



Supreme Court of Appeals State of West Virginia

News

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Training session to focus on addressing childhood trauma

For immediate release Thursday, Feb. 20, 2014

LEWISBURG, W.Va. – The Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia is co-sponsoring a training session called “The Effects of Trauma on Children” from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 21, in the multipurpose room of the Greenbrier County Public Library, 152 Robert W. McCormick Drive, in Lewisburg.

The session is open to the press, but there is no more room for participants.

Emily Chittenden-Laird, Executive Director of the Child Advocacy Network, will lead the session for about ninety professionals who work with troubled children.

“We are at an exciting time in history with the fields of psychology, public health, neuroscience, and social work all pointing at the same thing – childhood adversity can have a lifelong impact. By learning how to recognize trauma and effectively respond on both an individual and systemic level, we can make incredible strides in improving the fabric of our local communities,” Ms. Chittenden-Laird said.

The training session also is being sponsored by Eleventh Judicial Circuit (Greenbrier and Pocahontas Counties) Judge James Rowe and the Court Improvement Program Board, which the Supreme Court established in 1995 to improve outcomes for children and families in child abuse and neglect cases. More information about the Court Improvement Program is available at www.wvcip.com.

Judge Rowe said, “Each member of our community shares responsibility for our children, their education, their safety, and their wellbeing. Many, because of circumstances beyond their control, suffer brokenness and are in need of special help outside of their families.

“We have invited regional professionals who work with children to attend the training seminar to gain a better understanding of the effects of trauma on the health of the most vulnerable members of our communities – our children. Representatives of law enforcement, education, the legal community, social services, and volunteer organizations have responded positively to our shared goals,” Judge Rowe said.

“Our goal is that with a deeper understanding of how trauma impacts our children, we can address those effects to help avoid the life-long negative consequences of being victims of trauma,” Judge Rowe said.

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