

TITLE IV-E COLLABORATIVE Presents

Dual Dialogues

Mike Mertz

Monday, November 26, 2018

9:30 AM to 1:00 PM

Registration 9:00 AM

West Valley Campbell Community Center
One West Campbell Avenue, Campbell, CA

Room J69

MIKE MERTZ is the Director of Staff Development as well as a National Family Finding and Engagement Trainer with Seneca Family of Agencies. He currently coaches staff and trains providers nationwide on the Family Finding model as well as other family engagement strategies that foster collaborative endeavors for building lifetime support networks for children and youth. In addition to Mike's vast training and coaching experience, he has over 26 years of experience leading and managing both residential and community based programs engaged in promoting the voice of youth and families. Mike's work focuses on creating connectedness, building permanency, developing positive outcomes, and increasing the quantity and quality of engagement of organizations with the youth and families they serve.

As professionals we are often invited to slip into conversations about the people who consult us when they are not present. This training will focus on the real and possible effects of these second, or dual, dialogues. Participants will read and discuss a brief article written by Johnella Bird ("Professional Talk") that outlines the dangers of this dual dialogue. We will examine the invitations to engage in professional talk, the effects of these practices, and strategies to avoid falling into a way of working with people that can objectify them. Cultural and political discourse that sustains dual dialogues will be exposed and discussed. The group will participate in an exercise designed by William Madsen (Collaborative Therapy with Multi-Stressed Families) around how we, as professionals, may inadvertently dis-empower those who seek our help. Attendees will leave with ideas to address these practices both individually and as an agency.

Participants will:

- *Learn about the dangers of professional conversations in the absence of clients*
- *Critique their own practices that may contribute to dis-empowering clients*
- *Identify some of the socio-political influences related to disrespectful professional conversations*

Eligible County Employees



For questions contact Staff Development & Training at rianna.garcia01@ssa.sccgov.org

Must obtain Supervisor approval prior to registering

All Other Eligible Employees

Register on-line here:

<https://register.asapconnected.com/ClassDetail.aspx?pk=1284630>

If you have question please e-mail us at:
T4e.collaborative@gmail.com