Welcome to the training on Mandated Reporting of Suspected Child Abuse or Neglect. I am Kelli Lanzot, one of the Program Consultants for Ohio’s Early Intervention Program, and I will be guiding you through the module.

Successful completion of this training meets one of the professional development requirements in Ohio Early Intervention Rule 5123-10-04. Beginning July 1, 2019, this module is one of eight modules required to obtain an Early Intervention Service Coordinator one-year or five-year credential or an Early Intervention Service Coordination Supervisor one-year or five-year credential.

To receive credit for the module, you must obtain a score of 80% or higher on the final assessment.
The objectives for this training are to support Ohio’s Part C Early Intervention field to:

- Understand Ohio’s mandated reporting laws,
- Know what must be reported, when a report must be made and who must report,
- Discuss the importance of reporting,
- Identify the reporting process in Ohio
The mandated reporting law is Ohio Revised Code 2151.421, Reporting Child Abuse or Neglect.

It requires certain individuals who are acting in a professional or official capacity to immediately report child abuse or neglect.

The law states to whom these reports should be made, creates immunity from being sued for the person who reports child abuse or neglect and allows the person who reports the abuse or neglect to follow-up and get certain information after the report is made.
The State of Ohio recognizes two categories of child maltreatment: Abuse and Neglect.

Abuse represents an action against a child. It is an act of commission.

Neglect means failure to act on behalf of a child. It is an act of omission.

There are two primary categories of abuse:
• physical abuse (non-accidental injury to a child), and
• emotional abuse (chronic acts which interfere with the psychological and/or social development of a child)

Subcategories include:
• Sexual abuse: any sexual activity upon or with a child and
• Dangerous acts: because of the acts of his parents, guardian or custodian, the child suffers physical or mental injury that harms or threatens to harm the child’s health or welfare

In a few moments, we will talk about these categories in more detail.
You should report immediately upon suspecting or having knowledge of child abuse or neglect.

You must know your licensure and employer's policies for mandated reporting, which may differ from the ORC.

The mandated reporting law applies to a child less than 18 years old, or an individual who is a physically or mentally impaired person under 21 years.

When you suspect abuse or neglect, it is not your responsibility to judge whether the abuse or neglect is happening. It is the responsibility of the PCSA to investigate and determine if it is abuse or neglect.

To make a report, all you need is a suspicion of abuse or neglect.
The specific pieces of information you must report are:

- The name/address/age of the child you suspect of being abused/neglected
- Names of caretaker, person you suspect as perpetrator and any other family members in the household
- Any language barriers, communication difficulties of the child/parent/caregiver
- The concerns you are calling with today
- Caseworker safety concerns (guns, weapons, dangerous animals)
Let's pause for a knowledge check before moving on:

Which of the following is NOT a piece of information you should report?

a) The name and address of the child
b) The name of the person you suspect as the perpetrator
c) The religious preference of the family
d) Communication difficulties of the child, parent and/or caregiver
e) Safety concerns

Answer: c

This question is kind of tricky... Many PCSA agencies will ask about violence in the home. If the perpetrator has a history of domestic violence or assault charges the mandated reporter should let the PCSA agency know.
The ORC defines a neglected child as: a child who lacks adequate parental care because of the faults or habits of the child's parents, guardian, or custodian. The can include:

- **Physical** - Supervision, housing, nutrition
- **Emotional** - Necessary support & affection
- **Educational** - Ensuring a child’s opportunity to learn in an appropriate environment
- Left with an inappropriate caregiver (ex. another child) and/or parent’s whereabouts are unknown
- No supervision with safety factors (age, maturity, excessive time, no resources, out in community, severe weather, playing with dangerous objects, infant/toddler in car without direct supervision, child restrained or locked in area that prevents leaving)
- Homelessness & basic needs are not met, or homelessness as a result of the faults/habits of parent
- Parent fails to provide child with food, utilities, or clothing without access to alternative provisions which causes safety threat
- Clutter or debris prevents entrance or exit from home, house has exposed wiring within child’s reach, holes in exterior doors/walls/windows, human/animal waste accessible in living area
- Bugs or rodents that pose a health & safety hazard (roaches inhabit infant’s body/bedding, rat bites on child, maggots on counters/food/cooking area) Untreated lice with open sores and/or infection
- Poor hygiene & child’s health is affected (bleeding, painful rash, loss of teeth/hair, chronic tooth pain)
It’s time for a couple more knowledge checks:

True or False – lack of emotional affection or nurturing is considered a form of neglect.

(click) The answer is true. The definition of neglect includes the lack of necessary support & affection for the child.
True or False – a cluttered home is always a red flag for neglect.

(click)) The answer is false. Clutter in and of itself may not indicate neglect. However, if the clutter is so severe as to prevent exit or entrance from the home, this would be considered neglect.
Abuse is defined by the Ohio Revised Code as a child who:

- Exhibits evidence of any physical or mental injury or death, inflicted other than by accidental means, or an injury or death which is at variance with the history given of it. A child exhibiting evidence of corporal punishment or other physical disciplinary measure by a parent, guardian, custodian, person having custody or control, or person in loco parentis of a child is not an abused child under this statute. (unless it meets the criteria for Endangering Children)
Endangering Children is defined by the Ohio Revised Code as:

- Corporal punishment or other physical disciplinary measure, or physically restraining the child in a cruel manner or for a prolonged period, which punishment, discipline, or restraint is excessive under the circumstances AND creates a substantial risk of serious physical harm to the child.
- Repeatedly administering unwarranted disciplinary measures to the child, when there is a substantial risk that such conduct, if continued, will seriously impair or retard the child's mental health or development.
Can you think of dangerous acts? These are screened in under PHYSICAL ABUSE. Substance abuse and domestic violence are two examples.

Remember that it is about IMPACT on the child. The act itself may not be enough for it to meet the criteria for abuse.
It’s time for another knowledge check:. Is it true or false that an injury can be considered abuse if it is inconsistent with the provided history of how the injury occurred.

(click) The answer is true. Abuse should be suspected if the explanation of how an injury occurred does not match the actual injury.
Sexual abuse includes the following actions:

- Parent/caretaker encourages or fails to intervene in sexual activity of a child
- Parent/caretaker allows unsupervised contact between an indicated or substantiated perpetrator and/or convicted sexual offender & his/her victim
- Adult touching intimate parts of child, clothed or unclothed
- Rape 2907.02, sexual conduct 2907.01, sexual battery 2907.03 unlawful sexual conduct with a minor 2907.04, gross sexual imposition 2907.05, sexual contact 2907.01
- A suspicion of sexual contact may include a child exhibiting multiple or a combination of abnormal sexual behaviors or inappropriate sexual knowledge.
Emotional abuse can include:

- A parent threatens the child with extreme or vague but sinister punishment
- A parent repeatedly involves the child in activities that cause significant distress to the child
- The child displays indicators of mental injury (ex. Prolonged bedwetting, nightmares, cowering) as a result of the prolonged effects of activity, threats of torture and/or ritualistic maltreatment, and
- Forcing a child to eat a non-food item or food in an excessive amount that might be painful or toxic
Other types of cases

- **Dependency** - Child who lacks adequate parental care by reason of the mental or physical condition of the child’s parents, guardian, or custodian.

- **Family in Need of Services** or FINS - The PCSA shall provide services aimed at preventing child abuse and neglect which have been requested by the parent, guardian, or custodian for the family if there are no current allegations of child abuse, neglect, or dependency.

Other types of cases include Dependency and Family in Need of Services (FINS).

Dependency refers to a situation where the child lacks adequate parental care by reason of the caregiver's mental or physical condition.

Family in Need of Services is an Assistance Program administered by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. It provides services that were requested by the parent, guardian or custodian and targeted at preventing abuse and neglect. To qualify for services, the family must not have a current allegation of abuse, neglect or dependency. This must be called in by the parent/custodian, not the mandated reporter.
The definition of mandated reporter is: a person who, because of his or her profession, is legally required to report any suspicion of child abuse or neglect to the relevant authorities. These laws are in place to prevent children from being abused and to end any possible abuse or neglect at the earliest possible stage.

Examples of disciplines that are mandated reporters due to their licensure laws are social workers, teachers, and doctors.
Most DSs and therapists are hired by county boards of DD. Employees of county boards of DD are mandated reporters.

Early Intervention Service Coordinators may not be listed as mandated reporters but their agency may have policies that require them to report abuse or neglect. When in doubt about whether or not to report abuse the SC should talk with his or her supervisor.
**Who does the law apply to/Who is required to report?**

Anyone who has reason to believe a child is being abused or neglected should make a report! We all have an obligation to report a child we suspect may be in danger. Ohio law encourages you to act on behalf of a child in need of protection and to report your suspicion to appropriate authorities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attorneys</th>
<th>Coroner</th>
<th>Health Care Professional</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physicians</td>
<td>Child Care Staff</td>
<td>Dentists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCSA Employees</td>
<td>Humane Society Officer</td>
<td>Therapist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nurses</td>
<td>Educators</td>
<td>DD Employees</td>
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<td>School Employees</td>
<td>Psychologists</td>
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<tr>
<td>Speech Therapists</td>
<td>Spiritual Advisors</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In emergency situations, call 911. This includes situations where a child discloses thoughts of self harm or harm to others. You may also call your County Crisis Line.
You must report any suspicion of any of the forms of abuse or neglect we are discussing today.
In Ohio, mandated reporters are required to contact the county in which the child resides. Contact may be by phone, fax, email or walk-in.

As noted earlier, in an emergency or crisis situation, please contact 911.
Why do we report suspected abuse and neglect?

• It’s the law
• It’s the right thing to do, and
• It protects the mandated reporter
Now it’s time for another knowledge check:

True or False: Anyone who suspects that a child is in danger should make a report.

(click) The answer is true. Reporting suspected child abuse or neglect is the right thing to do and protects both the child and the reporter.
Let's look at some statistics from 2017 and 2018. More than 180,000 cases of suspected abuse/neglect were reported each year. Almost half were screened in for further investigation.

### Abuse and Neglect by the Numbers

**Child Protection Reports**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Report Period</th>
<th>Jan-Dec 2017</th>
<th>Jan-Nov 2018 (Partial)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Reports</td>
<td>187596</td>
<td>183446</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Screened In</td>
<td>85928</td>
<td>81846</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Screened In</td>
<td>101646</td>
<td>101527</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pending</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Of the total allegations, the most common types of maltreatment reported were physical abuse and neglect.
For children aged 0-2, this chart shows the number of cases in each category of maltreatment that were substantiated vs. those that were unsubstantiated or referred for alternative response.

Alternative Response applies when:
• Reports do not allege serious or imminent harm, and
• There are no formal findings/substantiation of the allegation

Alternative response allows for safety-focused partnership with families. A Safety and Risk Family Assessment is completed, and the emphasis is on “front-loading” services by providing them earlier and without the requirement of a finding.
After you make a referral to the PCSA, you should receive a letter advising whether the case was “screened in” or “screened out.”

The assigned worker will likely contact you for collateral information. Each county may handle this differently.

The referral source will get a dispositional letter outlining the overall health and safety of the child(ren), whether the case remains open, and/or whether court action occurred.

Mandated reporters should receive a letter from the PCSA acknowledging the referral was made under the mandated reporting law.
Let's pause for one last knowledge check:

Whose responsibility is it to determine if suspicions of abuse or neglect are substantiated?

(click) It is the responsibility of the PCSA. The PCSA will investigate reports and determine what actions are needed.

The reporter is not responsible to make these determinations but rather to advise the PCSA of suspicions that may require further investigation.
The Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, or CARA was signed into law in July 2016. This law establishes a comprehensive, coordinated and balanced strategy through enhanced grant programs with the goal of expanding prevention and education as well as treatment and recovery.

CARA establishes requirements to meet the needs of substance exposed and substance affected infants and their families.

This requires the development of a plan of safe care for infants born identified as being affected by substance abuse (legal or illegal), withdrawal symptoms or a Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.

A Plan of Safe Care is an arrangement that addresses the immediate safety of the affected infant, treatment needs of the infant, and health and substance disorder treatment needs of the affected family or caregiver.
A Substance *Affected* Infant is defined as “a child under 12 months who has any detectable physical, developmental, cognitive or emotional delay or harm which is associated with parent/guardian abuse of legal or illegal substance.”

A Substance *Exposed* Infant is a child under 12 months who has been subjected to legal or illegal substance while in utero.

CPS agencies are required to collect information on all referrals involving an infant who is identified as being substance exposed or affected.

They must ensure a plan of safe care has been established, that the plan of safe care addresses the safety needs of the infant and that the plan of safe care addresses the health and substance use disorder treatment needs of the affected family or caretaker.
Reporting Responsibilities

• Notify Law Enforcement of Criminal Act

• Notify Children's Services for abuse and neglect under the age of 21
These resources provide further guidance related to child abuse and neglect.

The hotline number listed is the DODD Abuse/Neglect Hotline.

The second phone number is the DODD Major Unusual Incidents (MUI) main office.

The two links noted launch the DODD portal which includes more information about reporting a concern.
Thank you for participating in the webinar. You may now proceed to the final assessment. Once you pass the assessment with a score of 80% or higher you will be able to receive your certificate of completion.