

Overview

We strive to create a communal atmosphere at the Applied Learning Communities (ALCs). More than ever we want to provide you with opportunities to engage in conversation with your colleagues in Child Protective Services. To that end, we will use a platform called Piazza. The name Piazza comes from the Italian word for plaza--a common city square where people can come together to share knowledge and ideas. Designed to simulate discussion and ensure that everyone's perspective is heard and considered. Piazza is a discussion board that will host ongoing interactions between CPS Professionals during enrollment in the Virtual ALCs.

Participation is meant to stimulate your thinking and provoke new ideas. Participation will benefit your learning and contribute to your peers. You will receive the equivalent of 1 CEH every week for your participation on Piazza. You choose what your participation will look like. When it becomes a burden, reassess and consider contributing at a different time.

Each week, the ALC facilitator (Serena) will pose questions that prepare you for the next virtual session. In responding you will contribute to your own and other's learning. See the Exemplar for an example of a potential post and reply. Participate to whatever degree you are able and reply to other's posts when you can. You may learn that you prefer posting and not replying, or vice versa. Doing one and not the other is ok. The main goal is for you to enjoy the process of connecting with your peers from throughout the state.

Child Welfare Coordinators from the Department of Children and Families (DCF), Bureau of Regional Operations (BRO) may also participate in Piazza discussions as part of their overall involvement and partnership in the ALCs. CW Coordinators may also provide support outside of Piazza to answer policy questions, support adherence to policy, and promote best practices.

At the end of the 2020 Virtual ALC (June 2nd, 2020), the ALC facilitator will analyze the discussions across cohorts to identify themes. Discussions in Piazza, and in-person sessions will generate input to provide to the DCF. Ultimately, the ALC facilitator will synthesize content from both, and compile an annual report to be sent to staff at the DCF in the Division of Safety and Permanence on behalf of all five ALC cohorts.

