

National Adoption Conference 2023

Session Learning Objectives

Wednesday, June 28th, 2023

The Language of Trauma

After attending this course, professionals will be able to...

- Deduce how a lens of fear can skew positive dialogue, leading to negative outcomes.
- Determine how non-verbal communication is more easily processed when a student is dysregulated and functioning from his/her right brain.
- Identify how negative and inappropriate language can be used to decipher how a student is feeling.

Course Level: Intermediate

Equipping Transracial Adoptive Parents to Cultivate Positive Racial Identity

After attending this course, professionals will be able to...

- Examine strategies for equipping transracial adoptive parents to cultivate positive racial identity and an emotionally healthy sense of self.
- Describe the value of fostering a child's emotional and psychological needs as it relates to their racial identity.
- Explain organizational strategies for supporting transracial adoptive families.

Course Level: Intermediate

Ethics and Challenges in Post-Placement Birthparent Care

After attending this course, professionals will be able to...

- Identify gaps in their current birthparent care practice, based on current academic research and the model presented.
- Explain multiple ethical considerations for post-placement birthparent care.
- Describe new models and considerations for effective, optimal birthparent care.
- Determine how to close those gaps in ways that are birthparent-focused.
- Summarize birthparent issues using the lens of unresolved or ambiguous grief and trauma.
- Evaluate their current birthparent care plans.
- Formulate individualized and comprehensive birthparent care plans using an evidence-based care model.

Course Level: Intermediate / Advanced

The Unspoken Trauma: Loss

After attending this course, professionals will be able to...

- Identify strategies for helping parents understand their child's experience with foster care/adoption.
- Examine the unique losses experienced by children and how these losses affect their development.

- Evaluate the psychological tasks of grief work and healing therapies for children and teens.
- Integrate interventions for opening communication with children and strengthening transitions and attachment to new families.

Course Level: Intermediate / Advanced

Understanding Subsidies: An Overview of Federal and State Adoption Assistance

After attending this course, professionals will be able to...

- Identify interstate issues and eligibility concerns for federal and state adoption assistance and subsidies.
- Give examples of common mistakes made when applying for adoption assistance and subsidies.
- Describe the process of applying for non-ward subsidies.
- Explain the role an adoption professional can have in assisting families to apply for subsidies.

Course Level: Beginning

Blocked Care: Helping Parents Regain Compassion

After attending this webinar, professionals will be able to:

- Describe the four types of blocked care.
- Recall the signs of blocked care.
- Identify practical strategies for parents to respond to blocked trust from a child.

Course Level: Beginning

Supporting Adoptees in Early Adulthood

After attending this course, professionals will be able to...

- Describe the complexities of identity formation for adoptees.
- Examine strategies for supporting adoptees during emerging adulthood.
- Apply strategies for supporting adoptees in early adulthood into clinical practice and programming.

Course Level: Beginning / Intermediate

Preventing Disruption and Dissolution: Relational Strategies for Adoptive Parents

After attending this course, professionals will be able to...

- Define their criteria for relational “success”.
- Memorize each of the nine relational skills in a simple diagram which is easy to replicate.
- Illustrate mastery of each of the nine relational skills through role play.
- Identify a strategy for using these relational techniques in their own practice.
- Organize a decision-making prism for which relational strategy is the best in any given situation.

Course Level: Beginning

Fundraising Basics to Support Adoption Agencies

After attending this course, professionals will be able to...

- Identify key fundraising strategies to strengthen your organization.
- Restructure your fundraising efforts by including your board in the overall plan.
- Discover new avenues and resources in your area that want to give to your organization.

- Determine when the right time is to add development staff to your team.
- Compare the effectiveness of event fundraising to individual donor fundraising.

Course Level: Intermediate

Side by Side: Out of a South Korean Orphanage and Into the World

After attending this course, professionals will be able to...

- Define the Side by Side Project's criteria for participant selection and scope.
- Identify the importance of hearing other adoptee stories to validate, normalize and verbalize the range of adoptee feelings.
- Apply how the film can be used in therapeutic settings as part of the healing process.

Course Level: Beginning, Intermediate

Thursday, June 29th, 2023

Learning from Adoptees: Incorporating Adoptees' Voices into Practice

After attending this course, professionals will be able to...

- Recall adopted individuals' experiences with their adoption story.
- Recognize the importance of incorporating adoptee voices into practice.
- Give examples of strategies adoption professional can incorporate adoptee voices into trainings and practice.
- Explain important ethical considerations for post adoption supports and navigating birth family relationships.

Course Level: Intermediate

Building the Gateway to Adoption Competency

After attending this course, professionals will be able to...

- Express the importance of adoption competency in mental health and child welfare.
- Examine the National Adoption Competency Mental Health Training Initiative (NTI) through examples of site implementation.
- Apply tools and strategies to enhance practice and support permanency, stability, and well-being.

Course Level: Intermediate

Birth Parent Grief: Analysis of Present Literature and Applications for Practice

After attending this course, professionals will be able to...

- Explain how the history of grief research evolved in the 20th century and identify key researchers who shaped our current understanding of loss.

- Criticize the lack of therapeutic models for birth parents today and consider which existing grief models are most appropriate for birthparents across different periods of their healing journey.
- Discover the components of Pauline Boss's ambiguous loss guidelines combined with the 7 core issues of adoption and permanency and examine how they build resilience among birthmothers.
- Integrate existing knowledge of disenfranchised grief into the models presented and discuss the applications for this population.
- Consider the therapeutic interventions suggested by the presenter and contribute additional ideas or critiques in the discussion.

Course Level: Intermediate / Advanced

Ruptures and Repairs: Addressing Attachment Patterns in Caregivers

After attending this course, professionals will be able to...

- Examine the relationship between caregivers' attachment patterns and histories and their ability to attune to a child's needs in difficult moments.
- Describe strategies for supporting caregivers as they evaluate their attachment histories.
- Evaluate steps caregivers can take to heal their attachment histories and more fully attune to their children.

Course Level: Intermediate / Advanced

Racial Equity in Workforce Considerations: Recruiting and Retaining Diverse Caseworkers

After attending this course, professionals will be able to...

- Define diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging in context of adoption and child welfare.
- Recognize the importance of having a workforce that is reflective of the population served by the adoption agency.
- Examine recruitment and retention practices that support the incorporation of lived expertise in the workforce.
- Give examples of effective strategies for recruitment and retention of caseworkers of color.

Course Level: Beginning / Intermediate

Inherently Connected: Rethinking Adoption Pre & Post Support Using a Family Systems Lens

After attending this course, professionals will be able to...

- Examine strengths and weaknesses of current pre- and post- adoption support programs.
- Identify adoptive families' needs that are not being met by current pre- and post- adoption support programs.
- Describe strategies for enhancing pre- and post- adoption supports and more holistically and effectively supporting adoptive families.
- Apply strategies to more effectively intervene with families pre- and post-adoption.

Course Level: Intermediate

Birth Sibling Relationships: Preserving Connections and Navigating Complexities

After attending this course, professionals will be able to...

- Recognize the importance of preserving connections between birth siblings.

- Describe the challenges of preserving connections between birth siblings.
- Explain strategies for supporting families as they navigate different degrees of open adoptions within the same adoptive family.
- Identify ways to help birth and adoptive families talk with children about their biological siblings who are being raised outside of their family.

Course Level: Beginning

Adoption Preparation, Support, and Preservation for Special Needs and Medically Complex Placements

After attending this course, professionals will be able to...

- Describe strategies to improve pre-adoption education and preparation.
- Examine opportunities for enhancing the home study process to better prepare adoptive parents.
- Identify effective approaches for post-adoption support and preservation.
- Explain important considerations for adoptive parents considering adopting children with special needs.

Course Level: Intermediate

Friday, June 30th, 2023

Birth Parents' Perspectives: The Journey of Openness Over the Years

After attending this course, professionals will be able to...

- Recall birth parents' experiences with placing their child for adoption.
- Recognize the importance of birth parent perspectives into practice.
- Give examples of strategies adoption professional can incorporate birth parent voices into trainings and practice.
- Explain important ethical considerations for birth parent supports and navigating open adoption.

Course Level: Intermediate

Maintaining Birth Family Relationships Postplacement

After attending this course, professionals will be able to...

- Identify important ethical considerations when navigating healthy communication and relationships between birth families and adoptive/foster families.
- Describe open communication from the perspective of the child, biological parents, and adoptive and foster parents.
- Explain the value and challenges of post-placement communication and reunification.
- Apply tools to facilitate healthy connections between foster/adoptive and birth families.

Course Level: Intermediate

Self-Compassion: Silencing the Inner Critic

After attending this course, professionals will be able to...

- Identify how adoptive parents get triggered and signals for when they are feeling shame.
- Describe strategies for helping adoptive parents become shame resilient.
- Recognize the importance of cultivating self-compassion.

Course Level: Beginning

Parental Postadoption Depression: Remind, Review, and Refresh

After attending this course, professionals will be able to...

- Describe the current understanding of parental post-adoption depression (PAD) based on the published literature, both historic and recent.
- Examine unmet or unrealistic parental expectations in the areas of self as parent, the child, family and friends, and society, and their relationship to PAD.
- Give examples of concrete pre- and post-adoptive interventions that adoption professionals can offer to prevent PAD and support adoptive parents.

Course Level: Beginning / Intermediate

Streamlining Initiatives for Child Wellbeing using an Executive Accelerator Model

After attending this course, professionals will be able to...

- Interpret data spread between government agencies, states, countries, and nonprofits.
- Infer what has been working and will continue to work in order to make transformative change for the millions of children seeking permanency.
- Discuss strategies for replicating the executive accelerator model in other communities.

Course Level: Intermediate / Advanced

The Continued Impact of Unregulated Domestic Infant Adoption

After attending this course, professionals will be able to...

- Identify the key legal risks that arise when an unlicensed intermediary is involved in adoption matching.
- Explain the key ethical issues that arise when an unlicensed intermediary is involved in an adoption.
- Examine the impact of adoption advertising on expectant mothers who are considering adoption for their unborn children.
- Demonstrate how to adhere to National Association of Social Work standards regarding informed consent, disclosure, due diligence, and client advocacy when working with clients in an adoptive placement that originated with an unlicensed intermediary.
- Describe how licensed adoption professionals can collaborate with law enforcement and lawmakers to safeguard domestic adoption and generally approve outcomes.

Course Level: Intermediate

Intercountry Adoptions and the Department of State

After attending this course, professionals will be able to...

- Describe current developments in intercountry adoption.
- Explain the Department of State's role and mission in promoting ethical, transparent intercountry adoption systems.
- Examine the outlook for the Department of State's future engagement with foreign governments.

Course Level: Intermediate