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
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!
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

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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
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 CEs 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.
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, LPC, 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

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 Sobراسke, 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

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 Grazybowski, British Columbia

4J— The Multicultural Family Grows Up in the New America
Lynn Gabillard, National Center on Adoption and Permanency, Connecticut • Susan Myers, Connecticut Council on Adoption • Jesse Gabillard, 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
Recia 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
Ariestha 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

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Register at nacac.org/get-training/conference

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

4 days of solution-focused sessions
3 compelling keynote sessions
80+ workshops
800+ attendees