

## Virtual Member Events & Trainings

### **Our Approach**

Delivering professional training in a classroom environment has always been a priority for SCNCAC. With the COVID-19 crisis, we have moved all of our trainings and meetings to a virtual format. To do this, we have relied on the expertise of SCNCAC staff and external virtual education experts to help us ensure we continue to deliver quality content while leveraging the unique elements of a virtual environment.

We have already held a number of online forensic interview peer review sessions. We have also conducted a number of trainings and COVID-19 information meetings in the virtual format. We are also working to move our initial Victim Service Provider training to a virtual format and this training should occur in October.

As we continue through our pilot phase of virtual offerings, we are continuing to evaluate and adapt these trainings and information sessions to best meet the needs of our membership.

We have been pleased with the membership interest in virtual training offerings, and requests have sometimes exceeded capacity for these trainings. As we anticipate continued interest in the near-term, we will prioritize registrants and schedule trainings with a priority to the primary functions of the roles at our CACs that may not have received previous training. Please know that as we continue to evaluate our position in this virtual training environment, we will also continue to refine our processes and evaluate the size and timing of all offerings.

### **What We Have Learned**

Since the beginning of April, we all have had more experience with online meetings and trainings than we ever could have imagined! Based on this experience, both on the presenter and participant side of virtual events, and our work with external stakeholders in the virtual education space, we recognize just how different a virtual classroom format is from our traditional, in-person offerings. It is only natural that the way in which participants engage looks different as well.

In developing the following *Rules for Virtual Offerings*, SCNCAC has considered the unique circumstances a virtual training environment presents and believes these guidelines will facilitate a high-quality experience for all participants in our trainings.

1. Participants must have an electronic device with functioning video and audio. This includes a working microphone by which participants may engage in group discussions.

2. Participants must join each live session no later than the start time and remain logged in until the session has ended.
3. When requested, participants must have their camera enabled for the duration of the live session.
4. Participants must engage in all live session activities, including large group discussions, small group breakout sessions, and interactive polls during sessions.
5. Participants must refrain from carrying out other work during the live sessions.
6. Participants must complete all offline assignments within the designated time frame. The viewing of recorded webinars and submission of worksheets will be monitored.

Faculty and trainers will be spending time at the beginning of trainings discussing these guidelines and orienting participants to the virtual platform to build engagement, boost learning, and help participants connect with the content and with one another. While this virtual environment is very different than an in-person session, we believe that these guidelines will help create an environment for participants to experience the quality and professionalism expected of all SCNCAC trainings and information sessions.

Our SCNCAC team remains firmly committed to helping ensure South Carolina CACs and MDTs are well positioned to continue serving children and families not only during the COVID-19 crisis but as we emerge from it and operate in what is sure to be a new normal. Thank you for the work you are doing every day to continue to serve kids in South Carolina.

As always, please reach out with any questions.