

PA Child Abuse **PREVENTION** **SYMPOSIUM**

Registration is Open!

The annual **PA Child Abuse Prevention Symposium**, hosted by Pennsylvania Family Support Alliance (PFSA), is a unique virtual event that connects professionals, partners, and stakeholders in the family support and child abuse prevention field, focusing on best practices for strengthening families and keeping kids safe in Pennsylvania.

This conference 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 innovative topics that intersect with family support and child abuse prevention practices.

PFSA's PA Child Abuse Prevention Symposium will be held virtually via Zoom on September 13, and all participants will have an opportunity to attend each session during the symposium. Participants can also learn

about PFSA's current work in each topic area and what is to come as new programs and resources are made available.

Registration for this event includes CEUs, CLEs, and Act 48 credits!

Session Topics

- ▶ How Do We Talk About Childhood Adversity and Prevention?
- ▶ Practices and Resources for Serving Kinship Families
- ▶ Recognizing Abuse and Interviewing "Non-Verbal" Children
- ▶ Technology's Child: Putting the Research on Kids and Tech to Work for Families

[Click Here to Download Program Details](#)

Registration Timeline

- ▶ April 17: Registration opens
- ▶ July 31: Early-bird registration ends
- ▶ September 8: Registration closes

Registration Pricing

- ▶ Early-bird registration \$135
- ▶ Regular registration \$150
- ▶ Members of our **CBCAP Network** receive a 10% discount, which can be stacked on top of early-bird registration

To learn more about this year's symposium, visit our event webpage:

pafsa.org/symposium-details

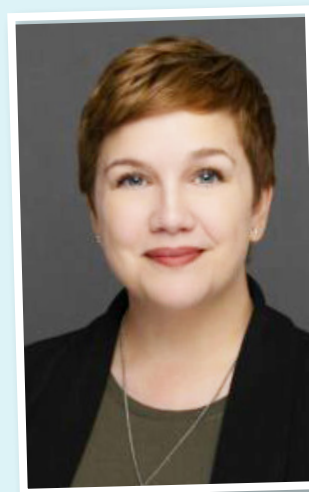
[Click Here to Register](#)

Support The Cause, Support PA Kids!

Consider giving a gift to PFSA to make a difference in the lives of PA kids and families. Your gift will advance the mission of PFSA to provide education, support, and training to make Pennsylvania safe for children. All donations help PFSA continue the successful delivery of training, development of educational materials, and ongoing support for community-based agencies. Visit pafsa.org to learn more about our services and to donate.



Welcome to Our New Board Member!



Join us in welcoming a new member to our Board! We are excited and grateful to have Lora McKnight join our Board and bring expertise and perspective to PFSA to further our vision for all children to grow and thrive free from abuse and neglect. Welcome!

Lora McKnight

Chief Operating Officer, Vibrant Pittsburgh

MANDATED REPORTER TRAINER SPOTLIGHT

Sherry Irvis-Hill



Sherry Irvis-Hill has been a trainer for PFSA since 2015. In that time, she has trained hundreds of professionals and volunteers on how to recognize and report child abuse.

Sherry retired from the PA Department of Human Services, Office of Children, Youth, and Families after 32 years of public service in various management positions and over 19 years in the child welfare field. Sherry earned her master's degree in public administration from the University of Pittsburgh and resides in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Sherry is the proud mother of two children.

We recently interviewed Sherry, and this is what she had to say about why she is so passionate about training mandated reporters for PFSA.

Why do you train for PFSA?

PFSA is a leader in providing programs to help educate and prevent child abuse and neglect in Pennsylvania. Each employee is passionate and dedicated to the families and children in Pennsylvania. They love what they do, and it is seen and it is evident in the advocacy work as well as the new programs offered to help families in recovery and to help educate professionals and communities become aware of the collective responsibility to protect Pennsylvania's children. I train for PFSA because it is my passion and, I believe, one of my purposes in life. I believe children should be

protected at all times and never subjected to abuse. When they are not, they are subjected to long-term effects like depression, guilt, shame, fear, isolation, and low self-esteem.

Why do you care about mandated reporters of child abuse?

It's important to me that persons who are responsible for children understand the PA laws around child abuse as well as what can be done when a child is at risk of abuse. It is so rewarding to talk to professionals who will think and do things differently now that they have received training from PFSA.

It is rewarding to hear the personal stories of mandated reporters who are survivors of abuse. I know that I am helping them do their jobs better, and I hope to allay any uncertainties around reporting child abuse. I let them know they are warriors and may be the person who protects that child from death.

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

*Follow
along!*



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PFSA
@pafamilysupportalliance



PA Family Support Alliance
@PAFamilySupport

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 18 & 19, 2023 (*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: July 13 & 14, 2023 (*virtual*) **OR**
October 24 & 25, 2023 (*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.