

New Jersey's 35th Annual "Let's Talk Adoption"sm Conference

Saturday, April 1, 2017 at Rutgers University Busch Campus Center

Coordinated by Concerned Persons for Adoption

Co-sponsored by the New Jersey Interagency Adoption Council and
Rutgers University School of Social Work, Institute for Families

CALL FOR WORKSHOP PROPOSALS

Proposals due on or before Saturday, October 15, 2016

Note: After reaching out to many agencies to query them on the status of adoptions today, several issues stand out as needing to be addressed in workshops. First is the desire on the part of birthparents for more information from and openness with adoptive parents, as well as increased involvement by extended members of the birth family. Both necessitate awareness and training for both pre-adoptive parents and staff workers. Second there is a need for more information about post adoptive services – especially regarding the very common issue of how to detect/help mental/learning disability issues and how to recognize and deal with issues of loss, grief, attachment, identity, or anger due to relinquishment or adoption vs 'normal' child or adolescent behavior. Third, with the decline in both domestic and international adoptions, what are the options for those who wish to adopt . . . and are the declines due to improved conditions or not?

The following topics were suggested by our 2015 attendees:

- Nature vs Nurture – DNA testing
- Adopted an Older Child...now what?
- Effect of social media – pre- and post-adoption
- Adoption and Loss – divorce, death, leaving home, relationships, infertility
- Openness as a two-way street

As well as our usual suggestions:

- Panels of adult adoptees, birth parents, or entire triad-experiences before and after
- Attachment and identity issues
- School, language and speech issues
- Medical and developmental issues
- Finalizing the adoption (legal process)
- Domestic adoption process vs International process

The "Let's Talk Adoption"sm conference is non-commercial, educational, non-profit conference coordinated entirely by volunteers. CPFA has no paid employees. The goal is to keep the registration fee low, and free admission is provided in deserving cases. We provide one annual scholarship to a student intending to work in child welfare. The conference operates on a break-even basis and the only sources of revenue are registration fees, a percentage of book sales, and small donations.

We continue to get criticism of presenters who use their workshop to promote their own agency or practice. Please refrain from this.

2017 Workshop Presenter Guidelines

We do not pay presenter fees, except for the keynote.

- We can pay an occasional honorarium, or help with travel expenses, in special circumstances to unpaid volunteer organizations. This will be at the discretion of the conference committee.
- Presenters are required to bring copies of their own handouts. CPFA will provide an estimate of the number of workshop attendees two weeks prior to the conference date.
- Presenters must bring their own computer/adaptor for the LCD projector.
- As stated above, all book sales must go through the conference bookseller. No book sales will be allowed directly by the presenter or during workshop sessions. Book signing by authors will occur at specified times in the book sales room on the day of the conference.

Final Decisions

- The conference committee has the sole right to reject any presenter, organization or material not considered to meet the educational/non-commercial spirit of the conference.

2017 Workshop Proposal Information

Each workshop proposal must be submitted via the on-line Workshop Proposal Form:

<https://fs17.formsite.com/cpfanj/Workshop/index.html>. We will have several double (2 hour) slots for those topics that need more in depth, longer sessions. Please indicate if you need these. You will need to provide the following information for the proposal:

1. Presenter's name(s) and title(s) (i.e. MSW, LPC, PhD, MD)
2. Presenter's name/title as it should appear on your name tag
3. Title of workshop
4. Brief description of workshop (1 paragraph)
5. Presenter's contact information (email, telephone, mailing address)
6. Workshop Introduction: Do you wish to introduce yourself? If no, please include the introduction you wish to be used.
7. Targeted audience (pre- and/or post-adoptive parents, birth parents, foster parents, adult adoptees, social workers, medical professionals, child welfare workers, educators)
8. AV needs
9. Title and author of all books you plan to reference and/or recommend to attendees. We will make every attempt to order copies of these books so they will be available for sale at the conference.

Additionally, you will need to attach:

1. Resume or CV for each presenter
2. A timed outline of presentation (general)
3. An outline of the workshop handout(s)

*Each workshop proposal must be submitted individually.

Please note that all book sales must be handled through the conference bookseller. Book signing will occur at specified times during the conference in the book sales room (Books are not to be sold or signed in workshops.)

Questions regarding the workshop proposals can be directed to Pat Bennett, paben48@gmail.com or 908.273.5694.

“Every Child Deserves a Family” - Concerned Persons for Adoption - www.cpfanj.org
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