting with all the mandated reporters during training. They are a very diverse group. I love learning about them and their professions, as well. If it were not for our mandated reporters, many more children would be seriously injured or die as a result of child abuse. My work and training for all these many

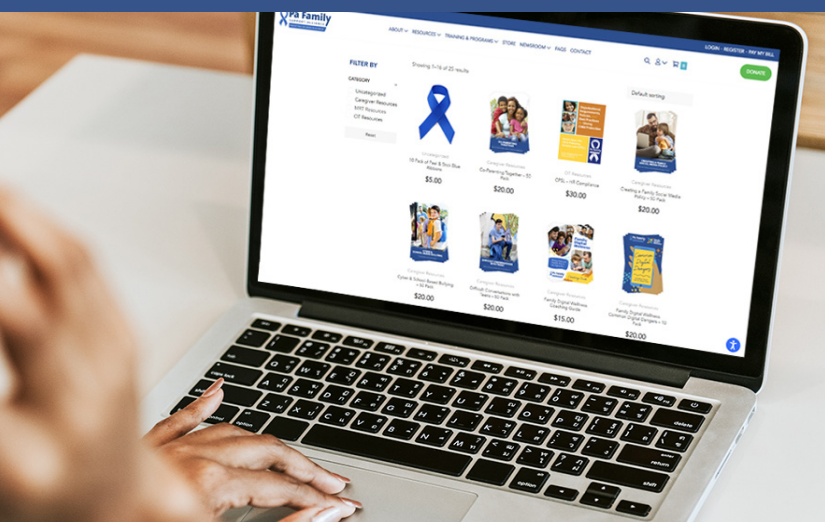
years has been for the motto of the Starfish Story, which is that "we may not be able to save all children from child abuse, but we can make a difference for this one."



Why do you train for PFSA?

I train for PFSA because I have a passion for working in the field of child protection and doing what I can to keep children safe. My entire career, which began in May 1975, has been spent working with children and their families and perpetrators, all for the purpose of protecting children and keeping them safe. I train for PFSA because I love sharing my knowledge and experience in the field of child abuse with mandated reporters.

We appreciate the wealth of knowledge Melissa brings to each training she provides to mandated reporters. She looks forward to meeting you in her trainings!



Visit Our Store!

PFSA has educational resources available in our online store. You can find informative materials covering a wide range of topics designed to assist caregivers, parents, and professionals in an effort to protect children.

Please visit pafsa.org/store to learn more!



Welcome to Our New CBCAP Network Member Agencies!

PFSA would like to take an opportunity to welcome two new members of the Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) Network: **United Way of the Southern Alleghenies** and **Tuscarora Intermediate Unit #11**! These two agencies are also connected to PFSA through the Mandated Reporter Train-the-Trainer program — WELCOME!

PFSA is proud to partner and collaborate with diverse, dedicated, and committed organizations that advance the important work of preventing child abuse and neglect. Thank you for your commitment and dedication!

To find out about CBCAP Network benefits or to learn more about becoming a CBCAP Network member, visit our website at pafsa.org.

#ProtectPAKids

Help us support the families and communities across Pennsylvania by donating to PFSA today. Your gift will help PFSA continue to deliver successful training, education, and ongoing support to PA families and children.

Visit pafsa.org to learn more and to donate!

Read Our Blog

Our blog is the best way to get timely information on ways to help stop child abuse, our latest staff developments, and prevention strategies. Read more at pafsa.org/blog.



UPCOMING PFSA TRAININGS

Families in Recovery New Facilitator Training

This research-based program is a great resource for parents, guardians, and caretakers recovering from substance use disorder. The program aims to teach healthy coping and parenting skills while balancing the needs of recovery.

New facilitators of the Families in Recovery (FiR) program will be fully prepared to implement the program and provide training after attending a two-day comprehensive session consisting of content, education, and application instruction of the curriculum. FiR facilitators come together to share program implementation experience, ideas, and insights following initial training.

All organizations interested in implementing the Families in Recovery program are required to enter an agreement contract with PFSA and participate in the evaluation requirements of the program. FiR contracts include ongoing technical assistance, program development, facilitator calls, and assistance with data collection procedures.

Dates: October 22 & 23, 2024 (*virtual*)

Time: 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
(*half-hour lunch break*)

Cost: Email Justin Donofrio, Prevention Services Manager, at jdonofrio@pafsa.org for the paperwork or to ask any questions.

Mandated Reporter Training

PFSA has several options for mandated reporter training for staff and volunteers. Certificates are provided to the participants, and, upon request, we will upload confirmation of your training to the Departments of State or Education for CE fulfillments under Act 31 and/or Act 48. CLEs are also available for attorneys.

LIVE IN-PERSON/VIRTUAL

Cost: Free

How to register: Find and register for a virtual session here: pafsa.org/mandated-reporter-training

INDIVIDUAL ONLINE, ON-DEMAND

Cost: \$30

Take anytime: pafsa.org/on-demand-online-training

TRAIN-THE-TRAINER

This is an opportunity for organizations to develop their own quality, cost-efficient, in-house training program for employees on child abuse recognition and reporting.

Dates: October 22 & 23, 2024 (*virtual*)

Time: 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
(*half-hour lunch break*)

Cost: \$1,000 per trainer, entering into a three-year contract with PFSA. Email Haven Evans, Director of Programs, at hevans@pafsa.org for the paperwork or to ask any questions.