

North American Council on Adoptable Children
45th Annual Conference



*Exploring
Solutions*
in Adoption and
Foster Care

Las Vegas, Nevada • July 17–20, 2019
Planet Hollywood Resort and Casino

Registration Brochure



Join Us at NACAC's 2019 Adoption and Foster Care Conference

July 17–20 in Las Vegas, Nevada



Inspiration and Information

Adoptive, kinship, and foster parents; child welfare professionals; adoptees; foster care alumni; and other child advocates—if you have been touched by adoption or foster care, this is the conference for you!

With more than 80 sessions from expert speakers about everything from adoption support and kinship care to recruitment and therapeutic techniques, these sessions inspire, inform, and encourage all members of the adoption and foster care community. Many sessions are advanced so even experienced parents and professionals will benefit.

Keynote Presentations

■ Thursday, July 18

The Seven Core Issues in Adoption and Permanency
Allison Maxon, LMFT, and Sharon Kaplan Roszia, MS

For 20 years, we in adoption have talked about seven core issues in adoption—loss, rejection, shame and guilt, grief, identity, intimacy, and mastery and control. But in that time much has changed—more adoptions are from foster care and we have a better understanding of the impact of trauma and the importance of attachment. This keynote will update the conversation about the seven core issues; highlight their impact on the lives of children, parents, and families; and offer practical tools for addressing these lifelong issues.



■ Friday, July 19

Making Placements Successful: Learning from Youth Who Lived It

Michael Sanders, MSW, LISW, and young adult panel

During this panel presentation, the audience will learn directly from young people who have experienced foster care and adoption about how child welfare professionals and foster and adoptive parents can make their transition to a new placement more successful. Moderator Michael Sanders will explore with the panel best practices for welcoming a child or teen into a family and what steps professionals and parents took—or could have taken—to make foster care and adoption less difficult. Participants will learn new ways to think about how the actions they take affect young people in foster and adoptive placements.



■ Saturday, July 20

Power of Perspective. Power of You.

Punam Mathur

In these times of rapid change and kerfuffle, join our closing session to receive a quick reminder of your own super powers and where to reclaim them. (And, have some fun.) This presentation will leave you inspired and encouraged to go back and do your best—for your children, your families, and yourself!



Through adoption support, education, advocacy, and leadership development in the US and Canada, the North American Council on Adoptable Children has helped reform systems, alter viewpoints, and change lives for more than 40 years.

Learn more about our work at nacac.org.

Pre-Conference Session

■ Wednesday, July 17

Empower, Connect, Correct: Principles and Tools of Trust-Based Relational Intervention® (TBRI®)

Daren Jones, LMSW, and Jill Crewes, MSW

Designed to address physical and attachment needs and dispel difficult, fear-based behaviors, TBRI® is a powerful therapeutic tool for working with and raising children who have experienced trauma. In this day-long, intensive workshop for parents and professionals, two experienced trainers from the Karyn Purvis Institute of Child Development will teach about the TBRI® method that has brought hope and healing to many children and their families.



Participants will learn about the effects of complex developmental trauma and how the foundational principles of TBRI®—empowering, connecting, and correcting—are used to engage and empower children to change behaviors. The session will also cover how to recognize the effects of sensory processing on behaviors, tools for interpreting and regulating behaviors, and proactive and responsive strategies to deal with challenging behaviors while creating an environment of connection and safety. Participants will leave with the tools they need to start building calmer, trust-based relationships with children whose trust has been damaged.

Pre-conference registration fees are separate from regular conference fees. You can register for the pre-conference session even if you do not attend the rest of the conference.

- **Audience:** parents and professionals
- **Time:** 8:30 am to 4:00 pm
- **Registration fee:** \$125
- **Lunch is not provided**

Location and Accommodations

The conference will be held at the Planet Hollywood Resort and Casino—located on the Miracle Mile—in Las Vegas, Nevada (3667 South Las Vegas Boulevard).

Discounted guest rooms are \$119 per night plus a nightly resort fee of \$37 and tax. Self-parking is free.

To make your reservation and get this rate, access our link at nacac.org/get-training/conference/location or call 866-317-1829 and ask for the NACAC conference rate. Availability extends until all rooms fill or June 12, whichever comes first.

Conference Schedule

Wednesday, July 17

8:30 am–4:00 pm TBRI® Pre-Conference

Thursday, July 18

8:30–10:00 am General Session

10:30 am–noon Workshop Period 1

1:30–3:00 pm Workshop Period 2

3:30–5:00 pm Workshop Period 3

5:15–6:30 pm Reception & Award Ceremony

Friday, July 19

8:30–10:00 am General Session

10:30 am–noon Workshop Period 4

1:30–3:00 pm Workshop Period 5

3:30–5:00 pm Workshop Period 6

Saturday, July 20

8:30–10:00 am Workshop Period 7

10:30 am–noon Workshop Period 8

1:30–3:00 pm Workshop Period 9

3:15–4:00 pm General Session

We are grateful for the support of the local planning committee

The Adoption Exchange

Clark County Department of Family Services

Foster Kinship

Grandma's Angels

Nevada Division of Child & Family Services

Washoe County Department of Social Services

Registration Information

Register at nacac.org/get-training/conference

If you are registering a group, please contact us at info@nacac.org or 651-644-3036 for a form.

Early Registration (until June 12)

FULL REGISTRATION

Individuals

Members.....	\$320
Non-members	\$380

Parent Couples

Members.....	\$480
Non-members	\$570

DAILY REGISTRATION

Individuals

Thurs, Fri, or Sat	\$150
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Parent Couples

Thurs, Fri, or Sat	\$225
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PRE-CONFERENCE..... \$125

Registration Rates (after June 12)

FULL REGISTRATION

Individuals

Members.....	\$375
Non-members	\$435

Parent Couples

Members.....	\$535
Non-members	\$625

DAILY REGISTRATION

Individuals

Thurs, Fri, or Sat	\$165
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Parent Couples

Thurs, Fri, or Sat	\$240
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PRE-CONFERENCE..... \$125

Registration Details

- Full registration fees cover workshops, general sessions, Thursday's reception, and membership for non-members.
- Credit card payments are processed at the US rate in US dollars. Those paying by check or money order should mail the payment after registering online. If paying by Canadian check, contact NACAC for the Canadian rate.
- For those who cannot pre-register, on-site registration is available.

Membership Discount

Current NACAC members receive discounted registrations—one for individual and parent group members, up to 20 for enhanced parent group and organizational members, and unlimited for employees of national/corporate members. Registrants can also apply for membership with their registration and use the discounted rate.

Student Discount

Full-time undergraduate and graduate students are eligible for a 50 percent discount on registration fees. Copies of a current student ID and transcript are required.

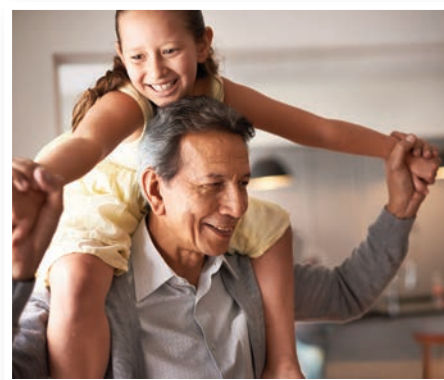
Cancellation Fees

NACAC will refund registration fees (less a service fee of \$50) only if we receive a written cancellation notice by June 12.

Academic Accreditation

NACAC has arranged for general continuing education units (CEUs) from Augsburg College in Minnesota. The full conference will be 17.25 contact hours or 1.725 CEUs, and you can apply for credit at the conference. Daily and pre-conference session CEUs are also available. Please verify applicability of these CEUs with your professional board. The fee for CEUs is \$30.

We are also applying for social work continuing education hours (CEs) and will have that information available online once the application has been processed for all workshops. The fee for CEUs is \$40.



Exhibiting and Advertising

- Exhibitors will have tabletop exhibits near workshops and refreshment breaks. Space is assigned on a first-come, first-served basis, so apply early.
- Individuals and organizations can also advertise in the final program.

Apply online at nacac.org/get-training/conference/exhibit.

Special Meetings

If you would like to hold an evening or lunchtime meeting, contact NACAC as soon as possible. Space is limited and meeting times will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. Meeting reservations must be made by June 12.

Add info@nacac.org to your email address book to avoid missing confirmation emails! Contact us at info@nacac.org or 651-644-3036 if you have any questions.



4 days

to connect with
peers and leaders



125+

expert
presenters

Workshops

We are offering 80+ workshops, listed below by topic. See full workshop descriptions and scheduled times at nacac.org/get-training/conference/sessions-and-workshops/.

Therapeutic Techniques

- 1A— Treatment Strategies for Children Who Are Highly Reactive
Lisa Merrifield, PhD, Psychologics, PC, Nebraska • David Rehovsky, LIMHP & Linda Rehovsky, LIMHP, Old Mill Counseling, Nebraska
- 3A— Making the Pain Go Away: Trauma and Teen Substance Abuse
Ken Huey, PhD, Kokua Recovery, Colorado
- 4A— Neurofeedback: Healing Traumatized Children
Arleta James, LPCC, Adoption and Attachment Therapy Partners, Ohio
- 5A— Implementing Adoption-Competency Training for Professionals
Edna Davis-Brown, MPH, Center for Adoption Support and Education, Maryland • Bonni Goodwin, LMSW, University of Oklahoma, Zarrow School of Social Work • Rebecca Sharp, South Carolina Department of Social Services
- 6A— Comprehensive Family Treatment Model for Complex Developmental Trauma
Forrest Lien, ACSW, LCSW, Institute for Attachment & Child, Colorado
- 8A— Theraplay®: A Therapeutic Intervention Using Attachment Based Play
Andrea Bushala, LCSW, The Theraplay Institute, Illinois
- 9A— Disenfranchised Grief in Adoption
Janet Nordine, MS, LMFT, RPT, Experience Courage Therapy and Consultation/Adoptees Connect, Nevada

Parenting in Adoption and Foster Care

- 1B— Parenting from the Trenches
Denise Goodman, PhD, trainer/consultant, Ohio
- 2B— On the Same Team: Relationship Resiliency in Difficult Times
Lori Ross & Randy Ross, FosterAdopt Connect, Missouri
- 3B— Dads Talk Adoption
Buddy Stevens, Vermont • Randy Ross, Missouri
- 4B— Quit Taking it Personal (QTIP)
Nyamekye Reynolds & Brezan Gowie, You Gotta Believe, New York
- 5B— I'm MAD Because You're MAD (But How Do We Escape the "MADness"?)
Tanya Johnson-Gilchrist, Tiny Little Jewels/University of South Florida • Sharon Dues, AMI Kids, Florida • Khalilah L. Caines, LCSW, Saint Leo University, Florida

- 6B— Building Skills for Success: The Collaborative Problem-Solving Approach
Ed Morales, MPP, MSW, LICSW, Socorro Consulting, Minnesota
- 8B— Putting Concepts to Work: Practicing Therapeutic Parenting
Mary M. McGowan, ATTACH, Minnesota
- 9B— Ten Parenting Skills an Adoptee Wants Every Parent to Know
Jeanette Yoffe, MFT, Yoffe Therapy, California

"In 23 years as a foster parent, adoptive parent, and 2,000+ hours of training, this was the BEST EVER."

Core Issues in Adoption

- 1C— The Emotional and Developmental Impact of Adoption
Jeffrey LaCure, PsyD, The New England Center for Adoption Support & Education, Massachusetts
- 2C— Ethical Issues in Adoption and Permanency
Allison Maxon, LMFT, National Center on Adoption and Permanency, California • Sharon Kaplan Roszia, MS, private practice, California
- 3C— Discovering Calm in the Midst of Chaos
Robyn Gobbel, LCSW, RPT-S, private practice, Texas
- 4C— Building Attachment-Focused Communities
Mary M. McGowan, ATTACH, Minnesota
- 5C— Laughter for the {Mental} Health of It: How to Ease the Stresses, Tensions, and Pains of Parenting and Everyday Life
Pat O'Brien, LMSW, LTMN, founder, You Gotta Believe!, New York
- 6C— Painting with Purpose: A Mind, Body, and Spirit Approach to Healing Trauma
Sue Badeau, child welfare speaker/consultant, Pennsylvania • Lisa D. Maynard, LMSW, RYT, Center for Adoption Support and Education, New York • Chelsea Chris, artist, Pennsylvania
- 7C— Self-care Isn't Selfish
Jessica Sinarski, LPCMH, A Better Chance for our Children, Delaware
- 8C— Promising Practices in Adoption: Identity Formation and Search and Reunion
Tara Linh Leaman, JD, Westchester County Department of Social Services, New York • Trista Goldberg, Operation Reunite, New Jersey

Parenting Children with Challenges

- 2D— **Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder from a Trauma Lens**
Barb Clark, North American Council on Adoptable Children, Minnesota
- 3D— **Is It Just ADHD?**
Elaine Schulte, MD, Children's Hospital at Montefiore, New York
- 4D— **From Adoption to Residential Treatment: Adoptive Families' Experiences in the U.S. and Canada**
Kim Brown, MA, Capital Adoptive Families Alliance, California • Rowena Fong, PhD, University of Texas at Austin • Catherine LaBrenz, University of Texas at Austin
- 5D— **Executive Function: The Missing Diagnosis**
John Sobraske, adoption psychotherapist, New York
- 6D— **Attachment and FASD (and Other Neurodevelopmental Differences)**
Janice Goldwater, Adoptions Together, Maryland
- 7D— **Brains, Behavior, and Regulation**
Denise C. Rice, LCSW, LAC, HOPEful Healing Training and Consulting, Colorado
- 9D— **Emotional Regulatory Healing**
Jules Alvarado, MA, LPC, Alvarado Consulting and Treatment Group, Colorado • Liz Clark, MA, LPC, Colorado

"As an adoptive parent and adoption professional the conference was excellent, refreshing, and uplifting."

Recruiting Families

- 1E— **Making the Most of Your Recruitment Efforts: Effective Response System Strategies**
Tracy Serdjenian, LMSW, AdoptUSKids, Colorado • Alicia Groh, MPP, AdoptUSKids, Minnesota
- 2E— **Recruiting Foster Parents: The FosterMore Model**
Mark Daley, Daley Solutions, California
- 3E— **The Biggest Challenges in Recruitment and Retention of Foster and Adoptive Families**
Carolyn Ashworth, Creating a Family, North Carolina
- 5E— **It's All About the Presentation**
Michael Sanders, MSW, LISW, Michael Sanders Enterprises, Georgia
- 6E— **Recruiting Families for Waiting Youth in the Digital Age**
Kathy Clark, MSW, & Hayley Wiesman, LSW, Children's Home and Lutheran Social Service, Minnesota
- 8E— **Beyond Recruitment: Streamlining the Approval Process**
Denise Goodman, PhD, trainer/consultant, Ohio

Success in Permanency

- 2F— **The Simple Truths about Permanency Are Anything but Simple**
Karen Moore, Open Doors for Lanark Children and Youth, Ontario
- 3F— **Collaborating with Kinship Caregivers as a Permanency Option**
Jeanette Willis, Sheri Abbey, MSW, & Lois Miller, Advantage Adoptions-OCOC, Texas
- 8F— **Making a Trauma-Informed Decision Based on Readiness for Relationship Permanency**
Darla L. Henry, PhD, MSW, Darla L. Henry and Associates, Pennsylvania
- 9F— **Adoption and Other Options for Teens**
Barry Chaffkin, Fostering Change for Children, New York

Preparing and Supporting Families

- 1G— **Parent Groups and Other Peer Support: Crucial to Success**
Barb Clark, North American Council on Adoptable Children, Minnesota
- 3G— **Adoption Readiness Practice**
Jack Brennan & Joanne Ferrante, Family Focus Adoption Services,
- 4G— **Meeting Families' Needs: Assessing Family Support Services**
Britt Cloudsdale, MSW, AdoptUSKids, North Carolina • Alicia Groh, MPP, AdoptUSKids, Minnesota
New York
- 5G— **Assessing and Building Parents' Knowledge of Child Trauma**
Justin "Jay" Miller, PhD, & Melissa Segress, University of Kentucky
- 6G— **CORE: Teen Training Curriculum**
Kim Stevens, North American Council on Adoptable Children, Vermont • Angelique Day, PhD, MSW, University of Washington School of Social Work, Missouri
- 7G— **Adoption Assistance for Special Needs Adoptions**
Josh Kroll, North American Council on Adoptable Children, Minnesota
- 9G— **Foster Care To Adoption: Eliminating the "Drift" and Saving Adoptions**
Maris H. Blechner, MEd, LCSW, Maris Blechner Consulting, New York

Agency Management and Systems

- 2H— **Agile Scrum: Improving Systems and Outcomes**
Ruben Ferreira, PhD, Massachusetts Department of Children & Families
- 4H— **What Foster and Adoptive Parents Want Their Agency to Know (But Seldom Tell Them)**
Dawn Davenport, Creating a Family, North Carolina
- 5H— **Training Adoption and Family Resource Workers**
Sharon Silvia, MSW & Etta Lappen Davis, Massachusetts Department of Children & Families
- 6H— **It's Time to Name the Big Adoption Enemy: Consumer Mentality**
Maris H. Blechner, MEd, LCSW, Maris Blechner Consulting, New York

Questions about the conference? 651.644.3036 • info@nacac.org • nacac.org

Advocacy and Public Policy

- 1I— **Developmental Trauma Action Alliance**
Kathy Soden & Sylvia Gibbons, Adoption Council of Ontario
- 2I— **Promoting Systems Change to Prepare and Support Adoptive and Guardian Families**
Leslie Cohen, Spaulding for Children, Ohio • Christine Feldman, Illinois SIM QIC-AG • Nicole Coning, Harmony Family Center, Tennessee
- 4I— **Speak Up and Be Heard! Legislative Advocacy for Children, Youth, and Families**
Joe Kroll, Voice for Adoption, Minnesota • Cortney Jones, Voice for Adoption, District of Columbia
- 7I— **Advocating for Your Child at School: Trauma-Informed Strategies That Work**
Julie Beem, MBA, Attachment & Trauma Network, Georgia

Race, Culture, and Diversity in Adoption

- 1J— **Tangled: Hair, Race, and Identity**
Naijean Bernard, PhD & Easter Spates, LPC, Envolve Health, Texas
- 2J— **Unconditional Family for LGBTQ+ Youth in Foster Care**
Bryan Hill, LMSW, Fostering Change for Children, New York
- 3J— **Reclaiming Indigenous Culture for Children**
Kim Grzybowski, British Columbia
- 4J— **The Multicultural Family Grows Up in the New America**
Lynn Gabbard, National Center on Adoption and Permanency, Connecticut • Susan Myers, Connecticut Council on Adoption • Jesse Gabbard, adopted person, California
- 5J— **The Urgency of Seeing Color in Adoption and Foster Care**
April Dinwoodie, Adoptment, New York
- 6J— **Building Organizational Capacity for LGBTQ Inclusive Practice**
Jean-Phillipe Regis, Human Rights Campaign, District of Columbia
- 7J— **LGBT Parents and Our Children**
John Ireland, RaiseAChild, California
- 8J— **The Impact of Worker and Caregiver Bias on Children's Identity Formation**
Susan Harris O'Connor, MSW, author/national performance artist/transracial adoptee • Ruth G. McRoy, PhD, Boston College, Massachusetts • Kim Stevens, North American Council on Adoptable Children, Vermont
- 9J— **Helping White Families Consider, Understand, and Prepare for Transracial Adoption**
Katie Wynen, MSW, Pact, An Adoption Alliance, California

Older Children and Youth

- 1K— **Rethinking Permanence for Older Youth**
Brandi Hill, MSW, LCSW, & Abigail Hill, Esq, Maryland Judiciary, Administrative Office of the Courts, Department of Juvenile & Family Services
- 3K— **Beneath the Mask: Adoption Through the Eyes of Adolescents**
Debbie Riley, LCMFT, Center for Adoption Support and Education, Maryland
- 4K— **Factors That Help Youth Thrive**
Sarah B. Greenblatt, LMSW, SBGreenblatt Consulting, LLC, Connecticut

- 5K— **Youth Voices Matter**
Mercedes Zahler, North American Council on Adoptable Children, Minnesota • young adult panel
- 6K— **Unpacking the "No" to Adoption**
Michael Sanders, MSW, LISW, Michael Sanders Enterprises, Georgia
- 7K— **Improving Communication and Relationship with Teens**
Thomas C. Rector, Accrescent Institute, California
- 8K— **Developing and Implementing a Youth Mentoring Program**
Kecia Sakazaki & April Johnson, Aging Up, California

"I am walking away from this conference with new ideas and ... a really fresh approach to my work!"

Supporting Children

- 1L— **Too Many Losses Too Soon: Loss and Grief in Children Who Are Adopted or in Foster Care**
Mari Itzkowitz, LCSW, Center for Adoption Support and Education, Virginia
- 2L— **Sensory Processing: Living Life Through a Different Filter**
Heather Saak, FosterAdopt Connect, Missouri
- 3L— **Delivering Mental Health Services to a Rural Community**
Jessica Hubbard & Meagan Albert, LCSWA, Chatham County Department of Social Services, North Carolina
- 5L— **Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking in Child Welfare**
Stefania Agliano, LMSW & Bryan Hall, LCSW, I AM Training and Consultation Group LLC, Connecticut
- 7L— **Thriving! Moving Beyond Trauma-Informed to Nurturing Resilience**
Sue Badeau, child welfare speaker/consultant, Pennsylvania
- 8L— **Talking to Kids about Tough Stuff**
Barry Chaffkin, Fostering Change for Children, New York
- 9L— **Who's Talking to Your Child? What You Need to Know about Internet Safety**
Paula Lupton & Kim Purinton, Centene, Florida

Birth Family and Openness

- 1M— **Helping Adopted Youth Maintain Connections with Birth Family and Communities**
Pat Convery, RSW, Adoption Council of Ontario
- 2M— **The Inclusive Family Support Model: Facilitating Openness for All Adoptive Families**
Angela Tucker, Amara/founder of The Adopted Life, Washington
- 4M— **Supporting Kinship Care**
Anntesha Chesterton, Alison Caliendo, & Nani Garrett, Foster Kinship, Nevada
- 6M— **Facilitating Co-Parenting Through Visitation Practice**
Stacey Lance & Jesse Brown, Washoe County Human Services Agency, Nevada
- 9M— **Openness and Technology**
Sarah Reid & Taryn Danford, Adoptive Families Association of British Columbia



Don't miss the pre-conference session *Empower, Connect, Correct: Principles and Tools of Trust-Based Relational Intervention® (TBRI®)* on Wednesday, July 17!



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Register at nacac.org/get-training/conference

4 days
of solution-focused
sessions

3 compelling
keynote
sessions

80+
workshops

800+
attendees