



*"Every Child Deserves A Family"*

CONCERNED PERSONS

*For Adoption*

[www.cpfan.org](http://www.cpfan.org)

**RUTGERS**  
School of Social Work

## **34<sup>th</sup> Annual Concerned Persons for Adoption**

**"Let's Talk Adoption"<sup>sm</sup> Conference**

**Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

**8:30 am – 4:00 pm**

Coordinated by Concerned Persons for Adoption (CPFA)

Co-Sponsored by the NJ Interagency Council and  
Rutgers University School of Social Work: Institute for Families

Breakfast, Exhibits, Book Sales

50% Discount for all DCP&P Resource Parents

*November is National Adoption Awareness Month*

**Keynote Address: 9:15 am – 10:15 am**



**Debbie B. Riley, LCMFT, CEO, Center for Adoption Support and Education, Maryland.**

A nationally recognized adoption expert and dynamic public speaker, Ms. Riley has 35 years of professional experience, including administrative expertise, designing and developing nationally acclaimed adoption-competent programs, direct delivery of specialized counseling services which affords her the broad knowledge and nationally respected expertise needed to promote mental health training, child advocacy and public policy development. Ms. Riley created a continuum of innovative, culturally responsive evidenced-informed programs to improve the behavioral outcomes of foster and adopted youth and their families which has become a nationally recognized model. She consults with national child welfare agencies on complex child welfare issues and systems of care enhancement. For over a decade she has built and implemented a framework for training an adoption competent mental health workforce nationally and is the Founder of the TAC (Training for Adoption Competency Curriculum) currently taught in 13 states within the United States. Through a recent federal five year grant awarded to C.A.S.E. Ms. Riley serves as the PI to establish a National Adoption Competency Mental Health Training Initiative (NTI). The initiative will build the adoption competency capacity of child welfare professionals and mental health practitioners that serve youth moving toward permanency as well as youth living in permanent adoptive or guardianship homes.

### **“Identity and the Adopted Teen: Surviving the Crucible of Adolescence”**

Adolescence represents one of the critical transitions in the life span and is characterized by a tremendous pace in growth and change. For adopted teens, the quest for identity has heightened complexities and challenges as they integrate the values, beliefs, personality traits, racial heritage and cultural background of two sets of families. C.A.S.E. CEO Debbie Riley and author of *Beneath the Mask: Understanding Adopted Teens* will explore adopted teens’ quest to form a “cohesive, authentic” identity, and provide insights and answers around how you can assist in your children’s identity formation. (1 non clinical CEH)

**Online Registration and Payment at [www.cpfanj.org](http://www.cpfanj.org)**

#### **Acknowledgements:**

Postcard design and layout by Laura Wilkinson; printing by Thinkpod Printing Design and Promotions, Pequannock, NJ. Special thanks to all the CPFA volunteers who make this conference possible.

<b>TIME</b>	<b>PROGRAM</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
7:45 – 8:55	Registration/Check-in Agency Exhibits Book Sales Breakfast	Foyer International Lounge Fireside Lounge Fireside Lounge
8:55 – 9:15	Welcome	Multi-Purpose Room
9:15 – 10:15	Keynote Address	Multi-Purpose Room
10:30 – 11:30	Workshop Session A	Breakout Rooms
11:45 – 12:45	Workshop Session B	Breakout Rooms
12:45 – 1:45	Lunch	Food Court
1:45 – 2:45	Workshop Session C	Breakout Rooms
3:00 – 4:00	Workshop Session D	Breakout Rooms

**NJ Licensed Agency Exhibits, Special Exhibits and Book Sales** – Arrive early to give yourself time to visit the agency exhibits, special exhibits and book sales by Watchung Books of Montclair. Exhibits and book sales open at 8:00 am. Most exhibitors leave promptly at 4:00 pm. Book signing by authors will occur in the book sales area during the lunch hour (not during workshops).

**Special Exhibits** – Fireside Lounge

**Breakfast/Lunch** – Continental breakfast catered by Gerlanda’s is included in your registration fee and will be available in the Fireside Lounge. Lunch is on your own. Fast food, deli and pizza are all available at the Busch Campus Center’s food court in the same building as the conference.

**Handouts** – If you are interested in picking up a handout for a particular workshop please visit the CPFA Exhibit Table at the end of the day to see if there are extra handouts donated by the speakers.

### **Sponsors**

The “Let’s Talk Adoption”<sup>sm</sup> is run by Concerned Persons for Adoption (CPFA) and is co-sponsored by the New Jersey Interagency Adoption Council and Rutgers University School of Social Work, Institute for Families.

### **About Concerned Persons for Adoption (CPFA)**

CPFA is a non-profit organization in the state of NJ dedicated to the belief that every child deserves a family. CPFA is not an adoption agency, but an all-volunteer organization working to support those who wish to adopt and to provide educational and networking resources to everyone in the adoption community.

### **Institute for Families (IFF)**

The Institute for Families (IFF), at the Rutgers School of Social Work, partners with human service professionals and organizations, building their knowledge and skills to address pressing social issues. By providing services like continuing education workshops, customized on-site training, program evaluation, and needs assessments, IFF addresses social problems, enhanced delivery of services, and ultimately, improved outcomes for those being served.

Located on Rutgers’ New Brunswick campus, the Institute’s professional staff utilize their expertise in research, best practices, and training to develop innovative and effective ways to address social issues that challenge many families, such as: poverty, child abuse, domestic violence, mental illness, school failure, delinquency, substance abuse, caring for aging family members, HIV/AIDS, and providing safe and nurturing homes for children.

To partner with IFF or for more information please see the following website:  
<http://socialwork.rutgers.edu/iff/> or contact Pam Simone at 848-932-0540.

### **Continuing Education Hours (CEH's)**

Continuing education hours are available through The Office of Continuing Education at the Rutgers School of Social Work in accordance with New Jersey Administrative Code 13:44G and recognized by:

- **NJ Board of Social Work Examiners**
- **PA State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Professional Counselors**
- **NJ Department of Education, approval code #1965**
- **National Board for Certified Counselors, provider # 6389**
- **Continuing education hours are approved for NJ licensed: Social Workers, Professional Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists and Teachers *unless noted*.**

Rutgers is charging a processing fee of \$20 which can be prepaid along with your registration.

The following procedure must be followed on the day of the conference in order to prove attendance and be credited with the correct number of CEH's.

- Check in at regular registration desk
- Attendee must *also* sign in at CEH desk upon arrival – this will verify the time of your arrival and give credit for the keynote presentation
- Be sure to sign the CEH attendance sheet in each hour of the workshops you attend for the additional CEH's.

The CEHs will be processed through the Office of Continuing Education at the Rutgers University School of Social Work. For more information contact that office at 848-932-8758.

### **Conference Workshop Codes, Suggestions, and Certificate of Attendance**

Please note that the following WORKSHOP CODES are presented with each workshop description on the following pages for Sessions A, B, C, and D. The notations are provided only as suggestions to help guide your selections of relevant workshops. You are welcome to choose any workshop of interest.

AP	ADOPTIVE PARENTS
AD	ADOPTEES
PA	PROSPECTIVE ADOPTIVE PARENTS
BP	BIRTHPARENTS
FP	FOSTER PARENTS
ED	EDUCATORS
HC	MAY QUALIFY AS HAGUE CONVENTION COMPLIANT TRAINING (SEE NOTE #1 BELOW)
SW	SOCIAL WORKERS AND ADOPTION PROFESSIONALS (SEE NOTE #2 BELOW)
SW-1	SOCIAL AND CULTURAL COMPETENCY REQUIREMENT
SW-2	CLINICAL
SW-3	ETHICS
SW-4	NON-CLINICAL

**Note #1** – FOR PRE-ADOPTIVE PARENTS DOING INTERNATIONAL ADOPTIONS: A CPFA “Certificate of Attendance,” available at the end of the conference, may help partially fill the requirement for the 10 hours of “preparation and training” as required by the Hague Convention. Workshops that may qualify as Hague

compliant training are listed with the code HC. In all cases, you should check with your agency FIRST to verify which workshops they would approve as part of The Hague Convention “preparation and training” requirements.

**Note #2 – FOR NJ AND PA LICENSED SOCIAL WORKERS & LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS:** Workshops that Rutgers University, School of Social Work, Institute For Families (IFF) have approved to meet the Social and Cultural Competency, Clinical and Ethics requirements for Social Workers are listed with the above codes. Please see guidelines on receiving Continuing Education Hours on previous page.

**Note #3- FOR FOSTER/RESOURCE PARENTS CURRENTLY LICENSED BY DCP&P:** The conference is approved by the NJ Child Welfare Training Academy for five (5) training hours. “Certificate of Attendance” can be obtained at the end of the conference.

### **Online Registration Instructions**

**Online Registration and Payment at [www.cpfanj.org](http://www.cpfanj.org)**

**Online registration closes at midnight – November 8, 2015**

To cancel a registration, email the conference advisor at [paben48@gmail.com](mailto:paben48@gmail.com). No refunds can be given after November 8.

#### **Explanation of Fees:**

**Registration Fee: \$60 per person (\$100/couple)** – The couple rate is designed for two people who are raising a child together. It is not intended for co-workers or other family members.

**Walk-in Registration Fee: \$85 per person (\$150/couple)**

**DCP&P Licensed Resource Parents: Special 50% discount (\$30 per person/\$50 per couple)-must include license# or copy of license**

**Full-time Students & approved DCP&P staff: \$30 per person**

**CEH Handling Fee: \$20** – A maximum of 5 CEH’s are available for NJ Teachers and NJ and PA Licensed Social Workers and Licensed Professional Counselors – 1 for keynote and 1 per workshop hour. Please be sure to pay this additional fee with your registration. Social workers, Licensed Professional Counselors and Teachers should see special check-in instructions under “**Continuing Education Hours**”.

**\$25 CPFA Membership – NEW OR RENEWAL** – Optional

**\$45 CPFA TWO YEAR Membership – NEW OR RENEWAL** – Optional

**All attendees must CHECK IN at the REGISTRATION DESK upon arrival** – Information packets and schedules will be distributed at this time.

Call 973-736-7032 or email [L.Riker@verizon.net](mailto:L.Riker@verizon.net) for any online registration questions.

***Register early for best choice of workshops!***

**For those who need to mail in their registration** – Download the registration form at [www.cpfan.org](http://www.cpfan.org) , complete form and mail with full payment (make check payable to CPFA), although for faster processing, we highly recommend on-line registration.

**Please Mail to:**

CPFA LTA Conference  
4 Girard Place  
Maplewood, NJ 07040

Mail-in registration must be postmarked by November 8, 2015. If post marked November 9<sup>th</sup> or later you will be charged the late fee. You will receive a confirmation via email so please print your email address clearly on the registration form.

## Workshops

### SESSION A (WORKSHOPS 1 TO 9) 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

- 1. The Adopted Child’s Journey: Questions Along the Way** (AP,ED,PA,SW-4, HC) This workshop will address common questions adoptees may have about loss, identity, rejection and their birth history. This workshop is based on the book “Twenty Things Adopted Kids Wish Their Adoptive Parents Knew” by Sherri Eldridge. What parents can do and how they can best support children through their journey will be explored. *Rebecca Gallese, LCSW, NJ Adoption Resource Clearing House ([www.njarch.org](http://www.njarch.org)), A Program of Children’s Aid and Family Services (1 CEH)*
- 2. Parenting the Child with Attachment Issues** (PA,AP,FP,SW-2,ED,HC) In preparing to become foster and adoptive parents, one learns that healthy attachment develops when there is a consistent, competent and loving caregiver at the beginning of life. Many/most adoptive and foster children do not get off to this ideal start and struggle to develop and maintain healthy relationships. This workshop will review newer research on brain development that shows how early life experiences effect the growing brain as well as provide a framework for parenting these children to help rewire the brain and encourage trust and attachment. *Bridget Devine, LCSW, Psychotherapist and Parent Coach.(1 CEH)*
- 3. Medical & Developmental Issues in Foster Care and Adoption** (AP,FP,PA,SW-4,ED,HC) Children in foster care and international adoptees have a unique set of medical and developmental issues. Knowing what issues may be impacting your child’s overall well-being is important so that you can advocate for appropriate evaluations, treatments and services. This workshop will review what is known about the health status of these populations and provide a guide to providing appropriate care. *Lisa Nalven, MD, MA, FAAP, Director, Adoption Screening & Evaluation Program, Valley Hospital (1 CEH)*
- 4. Resistant Teens and the Role of Shame** (PA,AP,FP,AD,SW-2,ED) Shame is one of the most painful and debilitating feelings for a developing young adult. It is pervasive and can greatly inhibit the growth of self-concept and ultimately all relationships. This workshop will discuss the concept of shame: what it is, what causes it, and how it shows itself. The presenter will include therapeutic art work, common shame themes of adopted teens, and how to start the healing process. Participants will learn about how to disengage the defensive shame response in their child or client as well how to implement empathy, the anecdote to shame. *Leanne Hershkowitz, LPC,NCC (1 CEH)*

5. **The Homestudy: What Exactly Does the Social Worker Do?** (PA) This workshop will help allay some of the fears and concerns that adoptive applicants may have about the pre-adoption homestudy process, particularly the required home visit and personal interviews with each applicant and household member. The workshop will help applicants understand that the homestudy process is a collaborative effort to help prepare and educate them about becoming adoptive parents. Questions regarding New Jersey requirements such as obtaining background information from each applicant, fingerprint and child abuse clearances, references and medical history will also be discussed, as well as the anticipated relationship with their child's birthparents. *Karen Lanza, MA,MSW,LCSW, Homestudies & Adoption Placement Services.(not approved for CEHs)*
6. **Foster Care "What Happens to the Child that Doesn't Get Adopted?"** (FP,PA,AP, ED) This workshop looks at the importance of adoption to the success of a young person and why permanent homes are so important. The presenter will talk about her own experiences in foster care and what things she learned during that process and while aging out of the system. The session is ideal for those considering adoption and/or have adopted a child beyond the infant years. Techniques to help with the transition from foster care to a permanent home will be presented. The Empowerment Zone Inc. is a non-profit organization that works with teens aging out of foster care. *Deiredra Oliver, MBA, President and Founder of The Empowerment Zone Inc. (not approved for CEHs)*
7. **Clinical Issues in Kinship Adoption: Building a Supportive Environment for Attachment, Trust, and Positive Self-Image.** (FP,AP,SW-2,ED) This workshop is intended to provide a framework for discussion of psychological issues which may affect families impacted by Kinship Adoption. Topics may include attachment, residual effects of trauma, issues of trust, and family boundaries. This workshop is appropriate for foster and adoptive parents, as well as for professionals working to provide support and therapy to families. *Susan Glaser, LCSW (1 CEH)*
8. **How the Media Affects the Adoption Community** (PA,AP,AD,FP,BP, ED) This workshop will use several examples of articles to illustrate the biased presentation about adoption that has plagued adoption for 30 years. The presenter will show how to decipher such articles and how to help your children understand the myths and misunderstandings about adoption in the media. *Dr. Jane Aronson, FAAP, Director, International Pediatric Health Services; CEO Worldwide Orphans Foundation (not approved for CEHs)*
9. **Nurtured Heart Approach** (AP,FP,SW-2,ED) This workshop will provide an overview of foundational principals and key strategies of the Nurtured Heart Approach (NHA) created by Howard Glaser. The NHA is a social emotional curriculum designed to create interpersonal environments for youth that promote their being recognized and energized when they show their greatness rather than rule breaking behavior. Continued exposure to this social emotional environment greatly impacts positive transformation in an at-risk youth's negative attitudes, self- image and motivation to achieve. *Frank Picone, LCSW (1 CEH)*

#### **SESSION B (WORKSHOPS 10-18) 11:45 AM – 12:45 PM**

10. **The Language of Adoption** (PA,AP,ED) Learning to speak a new language is a skill that takes time and practice. When forming our family through adoption, the words we use to talk about it matter. Please join us as we explore ways to improve our fluency in speaking about adoption with acquaintances, child care providers, friends, family, and most importantly, with our children. This workshop is designed for families at all stages in their adoption, pre or post placement. Topics covered will include the use of accurate and positive terms, communication with birth families and techniques on how to initiate developmentally appropriate discussions with children. *Stefani Moon, LPC., Open Arms Adoption. (not approved for CEHs)*

- 11. Golden Ticket: Survivor Guilt in Adoptees or Why Was I the Lucky One?** (AD,PA,AP,SW-2,HC) This presentation will discuss issues of family of origin, personal identity and the difficulties of understanding identity, purpose, and meaning when for many adoptees they come from a family/home/country which lacks resources. As a result many adoptees find themselves at different stages of life battling different dimensions of survivor guilt. *Teresa B. Pasquale, LCSW, adoptee, Clinical Director, RECO Intensive, Delray Beach, Florida (1 CEH)*
- 12. Supporting Youth in their Post-Secondary Success** (FP,AP) This workshop will provide information on the New Jersey Foster Care (NJFC) Scholars program and the eligibility requirements for both foster and adopted youth. The workshop will then provide checklists and tips on preparing your child for post-secondary education, or other options after high school, and this decision-making process. Lastly, this workshop will provide information on the multiple Financial Aid opportunities available to youth who have been in care, as well as information on completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). *Marjorie Blicharz, M.Ed, New Jersey Department of Children & Families. (not approved for CEHs)*
- 13. Open Adoption: The Birthparent Perspective-Before, During and After Placement** (PA,AP,AD,BP,SW-4) This workshop will focus on addressing the various levels of open adoption and the emotions, thoughts and feelings from the birthparent perspective. We will discuss how it will impact their life, the life of the child and the adoptive parents. Birthparents making adoption plans struggle with making the best decision for the unborn child, for the other children that they are parenting and for themselves. This workshop will focus on characteristics and common stereotypes of birthparents and how to develop sensitivity surrounding this issue. It will explore the grief and loss associated with making an adoption plan. A birthparent panel will be part of this workshop which will allow the audience to hear first-hand experience and ask questions. *Chelsey Phillips, MSW, Adoptions From the Heart. (1 CEH)*
- 14. Effects of Foster Care/Institutionalization** (PA, AP, FP, SW-4, ED, AD,HC) This presentation will examine the impact of various institutional settings, including group homes, residential treatment, orphanages and foster care. We will look at how these settings influence emotional and behavioral problems, attachment and the ability to adjust to life in the adoptive family. The presenter has provided psychiatric care for children in residential, intensive residential, foster care and treatment home programs, as well as being an adoptive parent of children who have lived in these settings. *Mary Carney, APN, Youth Consultation Service (1 CEH)*
- 15. From Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) to Adoption: The Journey to Permanency** (AP,FP,SW-4) This workshop reviews the legal criteria for termination of parental rights with a focus on the psychological issues children, foster parents and adoptive parents experience as they move through this long complicated process. Foster and adoptive parents will learn ways to support children during this 'waiting phase' before permanency is finalized. *Rebecca Gallese, LCSW, NJ Adoption Resource Clearing House ([www.njarch.org](http://www.njarch.org)), A Program of Children's Aid and Family Services (1 CEH)*
- 16. Prenatal Exposures: Drugs, Alcohol & Other Intrauterine Experiences** (PA ,AP, FP, SW-4,ED,HC) The prenatal environment is a critical time in child development. The impact of prenatal exposures including drugs, alcohol, maternal stress and other factors will be discussed within the context of their impact on a child's future developmental and behavioral trajectory. *Lisa Nalven, MD, MA, FAAP, Director, Adoption Screening & Evaluation Program, Valley Hospital (1 CEH)*
- 17. Trauma-Sensitive Parenting of Adopted Children** (AP,FP,PA,HC) Parenting traumatized children and those with attachment difficulties is very different from 'typical' parenting. In this workshop you will gain a solid understanding of how to shift your thinking and expectations in ways that help your child heal and your family thrive. We'll discuss the nature of therapeutic parenting, how and why it differs from typical parenting, the impact of trauma, how to care for yourself while caring for your family and where



to look for help. ,*Stephanie Garde, J.D., and Lorraine Schneider, Adoption Trauma Network ( ATN).*(not approved for CEHs)

- 18. The Delicate Art of Collaboration: 6 Key Questions to Ask at an IEP Meeting** (AP,ED,FP,SW-4) Many believe that IEP meetings should be a process of negotiations, but negotiation implies that you are willing to give up something and that something is your child's services which is not a good approach to IEP development. Collaboration is the better approach. Many of us know IDEA and 504 regulations but do not know how to use that knowledge to get our children the services they need in school. And, yet, we are asked to collaborate in an IEP team that we meet with once per year. How do we do that in an hour's time with a different team each year? Using the 6 key questions of the Structured Collaborative IEP Process, you can lead the team through the IEP process ensuring collaboration and an IEP that meets your child's needs. *Vaughn K. Lauer, PhD. (1 CEH)*

### **SESSION C (WORKSHOPS 19 TO 27) 1:45 PM – 2:45 PM**

- 19. A Birthfather's Journey** (PA, AP, BP) This presentation will increase your understanding and empathy for the emotional journey birthfathers endure. Its message is that open adoption is nothing to fear and that when decisions about maintaining contact are driven by fear, unnecessary hurt and confusion can result for all parties involved. Promises should be made carefully and are to be kept. Darrick Rizzo tells his story in a very compassionate way which can help people who are in the process of deciding if adoption is an option for them. *Darrick Rizzo, birthfather, author. (not approved for CEHs)*
- 20. What is Early Intervention and How It Can Help Your Child** (PA,AP,FP,ED,SW-4) Early intervention services support children under the age of 3 who are at risk for developmental delay or disability. This presentation explains how adoptive families can access the early intervention system in New Jersey, how these services can support parents and children, and how the services can help children unlock their full potential. *Peter Chen J.D., staff attorney, Advocates for Children of New Jersey, Newark, NJ (1 CEH)*
- 21. Transracial Adoption: Living As a Conspicuous Family** (PA,AP,FP,SW-1 and SW-4,HC) When we choose to become a trans-racial family through adoption, we accept the responsibility of opening our hearts and our lives to new ways of being. Join us as we talk about what it means to be a "conspicuous family", how to talk about race and ethnicity with your children, learn ways to incorporate a wide array of multiculturalism into your family and discuss strategies for helping to educate others in your life about what it means to be a trans-racial family. This workshop is designed for all families who have or are planning to adopt a child of another race and social workers assisting these families. *Stefani Moon, LPC, Open Arms Adoption (1 CEH)*
- 22. Beneath the Mask: Adoption Through the Eyes of Adolescents (2 hour presentation-continued in Session D - # 33)** (AP,FP,ED,SW-2,AD,HC) Adolescence is a time when adoptees struggle with an extra layer of challenges as they navigate the "normal" developmental adolescent tasks. This workshop will explore how adoption intensifies the experience of adolescence and address the six common "Stuck spots" where adopted adolescents may struggle. These themes are reflective of hundreds of sessions with adopted teens at the Center for Adoption Support and Education, spanning 18 years of direct service to adoptive families. Not all teens will be affected by all the stuck spots nor do they occur in any order; rather their journey may ebb and flow throughout adolescent development. Understanding the "stuck spots" can provide parents with a road map to guide opening lines of communication with your teen. *Debbie B. Riley, LCMFT,CEO, Center for Adoption Support and Education, keynote speaker.(1 CEH per hour session)*

- 23. The New World of International Adoption: with a Special Focus on The Universal Accreditation Act** (PA,AP,SW-4,HC) This presentation will discuss the overall international adoption process including the difference between Hague and non-Hague adoption, USCIS requirements, types of adoption programs and resources available. We will also explore the factors and complexities to consider in making a decision to pursue an international adoption. In addition, there will be a special focus on the Universal Accredited Act (UAA): what we know, what we learned, and what is still unclear after this first year of implementation. Specifically we will discuss the UAA regulations along with how they have impacted the non-Hague international adoption process. *Heather Smith, MSW, LSW & Lorraine Kolankowski LCSW, Homestudies & Adoption Placement Services. (1 CEH)*
- 24. When Considering Medication for Your Child (2 hour presentation-continued in session D - #34)** (AP, FP, SW-4, ED) The presenter, an APN prescriber of psychotropic medication for children, has had many parents share their concerns about placing their child on medication. In this workshop she will discuss the following: off label medication use, target symptoms, side effects, what to expect from medications, general medication categories and when they are useful, how to effectively communicate with the prescriber and how and when to communicate with others regarding your child's medication. She will also touch on the issues related to school such as: school staff recommending medication, how much to disclose to school staff, how to deal with other students knowing your child is on medication and how to protect your child's privacy. *Mary Carney, APN, Youth Consultation Service (1 CEH per hour session)*
- 25. The Road to Nowhere: What to do When Your Search Dead-ends.** (AD,AP,HC,SW-4) Not all searches end successfully or happily. What do you do when you are unable to find your family of origin? Or it leads to additional rejection? How do you handle the issues of identity then? These are critical issues not only to the adoptee, but also to the therapists who must guide the adoptee through this difficult time. The presenter is an international adoptee, clinical social worker and trauma therapist who will share her experiences of finding her 'own' identity and 'creating her own' story. *Teresa B. Pasquale, LCSW, adoptee, Clinical Director, RECO Intensive, Delray Beach, Florida (1 CEH)*
- 26. A Simple Piece of Paper Can Make ALL the Difference (2 hour presentation-continued in session D - #35)** (AD, AP, BP, PA, ED) This workshop will include a screening of Jean Strauss' film, "A Simple Piece of Paper," featuring 18 Illinois adopted adults receiving their original birth certificates in 2011, followed by a presentation on **NJ's revised adoption code** allowing NJ adoptees access to their original birth certificates (OBCs) as of January 1, 2017. *Pam Hasegawa, BA & Major Peter Franklin, NJCARE-NJ Coalition for Adoption Reform and Education (not approved for CEHs)*
- 27. Kinship Care: Parenting your Relative's Child** (FP,SW-4,PA,AP) This workshop will explore the unique issues, life style changes and challenges that are specific to kinship caregivers as compared to traditional foster care. Participants will gain insight into the differences between temporary custody, Kinship Legal Guardianship (KLG) and adoption as well as discuss the importance of permanency and stability for the child in their care. *Rebecca Gallese, LCSW, Kinship Care Clearing House, ([www.kinkconnect.org](http://www.kinkconnect.org)) A program of Children's Aid and Family Services (1 CEH)*

#### **SESSION D (WORKSHOPS 28 TO 35) 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM**

- 28. Adoptive Father's Panel** (PA,AP,FP) Listen to a panel of adoptive **fathers** speak to their own experiences and answer questions from the **men only audience**. Their adoptions vary in age, racial, cultural ways, but they can share their views on finances, attachment, fears, discipline, travel, relationships with birthparents and so much more. *J. Fried, J.Bosa, S. Turnbull, G. Paladini, Concerned Persons for Adoption.(not approved for CEHs)*

- 29. Post Adoption Services that Grow Up with your Family (PA,AP,HC,SW-4)** This workshop will assist all families, at any stage of adoption, to make a long-term plan for their family's post adoption needs and to identify services that can grow up with their family. It will also assist social workers develop appropriate post adoption services which align with a child's normative developmental stages. The importance of these family supports has been noted in numerous studies. *Beth Friedberg, LCSW, Spence-Chapin Children's Services. (1 CEH)*
- 30. Empowering Prospective Adoptive Parents & Birth Parents through Collaboration Between Adoption Agencies & Attorneys (PA,BP,SW-4,AP)** Considering options when you want to adopt, or are pregnant, or may be a birth father is one of the core experiences of your life. Your emotional experiences & choices as adoptive or birth parents will be impacted by legal boundaries and ethical considerations. Social workers & attorneys can collaborate to assist you in gaining knowledge of your choices and options and achieving your goals. This workshop will explore direct agency adoptions, independent adoptions, and identified adoptions; options counseling; and relationships between prospective adoptive parents and birthparents. *Lorraine Kolankowski, LCSW, Homestudies & Adoption Placement Services & Deborah Steincolor, JD, LSW (1 CEH)*
- 31. Adoptions and the LGBT Community (PA,AP,SW-1)** Many birth parents look to the LGBT community as adoptive parents to raise their children. This workshop will focus on both the birth parent and adoptive parents' perspectives on Open Adoption and the LGBT Community. Common concerns, fears, and misconceptions will be discussed by the presenter as well as an adoptive family from the LGBT community and/or birth parents who chose an LGBT family for their child. We will spend time focusing on wait times, why birth parents choose to place with an LGBT family and common misconceptions of family dynamics when it comes to adoption. The main focus of this workshop will be discussing experiences before, during and after placement with an adoptive family from the LGBT community and/or birth parents who placed their child with an LGBT family. *Chelsey Phillips, MSW, Adoptions From the Heart.(1 CEH)*
- 32. Creating a Loving SPACE: A Way of Being for Parents of Adopted Children (PA,AP,FP,SW-4,HC)** This workshop, based on the attachment research and work of Dr.Daniel Hughes and Dr.Art Becker-Weidman, will be an experiential and interactive workshop helping parents and professionals to implement this overarching way of 'being' with their adopted or foster child, student or client. The 6 main components are: Loving, Supervision, Playful, Accepting, Curious and Empathetic. *Leanne Hershkowitz, LPC, NCC (1 CEH)*
- 33. Continuation of session # 22- Beneath the Mask: Adoption Through the Eyes of Adolescents (2 hour presentation) (AP,FP,ED,SW-2,AD,HC)** Adolescence is a time when adoptees struggle with an extra layer of challenges as they navigate the "normal" developmental adolescent tasks. This workshop will explore how adoption intensifies the experience of adolescence and address the six common "Stuck spots" where adopted adolescents may struggle. These themes are reflective of hundreds of session with adopted teens at the Center for Adoption Support and Education, spanning 18 years of direct service to adoptive families. Not all teens will be affected by all the stuck spots nor do they occur in any order; rather their journey may ebb and flow throughout adolescent development. Understanding the "stuck spots" can provide parents with a road map to guide opening lines of communication with your teen. *Debbie B. Riley, LCMFT,CEO, Center for Adoption Support and Education, keynote speaker.(1 CEH per hour session)*

**34. Continuation of session #24- When Considering Medication for Your Child (2 hour presentation)** (AP, FP, SW-4, ED) The presenter, an APN prescriber of psychotropic medication for children, has had many parents share their concerns about placing their child on medication. In this workshop she will discuss the following: off label medication use, target symptoms, side effects, what to expect from medications, general medication categories and when they are useful, how to effectively communicate with the prescriber and how and when to communicate with others regarding your child's medication. She will also touch on the issues related to school such as: school staff recommending medication, how much to disclose to school staff, how to deal with other students knowing your child is on medication and how to protect your child's privacy. *Mary Carney, APN, Youth Consultation Service (1 CEH per hour session)*

**35. Continuation of session #26 - A Simple Piece of Paper Can Make ALL the Difference (2 hour presentation)** (AD, AP, BP, PA, ED) This workshop will include a screening of Jean Strauss' film, "A Simple Piece of Paper," featuring 18 Illinois adopted adults receiving their original birth certificates in 2011, followed by a presentation on **NJ's revised adoption code** allowing NJ adoptees access to their original birth certificates (OBCs) as of Jan. 1, 2017. *Pam Hasegawa, BA & Major Peter Franklin, NJCARE-NJ Coalition for Adoption Reform and Education (not approved for CEHs)*

### **Directions to Rutgers - Busch Campus Center**

Busch Campus Center - Rutgers University  
604 Bartholomew Road Piscataway, New Jersey 08854 (848) 445-3962

<http://buschcampus.rutgers.edu/> (click on Busch Campus Center)

From New Jersey Turnpike (North or South)

- Take Exit 9. After the toll booths, bear right and follow signs for Route 18 North –New Brunswick
- Travel about 3.7 miles passing signs for Route 27 and Rutgers University – George Street. Go over the Raritan River on the John Lynch Memorial Bridge
- After crossing the bridge take the exit ramp for Busch Campus / Campus Road
- Go about 1/2 mile to traffic circle
- Take the first exit on circle on to Bartholomew Road
- Go about another 1/4 mile. Go across the stop sign and continue on Bartholomew Road
- The road curves to the left, you will see the Busch Campus Center on your left
- Parking is available in Lot 51, 59, 60B, 67 and 68.

From the Garden State Parkway (South bound)

- Take exit 129 for the New Jersey Turnpike and head south
- Continue with the directions from the New Jersey Turnpike

From the Garden State Parkway (Northbound)

- Take exit 105 for Route 18 North.
- Travel about 24 miles and you will pass the entrance to the New Jersey Turnpike
- Continue with the directions from the New Jersey Turnpike

From Route 1 (North or South)

- Take exit marked Route 18 North – New Brunswick
- Continue with the directions from the New Jersey Turnpike

From Route 287 (North or South)

- Take exit 9 (formerly exit 5) – Bound Brook and Highland Park
- Follow River Road (Route 622) east towards Highland Park
- Travel about 3 miles and turn left on to Route 18 North
- Take the first exit ramp on Route 18 North - Busch Campus / Campus Road
- Go about 1/2 mile to traffic circle
- Take the first exit on circle on to Bartholomew Road
- Go about another 1/4 mile. Go across the stop sign and continue on Bartholomew Road
- The road curves to the left, you will see the Busch Campus Center on your left.
- Parking is available in Lot 51, 59, 60B, 67 and 68.

Train: Take New Jersey Transit to New Brunswick train station [www.NJTransit.com](http://www.NJTransit.com).

Bus: Walk 1½ blocks to the intersection of College Avenue and Hamilton Street. The “A” bus leaves every 20 minutes starting at 8:00 am directly to Busch Campus. Campus Bus: 732-932-7817.

Taxi: Cab service - Victory Cab: 732-545-6666

Hotels: The Heldrich in downtown New Brunswick offers special package rates for events at Rutgers: 866-609-4700. The Hyatt is also in downtown New Brunswick, the Hilton is located at Exit 9 on the NJ Turnpike, and the Doubletree, Courtyard, Fairfield Inn, and Comfort Inn are located at exit 10 on Route 287.

Note:

Rutgers University has numerous campuses. The conference is at the Busch Campus in Piscataway.

*We look forward to seeing you on Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup>!*

**Concerned Persons For Adoption** (CPFA) is a non-profit organization in the State of New Jersey dedicated to the belief that every child deserves a family. CPFA is not an adoption agency, but a volunteer organization working to support those who wish to adopt, and to provide educational and networking resources for those who have adopted.