



"Every Child Deserves A Family"

CONCERNED PERSONS

For Adoption

www.cpfan.org

RUTGERS
School of Social Work

35th Annual Concerned Persons for Adoption

"Let's Talk Adoption"sm Conference

Saturday, April 1st, 2017

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

Keynote Address: 9:15 am – 10:15 am



Robert O'Connor, MSW, Associate Professor and Program Director, Metropolitan State University, St. Paul, Minnesota

Robert O'Connor has been with Metropolitan State University in Saint Paul, Minnesota for the past sixteen years as an Associate Professor. He also serves as a program director and training manager for several federal grant programs on anti-racism and multi-cultural issues. As an adoptee with experience in the foster care system, he brings his personal perspective to his presentations and writings. He has been interviewed by ABC News, the New York Times, the Diane Sawyer show, and others for his expertise on transracial topics. Mr. O'Connor has presented at the North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACA) where he also received their National Adoption Advocate Award.

“Blueprints and Battle Plans: Preparation for Building a Modern Multi-Racial/Multi-Cultural Adoptive Family”

Today, intentionality and technical planning for overcoming challenges that uniquely face multi-racial and multicultural adoptive families is more important than ever in successfully navigating today's society. This address will contrast the old with the newest understandings of how to build, honor and protect our unique families. Robert will discuss racial identity formation and self-esteem as interwoven determinate factors in healthy children and families in their communities (HC,SW-1)

Online Registration and Payment at www.cpfan.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.

TIME	PROGRAM	LOCATION
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. 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”sm 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. Visit our website at www.cpfanjanj.org. Like us on Facebook.

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 call 848-932-8758 and press 3.

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*.**

NEW this year: You will need to register and make payment for the \$20 CEH processing fee through the Office of Continuing Education at the Rutgers School of Social Work. The registration link is: <http://ssw-web.rutgers.edu/ssw/ce/index.php?m=catalog&cid=1704>. Reminder, you also have to register and pay for the conference.

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 the office at 848-932-8758 and press 3.

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 (See Note #1 on the next page)
ED	EDUCATORS
HC	MAY QUALIFY AS HAGUE CONVENTION COMPLIANT TRAINING (See Note #2 on the next page)
	SOCIAL WORKERS AND ADOPTION PROFESSIONALS (Seen Note #3 on the next page)
SW-1	SOCIAL AND CULTURAL COMPETENCY REQUIREMENT
SW-2	CLINICAL
SW-3	ETHICS
SW-4	GENERAL

Note #1- 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.

Note #2 – 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 #3 – 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.

Online Registration Instructions

Online Registration and Payment at www.cpfanj.org

Online registration closes at midnight – March 24, 2017

To cancel a registration, email the conference advisor at paben48@gmail.com. No refunds can be given after March 24.

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)

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 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, 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:

LTA
c/o Lynn Riker
12 Wilson Terrace
West Orange NJ 07052

Mail-in registration must be postmarked by March 24, 2017. If post marked March 25th, 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 8) 10:30 am – 11:30 am

1. Open Adoption: A Bridge Between Heredity and Environment (AP,PA,BP,FP,SW-4) This workshop aims to educate families, and reinforce social workers and therapists, about the importance of openness and to open their minds to having a relationship with birth families. The instructor will demonstrate the benefits of open adoption through sharing a personal story as a birthmother who has an open adoption plan. The story will show families that the child is able to be connected to his heritage which helps mold his identity, the birth family receives pictures/videos every year which aids a sense of reassurance and healing, the child has access to letters and pictures the birth family sends, the child understand the choice for adoption was made out of love, and the relationship between adoptive and birth family is a mutually respectful, honoring and grateful relationship. *Rebecca Zook, MSW, LSW, Adoption Specialist & Recruiter, Children's Aid & Family Services.*

2. Loss, Adoption & Adulthood: Navigating Life after Leaving the Nest (AP,AD,HC,SW-2) This presentation will look at adult development with a focus on the adoptee experience of loss, both the normal and expected losses of adulthood and the unique struggle of the adoptee. How do we adjust to our adoption differently in the different periods of our adult lives and how do we continue the work of finding and making ourselves as adults - all critical questions for adoptees, but also for clinicians working with adult adoptees. *Jennifer Griesbach, LCSW, (Psychotherapist in private practice in New York).*

3. Adopting the "Older" Child – Basic Remediation of a Traumatic Past. Part One (continued in B11) (AP,PA,FP,ED,HC,SW-2) This is an interactive session that will provide problem-solving and information-sharing types of learning. The participants will gain knowledge about Developmental Trauma Disorder (DTD) in internationally adopted children as a mental health condition and an educational handicap: its cause and major manifestation. The origin of DTD (repeated traumatization before and after adoption) will be discussed along with the associated features such as abrupt first language attrition, cumulative cognitive deficit, post orphanage behavior, and specific learning disability. Finally, the issue of identification and remediation of the DTD will be explored at the level of family and school. A remedial model of mind/body regulatory rehabilitation, academic remediation, and peer socialization are presented and discussed. *Boris Gindis, PhD (Nationally Certified Bilingual School Psychologist & Licensed Psychologist in New York and Arizona)*

4. Adoption 101: Options (PA) This workshop will offer prospective adoptive parents basic information to help them answer the initial question: "Where do I begin?" The workshop will help them understand the legal boundaries and ethical considerations in adoption and will explore direct and identified agency adoptions, independent adoptions, options counseling and relationships between prospective adoptive parents and birthparents who are considering an adoption plan. *Lorraine Kolankowski, LCSW, Executive Director, Homestudies and Adoption Placement Services (HAPS), Teaneck, NJ and Jean Cavaliere, Esq., Morristown, NJ. (No CEH's)*

5. Adoption Search & Reunion: How the NJ Adoptees Birthright Act Could Impact You and Your Family (AP,PA,AD,BP,FP,SW-4) Open adoption has been a reality in the United States since the 1980's. However, for adoptees born in NJ, as well as birth parents who relinquished their child between 1940 and the mid-1980s, the only way to connect has been via agency assisted searches, matching organizations such as ALMA, or employing private investigators. The advent of affordable DNA testing, along with the popularity of Ancestry and 23andMe, has resulted in increased numbers of adoptees and birth family connections. The recent passage of the NJ Birthright Act has increased interest and ease in finding family. Our panel of adoptees will share details about the search for their birth family, why they searched, methods used to search, what and who they found, how their adoptive and biological families have reacted, and how connection to their birth family has changed their lives. *Moderated by Susan Merkel, MSW,LSW, Counselor at Infertility & Adoption Counseling Center, LLC.*

6. Transracial Adoption in a Race Conscious World (AP,PA,FP,HC,SW-1) When we choose to adopt transracially we choose to accept that we are no longer a "white" family and must open ourselves up 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 racism with your children and ways to incorporate a wide array of multiculturalism into your family. This workshop is designed for social workers and families who have or who are preparing to adopt a child of another race. *E. Stefani Moon, MA, LPC (Program Manager & Adoption Counselor for Open Arms Adoption Network. Also Instructor at Rutgers School of Social Work, Continuing Education Program.)*

7. The Complexity of Kinship Care (PA,FP,ED,HC,SW-4) The Post Adoption Counseling Program (PACS) works with many grandparents or relatives that are taking care of a child in their family. They have unique challenges that non-relative foster parents do not have, such as the changing family role for the child, as well as the balancing of a relationship with the parent of the child. The discussion will focus on common themes that kinship caregivers experience within the family. We will also discuss ways in which clinicians and kinship caregivers can address the topic of adoption with the youth, techniques to aid in their change of role in the family, and how to balance a relationship with the birth parent. *Cynthia Mellitz, MA, LPC, Foster care, Kinship & Post Adoption Counseling Services (PACS) therapist at Robins Nest Inc, Glassboro, NJ and Caitlin Summers, MA, LAC, NCC, FLEX In Home & Adoption Support Counselor, Oaks Integrated Care.*

8. How to Survive When a Foster/Adopted Child is Prenatally Exposed to Drugs and Alcohol. Part One (continued in B16) (AP,PA,FP,ED,HC,SW-4) Children may come into care for abuse or neglect, but the underlying cause may be parental alcohol and drug abuse. How do you parent a child with permanent brain damage caused by prenatal alcohol and drug exposure? We will look at the unique characteristic of FASD (Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder) and strategies on how to address the many issues of FASD, both at home and in the community. We will also look at research related to prenatal exposure to marijuana and opiates. *Diane O'Connor, Adoptive Mother, certified FASD trainer, Parent to Parent of NYS.*

Session B (Workshops 9 to 16) 11:45 am – 12:45 am

9. Cultural Bias Awareness Training (AP,PA,FP,ED,HC,SW-1and SW-2) Few people wake up each morning with the intent of providing services or creating systems in ways that cause difficulties for others, yet despite the intent, the impact can be disparate outcomes for employee groups and over-represented client populations. If

your workforce is like most, it is made up of generally good people, with great responsibilities, charged with producing exceptional outcomes. This interactive training experience provides tools of awareness, knowledge and skills to assist the well intentioned to understand the role of culture, bias and inter-group contact on practitioner and parent effectiveness and outcomes. *Robert L. O'Connor, MSW, Keynote speaker.*

10. The Homestudy: Beginning the Adoption Journey (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, Social Work Supervisor, Homestudies & Adoption Placement Services. (No CEHs)*

11. Continuation of (A3) Adopting the "Older " Child – Basic Remediation of a Traumatic Past.
(AP,PA,FP,ED,HC,SW-2)

12. Update on New Jersey Laws that Affect the Adoption Triad (AP,PA,AD,BP,SW-4) Topics covered in this workshop will include: assisted reproduction, the New Jersey Birthright Act (open records), representation in contested adoptions, and the Indian Child Welfare Act. Learn about the changes and how it can affect your adoption or agency practice. *Donald C. Cofsky, Esq, Haddonfield, NJ.*

13. Developmental Issues in Adopted Children (AP,PA,FP,ED,HC,SW-4) Dr. Jane Aronson, pediatrician and adoption medicine expert, has conducted medical missions in orphanages in over 14 countries and has evaluated well over 10,000 children. In this workshop Dr. Aronson will discuss developmental issues that are common to children adopted domestically and internationally. Her talk will focus on how to recognize developmental issues and how to utilize and navigate early intervention and special education services. Special attention will be paid on how to know when to reach out for professional support and where to find it. *Jane E. Aronson, DO, Director, International Pediatric Health Services, CEO & President of Worldwide Orphans Foundation.*

14. Adoption and Addiction (AP,AD,FP,ED,HC,SW-4) The presenter will address the issue of addiction in adoptees and share her own journey of addiction and recovery. She will tie together what professionals know with her own experience, discuss grief, cellular memory, and how to stay sober when dealing with primal issues. Her work with adopted teens, using song writing and talk, has been very healing and will be very helpful to social workers. *Zara Phillips, Adoptee, Recovery Specialist, Writer and Performer of "Beneath my Father's Sky," Song Writer, Facilitator of Adoptee Support Groups.*

15. Foster and Adoptive Care Situations: A Workshop to Help Foster Parents Deal with Difficult Behaviors (AP,FP,ED,HC) The goal of this workshops will be to help foster and adoptive parents be supportive and "therapeutic" in their reactions to foster or adoptive children in their home. This will serve as a training vehicle to assist foster parents in identifying the psychological underpinnings of potential situations in their home. It will also help identify possible situations that could affect the family and/or the other children at home. *Rebecca Gallese, LCSW, NJ Adoption Resource Clearinghouse. (No CEH's)*

16. Continuation of (A8) How to Survive When a Foster/Adopted Child is Prenatally Exposed to Drugs and Alcohol. (AP,PA,FP,ED,HC,SW-4)

Session C (Workshops 17 to 24) 1:45 pm – 2:45 pm

17. Citizenship Issues for Foreign Born Adoptees (AP,PA,AD,SW-4) This workshop, for adoptees, adoptive parents and the social workers who advise them will address the importance of and the process for obtaining the proper citizenship status for adopted children born outside of the US. The attorney will address re-adoption, name change, the Certificate of Citizenship, types of visas and the US Passport vs the Certificate of Citizenship. *Paul Gilbert, Esq., Parsippany, NJ.*

18. It Takes Two to Hug: Strengthening Attachment in Adoptive Families. Part One (Continued in D26) (AP,PA,FP,HC,SW-4) This workshop addresses the key role of attachment styles of adoptive parents in relationships with adoptive children. Focus is on how parent attachment styles and childhood experiences influence parenting and parent-child relationships. Through discussion and sharing of experiences, adoptive parents will learn how better awareness of their feelings and thoughts and those of their adopted children can promote more secure attachment. *Jeannine Zoppi, PhD., Caldwell, NJ.*

19. The Transracial Parenting Pledge (AP,PA,FP,HC,SW-1) This session cuts to the nitty-gritty of transracial parenting and identifies the essential elements that successful parents need to parent across the racial lines. The pledge is an excellent tool for parents and practitioners alike to stay focused on the needs of the child and the benefits to the whole family. *Robert L. O'Connor, MSW, Keynote Speaker.*

20. The International Adoption Process (PA,SW-4) International Adoption continues to grow more complex and families and social workers must stay up to date. Children are adopted from a wide variety of countries due to various circumstances. The countries available for adoption typically have only a small number of children placed each year. Many families also pursue the adoption of identified children, typically relatives from countries with no formal international adoption program. New regulations also continue to be implemented that greatly affect international adoption. With the complexity, changes and challenges, it may seem as though international adoption isn't possible, but each year thousands of orphans find their forever families through international adoption. *Heather Smith, MSW, LSW, International Program Director, and Lorraine Kolankowski, LCSW, Executive Director, Homestudies and Adoption Placement Services (HAPS), Teaneck, NJ.*

21. Journey of Adoption through the NJ Division of Child Protection and Permanency (PA,FP) Adoption is not simply an event; it is a lifelong journey. Follow along on this path with the Child Protection and Permanency Division. The presentation will focus on the initial steps which will include a brief overview of the home study process, a look at the waiting children, the matching process of a child with family, the transitional visitation model, placement, and types of support offered to adoptive families. This will include the perspectives of the adopted person, adoptive family and birth parent. *Pamela Montague, BA, Division of Child Protection and Permanency, NJ. (No CEH's)*

22. What to Consider When Deciding to Search or Open an Adoption (AP,PA,AD,BP,FP,SW-4) Opening an adoption is always emotionally complex – for all parties involved. In this workshop you will have an opportunity to consider if this is the right choice for you, your adopted child and/or your family. The developmental and psychological issues for children, teens and adults, birth and adoptive parents will be reviewed. Attendees will learn how to prepare emotionally, initiate contact, evaluate and manage expectations, some useful communication tips and the importance of being flexible in navigating these relationships. In addition understanding what type of support is needed and available - to help you to successfully negotiate the complexities of opening a relationship with birth families, and to help you to process the aftereffects and issues stimulated by the contact. Social workers will learn valuable lessons in guiding their clients through this difficult journey. *Joni S. Mantell, LCSW, Founder & Director of Infertility and Adoption Counseling Center, LLC, NJ; Private psychotherapy practice in NYC and Susan Merkel, MSW, LSW, IAC Counselor.*

23. Using Neurofeedback to Treat Developmental Trauma (AP,PA,FP,ED,HC,SW-2) Many adopted children have a history of attachment issues, affect dysregulation, sensory dysregulation and/or neglect. Neurofeedback has been shown to be an effective intervention for many of these children and adolescents. This workshop will describe neurofeedback and how it has been helpful for this population. *Mark Pesner, PhD, Private Practice, Fairfield, NJ.*

24. The Language of Adoption (AP,PA,FP,ED,SW-2) Learning to speak a new language is a skill that takes time and practice. Word choice makes a difference for those working with families formed by adoption, or for adoptive parents speaking with acquaintances, teachers, friends, family, and most importantly, our children. Utilizing the principles of Object Relations Theory, participants will gain an understanding of adoption-centered language, and gain an enhanced ability to effectively connect with those involved in the adoption constellation. Additional topics will include the use of accurate terms, navigating relationships with birth families, and techniques on how to craft developmentally appropriate discussions with children about adoption and birth stories. *E. Stefani Moon, MA, LPC, Program Manager & Adoption Counselor for Open Arms Adoption Network. Rutgers School of Social Work, Continuing Education Program, Instructor.*

Session D (Workshops 25 – 33) 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

25. Search & Reunification in the Age of Social Media (AP,PA,AD,FP,HC,SW-4) This workshop will be a discussion of the impact of social media on the process of adoptee birth family searches. It will begin with a presentation of our Russian born teenage daughter's search for her birth family which led to her ongoing connections with her birth siblings. We will use this experience to launch a discussion around the common reunification issues that adoptees face and therapists must prepare them for: the potential risks and benefits, the significance of adoptee and adoptive parent preparation, assessing readiness for the search, maintaining realistic expectations, managing the possible disappointment, frustration, and rejection as well as the excitement of successful contact and beyond. *Amy Strickler, LSW, LMS, Assistant Director, Intensive Weekend Program, Faculty Instructor, Rutgers School of Social Work, and Mark Dodd, LCSW, Private Practice Psychotherapist & Social Worker for Child Study Team, Newark Public Schools.*

26. Continuation of (C18) It Takes Two to Hug: Strengthening Attachment in Adoptive Families (AP,PA,FP,HC,SW-4)

27. The Path to Parenthood: Prepare to Be Open (AP,PA,FP) Some may see open adoption as a new phenomenon, but it is not. Since the 1970s research shows that open adoptions are slowly becoming more common. According to a 2012 report in the Washington Times, 95% of U.S. infant adoptions have some level of openness between birth parents and adoptive parents. Despite numerous success stories, there are still negative stigmas and fears about the concept. This workshop will prepare pre-adoptive parents and post-adoptive parents to become more comfortable with open adoption by encouraging them to develop an open mind, open heart, and open arms. Openness starts with the preparation of one's self and everyone can have a successful open adoption. *Stacey Gatlin, Adoptive Parent. (No CEH's)*

28. Embodied Connection: Exploring How We Resonate Kinesthetically with Our Children (AP,PA,FP,HC,SW-4) This workshop will help adoptive and foster parents and the professionals who work with them understand connection and attachment through the lens of the body. By feeling yourself in resonance with the other, you will gain tools to create and recognize moments of healthy connection with your adopted baby or young child. *Jennifer Griesbach, LCSW, Psychotherapist in private practice in New York.*

29. Inclusion and the Adoption Home Study (Overcoming Discrimination for Adoptive Parents) (PA,SW-4) This workshop will address the inclusion of prospective adoptive parents in the home study process who have

past/current/ongoing disabilities and/or challenging conditions or histories. We will discuss the types of disabilities and/or challenges that adoption professionals are seeing more of from applicants seeking to adopt. This workshop will enable professionals to enrich their clinical skills in serving this population in an effort to be inclusive, as well as empower prospective adoptive parents to present their challenges so that they can be effectively assessed and approved for adoption. *Regina K. Levin, ACSW, LSW, Social Work Supervisor at Child & Home Study Associates, Ardmore, Pennsylvania.*

30. Communication Between Birth & Adoptive Parents: Before, During & Post Adoption (AP,PA,BP,SW-2)

Relationships between adoptive and birth parents are complex. This workshop will cover typical emotions and issues involved from creating a profile, getting matched, and initial contacts prior to the birth; to the delivery and hospital experience; and then post adoption contact - all mindful of forming a relationship in the best interests of the child. Participants will be helped to feel more confident and to gain the skills necessary for making an adoption situation work not just for now, but for the long term. Social workers will gain the skills needed to advise their clients –both adoptive *and* birth parents. *Joni S. Mantell, LCSW, Founder & Director of Infertility and Adoption Counseling Center, LLC, NJ; Private psychotherapy practice in NYC.*

31. Telling Your Child His Difficult History (AP,PA,FP,HC) Sharing painful information about a child’s history or birth family can be challenging for adoptive parents. This workshop will help you develop the skills to competently tell your children difficult information and help them process it. *Rebecca L. Gallese, LCSW, NJ Adoption Resource Clearinghouse. (No CEH’s)*

32. Using Restorative Practices: A Powerful Alternative to Traditional Scold and Reward Behavior Modification Techniques (AP,PA,FP,ED,HC,SW-4)

In this workshop the facilitator will illustrate how the restorative practices behavior modification approach when used proactively can prevent the lack of a trusting relationship, empathy and appreciation that often exists between a child and their parent, caregiver, service provider, teacher, social worker, nurse, therapist or with other children. Additionally the facilitator will illustrate how, when these techniques are used in response to an incident involving disruptive behavior and offense/harm to another party, the restorative approach serves an effective alternative to more traditional punitive (scold/reward) and/or control “do to” or permissive “do for” approaches. *Christopher D’Marco, LSS, Change & Response Strategies, Consultant/Trainer, Morristown, NJ & Bronx, NY.*

33. The Journey of Adoption: Ages and Stages (AP,PA,AD,ED) The purpose of this panel is to give adoptive and prospective adoptive parents a window into what their adopted son or daughter might think and feel at various stages of their lives as well as how a sensitive daughter processed her understanding of what it meant to be the child of an adopted person at various times in her life. How did panelists perceive themselves as adopted persons? As members of a family? As an individual among peers? How did the daughter of an adopted woman desiring the truth of her origins and family health history feel as she became aware of her mother’s interest in knowing the truth of her origins as well as an eventual urgent need for health history that surfaced when her mother was diagnosed with melanoma? What did they imagine about their birth parents? Was there a connection with those thoughts and how they felt about themselves as school-age children? As adolescents? As young adults? Lastly, if they have come to know members of their family of origin, how, if at all, has that impacted their self-perception? What impact on her mother did meeting her sisters have in the last months of her life, as seen from a daughter's perspective? *Moderated by Pam Hasegawa, NJCARE. (No CEH’s)*

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.

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 Saturday, April 1st!

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.