
About the Conference

HOOORAY FOR KIDS!, our 19th annual statewide conference, will provide an opportunity for everyone in the adoption and foster care community to join in celebration of children and youth. Given the challenges facing parents, family members, and child welfare and related professionals today, we sometimes get stuck on the difficulties of meeting our children's many needs. This conference will encourage participants to celebrate kids' strengths, to recognize successes and progress, and to view any glass as half full instead of half empty. Our plenary speakers and workshop presenters will share their knowledge and expertise to help participants gain perspective, increase skills, and learn to appreciate the positives.

The conference begins with a half-day Institute on Thursday afternoon presented by representatives of CT Wocat (Changing the World One Child at a Time) and Mentoring U.S.A. (See page 6 for Institute description.)

The conference features nationally known speakers and 30 workshops delivered by experts in child welfare and related fields. The Friday evening event is a performance by FLAME, the talented and widely popular musical group that is made up of young adults with developmental or physical disabilities,

All who can benefit from up-to-date information on the most important issues in adoption today are urged to attend. The conference will provide you with renewed energy and the tools to better serve adoptive and foster children and their families.

Accommodations

The conference will be held at the Marriott Hotel in Albany, NY. To make your reservation, use the reservation form included, or telephone the hotel. If you call for reservations, be sure to identify yourself as part of the NYSCCC Adoption Conference so that you will receive the special conference rate of \$101 plus applicable taxes. This rate is available for May 7-11, 2008.

The Marriott Hotel is adjacent to Interstate 87 near Exit 4, two minutes from the I-87/I-90 interchange, and six miles from downtown Albany.

We urge you to make reservations immediately! *The hotel must receive reservations no later than April 18, 2008.* Reservations made after April 18 are subject to availability only.

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

Useful Information

- Extra copies of the conference brochure are available from the Coalition office or online at www.nysccc.org.
- If you attend the conference with a friend, spouse, or colleague, consider attending different workshops in order to multiply conference benefits.
- Temperature in conference rooms can vary widely, so be sure to bring a sweater or jacket to ensure your comfort.
- A limited number of exhibit tables are available. There will also be tables available to display free resource materials. Contact NYSCCC for details regarding reservations and fees.
- The conference will feature a large adoption and foster care bookstore plus sales of many popular NYSCCC items. VISA, MasterCharge, and American Express credit cards are welcome.
- Children are not permitted to attend workshops and plenary sessions. We appreciate your cooperation with this necessity.
- Please silence all cell phones during conference sessions! We have received many complaints about cell phone disturbances.
- Continuing Education credit is available for \$15. See the Registration Form for details.
- Recordings of conference proceedings will be for sale at the conference and afterwards. The recordings provide an excellent opportunity to "attend" all of the workshops and to share the information with others.
- Door prizes will be awarded at the closing session! You must be present to win.

About NYSCCC

THE NEW YORK STATE CITIZENS' COALITION FOR CHILDREN is an advocacy organization of concerned individuals, agencies, and nearly 140 adoptive and foster parent groups and associations throughout the state. We represent the citizen's viewpoint and speak for the children who have no voice. We believe *every* child has the right to a permanent, loving family. Our activities include:

- adoption and foster care reform
- administrative and legislative advocacy
- parent group development and support
- information and referral services
- education and training



NYS Citizens' Coalition for Children, Inc.

Judith Ashton, Executive Director
410 East Upland Road • Ithaca, NY 14850
607-272-0034 • Fax 607-272-0035
office@nysccc.org • www.nysccc.org

Featured Speakers

Zena F. Oglesby, Jr., MSW, is the founder and Executive Director of the Institute for Black Parenting in Los Angeles, CA, the first licensed minority adoption and foster care agency in southern California. He has been a respected leader in child welfare for over 30 years as a trainer, consultant, and teacher. Zena is an internationally recognized expert on minority adoptions. He served on the boards of numerous national and statewide child welfare organizations and was the recipient of the 2006 Child Advocate of the Year award from the North American Council on Adoptable Children.

Dee Paddock, MA, MTS, is a psychotherapist, consultant, and speaker who specializes in adoption and foster care and other “families with a difference.” Her areas of expertise also include infertility, parenting children with special needs, grief and loss, and the impact of trauma on family systems. She received her master’s degree in counseling psychology from the University of Colorado and a master’s degree in theology. She is an adoptive mother and is in private practice in Des Moines, IA. Dee presents keynotes, teaches workshops, and designs and delivers trainings throughout the nation and internationally.

Holly van Gulden is the Co-Director of the Adoptive Family Counseling Center in Minneapolis, MN, co-author of *Real Parents, Real Children: Parenting the Adopted Child*, and author of a guide for parents, *Learning the Dance of Attachment*. As a counselor, consultant, and trainer, Holly has presented workshops and seminars for professionals and parents in nearly every state, five Canadian provinces, England, and Scotland. Holly is an adoptive parent who grew up in a family with nine siblings, four of whom were adopted, and numerous foster children.

Save the Dates!

Next Year: May 7-9, 2009

20th Annual NYSCCC Adoption Conference
Albany, NY

Schedule at a Glance

Thursday, May 8, 2008

- 1:00 p.m. INSTITUTE
Barry Chaffkin, April Dinwoodie,
and Stephen Powell
Mentoring in Child Welfare
- 7:30 p.m. NYSCCC ANNUAL MEETING
For Parent Group Representatives
and NYSCCC members

Friday, May 9, 2008

- 8:00 a.m. REGISTRATION/EXHIBITS
- 9:00 a.m. OPENING SESSION
WELCOME
Stewart Blechner, *President, NYSCCC*
KEYNOTE PRESENTATION
Zena Oglesby
- 10:00 a.m. BEVERAGE BREAK
- 10:30 a.m. WORKSHOP PERIOD 1
- 12:15 p.m. LUNCH
PLENARY ADDRESS
Dee Paddock
- 1:45 p.m. WORKSHOP PERIOD 2
- 3:15 p.m. BEVERAGE BREAK
- 3:35 p.m. WORKSHOP PERIOD 3
- 5:15 p.m. RECEPTION
- 6:15 p.m. DINNER *on your own*
- 7:45 p.m. MUSIC *by FLAME*

Saturday, May 10, 2008

- 8:00 a.m. REGISTRATION/EXHIBITS
- 8:30 a.m. WORKSHOP PERIOD 4
- 9:50 a.m. BEVERAGE BREAK
- 10:05 a.m. WORKSHOP PERIOD 5
- 11:40 a.m. WORKSHOP PERIOD 6
- 1:00 p.m. LUNCH
CLOSING SESSION
Judith Ashton, *Executive Director, NYSCCC*
CLOSING ADDRESS
Holly van Gulden

ADOPTION 2008

Hooray for Kids!

Friday, May 9, 2008

Workshop Period 1

10:30-12:00 Noon

1. Can We Fix This Child?

A survival tool kit to help parents and professionals understand the impact of trauma on child development and deal effectively with difficult behaviors. *Dee Paddock*

2. Parenting Children with Developmental Disabilities: My Story

The challenges, successes, hurdles, and fears families of children with developmental disabilities must address throughout childhood and into adulthood. *Janice Fitzgerald, Parent to Parent of NYS*

3. Straight Talk for Kids

How to help children hear and understand difficult information about their past and their birth families by using developmentally appropriate "tough truth." *Maris Blechner, Family Focus Adoption Services*

4. Restoration of Parental Rights after TPR

For some foster care youth, permanency may mean returning to birth parents after termination of parental rights. When does it make sense to restore parental rights? Legal issues and case examples considered. *Barry Chaffkin, CT Wocat*

5. Kinship Care in NYS: What We Know and Where We Want to Go

A profile of kinship families throughout the state and the challenges they face. Recommendations for model practices and solutions to identified challenges. *Gerard Wallace, NYS Kinship Navigator*

Friday, May 9, 2008

Workshop Period 2

1:45-3:15 p.m.

6. Choosing a Good Therapist—Or Becoming One

What essential things do adopted or foster children and their families need in a good therapist? How to know when therapy is needed. *Dee Paddock*

7. Recruitment and Retention: Two Sides of the Same Coin – Part I

Effective recruitment methods and the care and feeding of prospective adoptive parents. *Zena Oglesby, Institute for Black Parenting*

8. Emerging Adulthood: Adolescent Development and Service Needs

How brain development affects adolescent behaviors and readiness for "independent" living. A compelling argument for services and supports for foster care youth even after age 21. *Rosemary Avery, Cornell University*

9. Empowered Transition: Moving Children into Successful Adoption

The child and prospective family each have their own advocates and are equal participants in this transition process. Techniques, underlying beliefs, and practical advice for making it work! *Jack Brennan, Joanne Ferrante, Lisa Binder, Family Focus Adoption Services*

10. Blogs and Wikis and Lists: Putting Internet Tools to Work for You

How to use new internet tools for easier, more efficient, and more effective communication. *Diane Hillmann; Susan Collins, NYS Citizens' Coalition for Children, Inc.*

Friday, May 9, 2008

Workshop Period 3

3:35-5:05 p.m.

11. Parenting Adopted Teens into Their Adult Years

How does parenting change as children become adolescents? What are the challenges? Techniques to support and guide young adults through challenging times. *Dee Paddock*

12. Recruitment and Retention: Two Sides of the Same Coin – Part II

Effective recruitment methods and the care and feeding of prospective adoptive parents. *Zena Oglesby, Institute for Black Parenting*

13. Loss and Learning: The Impact of Loss in the Classroom

How children's previous losses affect their ability to be successful in school, and what they need to succeed. Strategies for educating the educators. *Joan Clark*

14. Xtreme Adoption: Adopting Youth Over Age 18

No matter how old they are, every youth in foster care needs a permanent family. Parents and the youth over 18 they adopted tell their stories. *Panel. Chester Jackson, You Gotta Believe!, Moderator*

15. Truth Is Better Than Fiction: Openness in Adoption

Open adoptions, opening a closed adoption, increased openness in adoption... New ways of thinking that benefit kids—and families. *Sue Badeau, Philadelphia Children's Commission*

Please Join Us Friday Evening!
Reception, 5:15 p.m. / Music by FLAME, 7:45 p.m.

Saturday, May 10, 2008 Workshop Period 4

8:30-9:50 a.m.

16. Ages and Stages of Adoption: A Child's Journey

A tour of child development, focusing on how children perceive their belonging, how and when they grieve, and how they form their sense of self. *Holly van Gulden*

17. Foster Parent Rights

What is the impact of a new change in NYS law that assures the right of foster parents to attend permanency hearings? What other rights do foster parents have? *Margaret Burt*

18. Finding a Fit That Will Last a Lifetime

What is best practice in matching waiting children with adoptive families? Learn what is most effective in bringing children and families together. *Sarah Gerstenzang*

19. Becoming Your Own Best Friend and Managing Stress

Some theory and lots of practical advice for how to take care of yourself on the bad days—and the good days! *Maris Blechner, Family Focus Adoption Services*

20. Family Size in Adoption/Foster Care: How Many Kids Are Too Many?

Considerations of parental resources, family supports, and other issues related to family size in adoption and foster care. How to know when enough is enough. *Sue Badeau, Philadelphia Children's Commission*

Saturday, May 10, 2008 Workshop Period 5

10:05-11:25 a.m.

21. Living with an Angry Child

Unresolved loss and/or poor attachment can result in angry responses, non-compliance, and rage. Techniques to avoid continual battles, de-escalate rage, and establish a joyful family environment. *Holly van Gulden*

22. Children's Presence in Permanency Hearings

Judges must now "consult" with children in permanency hearings. How foster parents can encourage effective participation by children and related issues. *Margaret Burt*

23. Considering Our Own Aging: Adoptive Parents Speak

Will our kids be prepared to be on their own when we are at the end of life? What will give us peace when we look back at our whole adoption journey? *Panel. Joyce Wilcox, Adoptive Families of Older Children*

24. Foster Care to Adoption: Eliminating the "Drift"

How to plan and celebrate the transition from foster care to adoption. Why do foster families need rituals and support as much as "new" adoptive families? *Maris Blechner, Family Focus Adoption Services*

25. Becoming a Service Detective

How to uncover available services and information resources, understand public and private service systems, and ask for help effectively. *Susan Collins, NYS Citizens' Coalition for Children, Inc.*

Saturday, May 10, 2008 Workshop Period 6

11:40-1:00 p.m.

26. Keeping Healthy Siblings Healthy

Healthy siblings seldom receive enough attention and support when another child acts out. What are healthy children's needs in times of crisis? *Holly van Gulden*

27. Negotiating Conditional Surrenders

How will new appellate court decisions impact conditional surrender negotiations? How to advocate a good agreement for post adoption birth family contact. *Margaret Burt*

28. Youth in Progress: "Getting Solid!"

Current and former foster care youth from the Youth in Progress leadership team explore the different paths they choose to find permanency in their lives. *Panel. Joanne Trinkle, Moderator*

29. Finding Each Other: Adoptees Search for Birthparents

Both domestic and international adoptees are successful in finding their birth families. A discussion of why they searched and what they found. *Panel. Suzanne d'Aversa, Parsons Child and Family Center, Moderator*

30. Maintaining Commitment When a Child Can't Live at Home

Practical help for parents whose children cannot live at home, including maintaining communication, coping with "helpers," and staying sane. *Diane Hillmann*

Thank You!

- To the National Resource Center for Family-Centered Practice and Permanency Planning for sponsoring the permanency options workshops
- To the NYS Office of Children and Family Services for overall conference support

Institute

Mentoring in Child Welfare

Thursday, May 8, 2008 • 1:00-5:00 p.m.

Presented by Barry Chaffkin and April Dinwoodie, *CT Wocat (Changing the World One Child at a Time)*, and Stephen Powell, *Mentoring U.S.A.*

IT'S LIKE THERAPY but better because you feel more comfortable talking to this person."

"This guy saved my life. I was heading in the wrong direction, and now I am finishing high school."

Mentoring is a great support service to offer to youth in foster care and those on their way to being adopted or who are already adopted. CT Wocat and Mentoring U.S.A. will offer practical, hands-on information on how to start a new mentoring program or strengthen an existing one, how to run it effectively, and how to maximize the benefits to all involved.

Key components will include recruiting and training mentors, choosing and preparing youth, matching, programming and ongoing support, systems issues, evaluation, and working as a team. Regional differences—rural, suburban, and urban—and the strengths and challenges of each setting will be addressed.

Through thick and thin, good times and bad, a mentor is there for youth to offer non-judgmental support and guidance. Come and learn how to develop or strengthen your own youth mentoring program!

Special Event

FLAME

Friday, May 10, 2008 • 7:45 p.m.

WHEN YOU HEAR ABOUT a musical group with rave reviews from the press, a new custom tour bus, and a tour schedule so full they have to turn down gigs, Bon Jovi or Aerosmith might come to mind. However, the band that's getting all this attention is FLAME, a group from upstate New York, made up of people with developmental/physical disabilities, including autism, Down syndrome, mental retardation, and blindness.

For the band that began in 2003 in Lexington Center, Fulton County Chapter, NYSARC, Inc., fame is growing fast, but their message remains the same: FLAME wants to change the world through music.

They are a phenomenon that inspires people and changes the way the general public view people with disabilities. People of all ages and backgrounds connect with this talented band. Their song list contains over 100 classic hit rock, country, and blues songs from the past five decades.

All conference participants are invited to relax and join us for an evening of fun with FLAME!

Registration Information

Registration fees include all instructional materials and refreshment break for the Institute. For the two-day conference (Friday and Saturday), registration fees include all instructional materials, refreshment breaks, two lunches, reception, Friday evening special event, and any other scheduled conference activities.

Continuing Education Credit is available for an additional fee of \$15.

A certificate granting 1 continuing education credit (10 contact hours equal 1 CEU) will be awarded by Tompkins Cortland Community College to those attending the full 2-day conference on Friday and Saturday. For those attending the Institute, an additional .4 credit will be awarded. A Certificate of Attendance will be available after the conference, at no charge, upon request only.

Cancellation Policy: A \$35 administrative fee will be charged on all cancellations. The balance of the registration fee will be refunded if written cancellation is received by April 25, 2008. Refunds will be issued after the conference. Any registration may be transferred to another person with advance notice to NYSCCC. *No refunds will be given for cancellations after April 25, 2008. No-Shows will be billed! Agencies are responsible for paying purchase orders for any No-Shows.*

Team Discount: Groups of three or more from the same organization or agency may take a 10% discount on each registration if all registrations are received before April 18, 2008, and all are registering for both days. *There is no team discount on membership fees.*

NYSCCC Members are those who currently hold a 2008 membership or those who join NYSCCC when registering for the conference.

Important: *Parent groups and agencies that are 2008 members are entitled to send only one representative at the NYSCCC member price.* All other representatives from the same parent group or agency must either join as individuals or pay the non-member rate.

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

Do not use the member rate unless you are certain you are a paid-up member for 2008. To verify membership status, contact the NYSCCC office, office@nysccc.org or 607-272-0034.

Submit a separate Registration Form, including workshop selections, for each attendee. Feel free to make copies of the Registration Form.

Do not fax or mail any registrations after May 2!

After May 2, registrations are accepted at the door only.

Conference Registration Form

Registration for the conference should be made on this form. Use a separate form for each registrant. Feel free to copy the form as needed. Written confirmation will be emailed to all registrants. Full payment, authorized purchase order/voucher, or credit card information must accompany all registrations. All purchase orders/vouchers are payable within 30 days.

No faxed registrations will be processed unless accompanied by full payment.

Please type or print clearly:

Name _____

Parent Group or Agency Affiliation (if applicable) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Daytime Telephone _____

Email Address _____

CIRCLE the appropriate dollar amount for each option selected.

Event Registration	NYSCCC Member		Non-Member	
	Before 4/18/08	After 4/18/08	Before 4/18/08	After 4/18/08
Institute (Thursday)	\$35.00	\$40.00	\$40.00	\$45.00
2-Day Conference (Friday & Saturday)	\$135.00	\$160.00	\$160.00	\$185.00
Friday Only	\$110.00	\$135.00	\$135.00	\$160.00
Saturday Only	\$90.00	\$115.00	\$115.00	\$140.00
Registration Subtotal	\$	\$	\$	\$

Individual CCC Membership	add \$20.00	\$
Parent Group or Agency Membership	add \$35.00	\$
Continuing Education Credit	add \$15.00	\$
Add Registration Subtotal (from above)		\$
Total Amount Enclosed		\$

Method of Payment:

- Check** *Make checks payable to:
NYS Citizens' Coalition for Children, Inc.*
- Purchase Order/Voucher – Payable within 30 days**
NYSCCC Federal ID #51-0194916

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

Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____

Name on Card _____

Signature _____

Be sure to indicate workshop choices on reverse.

Hotel Reservation Form

Mail Hotel Reservation Form to:

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



**New York State Citizens'
Coalition for Children, Inc.**

Reservations MUST be received by the hotel by April 18, 2008 to guarantee availability at the special conference rate.

Name _____ Arrival Date _____ Departure Date _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Room rate \$101: *Single* *Double* *Triple* *Quad* Sharing room with _____

To guarantee reservation past 6:00 p.m., send deposit equal to one night's stay or credit card name and number.

Credit Card Name _____ Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____

Workshop Choices

Using the chart below, please circle the number of the workshop you plan to attend in each Workshop Period. (See *inside* for descriptions of workshops.)

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

Mail or fax Conference Registration Form, including Workshop Choices and full payment or authorized purchase order or voucher to:

New York State Citizens' Coalition for Children, Inc.

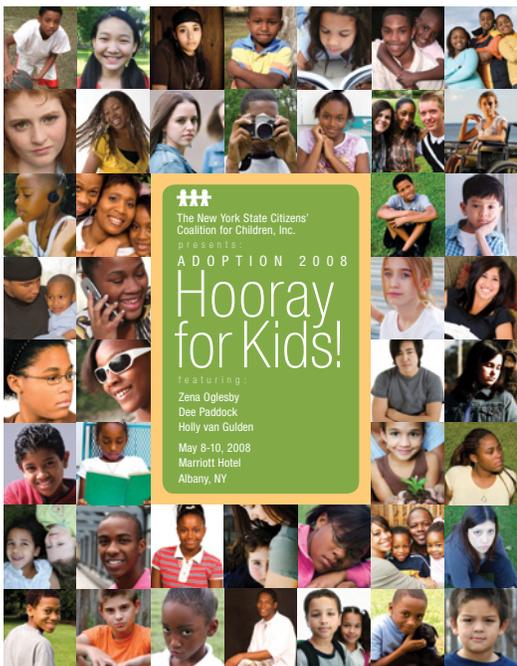
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