



New York State Citizens Coalition for Children

Support, information and Advocacy
for Foster, Adoptive and Kinship Families since 1975



Changing Landscape

Thursday, May 5 through Saturday, May 7, 2016

Albany Marriott

27th New York State Annual Foster Care and Adoption Conference

Featuring: Charlie Appelstein, MSW
Regina Kupecky, LSW
Meghan Moravcik Walbert



Office of Children
and Family Services



CENTER for DEVELOPMENT
of HUMAN SERVICES
INSTITUTE for COMMUNITY HEALTH PROMOTION
BUFFALO STATE • The State University of New York

About the Conference

Changing Landscape, the Coalition's 27th annual conference, will focus on emerging trends and recent legislative initiatives that seek to reinvigorate foster care and adoption in the coming decade. Eighteen years since the passage and implementation of the Adoption and Safe Families Act, last year's passage of the federal Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act, the rise in number of kinship placements, the growth in open adoptions, concepts of normalcy and prudent parenting and future implementation of Medicaid Managed Care in New York will provide opportunities for families and professionals to reimagine foster care and adoption.

The conference will offer participants an opportunity to become current on law and policy; learn new skills and strategies to work with families and children; network with other parents and professionals and provide parents and professionals alike with tools and resources to explore possibilities for change. Nationally known keynote speakers and experts in child welfare will share their expertise and vision for the future in thirty different workshop presentations.

Accommodations

The conference will be held at the Albany Marriott Hotel. Conference attendees receive a special discounted room rate of \$115 plus applicable taxes (reservation code CCC). The hotel must receive reservations no later than April 21, 2016. Reservations made after this date are subject to availability.

Albany Marriott
189 Wolf Road • Albany, NY 12205
518-458-8444 • 800-443-8952

Useful Information

- This brochure and presenter bios are available online at www.nysccc.org.
- The conference will feature a large adoption and foster care bookstore plus sales of select Coalition items. Credit cards and checks are welcome.
- Children cannot attend workshops and plenary sessions.
- Recordings of conference proceedings will be for sale at the conference and afterwards. The recordings provide an excellent opportunity to "attend" all of the workshops and to share the information with others.
- College Continuing Education credit is available for \$25. See registration information on page 5 for details.
- CEUs for Social Workers are available this year. Please see information on facing page (see blue box).

New York State Citizens Coalition for Children
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Becoming the Adoptive and Foster Family Coalition of New York in 2016. New year. New name. Same dedication.

Featured Speakers

Charlie Appelstein, MSW, whose motto is "There's no such thing as a bad kid," has worked in child welfare for over twenty-five years and is one of the foremost child behavior specialists in the United States. Described as "the best youth care trainer in America" by Robert Lieberman, former president of the American Association of Children's Residential Centers, Charlie has devoted his entire adult career to helping children and youth struggling with emotional and behavioral challenges and those who guide them. An engaging, informative and humorous speaker, Charlie is the author of three critically acclaimed books on youth care and the creator of two innovative CDs that help kids and parents make better choices and lead happier lives. Charlie lives in Salem, New Hampshire, with his wife, Cheryl, and their daughter, Julie. In his spare time he enjoys hiking, biking, pizza and his beloved New England Patriots.

Regina M. Kupecky, LSW, has worked in the field of adoption for over thirty-five years, twenty of which were spent providing adoption-attachment-trauma informed therapy at the Attachment and Bonding Center of Ohio. She currently works with children and families at Adoption and Attachment Therapy Partners in Broadview Heights, Ohio and conducts training nationally and internationally on adoption and attachment related topics. She is the co-author (with the late Gregory Keck) of the classic adoption books *Adopting the Hurt Child* and *Parenting the Hurt Child* and author of *The Adoption Club* series of therapeutic workbooks written to assist therapists and parents with children's emotional and psychological challenges. Regina has a special interest in siblings and has contributed to the knowledge base of placing sibling groups together in adoptive families via her curriculum, *My Brother, My Sister: Sibling Relations in Adoption and Foster Care* and the resource pamphlet *Siblings Are Family Too*. Her services to children have been recognized by her being named Adoption Worker of the Year by the Ohio Department of Human Services, and she is a recipient of the North American Council on Adoptable Children's Sara Berman Speaker Award.

Meghan Moravcik Walbert is a creative nonfiction writer, personal essayist and blogger of all things parenting. Her writing can be found regularly on her personal blog, *PhaseThreeOfLife.com*, and has been featured in a variety of publications and websites, including *Mamalode*, *Great Moments in Parenting* and *BlogHer*. She is the author of the ongoing "Foster Parent Diary" series on *The New York Times Motherlode* blog, an ongoing series that documents the making of a foster family. Meghan was named a 2015 Voice of the Year by *BlogHer* and *SheKnows Media*. Her work will be anthologized in *HerStories Project's "So Glad They Told Me: Women on Getting Real About Motherhood,"* as well as *Monkey Star Press's* upcoming book, *How to Survive Tantrums and Babysitters*, both slated for publication in Spring 2016. She currently resides in Pennsylvania and is a stay-at-home mom to her five-year-old biological son and three-year-old foster son.

Schedule at a Glance

Thursday, May 5, 2016

2:00 pm	Parent Leadership Gathering
5:30 pm	Coalition Advisory Committee Meeting
7:00 pm	Coalition Annual Meeting

Friday, May 6, 2016

9:00 am	Registration/Exhibits
10:00 am	Opening Session and Welcome Opening Remarks: Meghan Moravcik Walbert
10:30 am	Workshop Period 1
12:00 pm	Lunch Keynote: Regina Kupecky <i>Creating Harmony Between Kids and Caregivers</i>
1:30 pm	Workshop Period 2
2:50 pm	Beverage Break
3:15 pm	Workshop Period 3
5:15 pm	Yoga
6:00 pm	Conference Reception
8:00 pm	Movie Night: <i>Tough Love</i>

Saturday, May 7, 2016

8:00 am	Breakfast Keynote: Charlie Appelstein <i>No Such Thing as a Bad Kid</i>
9:15 am	Workshop Period 4
10:35 am	Beverage Break
10:50 am	Workshop Period 5
12:25 pm	Workshop Period 6 <i>Includes box lunch</i>

Showcase your Services and Products at Conference!

Become a sponsor and/or an exhibitor.

Promote your organization or business in our conference program and/or on signage at the conference.

Send your materials for our resources table.

Sponsors: 646-688-4321

Exhibitors: 607-398-9018

or visit www.nysccc.org for details.

2016: Changing Landscape Thursday, May 5th

Pre-Conference Events

2:00 pm - Parent Leadership Gathering

The power of our Coalition is in our parents and families. Join Coalition Executive Director Richard Heyl de Ortiz and others for an open discussion about legislative and public education priorities for the year ahead and how parents, families and parent group leaders throughout the state can work together to create change, educate the public about foster care, adoption and kinship care and improve services for families. Open to all foster, adoptive and kinship parents. Refreshments provided.

5:30pm - Advisory Committee Meeting

Members of the Coalition Advisory Committee from around the state hold in-person meeting.

7:00pm - Annual Meeting

Meet Coalition staff and board members. Hear reports from the Executive Director and President. Time for informal questions, answers and discussion will follow reports and the election of Advisory Committee members.

New this year: CEUs for Social Workers

Through a partnership with The Sidney Albert Training and Research Institute at Parsons Child and Family Center, three state-approved continuing education credits will be available for Licensed Master Social Workers (LMSWs) and Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSWs) for the Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) Workshop offered on Friday, 5/6. Those attending the conference who wish to earn these CEU credits should indicate so on their registration form and must pay an additional fee of \$60.

Separately, the Coalition continues to offer college continuing education credit through Tompkins Cortland Community College. More about this on page 5.

Disclaimer While every effort has been made to provide accurate and complete information, the Office of Children and Family Services, the State of New York and the Coalition assume no responsibility for any errors or omissions in the information provided herein and make no representations or warranties about the suitability of the information contained here for any purpose. All information and documents are provided "as is," without a warranty of any kind.

Friday, May 6, 2016

Workshop Period 1 10:30 am – 11:50 am

1. Parenting the Hurt Child, Part 1

Many tried-and-true parenting methods do not work well with kids who have faced trauma, neglect and abuse. Learn why and some techniques that may help. *Regina Kupecky*

2. Fostering Futures NY: An Innovative Approach to Retaining Foster Parents

Foster parents know which supports they need to stay recharged. Fostering Futures, offered in the Capital Region, trains volunteer teams from the community to pitch in with practical supports when foster parents ask. *Meredith Osta*

3. Navigating Boundaries Through the Foster Care Maze

Sharing children, households, decision-making and personal info — how much is too much? Establish appropriate boundaries to strengthen relationships between families, foster parents and caseworkers. *Heather Dominiquez*

4. Applying the Reasonable and Prudent Parenting Standard

A brief introduction of this provision of the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act and a discussion of OCFS strategies, tools and resources to implement the standard. *Sara Blake, Matt Beck, Heather Girard*

5. Let's Just Talk: Strategies for Talking with Youth about Drugs

This workshop will equip you with the tools and techniques to recognize the signs of substance abuse and start the discussion with youth about drug use. *Barbara Green-Flood*

Workshop Period 2 1:30 pm – 2:50 pm

6. Parenting the Hurt Child, Part 2

Learn more about parenting methods that don't work well with children who have experienced trauma, neglect and/or abuse, as well as techniques that can help. *Regina Kupecky*

7. Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT), Part 1

DBT is used to treat people with chronic or severe mental health issues, including post-traumatic stress. This workshop will explain the principles behind and teach the use of DBT, which focuses on identifying triggers, problem solving and increasing emotional regulation. For parents and professionals. *Anne Blaauboer*. **3 CEU credits available for social workers. Additional fee applies. See page 2.**

8. Circles of Safety: Understanding and Responding to Children's Sexual Behaviors

This workshop will explore children's sexual behaviors, identifying normal development in order to know when and how to respond to sexual behavior problems. *Jenny Coleman*

9. Evidence-Based Treatments: Which One Is for Our Family?

There are different treatments for different conditions, and getting the right treatment requires an understanding of what is causing the difficulties so that you get the best approach for your family. *Arthur Becker-Weidman*

10. Support Matters: Lessons from the Field

This session explores programs and services that help adoptive and foster families meet their children's needs and how AdoptUSKids can support jurisdictions in this area. *Mary Boo, Kathy Ledesma*

Workshop Period 3 3:15-4:35 pm

11. My Brother, My Sister: Sibling Issues in Adoption and Foster Care

85% of children in care have siblings; 75% lose one or more as they move to permanency. Questions that will be explored include: Why? Can we do better? How can we help a child grieve this loss? *Regina Kupecky*

12. Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT), Part 2

Workshop continues. Those seeking Social Work CEU credit must attend both Parts 1 and 2. *Anne Blaauboer*

13. Safety: It's Not Just for kids

This session offers tips, tools and training supports for empowering resource parents and professionals to preserve their sense of personal safety and security. *Sharon Kollar, Theresa McCutcheon*

14. My Life with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder

An overview of what fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD) is, how it might present itself and what works and doesn't work for kids to be successful. *Dianne O'Connor*

15. The Nuts and Bolts of Family Court

Ever been confused about what happens in court? This nuts and bolts workshop will include who's who in the courtroom, the different stages in a case, what various terms mean and what foster parents and relative caregivers can say and do. *Barbara Benedict and Christine Kiesel*

Evening

5:15 Yoga with Lisa Maynard

For all skill levels. Mats provided.

6:00 Conference Reception

Finger food and casual conversation on the patio.

8:00 Movie Screening: Tough Love

A film about second chances. Two parents navigate the red tape of America's child welfare system as they fight to regain custody of their children. Questions follow the film. Provided courtesy of filmmaker Stephanie Wang-Breal.

Saturday, May 7th, 2016

Workshop Period 4 9:15 am – 10:35 am

16. The Glass Ain't Half Full; Heck, It's Overflowing!

Understanding and responding to kids with emotional and behavioral challenges, using a positive, trauma-informed strength-based approach, this will provide a follow-up to the keynote address with more principles and techniques. *Charlie Appelstein*

17. KinGap: Is It the Right Choice for Your Case?

New York's KinGap program has many facets. Understanding program policies and requirements is key to deciding if it's the right option for a child's and a family's needs. *Margaret Burt*

18. Working with Birth Families: Making a Dream Family

A discussion of interviews with foster parents, professionals and birth parents that identified common concerns and skills for foster and birth parents to work together and improve communication. *Rich Capodagli*

19. Beyond Acceptance: Revisiting LGBT/Q

A disproportionate number of youth in the child welfare system may be LGBT/Q. We will explore how to help a child face identity and sexuality challenges from a human development perspective. *Fred Elia*

20. Transaction to Transformation: A Modern Understanding of Adoption to Strengthen All Families

A recent public opinion survey of 2,000 Americans conducted for the Donaldson Adoption Institute revealed that 60% of those surveyed have friends or family members impacted by adoption. Learn more about the survey findings and how they can be used to effect change in the perception of and advocacy for adoption. *April Dinwoodie*

Workshop Period 5 10:50 am – 12:10 pm

21. You Can't Do It Yet, Michael!

The focus is on getting kids back on track by using powerful strength-based verbal interventions and self-management strategies, including a host of creative techniques to help kids manage their actions and externalize problem behaviors. *Charlie Appelstein*

22. New Permanency Issues for Adolescents

An overview of recent changes in NYS law and regulations affecting permanency goals and case planning activities to implement the federal Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act. *Margaret Burt*

23. Adoption and Race: Real Talk

An open dialogue about the important topics of being a youth in foster care and/or adopted by a person of a different ethnicity and dealing with the challenges that come with being a minority. *Youth advocates from the Nobody Ages Out Collaborative of You Gotta Believe*

24. Dragon Management

A look at how caring and over-stressed people can leash the fire-breathing dragons in their lives and keep them in their place. Some theory and lots of practical hints and advice. *Maris Blechner*

25. Mad is Not Bad

Anger is part of a healthy grieving process, part of the journey from hurt to healing. A discussion of how allowing children to express anger can be a source of energy and positive action. *Helen Shin*

Workshop Period 6 12:25 pm – 1:45 pm

A box lunch will be served with this session

26. Use The Force Luke!

Guiding at-risk children and youth often elicits difficult feelings that can compromise a parent's or professional's performance. Examine the major triggers and hear strategies for self-management that keep enthusiasm alive. *Charlie Appelstein*

27. Help, I Have Been Reported to the Hotline!

Sometimes foster and adoptive parents are reported to the CPS Hotline. Learn what parents should consider if this happens and their legal options regarding such reports. *Margaret Burt*

28. Become an Effective Advocate!

You already take on challenges in trying to help children and youth. Become confident in your approach and build on skills to secure the well-being of children in your care in a common-sense manner. *Barb Benedict, Fred Elia*

29. Empowered Transition

A successful transition process is critical to assure solid permanent family life and minimize adoption disruptions. Tried-and-true techniques to move older children into successful adoptions will be shared. *Jack Brennan*

30. Separation Anxiety in the Teen Years

The adolescent struggle between staying connected and becoming independent can be especially challenging for adoptive families. Your child will come out the other side, but getting there often means stress and pain. Let's share challenges and joys, and find perspective that may help parents weather the teen years. *Lisa Maynard*

Registration Information

Register at www.nyscc.org or use the attached form. Submit a separate registration form, including workshop selections, for each attendee. You may make copies of the registration form.

Registration fees include all instructional materials, refreshment breaks, two meals, Saturday boxed lunch, reception, and any other scheduled conference activities for the two-day conference.

Continuing Education Credits: Thanks to partnerships, the Coalition offers two forms of continuing education credit.

Three Credits are available to social workers who attend the DBT workshop on Friday. More details about this on page 2.

College Continuing Education credit is available for an additional fee of \$25. A certificate granting one continuing education credit (10 contact hours equal 1 CEU) will be awarded by Tompkins Cortland Community College to anyone attending the full two-day conference. A Coalition certificate of attendance is available for all upon request after the conference.

Cancellation Policy: A \$50 administrative fee will be charged for all cancellations. The balance of the registration fee will be refunded if written cancellation is received by Friday, 4/22. Refunds will be issued after the conference. Any registration may be transferred to another person with advance notice to the Coalition. No-shows will be billed! Agencies are responsible for paying purchase orders for any no-shows.

Coalition Members are individuals who have made a contribution of \$40 or more in 2016; parent groups or organizations who have purchased a membership or renewed their membership in 2016; or those who join the Coalition or renew when registering for the conference. Important: parent groups and agencies that are 2016 members are entitled to send three representatives at the Coalition member price. All other representatives from the same parent group or agency must either join as individuals or pay the non-member rate. Do not use the member rate unless you are certain you are a paid-up 2016 Coalition member. To verify membership status, contact the Coalition at 646-688-4321 or info@nysccc.org.

Please calculate registration fees carefully! Any overpayment will be considered a donation to the Coalition.

Do not fax or mail any registrations after Friday, 4/29. Registrations can only be accepted at the door after this date.

THANK YOU!

New York State Office of Children and Family Services through a training and administrative services agreement with SUNY Buffalo State/Institute for Community Health Promotion/Center for Development of Human Services

CDHS application codes

Job Type Codes

1. Administrator
2. Supervisor/Manager
3. Clerical/Support Staff
4. Consultant
5. Caseworker/Case Mgr/Social Work
6. Direct Child Care Worker
7. Eligibility Worker
8. Foster/Adoptive Parent
9. Investigator
10. Volunteer Worker
11. Health Care Worker
12. Teacher Vocational Specialist
13. Professional (Policy, Prog Dev)
14. Recreation Specialist

Functional Area Codes

1. Administrative
2. DJJOY
3. Adoption
4. Child Protective Services
5. Day Care
6. Domestic Violence Prev
7. Foster Care
8. Residential Child Care
9. Blind & Visually Handicap
10. Prev/Family Support Srvc
11. Indian Affairs Services
12. Adult Services
13. Services/Other
14. Legal Affairs/Counsel
15. Energy Programs
16. Food Stamps
17. Temporary Assistance
18. Child Support Enforce
19. Disability Determinations
20. Transitional Services
21. Homeless Services
22. Fraud & Abuse
23. Medicaid Skills
24. Medicaid Eligibility
25. Managed Care
26. Dept of Health/Other
27. Welfare to Work
28. Dept of Labor/Other
29. F-30 Non Admin/Local



Register online before Friday, 4/29 at www.nysccc.org

or send form to 134 Main Street, Suite A1, NewPaltz, NY 12561
Fax: 888-482-9112 info@nysccc.org
Register by 4/15 to avoid late fee
After 4/29, you must register at the door

Name _____

Job Title _____

Parent Group or Agency Affiliation _____

Agency Address, City, State, Zip Code and Phone Number _____

Mailing Address, if different (i.e. F/A Parent home address) _____

Daytime Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

Email _____

Enter all codes (refer to code listing on page 5):

Job Type Code _____

Functional Area Code _____

Event Registration	Member	Nonmember	Amount Due
2-Day Conference (Friday & Saturday)	\$150	\$205	\$
Friday Only	\$125	\$180	\$
Saturday Only	\$125	\$180	\$
Individual Membership - Add \$40			\$
Parent Group Membership (includes member discounts for 3 registrants) - Add \$60			\$
Agency Membership (includes member discounts for 3 registrants) - Add \$100			\$
Pre-Conference Parent Leadership Gathering - Add \$10			\$
College Continuing Education Credits - Add \$25			\$
Social Work Continuing Education Units - Add \$60			\$
Late Registration Fee (After 4/15) - Add \$50			\$
Total Amount Enclosed			\$

Method of Payment

Check - Payable to NYSCCC

Visa **MasterCard** **American Express** **Discover**

Card# _____

Exp. Date _____

Security Code _____

Name on Card _____

Signature _____

Purchase Order/Voucher - Payable in 30 days - Payment contact, email, and phone: _____

Circle the number of the workshop you plan to attend in each period

Friday Workshops			Saturday Workshops		
Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5	Period 6
1	6	11	16	21	26
2	7	12	17	22	27
3	8	13	18	23	28
4	9	14	19	24	29
5	10	15	20	25	30

Accommodations: Marriott Hotel, 189 Wolf Rd., Albany, NY • 518-458-8443, 800-443-8952. Contact the hotel directly to make your reservation at the conference rate of \$115 plus applicable taxes. Reservations must be received prior to 4/21 to guarantee availability at the special rate. Use reservation code: CCC.



New York State Citizens Coalition for Children
134 Main Street, Suite A1
New Paltz, NY 12561



**Foster Care and Adoption Conference
May 5th through 7th
Albany, New York**

About the Coalition

The Coalition provides support, information and advocacy for foster, adoptive and kinship families and related professionals.

Incorporated in 1975, the Coalition is the state's foster and adoptive family association. We have a strong history of working collaboratively with the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS), the New York City Administration for Children's Services (ACS), local social service districts, child welfare agencies and other advocacy groups to ensure that families are best able to support and parent the children in their homes.

In 2015, the Coalition embarked on a strategic planning process in which we considered our strengths, our niche in the child welfare field and our goals for the future. As part of this, our Board of Directors voted to change the name of the Coalition.

Over the next several months, you will see us transition to the Adoptive and Foster Family Coalition of New York. The new name retains the citizen-driven, collaborative nature of the Coalition while better articulating our focus and mission.

Our Mission

The Adoptive and Foster Family Coalition unites foster, adoptive and kinship care families, giving them a voice and providing them support, information and advocacy. By fostering communication and collaboration between families, agencies and concerned citizens, we seek to ensure the stability, well-being and permanency of all children touched by the child welfare system.

Our Vision

That no foster, adoptive or kinship care family in New York State will feel alone or unsupported and that all such families will have the tools, support and community they need to nurture their children and be role models for others.

