

Continuing Education Hours for NJ Teachers and School Social Workers

5 service units as approved by the NJ Dept of Education (approval code #1965) and the State Board of Social Work Examiners

NJ's 28th Annual "Let's Talk Adoption" Conference

**November 7, 2009
Rutgers University, Busch Campus
Piscataway, NJ**

*presented by: CPFA-Concerned Persons for Adoption
co-sponsored by: The New Jersey Interagency Adoption Council and
Rutgers University School of Social Work, Institute for Families.*

**for more information, or to obtain brochure call 908-273-5694 or
www.cpfanj.org**

Cost: \$45/person; \$80 per couple (\$20 CEH fee)

**Keynote Speaker: Alison Larkin, author, "The English American"
plus 36 workshops –see below for those particularly helpful to
educators**

1. "Nature vs. Nurture: A discussion with The English American". Discussion of issues prompted by keynote address continued in this workshop on nature, nurture and how the search for her American birth parents helped Alison Larkin find her self. *Alison Larkin, adult adoptee, actress and author (1 CEH)*

4. "Developmental Evaluations: When and How to Access Early Intervention/Special Education Services". Do you wonder if your child's behavior is normal or is related to his/her adoption history? How do you know if and when to request a developmental evaluation for your child? The presenter will answer these questions, as well as describe what services are available to help your child during the important early childhood years. *Lisa Nalven, MD, MA, FAAP, Director, Developmental Pediatrics and the Adoption Screening and Evaluation Program, Kireker Center for Child Development at Valley Hospital (1 CEH)*

15. "The Impact of Early Adverse Experience on Development". This workshop will discuss the role of early influences (prenatal and postnatal experiences) on brain development and developmental outcomes. Topics to be discussed include impact of prenatal substances of abuse/alcohol, malnutrition, suboptimal care, trauma, as well as the impact of prolonged deprivation in the older child. Examples will be drawn from foster care and private adoptions in the U.S. as well as children who have been adopted from orphanages abroad. *Lisa Nalven, MD, MA, FAAP, Director, Developmental Pediatrics and the Adoption Screening and Evaluation Program, Kireker Center for Child Development at Valley Hospital (1 CEH)*

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18. "Adoption and Foster Care in the School". This workshop will focus on the various issues that affect the adopted or foster child in the school setting; adoption related assignments (family tree, genetics, family structure), who to tell in the school, teacher understanding of adoption issues, plus other delicate issues. Included will be discussion and website references and handouts. *Barbara A. Rall, LCSW, NJ Adoption Resource Clearing House (NJ ARCH), A Program of Children's Aid and Family Services (1 CEH)*

21. "The 'Eccentric' Child: Sensory Processing Disorders". This workshop explains how seemingly bizarre behavior may have a sensory explanation. What we see, feel, hear, taste, move & smell affects our behavior, and that behavior can be 'unusual' when these senses are incorrectly interpreted. This workshop also addresses what we can do to develop more appropriate behaviors in children with sensory processing disorders. *F. Anne Cahl, OTR, SIPT-Certified (1 CEH)*

25. "Transitioning Children in Care, With Care: Getting from Grief to the Gift". This workshop will address the risk factors and possible impact of moves and changes on children and their caretakers. An outline for a peaceful path of transition to minimize trauma will include suggested activities as well as resources. Personal experience as resource parent and case worker is shared, as the process of being in the present, preparing to let go, transitioning, grieving and healing is reviewed. *Darah Walther, M.Ed. (1 CEH)*

29. "Understanding Kid's Behavior". A child's extreme acting out behavior is often blamed as the reason a placement is disrupting, occasionally leading to the dissolution of a finalized adoption. This workshop will look at the underlying message in the behavior of a child in a pre-adoptive placement or within an adoptive family and build an understanding that the behavior is often a child's expression of loss, grief, growing intimacy, or fear. The presenter will provide a toolkit for workers and families to better meet the challenges presented by these intense behaviors to keep the family intact. *Barry Chaffkin, LCSW, CEO Changing The World One Child At A Time (1 CEH)*

32. "Is That Your Mom?" Nancy Borders, LCSW and her 33 year old son Todd will talk about the special challenges, amusing moments, and special joys transracial families face. Todd, now an adult, will discuss his experiences with peers, school and growing up in a transracial family. Together, they will share with the audience their learnings, anecdotes and experiences of living in a family that was "different". *Nancy Borders. LCSW (1 CEH)*

35. "Deficit of Attention in Adopted and Foster Children: Not All ADD/ADHD is Bouncing off the Walls". Deficit of attention, with or without hyperactivity, is one of the most common behavioral complaints in the post-placement period. The effectiveness of any intervention greatly depends on an accurate diagnosis of the underlying problem. Topics to be covered will include causes of attention deficit, conditions that can mimic ADHD, ways to evaluate children, as well as different treatment options. *Alla Gordina, MD, FAAP (1 CEH)*

Check out www.cpfan.org for our section for educators and school personnel – 12 pages of tips, resources & ideas