



## NYS Citizens' Coalition for Children

Support, Information, and Advocacy for Foster and Adoptive Families

# ***Uniting Families***

**May 8 – 9, 2015**

Marriott Hotel ♥ Albany, New York



### **NYSCCC 26th Annual Foster Care and Adoption Conference**

Featuring

**Sheila Poole**, New York State Deputy Secretary for Human Services

**Heather Forbes**, Founder, Beyond Consequences Institute

**Demetrius Johnson**, Foster Care Youth Advocate



**Office of Children  
and Family Services**



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

## **2015 Conference Exhibitors**

Adoption Star  
Adoptive Parents Committee  
Adoptions From the Heart  
AMT Children Of Hope Foundation  
Audrey's Art Ltd.  
Sue Badeau, Author and Consultant  
Barnes & Noble, Colonie Center  
Catholic Family Center Kinship Navigator  
Family Focus Adoption Services  
Friends In Adoption  
Hannah's Crafts and Gifts  
Law Offices of Clifford L. Greenberg, PC  
LMC Fashions  
New York Council on Adoptable Children  
NYS Department of State Division of Consumer Affairs  
NYS Office of Children and Family Services  
Spence-Chapin Services to Families and Children  
The Attachment and Trauma Network Inc.

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A special thank you to Beth Graff-Baker, Cheryl Bell of the Center for Development of Human Services  
for program design and editing.

# **Thank You!**

**to our 2015 conference sponsors for their support**

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## **Friday, May 8, 2015**

### **Workshop Period I ♥ 10:30 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.**

#### **1. Developmental Trauma**

Trauma profoundly impacts a child's ability to develop in a predictable and healthy manner. This workshop will provide a discussion of how trauma may lead to negative and acting out behaviors and what it takes to help children move forward onto a healing path. **Heather Forbes**

#### **2. Traumatic Brain Injury: The Silent Epidemic**

Though abuse accounts for 64% of brain injuries in children under one year of age, caregivers and caseworkers are all too often unaware of a child's injury. Resources and tips on identifying TBI and working with affected children will be provided. **Margo Singer**

#### **3. Understanding and Addressing Nutritional and Special Feeding Needs**

Children in foster care or those with an adoption history are at increased risk of a variety of feeding challenges. Workshop participants will learn about the unique feeding needs of these children. **Elaine Schulte**

#### **4. Let's Just Talk: Strategies for Breaking the Ice**

This workshop will provide attendees with strategies and techniques to build timely bridges of communication between foster parents, birth families, and caseworkers.

**Barbara Green-Flood**

#### **5. Fantasies and Fears**

Adopted children may fear being placed for adoption again, imagine life with birth parents, or worry more than others about their parents dying. Find out if your child's worries are typical for his/her age or related to adoption and learn how you can help. **Joni Mantell**

### **Workshop Period 2 ♥ 1:30 p.m. – 2:50 p.m.**

#### **6. Parenting the Adopted Child**

Parenting children with histories of abandonment and rejection requires us to go beyond consequences, logic, and control. This workshop will explore how to reach children at the heart level and help them heal and grow.

**Heather Forbes**

#### **7. New York State Fair Hearings**

This refresher course on NYS fair hearing regulations and procedures will help foster and adoptive parents understand their fair hearing rights and enable them to ensure that agencies are providing them with clear information and support to exercise them. **Steve Connolly**

#### **8. Medical and Developmental Considerations in Adopting Sibling Groups**

Adoption of sibling groups may bring special medical and

developmental challenges. Workshop participants will understand how to best address these with children and support their families. **Elaine Schulte**

#### **9. Talking to Kids About Tough Stuff: How to Have Difficult Conversations**

This workshop will provide strategies on how to help children hear and understand difficult information about their past and their birth families by using developmentally appropriate "tough truth." **Barry Chaffkin**

#### **10. Challenges of the Agency-Client Relationship**

Prospective parent mindsets often interfere with optimal relationships with adoption agencies and their capacity to deal with the adoption process. This workshop will provide help with managing family anxieties and expectations and ways for increasing pre- and post-adoption family-agency trust and communication. **Joni Mantell**

### **Workshop Period 3 ♥ 3:15 p.m. – 4:35 p.m.**

#### **11. Open Q&A on Childhood Trauma**

Even If you took a lifetime to understand all that neuroscience has to offer, would you really know what to do when your child is exhibiting outlandish and unbelievable behaviors? Join Heather as she helps parents bridge the gap between neuroscience and "when the rubber hits the road" parenting. **Heather Forbes**

#### **12. See Us, Support Us!: Voices and Needs of Children of Incarcerated Parents**

One in every 28 children in the U.S. has an incarcerated parent. Hear their voices and learn strategies for improved practice and positive outcomes for children whose parents are incarcerated. **Tanya Krupat**

#### **13. Working Together: Health Services for Medically Fragile Youth**

Ideally, caregivers and agencies work together with health care providers for the benefit of the child. This workshop will provide a discussion and support for caregivers to enable them to maintain and monitor children's health, relate to health care providers, and share information appropriately. **Joan Siegel**

#### **14. Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disproportionality in New York State**

An overview of the NYS OCFS/Casey Family Program effort to address racial disparities in child welfare and promote culturally competent practice within OCFS and its stakeholders will be provided. **Gregg Owens**

#### **15. Untangling the Web**

It's critical for parents and professionals alike to understand the Internet's transformative impact on adoption and determine how best to use it to assure the rights and well-being of all parties. Recent research and recommendations from the Donaldson Adoption Institute will be provided.

**April Dinwoodie**



**Saturday, May 9, 2015**

**Workshop Period 4 ♥ 8:30 a.m. – 9:50 a.m.**

**16. Unwed Fathers of Children in Care**

Agencies have a responsibility to identify, locate, and offer services to all fathers of children in care to assure children of their right to a parental relationship and shorten their time in care. A review of father's rights will be provided.

**Margaret Burt**

**17. Adoption and Hollywood**

Members of the adoption triad and adoption professionals see adoption-related story lines and plots through a different set of glasses. View clips and engage in a fun and thought-provoking discussion. **Zachary Fried**

**18. Responding to Unnecessary Comments with Education and Humor**

Misinformed attitudes and insensitive questions and comments are an all too common experience for adoptive and foster families. This workshop will offer suggested responses and resources to promote understanding, while at the same time protecting children's privacy. **Marie Dolfi**

**19. What to Expect from an Assessment**

A comprehensive assessment is necessary to develop an effective treatment plan. This workshop will describe the essential components of an assessment and what you should expect from the provider. **Arthur Becker-Weidman**

**20. Laughter for the Mental Health of It**

In this workshop you will experience how laughter can bring joy and alleviate some of the stress, tension, and pain of everyday parenting and everyday life. **Pat O'Brien**

**Workshop Period 5 ♥ 10:05 a.m. – 11:25 a.m.**

**21. Help, I Think my Child Needs to be in Care!**

What are the options for parents who fear their children can't live safely at home, but aren't (or can't) get help from the mental health system? This workshop will provide a look at situations in which a parent wants the local district to provide out-of-home care via PINs, voluntary placement, or even surrender. **Margaret Burt**

**22. Yoga: A Sensorimotor Approach to Healing and Attachment**

Trauma is experienced in the mind, body, and spirit. This interactive workshop will demonstrate how trauma-sensitive yoga practice can provide a nurturing environment leading to self-regulation and inner calm for parents and children alike. **Lisa Maynard**

**23. Dealing with Quibbling Siblings**

Based on the bestselling book *Siblings Without Rivalry*, this workshop challenges the idea that conflict among siblings is unavoidable. Learn how to steer clear of taking sides and promote cooperation with practical and easy-to-use techniques. **Helen Shin**

**24. Post-Adoption Services That Grow Up with Your Family**

This workshop will support all families, at any stage of adoption, to make a long-term plan for their family's post-adoption needs and identify services that can grow up with their family. **Stella Gilgur-Cook**

**25. Marriage As a Balance Beam**

Being married isn't always easy—even on a good day. Then add in foster care and/or adoption, and some days everybody just has to hold on tight. A long-married adoptive parent and social worker takes a look at the realities of partnered family life. **Maris Blechner**

**Workshop Period 6 ♥ 11:40 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

**26. Foster Parent Rights: A Review**

New York State law assures the right of foster parents to participate in permanency hearings and intervene in specific family court proceedings. Attend this workshop to learn what other rights foster parents have. **Margaret Burt**

**27. A Model of Hope**

Come learn concepts and strategies about real hope for change. This workshop will provide help for responding to multiply-betrayed kids who have experienced adoption disruptions, reentry to care, or extended waits for permanency. **Jack Brennan**

**28. Conversations with Birth Parents: The Birth Parent Perspective**

This workshop will provide a frank and honest discussion from the birth parent's point of view about the realities versus stereotypes, myths, and beliefs and will also include ways to improve support both pre- and post-placement. **Claudia Corrigan d'Arcy**

**29. Parent Group Cracker Barrel: Three Sessions in One!**

Come learn from the experts! Parent group leaders from across the state will provide your group with methods they can employ to inform and support local foster and adoptive families.

**30. Enough is Enough and Too Much is Plenty!**

Is there a "right" or "best" size for foster or adoptive families? When is a family "too large"? This workshop will consider how families and agencies can work together to assess the right fit for each child without overloading families to the breaking point.

**Sue Badeau.**



# New York State Citizens Coalition for Children

NYSCCC provides support, information, and advocacy to meet the special needs of foster and adoptive families and the professionals that serve them. Since our founding forty years ago, we have worked collaboratively with state agencies, local social service districts, private agencies, and other advocacy groups to ensure that foster and adoptive families have the support and resources they need in order to realize every child's right to a permanent and loving family.

## **Our goals:**

- ♥ Educate and support foster and adoptive parents and child welfare professionals
- ♥ Provide a forum for dialog and communication among parents, families, and agencies
- ♥ Improve services available to children in care, children who have been adopted, and their families
- ♥ Increase citizen involvement in local service planning and delivery
- ♥ Be a voice for foster and adoptive families with lawmakers, agency leadership, the media, and the public
- ♥ Promote and compel accountability of the New York State Office of Children and Family Services, other systems providing out-of-home care for children, and local agencies

## **Highlights of our Services and Activities:**

- ♥ New York's only statewide foster care and adoption conference, currently in its 26th year of providing training for parents and professionals
- ♥ Advocacy in Albany with lawmakers and agency leadership
- ♥ Advocacy in the courts, including a pending lawsuit against New York to require the state to comply with federal law and reimburse foster parents for the actual costs of the care of children in their home
- ♥ Connecting parents to one another, including the support and development of parent groups
- ♥ A nationally acclaimed website featuring information and resources for foster and adoptive families and professionals in the child welfare area
- ♥ An online county-at-a-glance directory of New York state foster care and adoption agencies, family support services, and mental health providers with expertise in foster care and adoption
- ♥ Phone and email "warm line" information and referral services for families, advocates, and professionals
- ♥ Regional training activities, including "do-it-yourself" training curricula and a county/agency-level foster parent manual produced in cooperation with the New York Administration for Children's Services (ACS)
- ♥ Electronic newsletter featuring best practices, research, and trends about issues facing children in foster care, adoptees, their families, and the child welfare system
- ♥ Award-winning videos, including *Struggle for Identity: Issues in Transracial Adoption* and *Foster Parents Speak: Crossing Bridges and Fostering Change*

# **Working for Change: NYSCCC's Advocacy Issues**

## **1. Provide statewide post adoption services: every child, no matter when**

- We strongly believe that every adoptive family in New York needs to have access to knowledgeable, tailored, and appropriate support when and if their families experience problems related to their child's trauma and earlier abuse or neglect—no matter how many years after adoption problems occur.
- Presently, New York is falling short. There is only limited funding for post-adoption services, and support is only available in limited areas of the state. We must change this.
- NYSCCC advocates for a \$10-million annual appropriation to fund statewide post-adoption services and the implementation of specific recommendations contained in our report, Parents and Professionals Identify Post Adoption Service Needs in New York State.
- Not only is this the right thing to do, it will reduce further trauma to children and families and save the state money by preventing adoption disruptions and admissions to residential treatment facilities.

## **2. Allow adult adoptees access to their original birth certificates**

- New York children who are adopted are forever cut off from legal access to their original birth certificates and any identifying information concerning their birth families. NYSCCC recognizes the importance of adoptee connections to their biological history.
- We support proposed state legislation to allow adult adoptees access to their original birth certificate.

## **3. Set minimum statewide foster care board rates**

- The actual cost of providing for children in foster care exceeds current maximum board rates, forcing foster parents to routinely make up the difference—in violation of federal law.
- OCFS presently sets only maximum reimbursement rates for local districts, resulting in great disparity across counties and exploitation of foster parents.
- NYSCCC's current lawsuit against the state, if successful, would compel the state to fully reimburse foster parents for the care they provide to children in their home.

## **4. Provide liability insurance for foster parents**

Foster parents in New York have no options for liability insurance or indemnification. NYSCCC supports insuring or indemnifying all foster parents in order to successfully recruit, retain, and protect vitally needed foster parents.

## **5. Facilitate foster parents' right to claim children on federal taxes**

- IRS regulations permit foster parents to claim children in their care on their federal taxes. To do so, they must have access to the child's social security number to file.
- Presently, OCFS interprets their memo of understanding with the Social Security Administration as preventing a foster care agency from sharing a child's social security number with foster parents.
- NYSCCC recommends that foster families have access to a temporary tax identification number similar to the Adoption Tax Identification Number (ATIN), thereby increasing tax fairness for foster families.

## **6. Allegations of maltreatment against foster and adoptive families**

NYSCCC supports appropriate state legislation and regulations to address circumstances that make adoptive and foster families especially vulnerable to reports of abuse and neglect.

## **7. Enhance adoption and foster care competence among mental health professionals**

Recognizing that foster and adoptive families encounter difficulties finding mental health professionals with training, experience, and expertise in adoption-related issues, NYSCCC strongly supports the implementation of recommendations in *A Need to Know*, a report from the Donaldson Adoption Institute.

**For more information and links to background resources, visit [nysccc.org/advocacy](http://nysccc.org/advocacy).**

## **Special Conference Events**

### **Friday, May 8, 2015**

#### **NYSCCC Conference Reception**

#### **5:00 p.m. • The Empire Room**

We welcome you to relax and spend time greeting old friends and new at our popular NYSCCC conference reception, sponsored by the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption. The reception will include a cash bar and a wide selection of creative hors-d'oeuvres prepared by the Marriott Hotel chefs.



#### **Movie Night**

#### **8:00 p.m.**

Join us after dinner on Friday evening for a free screening of the award-winning documentary, *Closure*, a story about identity, the complexities of transracial adoption, and, most importantly, closure. Angela, an African-American, was raised by a Caucasian couple in a large, multiracial family in Washington State. She was adopted at the age of one from foster care in the state of Tennessee, under the terms of a closed adoption. As Angela grew older, it became apparent that the unanswered questions about her birth story would continue to haunt her if she did not attempt to find some answers. Filmed and edited by her husband, Bryan Tucker, the film follows Angela for two years during the search for her birth family. Several twists and surprising revelations ultimately lead Angela and her family across the country to her place of birth. It is here that Angela comes face to face with her birth mother for the first time and meets family members who had never known she was even born—including her birth father.

## 2015 Presenter Bios

**Sue Badeau** is a nationally known speaker, author, and consultant. Sue and her husband, Hector, are lifetime parents of twenty-two children, two by birth and twenty adopted, and have fostered over 50 children. They authored, and recently published, *Are We There Yet: The Ultimate Road Trip Adopting and Raising 22 Kids*.

**Arthur Becker-Weidman, PhD**, is an internationally recognized author, parent educator, therapist, and trainer. He is director of the Attachment-Focused Treatment Institute and director of the Center for Family Development Center, a comprehensive evaluation and treatment center with offices in New York City and Western New York.

**Maris Blechner, MEd, LCSW**, is an adoptive and birth parent with 30-plus years of experience in public adoption. Formerly the founder and executive director of Family Focus Adoption Services, she is now their executive director emerita, an independent consultant, and a nationally known trainer.

**Jack Brennan, LCSW**, is executive director of Family Focus Adoption Services and has worked for the agency since its opening in 1987. Previously, Jack spent 15 years working as an institutional foster care worker and has been an adoptive parent since 1978.

**Margaret Burt, Esq.**, has been an attorney specializing in child welfare issues for 34 years and has represented agencies, birth parents, foster parents, and children. She provides legal training all over the country and is active in New York State legislation affecting the child welfare system.

**Barry Chaffkin, LCSW**, is president and CEO of Fostering Change For Children (FCFC) and an adjunct professor at the Columbia University School of Social Work. FCFC is home to two innovative programs in child welfare: *Adoptment* and *Children's Corps*.

**Steve Connolly** is the director and chief administrative law judge for the New York State Office of Special Hearings. He has presented on numerous topics for annual CLE programs over the years.

**Claudia Corrigan D'Arcy** has been writing about life as a birthmother, adoptee rights, and the adoption industry since 2005 on her website, *Musings of the Lame*. She is a widely published author and serves on the board of the Adoptee Rights Coalition.

**April Dinwoodie** is the chief executive officer of the Donaldson Adoption Institute (DAI). Prior to joining DAI, April was the director of external media at JetBlue Airways. April, a transracial adoptee, is a co-founder and current board vice president of Fostering Change for Children.

**Marie Dolfi, LCSW**, is an adoption constellation therapist, advocate, and trainer. She is an NYSCCC executive board member and a member of the Adoptive Families of the Capital Region. Marie is the proud parent of two terrific young adults, who joined her family by adoption.

**Fred Elia, MSW**, president of A Thousand Moms, has been involved in the child welfare system his entire life: first as a child in foster care and later as a social worker. Fred spearheaded the creation of the LGBT Foster Care Network in New York City and The Foster Care Garden in Schenectady.

**Heather Forbes, LCSW**, is co-founder and owner of the Beyond Consequences Institute. Heather has worked with nationally recognized attachment professionals in the field of trauma and attachment since 1999 and is an internationally published author on the topics of adoptive motherhood and raising children with difficult behaviors.

**Zachary Fried** is client relationship manager at Adoption Star, as well as an adoptee. He works closely with prospective adoptive families and acts as a resource throughout their journey. Zack facilitates the Adoption STAR adult adoptee support group, Adoptee Circle of Experience (ACE).

**Stella Gilgur-Cook, LCSW**, is director of the Modern Family Center at Spence-Chapin, which provides guidance and community for all types of families. In the ten years that she has been at Spence-Chapin, Stella has worked with adoptive families, adoptees of every age, and with birth parents both pre- and post-placement.

**Barbara Green-Flood, MEd**, is a Spring Valley adoption specialist for the Center for Development of Human Services, Institute for Community Health, SUNY Buffalo State. Barbara provides adoption training to local districts and voluntary agencies.

**Demetrius Johnson** moved from foster home to foster home—over 25 in all—over the course of his life. Demetrius was adopted at six years old, but returned to the foster care system when he was thirteen. He is currently a student at St. John’s University in Queens and a committed youth advocate for children in, and transitioning from, foster care.

**Karen Kelley** is a case manager for the Hillside Children’s Center Erie County Adoption Resource Center (EARC). Karen is an adoptive parent, a member of NYSCCC’s Advisory Committee, facilitator of the ECARC Foster and Adoptive Parent Support Group, and coordinator of NYSCCC’s Facebook page.

**Tanya Krupat, LMSW**, is program director of the Osborne Association’s Children and Youth Services and the New York Initiative for Children of Incarcerated Parents, where she oversees both direct services and policy/practice reform efforts. Previously, she worked in New York City’s child welfare agency for seven years and also worked in a women’s prison.

**Joni Mantell, LCSW**, is a social worker and psychotherapist specializing in working clinically with all adoption triad members since 1993. Joni is the founder and director of the Infertility and Adoption Counseling Center and a writer and “Ask the Expert” for *Adoptive Families* magazine.

**Lisa Maynard, LMSW, RYT**, directs adoption policy, programs, and processes at Hillside Children’s Center. Lisa, the adoptive parent of two young adults, is a certified yoga instructor and founder of SatiVirya, LLC, a psychotherapy and yoga practice in Rochester.

**Pat O’Brien, MSW**, is the founder of You Gotta Believe!, the host of the *Adopting Teens & Tweens Radio Forum*, and a Wendy’s Wonderful Kids recruiter in Connecticut. Pat currently serves as president of NYSCCC’s executive board.

**Gregory Owens, LMSW**, has over 30 years of experience as a leader in the field of social work, social welfare, and social justice. He has worked for New York State for 27 years and has worked with the Open Society Foundation: Campaign for Black Male Achievement and the Child Welfare League of America’s Committee on Racial Disparity.

**Sam Pitkowsky** has been a member of the Adoptive Parent Committee for the past 30 years, president of the New York City Chapter for six years, and is currently serving as president of the APC Tri-State Board. He and his wife Barbara (current New York State Chapter president) have two daughters adopted from Honduras and the Dominican Republic.

**Sheila Poole**, an adoptive parent, currently serves as New York State Deputy Secretary for Human Services. Previous to this appointment, she served as executive deputy commissioner for the New York State Office of Children and Family Services and as commissioner of the Albany County Department for Children, Youth and Families.

**Elaine Schulte, MD**, is the medical director of the Adoption Program at Cleveland Clinic Children’s Hospital. She is an executive committee member of the AAP’s Council on Foster Care, Adoption, and Kinship Care, has cared for hundreds of adopted children, and has presented workshops nationally throughout her career.

**Helen Shin** is a master trainer for the Center for Development of Human Services, Institute for Community Health Promotion, SUNY Buffalo State. Helen has been working with children and families in the foster care and adoption field for over 20 years as a foster care caseworker, adoption specialist, foster home recruiter, and training coordinator.

**Joan Siegel** is director of health services for Good Shepherd Services. An adoptive mother, Joni has been involved in child welfare and child advocacy for 17 years, including twelve with the NYC Administration for Children’s Services. She currently serves on the board of You Gotta Believe! and the NYSCCC Advisory Committee.

**Margo Singer, MPA**, is a program coordinator at the Brain Injury Association of NYS (BIANYS), responsible for training and providing assistance through their statewide Family Help Line. Prior to her work at BIANYS, she was a certified trainer on fetal alcohol spectrum disorder issues.

#### *Disclaimer*

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# Children in New York State Foster Care

Statewide | Children in Care and Custody of Local Departments of Social Services | Quarter Ending 12/31/14  
 Data Provided by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services

	ADMISSIONS		IN CARE*			DISCHARGES		
	9-12/14		12/31/14		12/31/13		9-12/14	
	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#
STATEWIDE	100%	2,321	2,284	100%	19,302	19,271	100%	2,434
GENDER								
Male	53%	1,231	1,203	52%	10,007	10,079	51%	1,243
Female	47%	1,090	1,081	48%	9,295	9,642	49%	1,191
AGE								
5 and under	43%	998	968	35%	6,765	6,743	30%	719
6 to 9	14%	322	284	17%	3,275	3,228	15%	369
10 to 13	14%	334	321	14%	2,685	2,765	11%	275
14 and up	29%	667	711	34%	6,577	6,985	44%	1,071
ETHNICITY								
African-American	24%	560	550	28%	5,498	6,345	31%	763
Hispanic	6%	146	195	12%	2,223	2,677	13%	318
White	27%	623	562	21%	3,992	3,970	27%	646
Other or Unknown	43%	992	977	39%	7,589	6,729	29%	707
LOCATION								
New York City	45%	1,040	1,086	59%	11,462	12,065	45%	1,084
Rest of State	55%	1,281	1,198	41%	7,840	7,656	55%	1,350
PLACEMENT								
NON-CONGREGATE	67%	1,556	1,546	82%	15,832	19,319	73%	1,777
Foster Boarding Home	50%	1,171	1,154	59%	11,323	11,564	55%	1,350
Approved Relative Home	17%	385	392	23%	4,509	4,755	18%	427
CONGREGATE	33%	765	738	18%	3,470	3,402	27%	657
Institution	21%	488	497	11%	2,065	2,044	17%	413
Group Home	6%	134	143	3%	619	651	6%	140
Group Residence	2%	58	53	1%	196	211	2%	40
Agency Operated Boarding Home	1%	16	17	1%	194	179	1%	28
Other	3%	69	28	2%	396	317	1%	36
PERMANENCY GOAL/DISCHARGE DESTINATION**								
Return Home	70%	1,617	1,540	53%	10,172	10,036	64%	1,563
Adoption	1%	27	81	28%	5,376	5,865	17%	423
Another Planned Living Arrangement	1%	20	20	12%	2,386	2,636	13%	307
Other	28%	657	657	7%	1,368	1,184	4%	106
OCFS Custody	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1%	35
MEDIAN YEARS IN CARE								
Statewide				1.69	1.78		1.40	1.42
New York City				2.26	2.26		2.31	2.36
Rest of State				1.18	1.20		1.10	1.01
PINS IN CARE				610				
JDS IN CARE				796				

NOTE: Numbers may differ from those that appear on other routine reports distributed by OCFS either because they are taken from the database on different dates or because the definition of a term differs.



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All Together Now is a not-for-profit, adoptee-led organization in New York City. It provides play and support groups for adopted children and their parents.

For more information, visit [www.alltogetheradoption.org](http://www.alltogetheradoption.org) or email us at [info@alltogetheradoption.org](mailto:info@alltogetheradoption.org).



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## **Do You Want To Be More Connected To The Adoption Community?**

If you do you should join the NY Adoption Education, Advocacy, & Support Network. NYAEASN is an online email group for New York individuals who joined their family by adoption, birth/first parents, and parents by adoption, adoption advocates, & professionals.

Our goal is to empower the NY adoption community by sharing information on support group meetings, trainings, resources, and NYS advocacy updates. NYAEASN is a unique group because it is resource for the *entire adoption community* not just one segment of the adoption community. It is the hope of the group that the adoption community can become stronger by sharing our knowledge on adoption issues and commitment to improving the lives of adoption constellation members.



**Council of Family and Child Caring Agencies**  
Leadership, Voice and Vision for Child Welfare in New York State

***COFCCA honors and supports NYSCCC in their mission of providing support, information, and advocacy for foster and adoptive parents in New York.***

***Thank you to NYSCCC and all the foster and adoptive parents for the caring work you do!***

The Council of Family and Child Caring Agencies (COFCCA) is the primary representative for nearly all the not-for-profit child welfare services provider agencies in New York State. Our member organizations provide foster care and adoption, preventive services and family preservation, juvenile justice, and special education services. Our member agencies provide structure and support to the caring individuals that open their homes and hearts to New York's most vulnerable children.

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## *Council on Adoptable Children*

New York City Family Permanency Center

COAC's New York Family Permanency Center provides adoptive and kinship caregiving families with the support they need to stay together and thrive. Our services include crisis and ongoing counseling, connection to community-based services, advocacy, support groups, and informative workshops for parents and youth.

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COAC acts on the firm belief that every child deserves a permanent, loving and nurturing family.

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Spence-Chapin is looking for social workers in upstate New York who have adoption experience.

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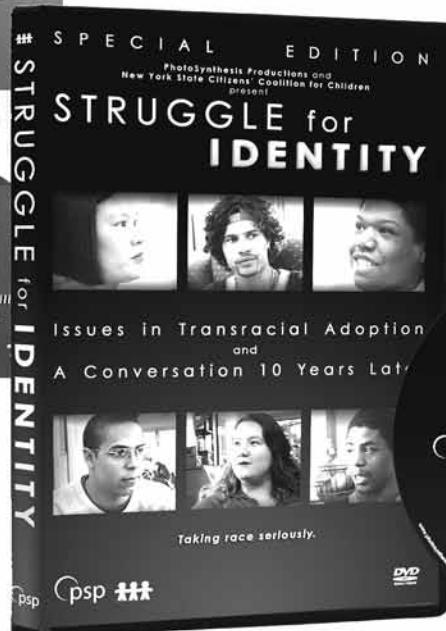
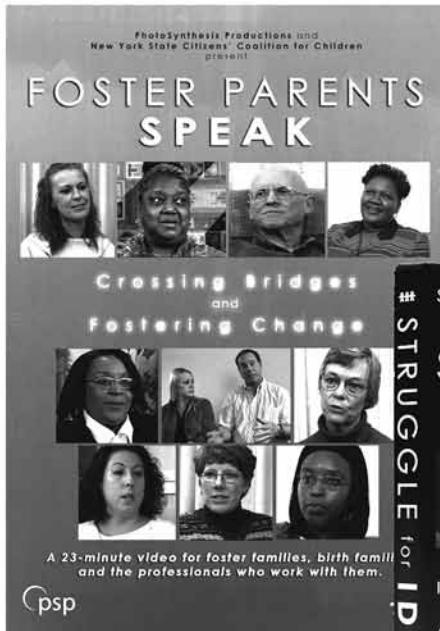
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## **NYSCCC Post Adoption Survey:**

### **Your help is needed**

One of NYSCCC's goals is to ensure that New York joins the growing number of states that provide statewide post adoption services.

We've joined forces with the Donaldson Adoption Institute and others to make this happen.

**If you are an adoptive parent, a foster parent or relative who has considered adopting or if you know people who are, please respond to our upcoming announcement and share with others.**

# Schedule at a Glance

## Friday, May 8, 2015

<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Registration/Exhibits</b>	
<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Opening Session</b>	Salons E,F, G, H
<b>10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Workshop Period 1</b>	
	1. Developmental Trauma .....	Salon A
	2. Traumatic Brain Injury: The Silent Epidemic .....	Salon B
	3. Understanding / Addressing Nutritional and Special Feeding Needs .....	Salon C
	4. Let's Just Talk: Strategies for Breaking the Ice .....	Albany/Colonie
	5. Fantasies and Fears .....	Schenectady/Troy
<b>12:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Lunch and Keynote Address:</b> Heather Forbes .....	Salons E, F, G, H
<b>1:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Workshop Period 2</b>	
	6. Parenting the Adopted Child .....	Salon A
	7. New York State Fair Hearings .....	Salon B
	8. Medical/Developmental Considerations in Adopting Sibling Groups.....	Salon C
	9. Talking to Kids About Tough Stuff.....	Albany/Colonie
	10. Challenges of the Agency-Client Relationship .....	Schenectady/Troy
<b>2:50 p.m.</b>	<b>Beverage Break</b>	
<b>3:15 p.m.</b>	<b>Workshop Period 3</b>	
	11. Open Q&A on Childhood Trauma.....	Salon A
	12. See Us, Support Us!: Children of Incarcerated Parents.....	Salon B
	13. Working Together: Health Services for Medically Fragile Youth.....	Salon C
	14. Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disproportionality in NYS.....	Albany/Colonie
	15. Untangling the Web.....	Schenectady/Troy
<b>5:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Conference Reception</b>	Empire Room
<b>8:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Movie Night:</b> Closure: A Documentary About Adoption .....	State Room

## Saturday, May 9, 2015

<b>8:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Registration/Exhibits</b>	
<b>8:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Workshop Period 4</b>	
	16. Unwed Fathers of Children in Care.....	Salon A
	17. Adoption and Hollywood .....	Salon B
	18. Responding to Unnecessary Comments with Education & Humor .....	Salon C
	19. What to Expect from an Assessment .....	Albany/Colonie
	20. Laughter for the Mental Health of It.....	Schenectady/Troy
<b>10:05 a.m.</b>	<b>Workshop Period 5</b>	
	21. Help, I Think my Child Needs to be in Care!.....	Salon A
	22. Yoga: A Sensorimotor Approach to Healing and Attachment .....	Salon B
	23. Dealing with Quibbling Siblings.....	Salon C
	24. Post Adoption Services that Grow Up with Your Family .....	Albany/Colonie
	25. Marriage as a Balance Beam .....	Schenectady/Troy
<b>11:40 a.m.</b>	<b>Workshop Period 6</b>	
	26. Foster Parent Rights: A Review .....	Salon A
	27. A Model of Hope .....	Salon B
	28. Conversations with Birth Parents: The Birth Parent Perspective.....	Salon C
	29. Parent Group Cracker Barrel – 3 Sessions in One!.....	Albany/Colonie
	30. Enough is Enough and Too Much is Plenty!.....	Schenectady/Troy
<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Lunch and Closing Address:</b> Demetrius Johnson .....	Salons E, F, G ,H

