

Draft Agenda*
National Council For Adoption
2008 National Adoption Conference
"Surviving and Thriving in Volatile Times"

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Pre-registration

4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Booking Signing and Hospitality Suite

8:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Tom Atwood will autograph copies of his recently released book, *The Whole Life Adoption*.

Wednesday, September 24, 2008

Registration/Breakfast

Opens at 7:00 a.m.

Continental breakfast provided for all conference participants

Welcome Remarks and Conference Instructions

8:30 a.m. – Prompt start

Tom Atwood, President and CEO, NCFA

Plenary Session One

9:00 AM - 10:30 a.m.

Congressional Update

Presenters: Tom Atwood, NCFA
Karen Greenberg, AAAA
Kathleen Strottman, Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute

Morning Coffee Break

10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Breakout Session A

10:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Executive Track: *Diversifying Your Agency through Public-Private Collaborations*

Presenters: Dennis Sutton, Children's Home Society of West Virginia
FL Baptist Representative

Social Work Track: *Your Domestic Adoption Program: Reaching teens and the larger community*

Presenters: Joi Wasill, Executive Director, Decisions, Choices, and Options
Chuck Johnson, National Council For Adoption
Sarah Yaklic, National Council For Adoption

Morning Break

11:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Lunch

12:00 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

Lunch for conference participants with keynote address delivered by Representative Michele Bachmann

Plenary Session Two

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Validating Your Agency's Purpose: What research really tells us about the impact of adoption on birthparents, children, and families

Presenter: Kathleen L. Whitten, Ph.D.

Breakout Session B

3:15 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

Social Work Track: *Best practices in adoption (Ethics CEUs available)*

Facilitator: Kris Faasse, Bethany Christian Services

Executive Track: *Surviving and Thriving in Turbulent Times: The future of adoption*

Facilitator: Chuck Johnson, National Council For Adoption
Heidi Cox, Gladney Center for Adoption

Adoption Hall of Fame Awards Dinner

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Honoring Senator Norm Coleman with special guest, Senator Mary Landrieu – *Invited guests*

Sponsored by the Gladney Center for Adoption

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Pilates

6:30 a.m. – 7:30 a.m.

NCFA Business meeting and Hot Breakfast Buffet

7:45 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.

Open to all conference participants, featuring five minute presentations from the Nominations, Financial, and Membership committees

Plenary Session Three

8:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Crucial Country updates

Presenters: Marshall Williams and Bill Blacquiere, International Committee Members

Morning Break

10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Plenary Session Four

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Updates from U.S. Department of State

Presenters: Gerry Fuller, *Bilateral Adoptions Chief*
Anna Mary Coburn, *Attorney/Advisor, Office of Children's Issues*
Representative from COA

Lunch

12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Lunch for conference participants with keynote address delivered by Dr. Karyn Purvis

Breakout Session Three

1:30 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Social Work Track: *Creating healing environments for our children. Skills and applications for fostering attachment and creating healing environments.*

Presenter: Dr. Patrick Mason
Dr. Karyn Purvis
Infant Massage representative

Facilitator: Pat Wingert, Newsweek - *invited*

Executive Track: *Surviving and Thriving: What is the future of collaboration and partnership between agencies?*

Presenter: Herbert Newell and Tom Velie, National Christian Adoption Fellowship

Facilitator: Tom Atwood

Afternoon Break

3:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Plenary Session Five

3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

A focus on Africa: *What is working? What are the barriers? How can U.S. agencies help?*

Presenters: Ryan Hanlon, America World Adoption
Bob Harding, Christian World Adoption

Dinner honoring Intercountry VIP

6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. (Ticket required)

Restaurant: TBD

Hospitality Suite

9:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Friday, September 26, 2008

Pilates

7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.

Continental Breakfast

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Plenary Session Six

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

A focus on pre-adoption and immigration issues.

Presenters: Irene Steffas, AAAA
Karen Eckert, CIS
Donna Campagnolo, National Benefits Center
Robert Cowan, National Benefits Center
Terri Robinson, National Benefits Center

Morning Break

10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Plenary Session Seven

10:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

A focus on post adoption and immigration issues.

Presenters: Irene Steffas, AAAA
Karen Eckert, CIS
Joyce Sterkel

Lunch

12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Keynote address delivered by Ann Veneman, Executive Director, UNICEF – invited

Door prize drawing

2:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

Conference participants must be present to win.

Adjournment

2:15 p.m.

*Draft schedule subject to change.