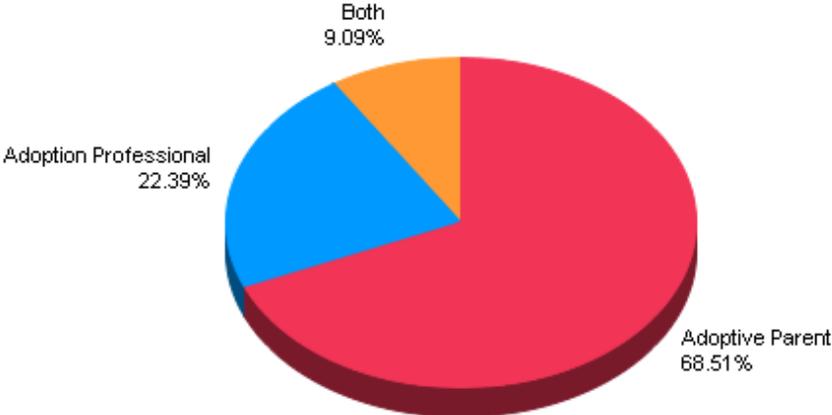


Summary all

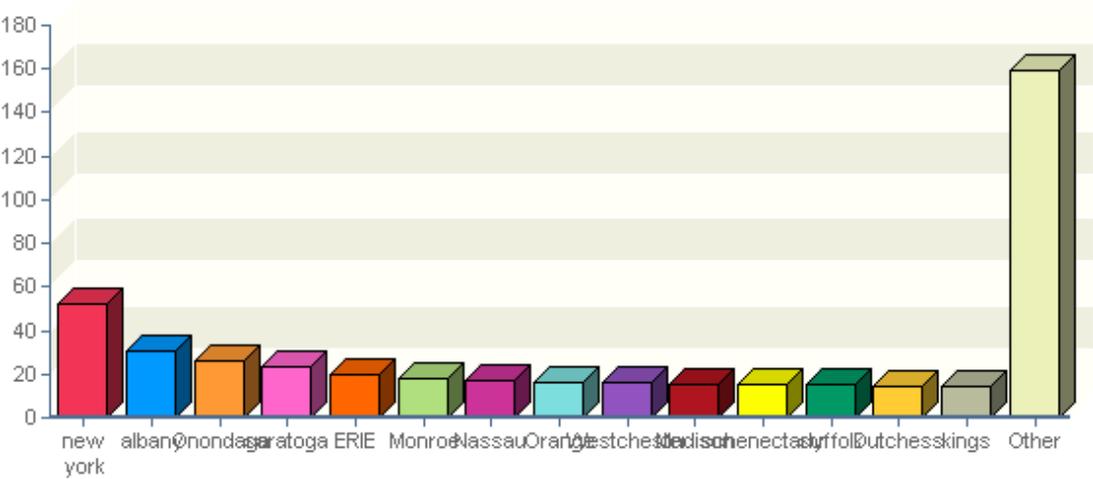
January 20, 2010

1. Are you an adoptive parent, an adoption professional, or both?



| Item | Count | Percent % |
|-----------------------|-------|-----------|
| Adoptive Parent | 309 | 68.51% |
| Adoption Professional | 101 | 22.39% |
| Both | 41 | 9.09% |

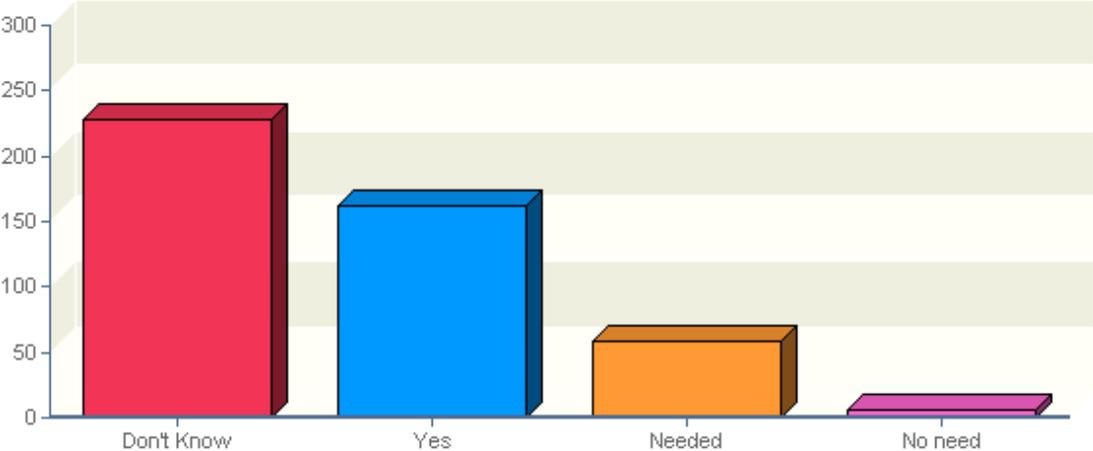
2. What New York State county do you live or work in?



| Item | Count | Percent % |
|--------------|-------|-----------|
| new york | 52 | 11.53% |
| alban | 31 | 6.87% |
| Onondaga | 26 | 5.76% |
| saratoga | 23 | 5.10% |
| ERIE | 20 | 4.43% |
| Monroe | 18 | 3.99% |
| Nassau | 17 | 3.77% |
| Orange | 16 | 3.55% |
| Westchester | 16 | 3.55% |
| Madison | 15 | 3.33% |
| schenectady | 15 | 3.33% |
| suffolk | 15 | 3.33% |
| Dutchess | 14 | 3.10% |
| kings | 14 | 3.10% |
| otsego | 11 | 2.44% |
| Rensselaer | 11 | 2.44% |
| Cattaraugus | 10 | 2.22% |
| Cayuga | 9 | 2.00% |
| Bronx | 8 | 1.77% |
| Queens | 8 | 1.77% |
| Clinton | 7 | 1.55% |
| Oswego | 7 | 1.55% |
| Tompkins | 7 | 1.55% |
| Broome | 6 | 1.33% |
| jefferson | 6 | 1.33% |
| Columbia | 5 | 1.11% |
| Oneida | 5 | 1.11% |
| Montgomery | 4 | 0.89% |
| Schoharie | 4 | 0.89% |
| St. Lawrence | 4 | 0.89% |
| Ulster | 4 | 0.89% |
| Washington | 4 | 0.89% |

| Item | Count | Percent % |
|----------------|-------|-----------|
| Allegany | 3 | 0.67% |
| Essex | 3 | 0.67% |
| greene | 3 | 0.67% |
| Ontario | 3 | 0.67% |
| chemung | 2 | 0.44% |
| Cortland | 2 | 0.44% |
| Herkimer | 2 | 0.44% |
| Livingston | 2 | 0.44% |
| niagara | 2 | 0.44% |
| Richmond | 2 | 0.44% |
| Rockland | 2 | 0.44% |
| Saint Lawrence | 2 | 0.44% |
| Seneca | 2 | 0.44% |
| Chautauqua | 1 | 0.22% |
| Chenango | 1 | 0.22% |
| Fulton | 1 | 0.22% |
| genesee | 1 | 0.22% |
| Putnam | 1 | 0.22% |
| Steuben | 1 | 0.22% |
| Sullivan | 1 | 0.22% |
| Tioga | 1 | 0.22% |
| Warren | 1 | 0.22% |

3. Is there a place to call for information about post adoption services in your county?

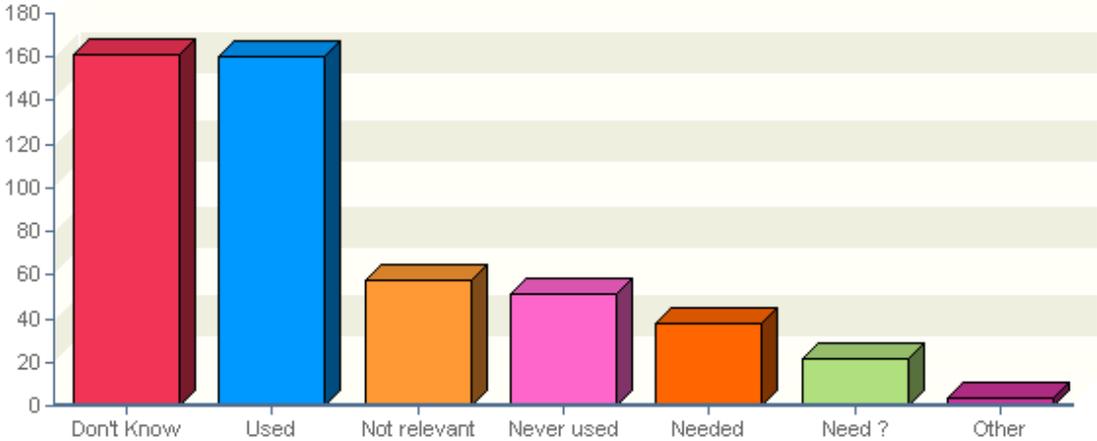


| Item | Count | Percent % |
|------------|-------|-----------|
| Don't Know | 228 | 50.55% |
| Yes | 162 | 35.92% |
| Needed | 59 | 13.08% |
| No need | 6 | 1.33% |

4. Tell us about the adoption support groups in your county.

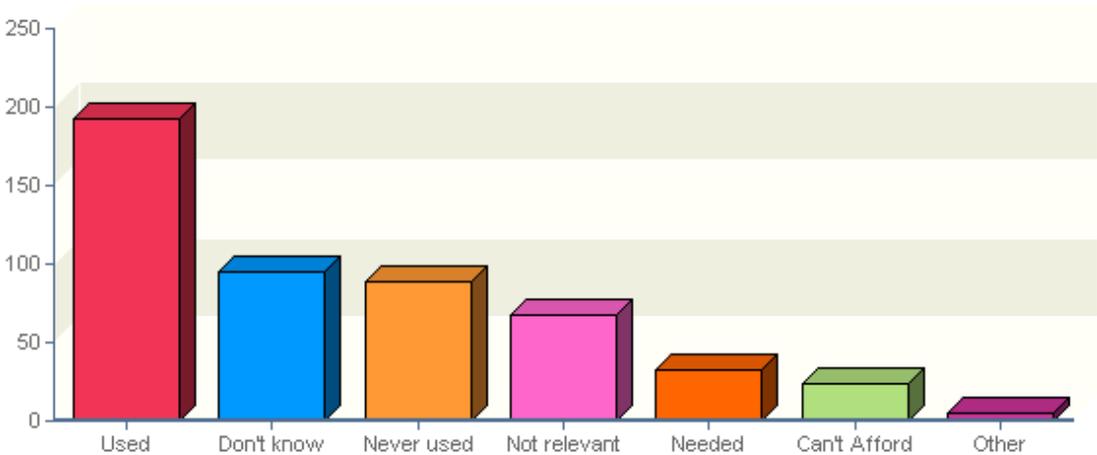
| Item | Parent Groups | Kid Groups | Teen Groups | Total |
|---|---------------|--------------|--------------|-------|
| My family (or families I work with) have used this service | 61.6% 196 | 22.0% 70 | 16.4% 52 | 318 |
| Available but I've never used | 42.7% 67 | 31.8% 50 | 25.5% 40 | 157 |
| Available services don't meet adoptive family needs | 40.3% 31 | 29.9% 23 | 29.9% 23 | 77 |
| Available but my family (or families I work with) can't afford services | 46.2% 12 | 26.9% 7 | 26.9% 7 | 26 |
| Not available and my family (or families I work with) need this service | 21.3% 38 | 38.8% 69 | 39.9% 71 | 178 |
| Not available, unsure/unaware of need | 28.1% 34 | 38.0% 46 | 33.9% 41 | 121 |
| Don't know if service is available | 29.4% 129 | 36.0% 158 | 34.6% 152 | 439 |

5. Is ongoing parent education and training available in your county?



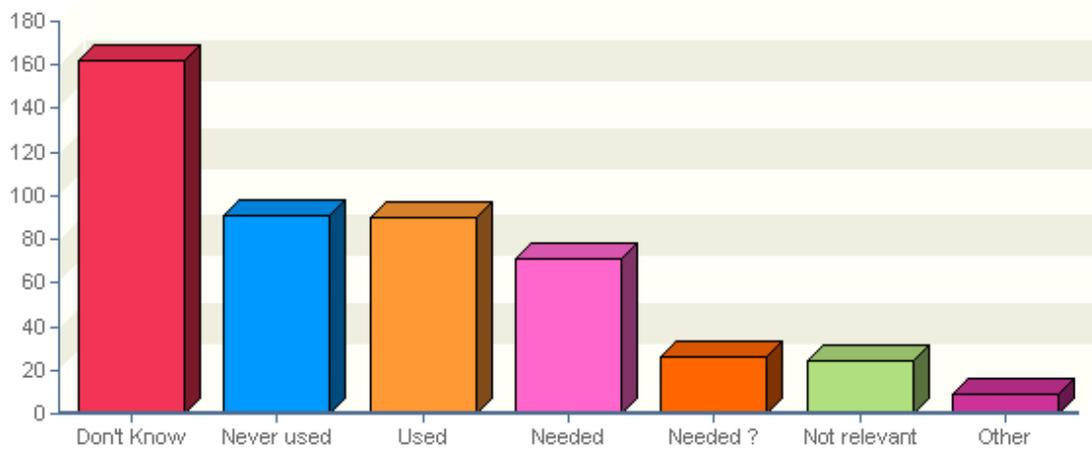
| Item | Count | Percent % |
|--------------|-------|-----------|
| Don't Know | 161 | 35.70% |
| Used | 160 | 35.48% |
| Not relevant | 58 | 12.86% |
| Never used | 51 | 11.31% |
| Needed | 38 | 8.43% |
| Need ? | 22 | 4.88% |
| Can't afford | 4 | 0.89% |

6. Are mental health services available in your county?



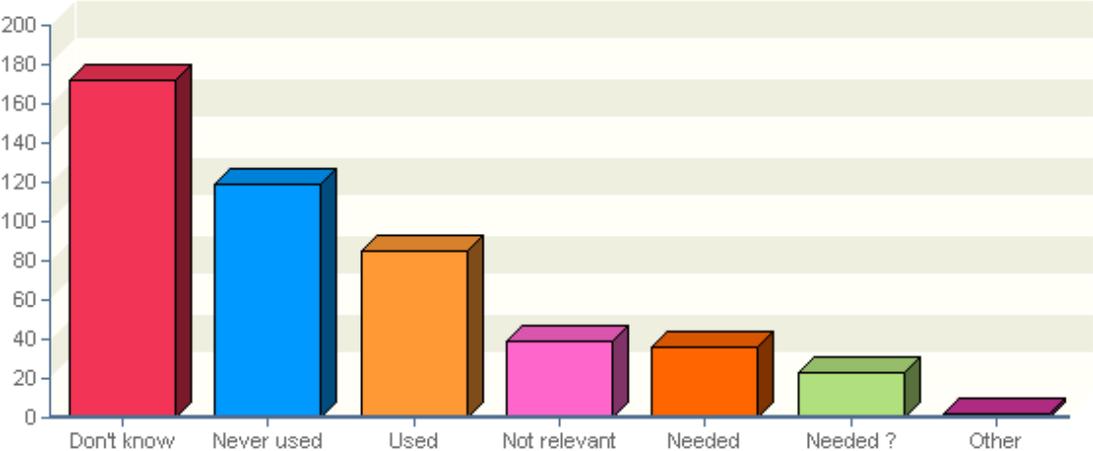
| Item | Count | Percent % |
|--------------|-------|-----------|
| Used | 193 | 42.79% |
| Don't know | 95 | 21.06% |
| Never used | 89 | 19.73% |
| Not relevant | 67 | 14.86% |
| Needed | 33 | 7.32% |
| Can't Afford | 24 | 5.32% |
| Needed ? | 5 | 1.11% |

7. Are respite services available in your county?



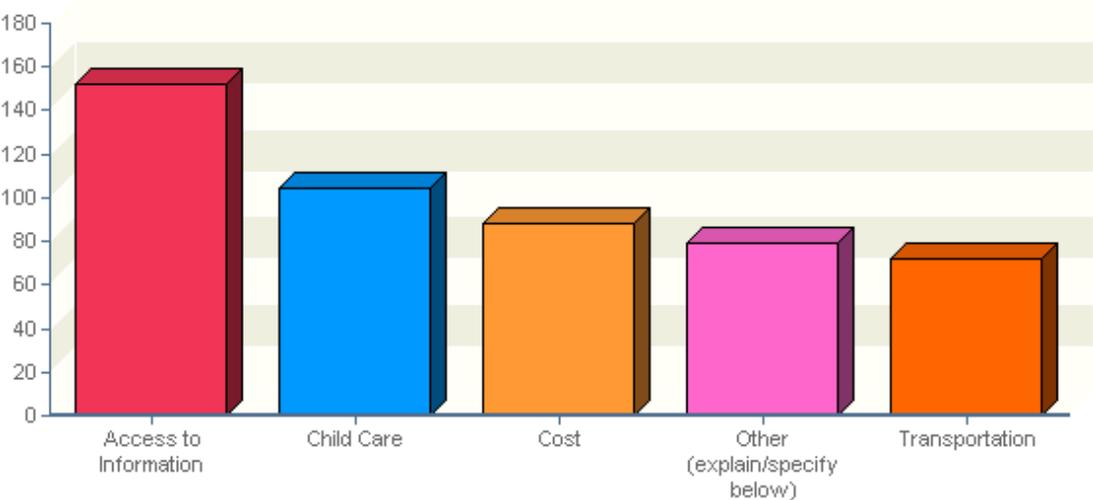
| Item | Count | Percent % |
|--------------|-------|-----------|
| Don't Know | 162 | 35.92% |
| Never used | 91 | 20.18% |
| Used | 90 | 19.96% |
| Needed | 71 | 15.74% |
| Needed ? | 26 | 5.76% |
| Not relevant | 24 | 5.32% |
| Can't afford | 9 | 2.00% |

8. Are crisis response services available in your county?



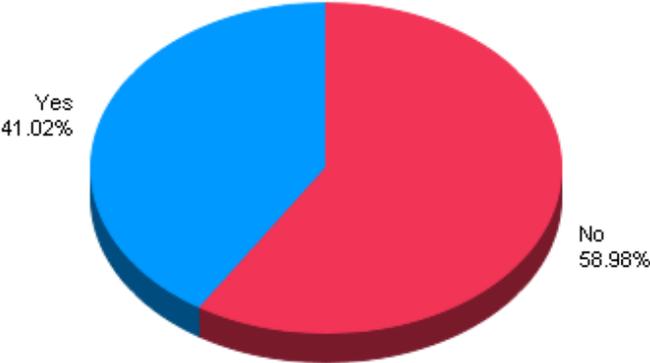
| Item | Count | Percent % |
|--------------|-------|-----------|
| Don't know | 172 | 38.14% |
| Never used | 119 | 26.39% |
| Used | 85 | 18.85% |
| Not relevant | 39 | 8.65% |
| Needed | 36 | 7.98% |
| Needed ? | 23 | 5.10% |
| Can't Afford | 2 | 0.44% |

9. Tell us about any barriers you have experienced in accessing existing services in your community.



| Item | Count | Percent % |
|-------------------------------|-------|-----------|
| Access to Information | 152 | 54.68% |
| Child Care | 104 | 37.41% |
| Cost | 88 | 31.65% |
| Other (explain/specify below) | 79 | 28.42% |
| Transportation | 72 | 25.90% |

10. Have you ever adopted a child from foster care?



| Item | Count | Percent % |
|------|-------|-----------|
| No | 266 | 58.98% |
| Yes | 185 | 41.02% |

Appendix 2: Information hotline other (optional)

Open Text Responses:

i adopted about 12 years ago- there were no services offered t me by the agency and when i had problems with subsidy's, getting services etc, i was written off. i never heard from the agency post adoption. because i work in nyc foster care for a voluntary agency, i was able to get some services and questions answered.

Our agency has our own 24 hour hotline offered to our families.

Parsons post adoption resource center

You can call Shella Chace at DSS, or you can talk to me.

Hearts and Homes at the Salvation Army. Not a hot-line, but a resource/counseling area.

as far as i know we don't have a hotline for post adoption services

4262888

individual agencies, both public and private

Reachout

265-2422

We receive calls and refer the families to Parsons who provides our post adoption services.

Abbott House

Abbott House

Abbott House

Based on county I live in. Post Adoption services physically located in neighboring county, but also serves our county/region.

Abbot house is the only post adoption resource in our area

We have no post adoptive services in St. Lawrence County

Can call DSS but they have almost no resources to refer to.

New Directions. Post Adoption Case Mgr. (Sylvia Inman)

716 834-9413 ext. 212

Linda Finerson

It is not a hotline number, you need to know the name of the agency offering post adoption services

Hillside Children's Center's ASAP: 585-256-7500 or direct 585-350-2501

We use the Parson's Post Adoption Resource Center in Albany, NY. It is in Albany County not Schenectady County.

I usually contact the caseworker I worked with to ask questions about insurance or so on.

However, the material we have distributed is old (more than two years).

I still get calls from parents needing help, and at this point I'm too far away from the system and can't always be much help

Parsons Post Adopton Rresource Center

Contact the local DSS Agency and we work with each individual family on a case by case basis.

Our adoption agency, WHFC (Wide Horizons), and the Adoptive Families Coalition provide services. Don't know of any govt. services or hotline.

I know FIA has an office in Clifton Park but prefer to speak with Dawn.

FAFSS is available for referral for services. However, there are No adoption specific services are available (that I know of) other than the FAFSS support network. Kids and teen groups have not been successful due to lack of participation.

FIA adoption agency and affiliated professionals.

New Directions offers essential post adoption services through the NYS grant. Loss of this service would be detrimental to many families.

Available but won't be if services are not refunded

Any/All services that I have learned of are in Albany County, at least 45 minutes away from our home. THIS IS IMPORTANT- Because there is nothing (that we know of) here where we live, where we foster/adopt!

DSS contracts with Liberty Resoures far a Recruitment/Retention Program which is excellent in providing traing and informal support. They don't have capacity to provide service and have few options of referral to recommend when ongoing services are needed. DSS contracts for an excellent program that assists youth, birth parnets, and adoptive parents in the process of adoption but does not have the added capacity of providing post adoptive services except in rare incidences when a preventative case is opened.

Onondaga county

Sometimes the information is so outdated that it doesn't apply or you have to make several more phone calls before you reach someone who might know something and then refer you somewhere else.

I usually call "Resources for Children with Special Needs" but that is a private non-profit agency

There are several agencies within the metropolitan area that offers Post adoption services.

Individual Agencies provide Post Adoption Servoces to Adoptive Parents.

L&W recieved TANF grant and Post Adoption Services are thus provided

Open Text Responses:

Did not know there was a such thing.

no info. is given at time of adoption regarding local resources for families or the child

607-778-2543

Adoptive Parents Committee

I would try Adoptive Parents Committee.

211

211

If I have questions or need help I call our old case worker, and they try to assist me.

If there was an information hotline when we adopted internationally in 1996, we were not aware of it. We certainly could have used one, although the issues of internationally adopted children can be particularly difficult healthwise (e.g. strange parasites and other diseases.) In any case, over the years, we could also have used a very well-informed adoption hotline to help with the innumerable mental health issues have emerged.

Abbott House provides post adoption services in Dutchess County

1800-5924357

New Directions Youth and Family Services-Todd Huffman (716) 358-3636#280

New Directions

For parents who have adopted through DSS they can call us about post adoptions services; there are not specific services for families who have adopted through private agencies.

Local DSS.

Also most family resource centers.

Google-WNY adoption services

One should be available and widely publicized if there is or isn't

Petterson Kreig, Adoptive parents committee

I got it through my case worker but thats the only way!

We are still supported (post-adoption) by our agency, Friends In

Adoption, located in Vermont. They are a phone call away. I am not aware of post adoption services in Cortland County, although there is an agency in Cortland.

Appendix 3: Support group other (optional)

| |
|--|
| Open Text Responses: |
| Adoptive Parents Committee, Ametz |
| The support groups are not effective,so groups are giving fp the wrong information or outdated information. |
| no one from the agency i was affiliated with- an acs agency- ever offered services. very shabby |
| The agency I work for has a monthly support group offered to our families. |
| parents report never having enough respite |
| Until March of 2009, our support group was run by Racker Centers as well as counseling hours offered for free. In March the services were discontinued. I have continued to run the support group for free on a monthly basis. |
| support groups are always a great idea and I know my adopted children could definitely use one. they don't know anyone else who is adopted and i am sure they would like to talk with other adopted children. |
| Circle of Support |
| Circle of Support |
| 20 years ago we had a support group, "Missing Pieces" in Potsdam, then Massena, NY. |
| I was running a support group for parents foster and adoptive a few years back and social services got involved and then people stopped coming and there became way too many stressors in my own family that I just stopped,. |
| Abbott House |
| Abbott House |
| If support groups exist in the county they are limited to Yonkers or White Plains. In addition ,efforts to inform adoptive parents about the availability of services have fallen short. Families depend on the information provided by DSS caseworker prior to the adoption. The information received is dependent on the knowledge level of that worker. |
| Serves regional area |
| Abbott House Post Adoption also offers Family Support Group outings/recreation. The families have expressed tremendous satisfaction as a result of this service. |
| foster. adoptive parent trainings and support group offered every other month |
| foster Parent support group nothing for adoptive parents |
| Plus foster parent support group available |
| It's hard to meet the times of the support group sometimes after work when we live far away. |
| New Direction Post Adoption program offers a support group once a month for both parents and kids |
| I went to one meeting and found it didn't meet my needs. Location and time make it difficult to attend. |
| We have a foster/adoptive parent support group. for about two years we tried to get a teen group going--parents and teens did not follow through. |
| We went to talk with some one as a family. |
| foster /adoptive family support group is good, but professional advice is necessary many times, especialy when kids become teens and many issues arise due to birth family history |
| I use the Abbott House Post Adoption support group. they offer 2 support groups in my county. |
| I am only aware of 1 or 2 support groups within my county and they are not specific to family issues surrounding childhood trauma. |
| Some exits, but not enough for NYC |
| Abbott House offers wonderful support groups in 6 different counties. |
| Support groups are open to all adoptive families. Free services require families to meet TANF eligibility guidelines. Those who do not most often cannot afford to pay associated fees. The agency cannot provide without a funding source. |
| We need groups about Reactive Attachment Disorder |
| To clarify -- Support offered through Friends in Adoption has been accessed in the past. Not utilized any county specific or OCFS services |
| Parent group started by AFA no longer active, not sure whether DSS has something available (or, if so, whether it's useful) |
| The Support group was cut |
| FRUA |
| Support is offered by WHFC, our adoption agency., and the Adoptive Families Coalition. |
| support group to address adoptive and foster parents |
| We are still in touch with our original support group of other adoptive parents from the area and we get together, as a group, 2 or 3 times a year. It's more for socialization, but also the adults discuss various adoptive issues as we come across them. |
| We had a support group once upon a time. Out of Massena. It's been about 13 years since it folded. |
| Many families wait too long to ask for help from services that are available. |
| pre-adoption support group with FIA |
| Use Friends In Adoption in Middletown Springs, VT. |

Open Text Responses:

We were referred to a NRCIL group and though the people were very nice, it didn't seem to be of help to us or our needs.
none

prefer other services over support group. Families don't have time.

Available but not if services are not refunded

The foster adoptive parent association is active and voluntarily provides support. Shoestring budget.

We (some of the moms) banded together (much to the chagrin of the county) and via phone talk with each other about what we know, where to go.

These services are available and accessible to private adoptions but not domestic public adoption from child welfare .
The children from foster care don't quite fit i the services available at the present.

I assume they exists but we have not sought it out yet.

I have been an adoptive parent for 18 years and have not heard of any of these services in Westchester. I and several other adoptive parents formed our own support group many years ago. Also, those groups or services that do exist happen in the daytime when some people work.

my private agency offers adoptive parent support group monthly

We were given referrals to teen groups, but most did not actually meet. The one that did meet sporadically, had teens in their program that we would not want our child to be around.

There should be more out reach to pre adoptive parents to inform them about these services and to engage them prior to the adoption.

services needed but none out there

there used to be a support group for adoptive parents but i don't believe it's in existence anymore

Adoption Specific Groups are available to families but are often geographically unavailable or at times when individual families may not be able to attend. More opportunities and need specific groups could be developed.

My family has a network of friends whom we meet with regularly.

When our son was younger, we could not find a support group that met our needs for dealing with older adoptive children. So we started our own, and it is still going (and by now we have become friends). If it hadn't been for that group, we would have all been nuts by now. The only other support group we were aware of at the time was APC, and we did not find them congenial to parents of older children . Interestingly, the agency we used for our second (failed) adoption did not give us info about their own agency-sponsored support group, even when we asked (Louise Wise). I think it was because we were Caucasian and most of the other parents were African-American. It could have been real helpful. I did get some telephone counseling from a worker at COAC (can't remember her name, now retired I think) which helped clarify my thinking.

I am anot aware of service specific to adoptive families

We go to APC!

I know there are groups in the Albany area, but I am unsure if the groups are available in Schenectady.

Adoptive Parents Committee

I don't believe we have any active adoption support groups. I have been involved in two previous groups and neither one survived. I do believe we need more resources in our area.

i found an adoption support group that was organized by other adoptive families. we do not receive and state or local funding but meet on our own.

We did not discover Adoptive Families of Older Children until many years into our journey, when our son required residential school and we were just desperate for support. It's been useful to know that others have experienced the same extreme difficulties, and what they have done to cope with them.

APC

I joined Adoptive Parents of Older Children some years ago

Parent groups have been mentioned in the past years, haven't heard anything since. I haave never heard of any kids/teen groups. I have to call around the county myself looking for services.

AFOC Adoptive Families of Older Children a parent support group

There is a parent support group available but not enough for everyone to utilize and discussion topics need to be expanded

New Directions

Just started a local foster /adoptive parent support group again.

Since we have never had them I do not know what the rate of use would be for such services but it would be nice to be able to provide such a service.

Adoptive parent Support Group

My family have used New Directions (Global Village) in Buffalo, New York (Amherst) as support, they are like mentors for my youth.

maybe to put that in map trainings.
at New Directions
CHADD, Catholic Charites
I love the support my family receives!!

Open Text Responses:

New Directions Global Village

Adoptive parents committee (APC)

Appendix 4: Education and training other (optional)

Open Text Responses:

Basic training is provided in order to complete NYS standards through our agency, but not much is known to me for further training or education for our parents.

more funding is needed to provide training by experts in attachment, FASD, sensory integration, trauma, ADHD. It is easy to find speakers on basic adoption topics

DSS offers many trainings and services, but families do not always take advantage of them.

Through our adoption agency and local groups

many different topics.

Most education is not relevant to the issues that adoptive families face

Not for adoptive parents

training for active foster parents available but not post-adoptive!

I would guess social services has some counselling available.

I am not aware of any services

Will refer Families to Parsons if there is a need.

Adoption issues are unique, most parenting classes are not relevant to the issues faced by adoptive families.

WHEN WE ADOPTED OUR KIDS, WE WERE TOLD THERE WOULD BE ASSIST. WITH COLLEGE . HOW DO YOU GET THIS?

NEXT YEAR I WILL HAVE 5 CHILDREN IN COLLEGE.

we provide trainings through community and sometimes state resources. Our support groups will pick a topic pertinent to adoption issues and have a meeting to explore that topic. We also have videos and books that we loan families and do home based counseling .

If services exist families are not aware of them. Those that are utilized, are not comprehensive enough to meet the needs of the children and families who seek them. Families in crisis have little time to seek and search for the few available programs.

Many educational opportunities available via post adoption services, and parent run groups.

We refer all of our families to other counties.

Need specialized training to deal with children that have special needs that increase dramatically after adoptions such as: RAD, FAS, tampruming etc.

Regular training is available but it seems to be the same thing over and over. Post adoptive services have been need and asked for and have been denied.

North Country Foster Adoptive Network

New Directions Post Adoption support groups have brought in professional speakers to discuss various topics such as FAS, Attachment Disorders, ADHD, etc.....

attachment-trauma desperately needed

ongoing training received as a current foster parent

We continue to include adoptive parents in our training notices. The service is free.

most agency training is rote without meat

Not many Post Adoption programs and thus not many groups geared to Adoptive parents.

I've had post adoption help/counseling from WHFC, Waltham, MA.

Some exist, but not enough for NYC. More community agencies need to be adoption competent to effectively serve adoptive parents.

Some education/training is free; others include a fee.

Again services are available in Albany County IF our family is TANIF eligible.

Have considered attending Adoption Workshop offered in the Fall each year, but have not done so.

CEU credits to maintain open house

Parsons, PNCR, Disability Law Clinic, NE Parent and Child, Wildwood and others have provided great trainings

The cutbacks involved the Post adoption Services.

involved in ADHD support group

WHFC & Adoption Family Coalition

training for adoptive parents not available

Open Text Responses:

would like to adopt. The process is very slow

FAFSS has/does provide training for adoptive parents. The services that are available fall short many times because the issues are so severe and overwhelming.

We would use friends in adoption or our adoption attorneys for advice.

our adoption agency (Friends in Adoption)

don't know if this is available specifically relating to the unique challenges of adoptive families

will utilize for foster parent training requirements. Will seek out for their child specific needs.

Was never offered.

Won't be available if PAS are not refunded

Services provided by family support agency that is not funded for these services

DSS contracts with Liberty Resources to coordinate at least ten advanced trainings for foster and adoptive parents annually. These are excellent and helpful to parents who attend.

circle of support address adoptive and foster parents

Our families also use web based training programs

Spence-Chapin

I think families that adopted from foster care are not aware of the education available.

Again, I assume it exists but we haven't sought it out yet.

Much needed in the Bronx. (and not just the South Bronx!)

Nothing specific to adoption after the mAPP training at DSS

The strategies that were presented were for most parents with poor/abusive parenting styles. I already know how to give time-outs and how to not abuse my child. Strategies to deal with a child who has PTSD or ADHD were not addressed.

Regular Foster Parent Trainings on a variety of topics, including adoption

It may be that I am older than many younger parents (41) but I don't find that I need any parent education, and to be honest, I found the required pre-adoption training a waste of time--both on-line courses and in-person workshops.

once child is adopted, agency disappears

Need attachment related services - only available in my practice and one other private practitioner in Nassau and not available in NYC

Adoption specific parent training and education are rare to be offered. In Rockland County where I live there are offering but they are limited to a few service providers. Support groups offer a range of educational resources in addition to their core functions but are not specific to family or children's needs by definition.

I do not believe this service is available.

training schedule has been very limited and my request of them to have classes and make a schedule took a long time we need these to keep our Homestudy valid.

I am not sure there service specific to adoptive families

All from APC, I'm assuming you're asking about county services.

I have attended several trainings in the past few years in the surrounding areas, that have benefitted me greatly.

We didn't need just "normal" parent education, we needed info on children with severe behavior problems (mostly of the oppositional type, mixed in with PTSD and panic attacks). We could locate any group which provided this on an on-going basis.

Adoptive Parents Committee I do not know of any other

5 is through the Parents adoption support group which is excellent. APC

Mental Health America

Through DSS.. other training/classes nonexistent

I really believe post adoptive help is highly needed. I have been an adoptive parent for 6 years and I am still struggling with issues with my children. I have been fortunate to find some help, but it has been very difficult. I think our area would benefit greatly with some sort of support network and information on challenges adoptive families face.

Still receive training through Foster parenting certification process

Again, I located services on my own through research on the internet.

There is no parent education or training relevant to the needs of the child.

I do not know of any group other than AFOC that assists with adoptive issues like ours.

DSS Dutchess County offers on-going trainings and makes on-line courses available as well. Early Intervention has been a great source of training and support for our delayed foster baby

I have been to only one adoptive family offering. The time is not great and that first meeting was not my style. It was more discussion of personal things that were not relevant to my family sit.

We offer local training but would benefit from bringing outside resources in to our county who can train on more pertinent information to some families; it is also a challenge for adoptive parents to find day care so they can attend trainings

the counseling from New Directions has provided information necessary for understanding my child's needs.

New Directions

Open Text Responses:

Arranging for local trainings for the 2010 year.

Parenting classes provided by local DSS and other private agencies. Same for parent aide services.

I think it would be nice to have better communication in all different areas of need.

at New Directions

Global Village, excellent

Very current & informative

Gateway Longview, New Directions & others

As a parent of two special needs children I get a lot of support and workshop training in my school district and SEPTA

Our agency in Vermont provides occasional workshops and let's us know about conferences, however we are usually not able to travel to get to them.

I obtain my ongoing parent education thru the Adoptive Parent's Committee support group

Appendix 5: Mental health services other (optional)

Open Text Responses:

found them all on my own.

Not enough practioners in the area have the expertise for the more serious issues, trauma, attachment

I opted to use a mental health provider that my insurance covered as opposed to County provided services

Services cover all areas in Tompkins County. There are professionals who understand the needs of adoptive children and families and there are servcies that discount the experience the family is going through.

only supportive mnetal health service that is vailable in the county for post adopt is hearts and Homes with the Syracuse Salvaton Army. Mostmental health professionals really miss the mark on understanding adoptive families.

westchester jewish community services

Although there are services available none have been able to address my sons RAD. he has been placed in the hospital 2 times in the last 2 months and is currently there now. they try adjusting his meds but don't address the RAD. They don't provide therapy for it even when he is inpatient and have no idea who to send us to when he is released. We are on our own when it comes to his treatment.

Psychiatrist and counselor paid through our insurance

We often refer families for therapy. Mental health services can be very difficult to access- long waiting lists exist for MA clients. For more severe mental health issues MA waiver is extremely difficult for families to access.

Our county has several clinics to provide services. However services are not adoption specific. I believe it would help children and families to have clinicians who are well versed in adoption.

The lack of MHS accounts for the number of children who are returned to the foster care system.

Providers who accept Medicaid are not trained in adoption related treatment

Question should ask if MH services are available that are well-versed in issues/needs of adoptive families.

There are only a few therapists that do such work in our county.

Need after school, vacation, and respite care for teens with special needs. Makes it nearly impossible to work. Most kids age out of after school care at 13. I have a 14 year old special needs girl and need help.

We use this service on a weekly basis.

Mental health provider currently has waiting list and not accepting new patients. Paying for the service is a barrier for some families.

Post Adoption Mgr. has referred several youth for mental health counseling

need attachment-trauma services - Dyadic Developmental Psychotherapy

not needed until child was 19 years old and was obtained through medicaid

desperately need this service or evaluation services

the one agency that had a grant lost it and now there are none.

Most mental health clinics that are NY State licenced and mainly medicaid provide poor quality service to all-this is not an adoptions specific issue. Most of them do not do family therapy. Therapists are almost never able to participate in collaborative treatment planning as they don't have time/are not reimbursed.

My agency [New Alternatives for Children] does have Post Adoption program and a separate mental health clinic, in same location. So we can collaborate, and as clinic is small and new, quality of service is still decent.

Need to be adoption competent

Very few mental health professionals have an expertise in adoption. While we offer a great deal of professional training, most say they don't have time/can't afford to lose a day of work, or that their knowledge of psychodevelopmental issues and/or loss and grief adequately equip them to assist adoptive families. Our adoptive families vehemently disagree!

Open Text Responses:

Although not all mental health clinicians are trained in adoption issues.

Mental Health services are essential for all children who are adopted to have access to.

I believe I am the only training post-adoption therapist in our area and I've had families tell me that they wish they had found me earlier.

My children and grandchildren have tried to use the local Mental Health services and found them not very useful

Therapy

Suzanne d'Aversa is a wonderful resource in the Capital Region of NY. She would be a great resource for the entire State counseling

My kids were adopted older, and the number of mental health providers who accept Medicaid is very small. The number of professionals who accept Medicaid AND are experienced with adoption issues are almost non-existent.

Available through health insurance, not specific to adoptive families.

Mental health services are not available in adequate supply in Monroe County and word is that OMH is not interested in issuing new licenses in the area.

There is a very long wait for some of the services that are available. Many do not meet the needs of the families, or children.

hard to find but very helpful once found

Same as above

The Mental Health services in this area that take Medicaid are useless!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! They change providers all the time so there is no continuity. The office & waiting area are filthy. The wait for services is lengthy.

There are lots of private therapists in NYC! But I haven't tried to get help through County or other govt services.

Ulster County Mental Health

Private counseling but none specifically for adoption . as a matter of fact they are very unprepared for adoption issues

What would be most helpful would be a program available to adoptive parents that they could 'drop into and out of as needed.

Greene County Mental Health does have limited services but the waiting list is long, the respite service is limited and the horror stories of the respite workers are pretty bad... one lost a child, others just "sit there" and need direction from the parent...

Bronx mental health network

Abbott House offers counseling

again - I think the availability for quality ,appropriate mental health services for families that adopted through foster care is poor.

Same as above.

Soundview Throgs Neck Mental Health (through Einstein Hospital) I have used this service. It is a very frightening environment and I was assaulted by a mentally unstable woman there! will not go back there.

Minimal services available, long wait, not directly for adoption issues.

Many of the services are short term and do not address the trauma of adoption, issues of physical and mental health issues, etc.

These services did not provide what they promised to, i.e.: respite, mentors, activities for child. They were more than happy to provide meds and once a week therapy - neither of which were helpful.

some of the agencies that offer post adoption services, are free.

mental health clinic and not useful

There are very limited resources for mental health in this area.

there are 2 mental health agencies however they don't specialize in treating adoptive families. we have had to obtain services on our own and pay privately which can become very expensive as the skilled therapists don't accept insurance.

Not appropriate - not a trauma and attachment frame

While a good number of mental health services may exist they are expensive and not necessarily covered by insurance and when they are covered are limited. Adoption specific mental health services are a luxury and only found with great effort by families. Development of adoption supporting mental health services and providers would greatly help the challenges that families are now facing with a broader range of adoption families and their many different needs.

Mental health services are available, but I am not sure of their training in regard to adoption

I am not sure what services are available to help with the mental health side of things. I have attended therapy sessions, but not through any post adoption services.

These services are widely available in NYC, although not adoption-specific. We paid for most services privately, helped along by insurance at times, in order to find the therapists of our choosing. I don't know exactly what is available for families which have Medicaid only - would like to know in order to refer.

am unable to afford these services now and they are needed for my second adoptive child.

Limited services. Most providers do not accept Medicaid.

My son is ADHD

Open Text Responses:

My adopted children will continue to use and need mental health support and treatment

Received decent mental health services but needed help from mental health professionals trained in the field of adoption.

Mental health services are poor quality or costly.

We have used entirely private mental health care, as we found none available publicly for middle class families like ours.

We have for several years spent as much or more than our income caring for our son, and have torn through roughly \$30,000 to \$140,000 a year in residential school and mental health care fees to cope with our son. If there IS some service that could reduce our bills, we'd love to know about it. But basically our experience has been that, if a family has any resources at all, no public services are available. And the ones that are --- e.g. special education --- take intensive legal battles to access. Period.

My son has exhibited some challenges but I was met with many closed doors b/c he is only 4 years old and services seem to begin for kids age 5 and up.

There is a long waiting list to get into see a therapist, and the choices for providers are very limited.

Victims Services in Bk when our daughter was young, and pre-adoptive. Private therapy after adoption plus day treatment and then residential care for one year.

lcsw

Services are available but there are few service providers able to provide specific types of services that adoptive families require in order to benefit them

Im sure there are but any I have used have been through the school system.

At New Directions, Narda Gatgen worked one on one with me to counsel me on the death of my brother.

Again, DSS will provide services for families who adopt from DSS but I am not aware of anything specific for families who have adopted through private agencies.

Local DSS and 3 private/non-profit agencies along with some private providers.

It's 250 dollars an hour to receive special services and it is needed.

referred by New Directions

We attend weekly mental health services

kaleida Health

CHADD

Mental health services and availability of counselors appears to be limited in my county (oversubscribed).

Appendix 6: Respite other (optional)

| |
|---|
| Open Text Responses: |
| parents report not enough services available |
| There is respite services, but not many families and many families do not understand the needs of adoptive children and their families. |
| One of the individuals in my support group is trying to set up respite services but up until now there hasn't been any. |
| I cannot find good respite help. We need people who just do respite, not a little respite as a 2nd job. I have 3 children 2 with significant needs and I need a break. If I had adequate support I would adopt 3 more. |
| Respite is available but your child must be special need, and the family must have the child enrolled in casemanagement services. |
| Not for adoptive families |
| Get respite through omrdd waiver services |
| available, but on a very limited basis through specific agency connections |
| This is probably the thing we most needed |
| The only respite I am aware of is through spoa |
| I know that the service is available, however we have never utilized it for any of our families. |
| We have no mechanism to offer respite to adoptive families without opening a preventive services case. |
| Families could really benefit from having people who understand and are able to manage the difficulties children have be able to provide respite. |
| Only for foster care not for post adoption. |
| Our post adoption program only offers one to two hour respite once per month and there is a need for more substantial respite periods. |
| I have heard there is very limited respite available (3 hours). When a break is needed to recharge, 3 hours just does not do it. My child is difficult to handle and our families cannot help out anymore (screaming, yelling, not listening, tantruming, can't control her behavior). |
| Need more types of respite services |
| I was granted a respite for a weekend for a child that I had adopted but that was because I was also a foster parent and need a break for the weekend. We have no respite services in place for adopted children, once you adopt a child in St. Lawrence County its considered your problem and that is exactly what I was told, " you adopted them, they are your responsibility now". |
| Limited respite available only through OMRDD. DSS can use foster families for preventive respite, but families have to be in the child welfare system to obtain and even then, availability is extremely limited. |
| These services are available to B2H families; however, families complained that the services is not longer enough or productive to the child's behavior upon their return |
| must be approved for mental health waiver services in order to use |
| not after child is adopted |
| Respite is a major major need for these families. I would say that at least 90% ask for respite services. And we really don't offer much of this. I have arranged respite a few times with our certified foster families in an extreme emergency. |
| RESPITE is a much needed service for adoptive families. I feel there should be some type of service created just for respite on a temporary type stay for youth and parents |
| this service is needed |
| was advised for respite we would have to open up a foster care case |
| This service is technically available but is difficult to implement and few if any actually use it. |
| Respite is available but very limited. |
| Very little respite available if you can't pay for it out of pocket. |
| There is no crisis respite . And the planned respite has a long waiting list, and this is usually used for children still in FC. |
| Limited availability in NYC boroughs |
| Orange County DSS in conjunction with Abbott House are working to develop a new respite overnight program for adoptive families. This should be complete by the spring of 2010 |
| Respite is available on a very limited basis, and only to those who are TANF-eligible. |
| Respite is available on a limited basis and if the family is TANIF eligible in Albany county. |
| Not available for children with mental health issues but is available under the OMRDD programming but not for children who have RAD or other mental health issues |
| I run a program to certify respite homes and assist families in accessing them but the funding is small and the service not open to families until they are in contact with DSS or Probation due to problems. |

Open Text Responses:

I believe if the child has mental health issues, respite may be available through local mental health agency. If they apply for preventive services, respite would be available through the local DSS.

DSS used to have respite services and AFA, when it was active, helped families find respite care. I don't know what's available now.

I am a foster parent wanting to adopt. Slow process hospice

Some respite is available through foster parents volunteering to help. Otherwise, the child would need to qualify through Kids Oneida services to receive respite. (Mental Health)

We received respite services thru NRCIL until my son was 18, This was such a great help to us. We could have used some support after that time too!

Program provides assistance for respite.

Again, never been offered to us.

Not enough is available

many families are desparate for thse services

see #6

UCDSS Preventive Services

I don't know what this is.

Jewish Board claimed services were available, but in the 12 months that we worked with them, they were never able to get them started.

Nothing for post adoption

WE HAVE SERVED AS A RESPITE FAMILY. IT DID NOT HELP THE SITUATION FOR THE OTHER FAMILY. THEY NEEDED A DIFFERENT KIND OF INTERVENTION.

never offered but is a definite need as we struggle w/physical and emotional behaviors

workers often trigger the clients they work with - lack of knowledge ab out these clients

This is another area where resources for respite services are limited to specific families with specific children's needs defining eligibility.

we are in process with adoption our son is 9 years old and we hope to never use respite, if we were a full time foster family we may?

This type of service is available in a limited capacity to handicapped, and foster care families

This was one thing which we really, really needed.

I do get babysitting re-imbusement, once again it is thourgh an agency in Albany county, not Schenectady

I have accessed these services for my child via the OMRDD arena. Limited respite services for children outside that arena. Through DSS

I'm not sure if there is respite for adoptive families, but personally I don't know how that would work of help. You don't send your birth child to respite, why would you an adopted child. I think we need more resources to help understand what causes our childrens issues and how to help them, not have some one else deal with them so you can have a 'break'.

I was not informed about any respite services and could certainly have used this.

Once again, we certainly could have used respite care over the years. Our difficulties have been extraordinary. They began upon our son's adoption in April 1996 and continue to this day. As for respite, we could have used it up until he finally enrolled in residential school in July 2005. But even after wards, there were times we desperately needed an extra hand at home while he was visiting or between schools. And beyond family (without whom we COULD NOT have survived) no services were available. Again, period. Even the visiting nurses do NOT have mental health nurses!

When we had a death in the family, respite was a great option for our foster baby. He was very well cared for and we had time to deal with our grief.

Why would I, as an adoptive parent want a respite from my child ? I need services...He doesn't need a 2nd abandonment !

I know there is respite for foster kids. Never heard of respite for adopted kids.

I was told there is no respite available after adoption. This is something that I have seeked elsewhere through another agency that is helping my child. This is something that should be offered!

not sure of name, however, ACS has this I think

Post-adoption respite is not currently available in our county and is greatly needed

New Directions

Respite is available for foster parents but not for adoptive parents.

Local DSS.

It;s hard to find anything like that.

The kids enjoy respite and so do !!

Gateway Longview

limited amount

through New Directions

Open Text Responses:

Appendix 7: Crisis response other (optional)

Open Text Responses:

We have a mobile crisis hotline but the nearest hospital does not work with them. The hospital social worker informed me of this when I asked them to call the hotline worker I had spoken with the night I brought my son into the ER

Child and Adolescent mobile team is available M-F 1:30- 9:30. My children do not always schedule their crises during those hours. We have had to call police when mental health services would have been more suitable.

Most of the time they are short staffed and unable to come out within the time they are needed. or you could take the child to the emergency room and wait all night for them there

mobile crisis

The crisis center has rarely got any queries re post-adoption.

I am speaking here of general crisis intervention programs (e.g. run by VNS or state hospital). I don't think there were any that were specific to adoptive families. So I am not sure what type of crisis services this question refers to.

the crisis they have for after hours is an incompetent person on a phone that is too busy looking for personal information to ever get around helping. I have called 3 times and will never use this service again.

crisis response is available through our program-not after hours. It would be wonderful to have emergency respite available. There are other mental health workers who are available after hours in our community.

Also limited. If families do not know what is available they will not try to access the service.

We've used this service and it is not at all what you would expect. We called and were informed of certain times to call or else the police would need to respond. How embarrassing. We cannot predict when the outbursts are going to happen, where they are going to happen, and how long they will last. It's bad enough to have to deal with them, but to be embarrassed to leave my home and wonder what everyone must think is not the help we want.

Only crisis service is emergency visit to mental health, law enforcement or CPS.

Not sure after child is adopted only use the same as if it was my bio-child. Once child is adopted the county ends and they have no contact with you on that child again. They are done with the case. They offer nothing.

crisis response send volunteers to evaluate and usually are not effective.

Don't know what you mean by crisis. For those in B2H [new program] there is crisis service.

However, a crisis usually means that a problem has not been dealt with before it became a crisis, so avoiding crises is more important than adding crisis services.

This service is offered through B2H, but is not local in Columbia County. Families need to be able to have immediate response, not within an hour or more.

Exist, but not always sensitive to adoptive families' issues

Absolutely needed for children with RAD it has been accessed through the Mental Health Services.

don't know what this question means, but assume mental health crisis response. I believe this is available.

Mobile Crisis is needed everywhere.

Service Integration

911

911

Another useless service. We waited hours for them one night to have someone arrive and hand us a card and tell us he imagined we wanted to get to bed bec. it was late!!! Nothing was discussed, no suggestions, NOTHING except a card!

New Directions provides this service

It is not comprehensive enough and not always available. It is also not necessarily adoption sensitive, although better than in some counties.

So limited not available is a more appropriate response than available

Crisis response available but not everyone knows where to go to get it. Information not available on this

may be somewhat available but difficult to access

Columbia County Mental health Center or Columbia Memorial Hospital ER

not enough

Would be very helpful to call instead of 911 during family crises.

Not for post adoption

While the Agency offers Crisis Intervention, the Community has such services

Once again, the focus is not appropriate

Like any other mental /behavioral health area crisis services exist but are not necessarily aware of adoption issues.

Families must advocate and educate for themselves with many crisis service providers.

Open Text Responses:

For domestic violence they are.

we have used them but where not impressed at all.

Crisis services are available through the Mental Health offices

At one point we were referred to VNS mobile crisis outreach. It was a disaster. The two workers who came to our house almost undid our plan of returning our son to his residential school by holding out the possibility to him of staying home. He did eventually go back (after he was hospitalized later that day after severe acting-out) and even graduated.

These services are for any mental health crisis, not specific to post adoption or developmental issues.

Mental Health America

I know we have numerous crisis services, but not any that deal directly with adoptive family issues.

Crisis services were available in the form of 911 calls and emergency visits to hospital. once there, patient was assessed and sent home because he was not seen as an immediate danger to himself or others.

Ditto, please refer to all of the above statements. We tried everything and never discovered any crisis assistance plan for adoptive parents like us. And it was NOT because we did not look.

The only info. I've been given is to go to a local hospital ER. They only provide acute care !!!

My "children" are 29 and 30 and were 3 and 4 at the time of the adoption (end of 1983). I adopted privately and never was informed of available services.

Bridges to health

Im sure there is available services but Ive never had to use it.

Not specific to adoptive families

Local DSS.

Dr. Mark Schachleter - son ADHD/Bi-Polar, can call him anytime

I have used this service, the children that I adopted have ADHD and ODD and require professionally trained to handle some of their behaviors. I often make it difficult to do some much needed errands or just relax

Appendix 8: Service barrier other & comments

| |
|--|
| Open Text Responses: |
| The only support group I know of is not really relevant to our experience as interracial adoptive family |
| No one understands what we face as adoptive parents. We are often ridiculed and treated as the 'bad guy' rather than our child receiving the much needed help. |
| Agencies are not providing proper information on policy changes and things that agencies are suppose to be doing. It look good on paper but things are not being done. |
| Limited professionals that deal with Post adoption |
| quality of available services |
| Service providers who are adoption sensitive and adoption competent |
| availability of medicaid psych providers |
| CW does not know information to make referral; promises services that cannot provide; does not see urgency in referral/ |
| Many families are isolated, can't get to meetings, there is no care at meetings or they can't afford services. |
| It is very difficult to find individuals to watch my children due to their behavior issues. The cost for the therapy they need is over \$10,000 and not covered by insurance and the closest facility is over 3 hours away |
| There haven't been any issues. |
| It is difficult to hire a 'babysitter' for a 14 year old and an 11 year old who appear 'normal' but have poor impulse control, anger management issues and fear issues that render them unsafe left alone. I need someone who comes qualifies, not who I have to train. |
| I also have an 11 year old 'healthy' adopted child who gets the short end of the stick too often. |
| I also need trained educational advocates. the school system DOES NOT UNDERSTAND attachment issues. |
| Hoops to get through for CSE approval |
| As an adoptive parent and a mentor to adoptive families I have found it very difficult to find post adoption services readily available or trained to deal with adoptive children and their families. |
| post-adoptive parents are not included in DSS mailings about trainings unless they are still active foster parents with an open home. This is a huge gap in services and leaves many families feeling unsupported post adoption! |
| I have an 20 year old transitioning to adult care and no one knows what to do with her. |
| Lack of Insurance, location of services |
| Am not sure there were any post-adoption services in the area (metro NYC), at least that were open to other than parents using a particular agency. I know COAC did run a series of workshops at one point, but these seemed more to focus on parenting skills in general,rather than for children with severe trauma and mental health issues. We did use private therapists, and some of these were helpful, even if they did not have an adoption focus. |
| Reactive Attachment Disorder is a misunderstood emotional problem and as such no services address the needs of the children or the families. Also, those of us who have adopted internationally have no services available to us. |
| with multiple children adopted and some weeks there were over 5 appointments it was very difficult to juggle and very expensive |
| ADULT PLANNING FOR MENTALLY HANDICAPPED SON. NO TRANSPORTATION, NO GROUP HOME OR ASSISTED LIVING AVAILABLE |
| We are a large county with limited public transportation and that hinders the family's ability to access services. |
| The only Post Adoption services I'm aware of are preventive services the county is required to offer to adoptive families. They are very time limited. Beyond that, there is nothing specific to adoptive families, but there are some services, such as mental health counseling, that would be available to any family. |
| Willingness of family members to participate on a regular basis. |
| Some of our adoptive families wait until things are critical before they contact us. We are able to do post adoptive services through our agency for free. A really great counselor locally who does post adoptive services does not take MA or insurance and is very expensive. Families go for a while but most simply cannot afford to see him long term. We are the only agency that goes into the home to work with the child, other siblings and the parents. |
| all families need more information on meeting the needs of adopted children. Would like to see all families referred tto post adoption services |
| Many of my adoptive families use post adoption services. They provide essential on-going support. |
| These barriers greatly affect the families that I work with. I provide transportation to an appointment when I accompany them, but that is only once in a while. |
| Not enough funds for respite. |
| there are no services specifically for post adoption in this county! |
| programs have lessened due to budget cuts - services not as available |
| The Post Adoption program is amazing. If it could expand to include transportation to meet families that are unable to transport themselves and add in a respite componnet, that would be very helpful. No other service in the Hudson Valley can provide post adoption services. Abbott House is the ONLY provider of this type of service. If this service was no longer available, families would have no place to turn to for their adoption related needs and concerns. |
| For years we are continuously told people are going to help us. When? |

Open Text Responses:

Due to my children's conditions. Services are not always available for what they need.

I have found that the children that I have adopted that go to mental health and also see a dr. there, have to have two different days set up for their appointments because medicaid will only pay the dr. or the counselor, not both, so this means taking the child out of school on two different days and more transportation costs to the county for both foster children and my own.

Needed at training activities.

DSS/ County don't understand what parents need or don't want to help. they are more worried about money

Lack of availability.

The distance to certain service providers specific to attachment therapy.

Must services are not within the communities in which my families reside.

You are on your own to find what ever you need after the child is adopted. Some time I would find services for a child who was in foster care. They don't always help in that area either. I know people who can get thing a child with a disability needs in a day or two. If I wait for a case worker to find out any thing it could be a few weeks. I was left on my own with a child many years ago so I never depended on the county to help with the needs they needed Yes I paid out of my own pocket for what was needed.

I have been told that voluntary placements are no longer available due to budget crisis for those in crisis.

I was looking for services to try to avoid a disruption with a teen that was placed into our care but nobody was able to provide me with information regarding the services that I was in need of in a timely manner and the placement disrupted shy of 2 months. I went to the County DSS, the school and to UFS and none of them were able to give us assistance or information regarding any services to help prevent the disruption from occurring.

RESPIRE service is hard to get

For the parents that I/my agency work with, it seems that utilization of post-adoption services - especially support groups - is not a priority until a crisis, and then sometimes it's too late. Also the proximity of the support group meeting place, though there is one of our groups in each of the 5 boroughs of NYC, still can be difficult for a parent to get to, especially by public transportation.

lack of knowledge of providers

No barriers, I just don't have a great deal of interest

unable to find dentists in this area that will accept my son because of medical and mental health problems, and if you have to pay for it it runs two to three hundred dollars per vist for two teeth.

services not readily available.

Sometimes I could use help with transportation getting to and from support groups.

Medicaid keeps switching high need children to medicaid managed care out of straight medicaid.

Families may have medicaid and the program availbale does not accept medicaid. And if a child recieves Social Security benefits, the MH portion is carved out of the managed care plan.

Knowledge thereof.

families are not always aware of our services. They are free of charge.

Post adoption services should be equally made available to ALL adoptive families, irregardless of there TANIF eligibility.

Lack of services in this rural county.

Intense mental health and family thery services for adolescents and their families with sever behavioral issues.

For families who exceed the TANF-eligibility requirements, cost is a definite issue - cost of services that the agency provides and the cost of private community therapists. The TANF funded program is also not available to those who adopted internationally or adopted an infant in the U.S. Many times the families face similar issues, children experience the loss and grief, abandonment, identity issues that are part of the adoption experience.

Families aren't aware of what services may meet their specific needs and providers they encounter often discourage them in their expectations for adoption (tell them to surrender child, etc.)

no needs

Initially, had difficulty finding professional to complete homestudy. This was many years ago and I am aware that there are more options today.

No barriers

No barriers

getting from one place is a big issue with our children and childcare can be very hard .

If the services relating to adoption are available in my county, they are not well publicized. I have not felt the need to search for such services, but feel they should be available.

When you adopt a child from foster care it seems as if you are on your own. No services are explained and being a rural community mental health services are costly and not all that relevant. We are still active foster parents so we have some contact with caseworkers. If we were not I think we would be on our own.

our kids are young we havent explored much other post adoption services then through our agency and social worker

n/a

viable support group for adoptive parents

Open Text Responses:

the lack of communication. I submitted two emails to the person who handles all adoptions in our county, who I have/had a great interest in a couple of children that are up for adoption and no one has gotten back to me. It has been several months.

We've never tried to find services. We use FIA as needed or ask them for a referral.

my husband is legally blind and cannot get himself or our son to counseling services unless I drive because no public transportation is available.

Proper diagnosis, (Is it behavioral or mental health) Availability, cost of really good evals and providers, service limitations

The cost of transportation to all the services needed for an adoptive child. The cost of medical copays in a post adoption. Most adoptive children needs can become costly & the expense of caring for these children can be extreme.

Haven't tried.

Because I cannot see to drive, I have to get drivers and that is not always easy. Then I have to take the younger kids or try to find childcare. This is expensive and hard to find--drivers and daycare. And I don't always know where to go. I search yellow pages, but am never sure what to look under.

Lack of time

We've found the county health department therapy services inadequate but they have another program helping kids with socialization issues (Kids Together), which we use and which has been beneficial

Rural counties have experienced issues with transportation or cost has increased due to distance.

none of the above

Lack of communication between departments within the county.

PAS services available to TANF eligible families, but this does not address all adoptive parents and sometimes there are needs even if income of family may be above TANF level, Tanf level is a very low level

large geographic area being covered with little \$ available to agencies to provide all services needed

I don't know of any barriers since I have not attempted to access any of the services.

We have found that information that is managed largely through Hillside Agency's ...Adoption Resource Network to be deplorable at best.

Many mom's I've talked with are afraid to reach out for support lest the County take their children

very rural area with limited resources

Families are aware of the service but dont use it.

None yet.

There is just no "one place" to look for adoption help. I've tried to find therapists who specialize in adoption issues. They do not exist in the public sector and most of the private ones don't accept any insurance. there is no one to call for respite or crisis help in the Bronx that I know of.

not available

Some hotlines have ill-informed workers, referrals are outdated, there are means tests applied or other barriers

None

None

None

None

I am not aware of any NYS services being available.

The only services I am aware of are offered thru a private adoption agency to "their clients" .

Simply no services available for adoptive families post adoption, only a support group for parents and children.

Many Adoptive Parents are unaware of the Post Adoption Services available. Professionals may also be unaware of what type of services are provided an there seems to be no centralized place where to obtain detailed information. Spanish speaking services are also needed to be provided.

There is a gross lack of public transportation resources in this area.

There limited resources in Herkimer County.

Lack of connection to county workers

WHEN WE FIRST STATED LOOKING INTO ADOPTION, ALL THE STATE INFORMATION WE PRINTED FROM THE INTERNET WAS OUT OF DATE OR INCORRECT. OF THE 36 LISTED AGENCIES ON THE DAY I PRINTED, ONLY 4 OR 5 COULD ACTUALLY HELP US WITH OUR ADOPTION NEEDS. IT WAS A LOT OF WASTED TIME CALLING EACH ONE WITH NO RESULT. I FEEL THIS IS WHY MANY PARENTS SEEK PRIVATE ASSISTANCE, WHICH WE CAN'T AFFORD. IF SOMEONE CAN'T AFFORD PRIVATE, THEY MIGHT JUST GIVE UP.

current adoption workers are a barrier in and of themselves...no info disseminated...no assistance offered.

Inappropriate services and lack of knowledge of insurers and funders

Families I have worked with identify all of the above concerns. The one not mentioned here is time availability of the service for families to participate.

More families could be served if they had transportation to our agency for support groups.

There is a lack of Services available.

Open Text Responses:

Don't know about services

Hillside is the agency in our community and there training information was weak at best seems like we are always rushing to get our credit hours in just before our deadline

Times that events take place as my family works 9-6 M-F and we cannot make it to meeting and training that fall within those standard business hours. Perhaps they can do evenings or weekends

It took a while for us to discover the Abbott House and we are fairly new to using the services provided. I am very glad to have found them!

I haven't needed any of these services.

My adopted son ran away and I call them for help in handling the situation

We are blessed to be able to afford all needed services for our adopted daughter, age 14.

Insurance vs Medicaid issue.

Services are available in Albany county but not always in my county.

I only know of one area that sponsors these workshops and they are affiliated with Spence in NYC - no other services are nearby.

Some services we have tried to access are limited to children with specific state determined disability statuses that we are trying to obtain in order to access after school programs and respite for our adopted, developmentally disabled daughter.

I don't go because I don't feel it would be a good use of my time. What are they offering? What is on the agenda? How does it relate to my life and my children? The post adoptive service seems vague and uninviting.

It is next to impossible to find help once you have adopted children. There seems to be help available when they are still in foster care, but not after.

Poor quality of services is major barrier.

There was no planned post-adoption program services. Also no parent training to prepare an adoptive parent for the extreme difficulties that some of us faced.

From 1996 on, we had completely inadequate child care available to deal with the needs specific to adoptive children. Our son reported that one woman sexually abused him (years after the alleged incidents, which we reported immediately). In another case, a child care worker quit because she herself was adopted and felt that our son's issues were parallel to her own, and therefore excruciating. Generally speaking, the ignorance about the special issues relating to adoption and international adoption is egregious even in the professional and medical communities. We got our best assistance long-distance from the Family Connections Center in Cambridge, Mass. But of course, New York City could use an agency like that one --- with professionals keenly attuned to the particular issues facing kids adopted from overseas, and/or at an older age.

THE COUNTY HAS BEEN A BARRIER TO MEETING OUR CHILD'S AND FAMILY NEEDS.,

Have not experienced any barriers

Not wanting to work with myself or adoptive child after adoption. Limited services and referral to services.

Childcare funds are immediately stopped and it makes you feel as if you are being punished for adopting a child.

none as we have been able to afford private MH services..that is NOT the case for many families though mostly childcare for all the children

Not always aware of what services would benefit our adoptive families, not able to bring specific services to the families due to the cost, and many families need child care in order to participate in services but many cannot find child care due to the special needs of the children

N/A - simply have not yet explored as our adopted child is quite young

Families not meeting the income criteria

Few trained service providers (adoption/trauma-specific training)

my family and the families i work with feel we don't get enough support from Erie County social worker's. They are either not listening or the workers are miss informed.

It took me a long time to find out I could connect with New Directions and the help they offered.

with other programs

child care is paid for foster parents but not for adoptive parents.

Being a rural county we have such a small number of adoptive families it is hard to get enough people together on a consistent basis to provide services. Also, at time for grant applications we have been lumped in with Onondaga County only to find out later the service will only be provided in Onondaga County even though they list Madison County as included for the grant.

Transportation is a sorely needed service in the community. Medicaid offers transportation with extended notice. Limited public transportation is also available.

There as been no barriers the agency we have worked with New Directions have been more than grateful in accessing my family with these services.

We are a very rural area and transportation can be a problem when a foster parent is expected to bring children in for visits and mental health, or other appointments several times a week.

They have cut things because of budgeting reasons and it is needed.

Open Text Responses:

sometimes the training don't have child care

If you don't know to ask how do you know what's available

Most of the info I get is through word of mouth

need more services for child care after school if I ever need the service, or if I wanted to start work there is nothing for me to rely on.

I have not experienced barriers, because I have not sought out any available post-adoption services or support in my county. I am not aware if we have any post-adoption services.

There are no services other than an adult support group that works with both foster care parents and adoptive parents. Most of the topics of the group are foster care related. . You are always dirceted to the SPOA. Once you adopt you have very little support from the workers that placed the children with you. You feel abandoned and dropped. You are on your own to find the services needed.

Child care is \$10 an hour and the sitter must be 18.

Adopted special needs 7-year-old twin boys. The county has nor provided any sort of support. We have pursued private support, help, counseling, etc. at a high cost.

Some subsidized services are only offered during the business day, when I am working .

Appendix 9: Tell us about needed post adoption services that are missing in your community.

Open Text Responses:

No support groups/services/education for families created by transracial adoption specifically

We need a support group other than the County (Social Services).

We need a psychiatrist that understands adoptive children and their needs and their outlook on life/family, etc.

We need group homes that will take incorrigible children without pointing the finger at the parents.

We need psych evails that include the parents' input.

We need a crisis center that understands adoptive parents and children.

Support, respite, education

Information about resources need to be told to the adoptive parents.

mhs services, health insurance past 21- there was no one for me to even call to get a direction to go in.

Respite services, attachment counseling services

Non-agency specific support groups or get togethers for families who have adopted. Better circulation of information between agencies for resources.

There is only one program and for the most part it is a group situation. People feel more comfortable one on one

TANF dollars limit the Post Adoption Program from serving all families equally. More funding needed for nonTANF families

Resorces relevant to adoptive families-not other issues. It is very lacking...

* Service providers who are adoption sensitive and adoption competent

* Ongoing adoption sensitive/adoption competent education and support

* Parent group

psych midicaid providers

Used to be involved in Adoptive Parents Committee, which met our needs for support and info. Also used to be involved in a Foster Parents Group in our area, which provided support and info. We met monthly and it was helpful. Something like those groups (regular monthly or maybe it was bimonthly) meetings with guest speakers and time to just talk about things) would be helpful to foster/adoptive parents. Also, adoption subsidy has been very helpful, as there have been added special expenses for therapy, etc that we didn't anticipate at the time.

It seems like there is alot around at this time we have not needed the services but have been in the past as our girls grow up it may be necessary it's a wonderful thing they do.

connection between post adopt and juvenile justice services.

We need doctors and therapists that understand attachment disorders and the other challenges adopted children and their families face.

Just seems like once u have adopted children from DDS, you never heAR FROM THEM AGAIN.

At this time I can't think of any services that isn't available in my community.

Support groups, information on mental health and crisis intervention.

We do not have strong respite services. Though some respite is reimbursed, it is not enough hours and we do not have trained respite workers. We must hire and train our own. I could use help almost every day after school. My husband and I have not been out together in a long time. I would love to take my 'healthy' adopted daughter out more often.

Adoption groups for parents of newly adopted children--picking a pediatrician, formula changes, choosing a preschool, etc, especially for international adoption

Open Text Responses:

African American male therapist for my boys. here in westchester. I know they exist but not here in westchester county new york.

Our adopted son molested our daughter 3 months after his adoption. We have no one advocating for our daughter or family. Our family has been destroyed. The county just wants the support every month which has ruined us financially. No holidays or other special things can be afforded now.

Support group for adoptive parents in transracial adoption; family counseling for same

We are truly in need of post adoption service so that ALL adoptive families know about them and they are easily accessible.

Trainings and information.

More respite

Transitional services to adult care
education for the educators

Support groups for adopted children

ongoing teen support groups, parenting groups,

I think a support group for adult adoptees and birth parents would be a good thing. I failed to inspire membership, which dwindled to nothing after our original leader quit the group. She was a b.mom.

I encountered suspicion on her part and also one of the adoptees.

Respite !!!!! or even baby-sitting services. You can't imagine (or maybe you can) how hard it was to get baby-sitters (or shall we say child care workers), so that we could have an evening out. Also, though I am hesitant to say this, I think that someone to discuss medication with might have been useful, at an earlier age. However, we were resistant to the idea for a long time, and did not investigate this until the teens, when things were pretty much out of control. It was helpful then, though not the whole answer, of course. Probably what we most needed was someone to understand what we as parents were going through. Luckily, we found this through our support group of other parents. In our group, none of the adoption agencies seemed to understand the depth of the problems (with the exception of Family Focus for one of our families, although they did not provide post-adoption services as far as I know.)

Attachment therapist, neurofeedback, respite services, parent group, children's/teens' group...

I think that massive respite at no cost needs to be available and someone that can help after hours when all the mental health providers are gone. We need people heavily trained in RAD and that have a working knowledge of the hell we live in.

FOR THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED. LIFE SKILLS TRAINING, AND HOUSING.

We have a good post adoption program in Orange County. We need to be able to provide respite to adoptive families without opening a preventive services case for them. We need more adoption specific therapists in the area- it would be helpful if local therapists recognized this issue and perhaps participated in the program at Hunter College for Advanced Certificate in Adoption Therapy.

I do not get families calling me asking for post adoptive services, but since nothing really exists here, I don't know if anyone is aware that there even could be such services. I think the counseling, respite and crisis response could all be utilized if people were aware that they were available. It may even lead to some people changing their minds and adopting if they knew the services were available.

We have only one counselor who provides adoptive and post adoptive services to families. The other counseling services have no idea how to deal with pre or post adoptive services for children and families. I have worked with one to help them understand the special issues of adoptive families and she is seeking a place to get more formal "credentials" for adoption counseling. If there is a place that could train counselors it is really needed.

Families need support from other families in the same boat. Families need free respite services. Families need mental health providers w/ experience in working w/ RAD and severe PTSD and adoption issues.

I would like to see every family who are adopting children be referred for services. Respite care and training for people who are adopting children who have attachment problems. Sometimes it seems that parents are not well prepared for what they will be facing as the children grow up. Even parents of young children frequently do not seem to understand the effects of trauma and loss on the children and how to respond to it. I'm not sure what information and training that they receive before they adopt children but it often does not seem to be enough to meet the needs of the family .

Adoptee support groups

Adopted parents support group

Mental health services/ working with children who have experienced trauma/loss.

Teen support and counseling groups.

I would love to have more gap programs that address the weeks off from school. That is typically our hardest time. We also need mental health services without having to access OMH. I would also like some sort of therapy service to address 1 parent households in adoption, and dealing with siblings that have special needs.

As an Abbott House Post Adoption Social Worker, I am happy to be one of the three social workers in the program assisting adoptive families in the Mid-Hudson Valley Region. We have a very small budget and do whatever we can to stretch our monies. We are not able to provide substantial respite to families which we see as an essential piece to keeping families strong. There is a lack of adoption professionals in the six counties, with only one Attachment specialist in the area that only accepts certain insurances. The department of mental health clinics that accept medicaid have waiting lists, limited locations, and the therapists do not breach the issue of adoption for the most part.

Open Text Responses:

Family -to-family mentors for newly adoptive families.

Lending library.

Need to build more multi-cultural conections for kids and families.

We don't have any, but have several children adopted in this county!!!!

The Abbott House Post Adoption program, does an excellent job of providing services. Respite would be helpful to give parents a break.

Children adopted from the foster care system, especially older children, need to have someone assigned to them (possibly some sort of advocate) to make sure things happen. We love our daughter but my partner and I are the only two backing each other up. It is very difficult to make any plans or go anywhere. Our daughter needs someone (buddy) to help her with transitions when we can't be with her. She needs someone that knows and understands her needs and can help find her the care she needs and make sure it really happens. Also, someone who can help the parents to get the breaks they need.

We have no post adoption services in St. Lawrence County. A good example was I had adopted a child from foster care who had attended a program called Adirondack Experience. A short time after the adoption there was a reunion in Lake Placid. Still being a foster parent, a caseworker called me and asked if I was taking my child to the reunion because they had some children that needed a ride. I told her that I had to work that day but when she knew who was driving my child needed a ride. I was told that my child was no longer a foster child, he was now adopted so he could not be transported by them it was my responsibility to take him to the reunion. I could get paid mileage to drive the other kids because I was a foster parent even though it was DOSS who had sent him to this program while he was in foster care the minute I adopted him everything just stopped. My child did not get to attend the reunion because he was denied being able to ride with anyone from DOSS because he was now my responsibility and no longer a foster child. And then because I receive an adoption stipend I loss all my food stamps because adoption stipends are now counted as income. These are things that I certainly had no knowledge of beforehand, I certainly would not have adopted a sibling group of 4 teenagers to lose \$998.00 a month in food stamps, they would have been just as content just living here. Adoption seems to be a quick way to get rid of problem children in the DOSS system.

Activitiy groups for kids to get together. Support group.

It is difficult for families to obtain information. It is often assumed that families who adopt do no need further service. When they find themselves facing unexpected challenges, they find themselves dealing with systems who blame the adoptive parent. Expertise n trauma and attachment issues appears to be a specialty that is limited in availability.

Attachment therapy

COAC has several post adoption services that meet my famileis need however many are unwilling to travel to midtown Manhattan.

unsure

unsure

respite services and post adoptive support systems

You do not get any support for any child that you adopt. Yes I have adopted several only time I saw a worker is if we had a foster child in the home.

Respite for children who are adopted, not just foster children.

We have been waiting 4 years for a foster to adopt placement match. Our County does not seem interested in placing available children with certified families in their own county. They have placed children in county care with adoptive parents in other agencies while we have been waiting for a placement.

Respite is probably the most important. More support agencies like Family Voices Network, and Wrap services would be helpful for familes as well.

I think the services are there in NYC; but our families have to be made more aware of their existence and to be better motivated (trained? indoctrinated?) to use them.

As someone considered to be an expert in the areas of adoption and attachment-trauma, I often find that parents have searched for years previous to finding me and then their insurance companies are directing them to behaviorally oriented services inappropriate for their children. Alternately, they cannot afford my services. I slide the fee and have seen clients pro bono because of the extreme need.

I family-centered activity, maybe monthly or quarterly would be useful to me. Also education for adoptive parents about how to best support our children as they navigate through life.

Our adoptive parents tell us repeatedly that mental health care and respite care are necessary at a moment's notice. Their concern is the immediacy.

respite

parent support groups

coordinated service information

Mentoring, tutoring, on-going in-home counseling and crisis services for children 6yrs to 12 years.

There are no services that are helpful for families. Any services would be beneficial, considering the services are not relevant to needs of adoptive families.

I would like more information.

Open Text Responses:

What my concern is my child needs a full and I mean full mental and emotional evaluation and you can not find any one who accepts medicaid that does these evals.

How to or what you can do if one of the birth parents has knowledge of where you and the child lives, and constantly shows up unannounced at your home. Approaches the child when she is going to school in the morning and scares her half to death!!! What can I as an adopted parent do?

respite, teen groups, professionals aware of special adoption issues, fast evaluations and services...not a 6 month wait. therapists who are permanent, usually interns who leave after 6 months. continuity of service.

Childcare for kids with reactive attachment disorder. My husband and I are desperate for some respite/time for us as well as ability to have someone who knows how to manage a RAD child so that we can go for support groups etc.

A respite program would be helpful.

a general service in which adoptive parents can ask for information about mental health services

I feel that a pamphlet describing all available services should be given prior to the adoption AND a year later, after things settle...(or annually)..

We need more MH services that take a variety of insurances. We also need respite, including crisis respite. Also, transportation services within our county are lacking. We have families in areas outside of the city and it is very difficult and costly for them to receive transportation.

Respite care, both planned and emergency. Mental Health Counseling that deals with adoption issues. Case management services

I am just concerned about when my child enters the teen years what services are available for foster/adoptive families

This is a service needed for children and parents. There is a transition period in adoptions, esp. with older children, and help is often needed.

Support Groups for families and children.

Don't know what exists; but information provided for one service should be shared with others to help limit the constant filling in of similar documents.

We need a respite program for adoptive children to be able to go. "camp take a break" is an excellent program that was developed in the Midwest that allocates for a camp respite program.

need to expand the program already existing.

Services available to ALL. More respite and educational support.

We are missing a day treatment program for children with Mental Health issues and Respite for children with Mental Health issues. Both of these issues stem from the adoption of a child. Many children fail to survive in a home and many adoptions fail because we lack the services in our community to help support our families. The only thing we have to rely on is sending our children to a hospital or residential treatment rather than having the support needed to keep them in our homes. It is critical that we develop something help keep our adopted children in our homes so we are not causing RAD to be worse.

We need to know how many children leave adoptive homes before maturity to determine how effective adoption from foster care is.

Respite for Adopted Teens

Services that are not limited by income eligibility.

Service providers who are adoption competent.

Services for international and/or domestic infant adoption.

Service providers who accept third party payment (none of those with adoption expertise accept Medicaid at this time)

More mental health services (medicaid accepted) for children

mental health service providers with adoption competence

A network of connected services with adoption specialists who understand the unique challenges our families face. A resource access point specific to post-adoption support.

Mental health professionals/counselors who are knowledgeable in adoption issues

More agencies need to provide post adoption services. Agencies that serve adoptive families must have more training/awareness of adoption issues.

information and Support groups for teens

We need counseling services that are specifically trained in adoption issues. The services we have used have been clueless

Lots of private service providers in this county but most have very little relevant experience with adoptive families. The services used by the county invariably don't allow families to choose who they see, nor to ask for providers with good track records. This invariably results in frustration.

I wish there were support groups in the area for parents and children. The only services I have found are over 2 hours away.

Support groups for everyone whether they have internationally adopted or domestic adoptions.

we need more workers to help with all the cases that come in to adopted children.

More services for older adoptive children after adoption. Their age is older, but mentally they are not. Additional services for this group would be helpful

Open Text Responses:

I have briefly utilized private post-adoption counseling with my oldest child but have had no need to continue. Other adoptive families who are friends of ours have intermittent access to peer support/education groups. There appears to be little to no respite available and few if any groups for kids and teens. There is also very little information available on what exists and how to access it. Funding is minimal at best.

The agency that provides post adoption services was altered by the budget cutbacks.

I really don't know of post adoptive services in my community. If they exist they are not publicized and adoptive parents are not given information about them when they adopt.

We rely on our agency for any post adoption needs. I am unaware of any that are available in the community. I guess I've never looked into it.

Providers who accept Medicaid.

please refer to answer under 9 we have been mostly self organized through our adoption agency and social worker and other parents in the city that adopted through the same agency.

n/a

n/a

Post adoptive service are very difficult to obtain.

Pre-teen and teen support groups.

Personally, I would like to see another search/support group start up.

There are not any post adoption services in my county That I know of except what few our agency offer. There is a need and wish there was a way for us to get to know other families who have adopted.

St. Lawrence county has no groups that deal with biracial adoptions.....not recognized as a need.

Problems arise years later children become teens turn into monsters what do we do? Where do we go? No help there. support needed badly.

Our son is older now so we have lived through most of the issues. It would have been good to have a support group that met regularly as he was growing up. There were a couple from time to time but most of the kids were younger and had other issues.

Support groups, counseling specific to adoptive issues, groups for children and teens

We haven't found a need for such services. We have an open adoption and it seems the issues often affect closed adoptions. If we find we have an issue, we'd call FIA for their service or for a referral to a different service.

It would be very useful to have easy access to a list of services and providers dealing with adoption (perhaps at the court procedure when adoption is finalized) and at family services and at the public schools. It was very hard to find a mental health provider to help us with the unique challenges of dealing with a international adoption.

There are no therapeutic adoption specific services available. There are services that work to meet the behavioral and mental health issues. They have their shortcomings and can take far too long to access.

More services that offer transportation for the child & covered cost of copays.

all services are needed and missing - I've provided as much parent pre and post adoption education as I can as a professional and as an adoptive parent I had great difficulty in accessing any services except ESL.

I would love to know about a group that gathers adoptive families along with birthparents along with adopted persons.

Physical services. If your child is found to have a physical problem, it can quickly run into thousands of dollars. Even if he/she has Medicaid there are many providers that don't accept that for insurance. This is especially so with counselors, allergists, geneticists, ENT doctors etc. I think the worst was trying to find mental health services. And there seems to be nothing to help the siblings of kids that have problems!

Mentoring, family support activities are essential. Wrap dollars have decreased over the life of the grant.

educational, respite, employment/career counseling and job opportunities,

I'd like to see a general information line for folks interested in adopting and/or fostering I'd like it to be manned by positive, informed parents that can speak to the experience first hand. I like these folks to be abreast of all available post adoptive support groups and information services in their area.

Crisis residences for teens

Enough respite

Enough support to adoptive parents, there is support in our county, but the needs are greater than the resources.

RESPITE, RESPITE, RESPITE

Adoption resources for families with Mental Health and developmental needs. Limited knowledge of adoption issues (counselors, doctors, schools)

\$ to allow advocates to spend time at CSE meetings and providing 1:1 support.

I don't know what is missing if anything.

I'm too out of touch with what is available to say what is missing. I will say that in an ideal world I would like to see more up to date parenting insights shared with ALL parents in a format that is accessible to very busy people. We hardly have time to open a book, or explore a new website, no matter how interesting. Newsletters with headlines that clue us to the new ideas, not just pleas for help, might be an answer. Thanks for asking.

continuing education and support groups

Open Text Responses:

What is missing is significant management of Hillside Agency's Adoption Resource Network. We have tried as a family to do the following with them with no success.....

1.) WE HAVE TRIED TO MAKE LARGE CASH DONATIONS !!!!! We have on numerous occasions tried to give gift of over \$10,000 and have received NO RESPONSE from their director or supporting staff.

2.) WE have never been able to join for information services...

any requests for information were ignored or we were asked to try again later (to sign up for newsletters or to join the mailing lists etc.)

this is all due to gross mismanagement on behalf of the Adoption Resource Network itself. It would be best to save the money for the state and stop its funding.

Therapists who are aware of adoption issues and are available. More mental health services in general. Respite services. Counseling services for families before crisis situations arise and preventative services needed.

Never do I receive notices of training at the county level, even though as an adoptive mother of an exceptional needs child I am mandated to take 5 hours of training annually.

So when I do, I have to travel outside the county, and learn of these trainings via other agencies such as NYSCCC, Parsons, Center for Autism & Related Disabilities in Albany, you get the picture. How much easier it would be to have these things here in our community.

Community based agencies should have in place services to address the need of adoptive parents. The government should realize the problems children have while in the foster care system, these problems transition over into the permanent status of adoption.

transitional services

A program that deals specifically with attachment. How to help a child with attachment when there has been so much trauma and abandonment in their lives.

I'm not aware of any that are missing.

There are very few post adoption services available. We would love to see more mentoring groups for child adoptees and support groups for parents. There is a need for adopted children to have a support system and peers who are also adopted.

Ongoing groups for adopted children and teens.

parent and child support groups; respite; emergency services; parent education trainings

I think the biggest needs are ongoing support groups/education for parents who adopted from foster care and QUALITY mental health services for the children

Respite.

Crisis help (instead of 911 or the emergency room)

Therapists specializing in adoption issues. (BIG NEED!!)

Some of the programs such as Waiver services would probably work if the promised services ever happened. It was our experience that the social workers were either poorly trained or simply not appropriate for the job. In the end we paid (about \$40,000) to obtain appropriate services for our child. I have no idea what parents without these means would do - because state and city supported services do not work and are currently a waste of taxpayer dollars.

counseling, support group,

Some families have adopted overseas which brings up different issues for families. There is always the trauma of adoptions which must be realized, some children exhibit attachment disorder or other mental health problems. Private practice services can be very expensive and may be only covered for short term interventions.

I am so thankful that we used the Agency that we did - Friends In Adoption, because they offer so much post placement assistance and host on going post placement events. We adopted both of our children through them. I am sure though that many others that have either used other agencies or private adoptions may not have this as a resource and County resources would be a huge assistance for them and possibly us as well in the future.

Therapy, services and education about attachment disorder, which many adopted children experience. More and better after hours crisis and respite support for children and families that need to maintain a safe environment during crisis.

I would like to see occupational therapy, speech therapy, and mental health services available specifically for adopted children which can be utilized after/with Early Intervention. The school services don't necessarily fill this gap.

There should be support groups and listings of services available for specific problems that adopted children/families face.

Post adoption services are always needed and need to be readily available to families regardless of finances.

mental health services, education, legal

There have been several adoptive children that are having severe behavioral issues. Some of the parents want to give them up.

Not sure.

1. Discussing adoption with children

2. Parent support groups (especially for trans-racial families and single parent families)

3. Kids support groups

Open Text Responses:

Comprehensive wrap around services for both children and parents. This would include family therapy with a qualified therapist, who specializes in adoptive families, which would include individual therapy for the adoptive child if necessary; respite services; and emergency services (someone on call 24 hours, who is trained, educated, and familiar with adoptive families to defuse situation or provide necessary resource information). As a clinically licensed social worker, who has worked within the Child Protective system in several states and now an adoptive parent for nearly six years of children who lived in five foster homes in a four year period in the state of Florida and has lived in the state of New Mexico with my adoptive children prior to moving to New York, I find that it is a travesty that there are so many services available to foster parents, but practically nothing for adoptive families when the children have been adopted. It has been a challenge for us as a family, and I think, could have been made much easier for all involved if there had been more appropriate services provided to meet the needs of our adoptive children.

I believe that their needs to be yearly updates on the subsidies that are available.

supportive services and respite

Spanish Speaking Services, Respite services, Emergency Crisis, Adoption documentation assistance, Search for biological relatives.

I cannot not fairly answer this because I have not used any services and do not see the need in the future.

Families need services for their children and expenses reimbursed.

Education on Attachment & RAD Behaviors.

How to handle attachment and RAD problems.

There are very few educated professionals that deal with RAD or attachment problems in Herkimer County.

We adopted our son almost 20 years ago. I have had no knowledge of any of the types of services mentioned in the survey.

Services focusing on connecting future siblings to adoptive family. Legal services for foster/adoptive children and families. Regular communication.

SOCIAL EVENTS WITH A LIGHT THERAPUTIC HAND FOR KIDS AND PARENTS. A PLACE WHERE THE KIDS CAN FEEL NORMAL AND MEET "LIKE SITUATION" KIDS.

all post adoption services are needed...we are struggling with emotionally challenged kids and the agency totally turns its back on you once the court date is done. issues and problems pop up frequently and there is no one to turn to unless you want to give the child back(then referred to diversion) or the child is in imminent risk of placement. you feel backed into a corner asking for help.

Once again, support groups for parents of adopted children and support groups for parents of children who have experienced attachment-trauma. Treatment for these children that is appropriate, Training for parents of these children. Groups for children who were adopted.

Support groups run by mental health professional specifically for pre-teen/teen adopted kids would be good. I can see that as my child approaches his teen years, he feels more anxious and curious about his birth family. We cannot afford individual therapy so something through the state or county would be extremely helpful.

For adoptions that are private independent adoptions and are in need of follow-up post placement/adoption

I really wish that there were more post-adoption support groups. It's one thing to go through the initial process and another to actually parent a child.

Two important areas need attention in my opinion. First we need more adoption education, awareness and training for public servants. Teachers, clergy, first responders and politicians need to understand that adoption families are unique members of their communities. How community members talk about family and adoption have dramatic impact on the emotional lives of young people and needs to be sensitive to the challenges found in adopted life.

Secondly resources to support the engagement of birth families and adoptive families in maintaining extended contact post adoption are an important contribution to the future of adoption in our communities. As adoption awareness grows and the need for many families to access the fullness of their family histories and supports it will be necessary to develop services and locations and resources to help families maintain contact, search and find one another and benefit from the openness that can be attained so that the losses that are inherent in adoption can be alleviated as much as each family is able.

Post adoption services are not available.

We have people in child welfare that are on power trips.. if you don't agree with them they hotline you with made up stories and get away with it..

Parent groups

Would like to know if there's a support group for my son when he hits puberty (soon).

we are not full using post adoption services yet as our son is TFC in our home we are waiting to finalize adoption and are using pre-adoption TFC services with a few post-adoption services at this point.

Through our journey in adoption we have seen flaws that we feel should be changed in the hopes more people will adopt. A way to organize adoptive families so that they can meet, socialize and talk would be the best thing.

Need a specialized therapist to work with adoptive parents and children during crisis.

Child and teen education evaluation services, counseling and support.

Open Text Responses:

We are in the process of adopting 2 children from foster care and are working diligently to have a special rate assigned to our foster daughter as she has some major learning disabilities. Although she was classified almost a year ago we are still waitin for some kind of approval. It would be nice to have an advocate for her/us or someone to help with this process

We've gotten all we've needed at APC... don't know what else is out there.

I don't know of many services at all for post adoption.

Almost everything! Though it is possible to find services if you are willing to pay privately.

I would love services that covered the school breaks and even perhaps part of summer. As a single adoptive parent of 3 children from foster care, any help I canget is invaluable.

Both of our children are from disrupted adoptions and came home with just started working with us.issues. We need to have one teen evaluated the school social worker

In detail the process of adoption including meeting children that your interested in that have not been in the home.

I feel that Dutchess County Social Services needs to provide better information to the families that are in their system.

They need to educate their families on the services provided, possibly more information should be given from the Caseworker about the services available with contact information...I feel that minutes after the adoption we were aboandoned by the County!

groups for new adoptive moms

We were lucky and didn't need any service beyond what the APC support group offers, so I am not sure what would be needed.

We are completely unaware of any post adoption services that are available.

N/A at this moment to answer

No experience in internationally adopted older children.

Families need more than support groups. They are in need of individual and family counseling at reasonable cost. This issue amplifies when you have a child with multiple diagnosis MR/MH.

Also, respite services for children who have just MH diagnosis. This would be for community based and free standing respite options. For children who are adopted these services need to be sensitive to the issues of attachment in adoption.

Maintain existing Abbott House and Mental Health America programs

TEEN SUPPORT GROUP!!!

We need experienced, trained, compassionate care for struggling families. I know many many families in the adoption community who have no place to go to with their unique set of questions. I use services that are affiliated with places much further from my community bec non exist nearby

Not aware that there are any services available to families that have adopted. Would be interested in knowing.

I have not found any professional for learning parenting skills for adoption of a traumatized foster child. I need help!!

Adoption of children with special needs requires support maybe not from agency but from other parents. The agency can give you their text book answers but you need real support from others in your position.

There is not any where near enough information about the issues adopted children face., nor is there enough professionals to help. I felt very alone for a long time, but I kept searching for answers and believe that I am on the best path now for my children, but I know alot of families that are not as determined as I am. I think there should be at the least a network of some sort where adopted families can comunicate, even if it is via a local website or blog.

Post Adoption services are needed for both TANF Eligible and Non-TANF Eligible families. There is a need for greater awareness of existing services.

There are no services relevant to the needs of the child.

Extensive pre-and post adoptive training and education about some of the issues our children bring with them. We need to understand the effects of loss and trauma on the developing mind/body and how children's attempts to cope with past events affect their current functioning. Parents need skills training and behavioral management techniques, and professional support so they do not feel so overwhelmed and like failures when their children are not like "normal children."

See all of the above. Basically, we've "gone it alone." Our primary assistance came from Etta L. Davis (Etsky Consulting, Bolton, Mass.) She is my sister. She directed us to special residential schools, agencies like Family Connections Center in Cambridge, and if I recall correctly, also referred us to the New York agency or person who told us about AFOC. In countless other ways --- including making her home our own on weekends for the three years our son was at schools in New Hampshire and Massachusetts --- we simply could not have managed without Etta. Every community service I contacted EXCEPT AFOC was a complete and total dead end. Total.

Need for the adoption agencies in other states to give this info to parents who have adopted out of state

It is so important for these services to continue. We want permanent home to continue to be permanent. We do not need more children returning into foster care. We need professionals who understand the nuiances of adoption to be available to all those who need them. Thank you.

I would like a seminar on multi cultural adoptions, integrating adopted kids with new biological ones, how and when to tell a child he/she is adopted and strategies for doing this well!, when is a "good" time to tell a child who their parent is,

Still don't know what might be available should anyone ask me

Respite, more follow through on preventive services.

Open Text Responses:

Help with childcare, respite and just someone to discuss your problems with.

overnight Respite

I am a DOE Social Worker and am very familiar with Special Education/IEP things...it ws not at all hard for me to advocate for myself/ourselves when our daughter needed day treatment and the residential, however, again, many families may not be familiar enough to get these services. But most parent support groups are fully aware of this and can help families

I need to know what's out there.

I haven't met many parents who have adopted thru foster care - most have adopted internationally and have much different needs

*respite for adoptive families - few hours during the day or overnight

*crisis response services

*training specific to the challenges these families face

*child care in order for families to participate in services

Need therapists (and social workers frankly) who are trained in attachment therapy. They say they are, but they are not.

We didn't qualify for the adoption subsidy even though we were unaware of our child's CP until she was a year old. So it has been very costly and emotionally draining to care for her without any formal/professional respite services. There are no after school programs for special needs children as it is not cost effective = many children would need 1:1 care. Yet, if we had the help and didn't have to fight the system for needed equipment, we might consider adopting another child with motor special needs.

Would like to have support groups for post-adoptive parents in dealing with birth families.

better communication and news letters about events

none! We love the post adoption program from New Directions. They are wonderful to work with and have helped us in many ways!

I think a support group would be beneficial as well as a group for teens who have experienced adoption. I also think training for mental health professionals on the special needs of adoptive families.

Ongoing support groups.

I am not able to comment as I am not aware of what is available in other counties or Madison County at this time.

International

N/A - the post adoption service I am apart of services me and my family in every aspect needed. Love the program (agency)

Respite networking/options.

More one on one mentors

As a part of the adoption agreement, my children visit with biological parents 4 times a year. Global Village allows me to not be worried about the children interacting with the biological parents as they are supervised by a mentor. They also are very supportivea and I look to them when I have a concern regarding the children.

Childcare, If you foster child care is covered, as soon as you adopt you must pay out of susdidy which doesn't even come close!

my children are young -- ages 5 and 7 -- their special needs over shadow their adoption needs at this time -- hard to say as they get older and have more questions or issues related to their adoption what will be. I am active in APC and they always have someone who can answer questions or referr me to professionals etc.

more information about available services and the referral process

Child care and more respite services.

Any kinds of help would be nice. Especially working with a RAD child, it would be nice to have more parent trainings and trainings all together. Also, more recreational things closer to us like horse back riding like they have in Randolph.

As we head into the teen years with our child, a teen group would be a great idea. Having a counselor in our area who specialized in post-adoption issues would make me more comfortable in seeking out help if it were needed. I would worry that a non-trained professional could possibly do more damage than good if they didn't have knowledge and understanding of adoption issues, and that might be a barrier for me in seeking help.

Follow up from the foster care program at least 6 months and one year following adoption. A worker that can work with adoptive foster care parents who are experiencing problems with their adoptive child. Child/ teen groups for adoptive children and respite specific to children who have been adopted.

respite

Teen group therapy would be a positive service which used to be available, but is no longer.

none