

## NACAC Conference • Description of Tracks

| <b>Track</b>                                     | <b>Short description</b>  | <b>Primary audience</b><br><i>(all attendees welcome)</i>  | <b>Types of sessions included</b>   |
|--|---|--|---|
| Agency Issues and Concerns                       | Sessions related to the management of an adoption agency or organization  | Agency directors, administrators, managers   | Supervision, ethics, collaboration, cultural competence, fundraising, technology, evaluation, staffing  |
| Advanced Issues in Adoption and Adoption Therapy | Sessions on counseling, therapy, and other mental health services   | Mental health professionals, post-adoption service providers, agency staff, parents                          | Attachment therapy, specific therapeutic techniques or choices; intensive mental health programs/ services; advanced sessions on adoptive parenting or special needs                        |
| Advocacy & Public Policy                         | Sessions related to advocating for system change or services for individual children; sessions on particular legislation  | Parents, professionals, child advocates  | Becoming an advocate; lobbying; advocacy tools; specific laws (Fostering Connections, MEPA, ICWA); proposed legislation   |
| Kinship Care & Birth Family Connections          | Sessions on specific issues facing relatives raising their kin; sessions on adoptees' issues, working with birth families (either from the beginning or reunifying) | Grandparents and other relative caregivers; agency staff working with caregivers; adoptive parents; adoptees | Grandparent issues, supporting caregivers, finding kin for waiting children; sibling issues; open adoption; search and reunion; working with birth family members; triad issues             |
| Parenting Adopted Children                       | Sessions that provide parents with tips, techniques, and strategies for dealing with adoption issues  | Adoptive and other parents   | Special populations (single, dads, etc.); managing stress; taking care of yourself; parenting techniques or styles  |
| Parenting Children with Special Needs            | Sessions related to specific diagnoses or past trauma; sessions for parenting children with significant behaviors or challenges                                     | Adoptive and other parents   | FASD, RAD, ADHD, sexual abuse, multiple disabilities, disruption, anger management, residential treatment, attachment problems  |
| Permanency Options                               | Sessions on achieving permanence for special populations (teens, for example) or through model programs or legislation  |  | Permanence for special populations (medically fragile, infants, adolescents); special permanency initiatives or programs (customary adoption, subsidized guardianship); concurrent planning |

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|--|--|---|---|
| Post-Adoption Services (including parent support groups) | Sessions on post-adoption programs, practices, or services; sessions related to parent group development or parent group activities      | Agency staff hoping to implement programs; parents; parent group leaders and parents interested in starting support groups                              | Model programs including peer support, camps, mental health services; adoption assistance; disruption; parent supports groups for special populations (dads, moms, LGBT parents, single parents, adoptees); starting a group; rejuvenation; program ideas; coalition building |
| Preparing for Adoption                                   | Sessions that help prospective adopters prepare for the adoption process and for raising a child with special needs or any adopted child | Prospective adoptive parents  | Understanding the adoption process; selecting an adoption agency; preparing for placement; building your support system; advocating for your family during the adoption process; learning more about special needs; understanding your child's medical history                |
| Recruitment & Pre-Adoption Services                      | Sessions on helping parents or children/youth make the transition to adoption  | Agency staff  | Recruiting families (including targeted recruitment for special populations); home studies and other assessments; pre-placement training; transitions to adoption; moving from foster care to adoption  |
| Race, Culture, & Diversity in Adoption                   | Sessions on transracial or transcultural adoption, racial identity, LGBT adoption (parents and youth issues)                             | Parents or agencies working with children or families of color; LGBT families, families raising LGBT youth; agency staff working with these populations | Transracial adoption; special issues facing children or facing families of color; supporting LGBT youth; working with LGBT families; overcoming barriers of being an LGBT family  |
| Supporting Children & Families                           | Sessions that teach parents or workers how to best serve adopted or traumatized children and their families                              | Parents; agency staff   | Life books, training for children/youth; school issues; helping children with grief and loss; helping children answer questions; preparing children for adoption; special services for children/youth and their families; self-care for parents                               |