



Date: 07/17/2024

To: DHS SUID and AHT Trainers, Child Care Aware PD staff and TARSS staff

From: Kami Alvarez, MSW

RE: DHS owned SUID and AHT courses

It is the priority of the DHS training delivery system to have enough approved trainers on courses to deliver them for free or low cost, in-person, statewide and on a consistent enough basis so that providers can meet their licensing requirements without a scheduling barrier. The purpose of this memo is to provide the upcoming plan and timing for the DHS owned SUID and AHT course content release that has been updated and reviewed. There are several versions of the courses in Develop. All versions in total have 77 approved trainers. In addition to the in-person versions of these courses, DHS offers asynchronous, online versions through the Eager to Learn program. Most providers take SUID/AHT asynchronously through Eager to Learn.

We will be holding a required virtual trainer meeting for trainers already approved on the courses and who continue to meet the trainer criteria. We anticipate the meeting lasting between 60-90 minutes. There will be an option of two different meetings in different time blocks so that trainers have a choice in scheduling. A quiz will be offered at the end of the meeting and an 80% passing score will be required to continue to be approved on the course(s). We anticipate holding the trainer meetings shortly after the Labor Day holiday. Please watch for the trainer meeting information and how to register through TARSS in the Source newsletter.

One way we ensure affordable access to required training is to offer courses through the Child Care Aware system. The trainer agreement for attending TOTs for state owned courses includes a clause that trainers must be willing to train for Child Care Aware as a requirement for participating in the TOT and being on the course as an approved trainer. Willingness to train for Child Care Aware is a requirement for attendance of these upcoming trainer meetings and remaining on the revised courses as an approved trainer. Approved trainers that have completed the TOT can also offer the course independently outside of the Child Care Aware system. Trainers who choose not to train for Child Care Aware or do not successfully complete the trainer meeting and pass the quiz will be removed from the courses. If you do not wish to train these courses in-person by subcontracting through Child Care Aware into the future, please plan to stop holding events and entering attendance on the current version of the course (s) by Labor Day (September 2, 2024) so that your events will not be cancelled when you are deactivated from the course(s). After we have sorted out the completion status of the 77 existing

trainers, we will analyze the statewide delivery geographical gaps and hold a TOT for new trainers specifically for the areas needed.

The Office of Inspector General, Family Child Care Licensor newsletter recently featured a refresher to agency licensors regarding infant safe sleepwear. This information is included in the revised course content. Please follow the same guideline talking points given to the field.

A Quick Refresher on Safe Sleep: Reducing the Risk of SUID

The Minnesota Department of Health developed a "[Safe Sleep Frequently Asked Questions](#)" Guide. This guide is helpful and includes information about infant sleepwear:

- Risks associated with swaddling;
- Whether it is safe for a child to sleep with a blanket or a stuffed animal;
- The difference between a swaddle and a sleep sack;
- Whether an infant may safely sleep in a sleep sack once they begin rolling over;
- How to find out if an infant sleepwear product has been recalled;
- Whether all infant sleepwear products marketed or sold are safe for babies to sleep in;
- Whether it is safe for infants to use weighted sleepwear; and
- Why babies should sleep on their backs.

Agencies/trainers are encouraged to point family child care license holders to the MDH Safe Sleep FAQ if they have questions about infant sleepwear. The license holder may use the MDH Safe Sleep FAQ to guide conversations with an infant's parents/guardians when determining whether a piece of sleepwear is appropriate in a licensed family child care setting.

Please note when we use the term "sleepwear" above we are not speaking about the one-piece sleeper that is permitted to be used when swaddling an infant in a licensed family child care setting. MN Statutes, section 245A.1435, paragraph (f) does regulate the use of a swaddle, which is described as "a one-piece sleepwear that wraps over the infant's arms, fastens securely only across the infant's upper torso, and does not constrict the infant's hips or legs. If a swaddle is used by a license holder, the license holder must ensure that it meets the requirements of paragraph (d) and is not so tight that it restricts the infant's ability to breathe or so loose that the fabric could cover the infant's nose and mouth. Prior to any use of swaddling for sleep by a provider licensed under this chapter, the license holder must obtain informed written consent for the use of swaddling from the parent or guardian of the infant on a form developed by the commissioner. . ."

Additionally, MN Statutes, section 245A.1435, paragraph (d) regulates infant's clothing or sleepwear that may be worn when an infant is placed down to sleep and says that "the infant's clothing or sleepwear must not have weighted materials, a hood, or a bib."