The Changing Face of Adoption

Wednesday, September 16 & Thursday, September 17, 2015

Radisson Paper Valley
333 W College Ave
Appleton, WI 54911

Sponsored by the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families
### September 16

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<tr>
<td>8:00 AM-9:00 AM</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 AM-10:00 AM</td>
<td>Welcome and State Updates</td>
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<td>10:00 AM-10:15 AM</td>
<td>BREAK</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:15 AM-12:15 PM</td>
<td>Keynote – Helping Adoptive Parents and Children Build Better Relationships Through Attachment-Based Play: A Workshop for Adoption Professionals - Dafna Lender</td>
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<td>12:15 PM-1:15 PM</td>
<td>LUNCH</td>
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<td>1:15 PM-2:45 PM</td>
<td>Break-outs</td>
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<td>Understanding Behavior: How to Recognize and Respond to Your Child’s Unspoken Needs - Dr. Samantha Wilson</td>
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<td>3:00 PM-4:30 PM</td>
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<td>Secondary Traumatic Stress for Workers - Dr. Samantha Wilson</td>
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Register via PDS Online:  
http://wcwpds.wis.edu/pdsonline  
Registration fee is $75 for both days
# The Changing Face of Adoption 2015

## September 17

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<td><strong>ACES – Understanding Adverse Childhood Experiences</strong> - Paula Brown</td>
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<td><strong>TBRI – Adult Attachment – Connection Mindfulness</strong> - Christy Reppe</td>
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<td>12:30 PM-3:30 PM</td>
<td>LEARNING CIRCLE ROUND ROBIN</td>
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Register via PDS Online: [http://wcwpds.wisc.edu/pdsonline/](http://wcwpds.wisc.edu/pdsonline/)
Registration fee is $75 for both days
This workshop focuses on the theory and process of attachment and how to create and enhance a child’s attachment to her caregivers for optimal emotional and mental health. The training will cover the basics of healthy attachment, such as focusing on attunement, empathy and playfulness with a child and how secure parenting creates a confident, competent child. We will then go over the damage that occurs when a child does not have a secure relationship with her caregiver and the subsequent behavior problems that occur. The training will then move to a very practical level: professionals will learn and practice the types of activities that create an emotional connection between the child and parent or caregiver, resulting in a changed view of the self as worthy and lovable and of relationships as positive and rewarding. Finally, the training will give practitioners tools to help parents provide discipline based on attachment theory. They will learn about the role of shame as a cause of child misbehavior, how to avoid temper tantrums, using natural and logical consequences, when and how to use time outs, and using restitution as a way to help a child feel better about herself after a misbehavior.
Understanding Behavior: How to Recognize and Respond to Your Child’s Unspoken Needs

Dr. Samantha Wilson
Medical College of Wisconsin, International Adoption Clinic (Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin)
Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Clinical Psychologist

Children enter adoptive families with many needs. Some are evident at adoption; others surface in the course of later development. Adoption professionals can help parents to anticipate potential current/future emotional needs based on their child’s unique experiences. This presentation will explore common psychosocial concerns and unspoken emotional needs for youth who were adopted (both as part of a voluntary adoption plan or from foster care following relatively increased history of disrupted relationships). Specifically, the presentation will briefly review the impact of trauma on brain development and later behaviors, explore aspects of unspoken grief/loss, and consider fears of intimacy or questions of identity that may emerge during adolescence.

How Do Children Develop Ideas about Race? Why Our ‘Common Sense’ Notions Are Often Incorrect, and How Anti-Racist Parenting Can Help

Erin Winkler
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Associate Professor and Department Chair, Department of Africology

There is a myth in popular culture that young children are “colorblind” or “don’t notice race.” This leads many adults to avoid discussing race and racism with young children because they worry they will “put ideas in their heads.” However, research suggests this approach is all wrong! In this session, Dr. Erin Winkler will review the current research on children’s understandings of race – how ideas about race form, what children learn and when, why we see changes at various ages, why all of this matters – and how parents can help their children understand racial identity, racism, and racial inequities from an early age in age-appropriate ways that empower their children. We will have plenty of time for questions and discussion, in which attendees can explore how to translate and apply these issues to their own practices with foster and adoptive parents.

-This is also offered later in the day during the 3:00 p.m. breakout
**The Changing Face of Adoption**  
**2015**

**Wednesday, September 16, 2015**  
**Breakout Sessions, 1:15 PM - 2:45 PM**

| **Trust-Based Relational Intervention: Introduction & Overview** | Developed by Dr. Karyn Purvis and Dr. David Cross at the TCU Institute of Child Development, Trust-Based Relational Intervention® (TBRI®) is a family-based intervention that is designed for children who have experienced relationship-based traumas such as institutionalization, multiple foster placements, maltreatment, and/or neglect. For the past ten years, Drs. Purvis and Cross have been implementing and evaluating TBRI®, and their strategies have proven extremely effective in creating healing environments for children who have come from “hard places.”

Goals for this training: To lay the foundation for deep insight about the impact of a child’s history on their long-term development, to create a framework for practical intervention and application, and to enhance understanding about how to interpret behavior and to respond appropriately. |
| --- | --- |
| Christy Reppe | Catholic Charities Post Adoption Resource Center  
*Post Adoption Coordinator* |

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<th><strong>Infant &amp; Toddler Mental Health: How Does Substance Use In-utero Affect Babies’ Brain Development?</strong></th>
<th>This workshop explores the emerging science on the effects of in utero drug and alcohol exposure on the developing brain, as well as the physical, behavioral, and mental health possibilities. We will also explore how to prepare adoptive families for the unknown and known in adopting children with special needs, and when and how to get them the help they may need.</th>
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<td>Jennifer Robers Miller</td>
<td>Northshore Clinic, Sheboygan WI and Cross Country Education</td>
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Supporting the Professional Self: Managing Stress and Secondary Trauma in Child Welfare Work

Dr. Samantha Wilson
Medical College of Wisconsin, International Adoption Clinic (Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin)
Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Clinical Psychologist

Child welfare is a high-risk profession with potential for secondary traumatic stress among workers. Bearing frequent witness to the suffering of others can take a cumulative toll on personal and professional functioning. Secondary traumatic stress underscores the emotional impact of the work for human service professionals who experience frequent reports of child abuse and community violence from the families they seek to serve. This presentation will provide a starting point for attendees to explore the emotional impact of their work, including the “parallel process” of absorbing the trauma of others. Together, we will consider ways to promote proactive personal plans to reduce secondary traumatic stress and maintain energy for this critical work.

Supporting Birth Parents with Addictions, Mental Health, and Trauma Issues

Jennifer Robers Miller
Northshore Clinic, Sheboygan WI and Cross Country Education

This workshop will focus on how to work with the birth parent who has their own special needs. How we can support them through the most difficult decision of their lives, help them meet their needs, and get them the help they may need during and after the adoption process.
How Do Children Develop Ideas about Race? Why Our ‘Common Sense’ Notions Are Often Incorrect, and How Anti-Racist Parenting Can Help

Erin Winkler

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Associate Professor and Department Chair, Department of Africology

There is a myth in popular culture that young children are “colorblind” or “don’t notice race.” This leads many adults to avoid discussing race and racism with young children because they worry they will “put ideas in their heads.” However, research suggests this approach is all wrong! In this session, Dr. Erin Winkler will review the current research on children’s understandings of race – how ideas about race form, what children learn and when, why we see changes at various ages, why all of this matters – and how parents can help their children understand racial identity, racism, and racial inequities from an early age in age-appropriate ways that empower their children.

We will have plenty of time for questions and discussion, in which attendees can explore how to translate and apply these issues to their own practices with foster and adoptive parents.

-This is also offered early in the day during the 1:15 p.m. breakout
### Trust-Based Relational Intervention®

**Connecting Principles:**
- Understanding Attachment

*Christy Reppe*

Catholic Charities Post Adoption Resource Center

*Post Adoption Coordinator*

Developed by Dr. Karyn Purvis and Dr. David Cross at the TCU Institute of Child Development, Trust-Based Relational Intervention® (TBRI®) is a family-based intervention that is designed for children who have experienced relationship-based traumas such as institutionalization, multiple foster placements, maltreatment, and/or neglect. For the past ten years, Drs. Purvis and Cross have been implementing and evaluating TBRI®, and their strategies have proven extremely effective in creating healing environments for children who have come from “hard places.”

Goals for this training: To gain knowledge and insight about what secure attachment looks like between children and caregivers, to learn helpful ways to help build a connection with children who come from “hard places”, to understand the impact attachment history can have on children’s behavior, and to gain insight and awareness about how our own attachment history influences the way parents and professionals care for children.

*(Previous attendance of a TBRI® Overview recommended to attend this session)*

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### ACES – Understanding Adverse Childhood Experiences

*Paula Brown*

WI Dept of Children & Families

*Prevention Initiatives Coordinator*

Adverse childhood experiences (ACE) have been identified in Wisconsin and nationally as having significant, negative impact on adult physical and mental health. The ACE study confirms with scientific evidence that adversity and toxic stress during infancy and throughout childhood increases the risk of physical, mental and behavioral problems later in life. This workshop will provide information about the history of the original ACE study and ACES in Wisconsin. We will also learn how toxic stress affects brain development and the short and long term impact on children and families.

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**Thursday, September 17, 2015**

Breakout Sessions, 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM
### Thursday, September 17, 2015

#### Breakout Sessions, 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM

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| Birthmothers Who Choose Adoption: Five Critical Tasks for Healthy Adjustment Post-Placement | The decision that a birth mother makes to relinquish her child for adoption can have a lifelong impact and can permeate every part of her life causing profound grief and loss. When addressing birth parent grief and loss, typical grief models are not adequate often leaving social service workers ill equipped in preparing their clients for what is to come. This workshop will identify five critical tasks to be used in preparing birth parents for healthy adjustment post-placement. | Jan Collins  
The Birthmother Wellness Institute  
Founder |
| DCF Updates: Ch. 56, GPRS, Prudent Parenting, and Subsidized Guardianship | During this presentation, participants will be provided updates on the recent changes to Ch. DCF 56 Admin. Code. Updates will also be provided for the latest release for the Geographic Placement Resource System (GPRS), as well as updates related to the federal sex trafficking legislation (i.e. prudent parenting and subsidized guardianship). | Lindsay Wood  
Department of Children and Families  
Out-of-Home Care Specialist |

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| ACE Informed Practice                                                | Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) result in toxic stress that may harm a child's brain, causing a child to experience challenges in learning, playing, and coping. Adults that report having ACEs are found to have higher rates of health and social problems than adults who have zero ACEs. This workshop will explain the importance of professional and paraprofessional competency to effectively identify and address the effects of adversity and trauma. Participants will also learn about current efforts in Wisconsin to provide ACE and trauma informed services. | Paula Brown  
WI Dept of Children & Families  
Prevention Initiatives Coordinator |
We KNOW Siblings are Important – But Do We?

Robbie and Kathleen Bauer
Camp To Belong-Wisconsin, Inc. Co-Directors

Child Welfare professionals know that sibling relationships are significant and are essential to one’s identity. We are also painfully aware that removal is a traumatic experience and that this is a time when children suffer many losses (parents, relatives, pets, friends, schools, toys, etc.). Politicians demonstrated that they know that sibling separation is a significant dilemma in 2008 when the Fostering Connections Act was implemented. Within this act, social workers were required to make reasonable efforts to place children together, and that if they are not together, efforts must be made to ensure sibling visits are taking place. In spite of our knowledge and our laws, one out of two children are separated from at least one of their siblings. In this session we will discuss barriers to placing children together and to setting up frequent contact between siblings. We will also discuss ways in which the system can improve.

Birthmothers Who Choose Adoption: Five Critical Tasks for Healthy Adjustment Post-Placement

Jan Collins
The Birthmother Wellness Institute Founder

The decision that a birth mother makes to relinquish her child for adoption can have a lifelong impact and can permeate every part of her life causing profound grief and loss. When addressing birth parent grief and loss, typical grief models are not adequate often leaving social service workers ill equipped in preparing their clients for what is to come. This workshop will identify five critical tasks to be used in preparing birth parents for healthy adjustment post-placement.

-This is also offered early in the day during the 8:00 a.m. breakout
### EPSDT-The Unknown Medicaid Benefit for Children

**Mitchell Hagopian**  
Disability Rights Wisconsin  
Attorney

Ever heard of the “Early, Periodic, Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT)” Medicaid benefit? Neither have most people. The benefit is designed to provide children and young adults with access to regular health exams and an array of services beyond what is available to adult Medicaid recipients. This workshop will provide an explanation of the EPSDT benefit and how it might be used by parents and responsible relatives to obtain services for their children and wards. The workshop will also provide an update on Wisconsin’s progress in providing services for children on the autism spectrum with services through the EPSDT benefit that have historically been provided through the Children’s Long Term Support Medicaid waiver.

### DCF Updates: Ch. 56, GPRS, Prudent Parenting, and Subsidized Guardianship

**Lindsay Wood**  
Department of Children and Families  
Out-of-Home Care Specialist

During this presentation, participants will be provided updates on the recent changes to Ch. DCF 56 Admin. Code. Updates will also be provided for the latest release for the Geographic Placement Resource System (GPRS), as well as updates related to the federal sex trafficking legislation (i.e. prudent parenting and subsidized guardianship).

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| **1. Autism and Adoption -- How to Find Help For a Child at Any Age**  
Cynthia Thomas, MSW, LCSW, Psychotherapist and Lead Autism Therapist at Innovative Counseling, Inc.  
**2. Human Trafficking Awareness in Child Welfare**  
Eric Underly, Family Case Management Supervisor  
Ashley Coleman, Family Case Manager  
**3. Office of Children's Mental Health**  
Kim Eithun Harshner, DHS Operations Lead for the WI OCMH  
**4. How to Apply ICWA in Adoption Proceedings**  
Tania Cornelius, CSW, MSW DCF Tribal and Legislative Affairs Specialist  
**5. Meet Your Post Adoption Resource Center (PARC)**  
Northern-Torrie Kolbeck  
Northeastern-Heather Hansen  
Southern-Amy Steuer and Judi Hoang  
Southeastern-Kim Richfield  
Western-Chrissy Reppe, Anne Rozeboom and Magen Duffy  
**6. AA Packet/MA & ICAMA/SSI Overview**  
Brenda Duchow-DCF Adoption Medicaid Specialist & ICAMA Deputy Compact Administrator  
Karen Slaney-DCF AA Eligibility Specialist  
Thomas Smith-DCF FosterCare/AA/SSA/SSI Accountant  
Mary Morse, Child Welfare Program Specialist  
Jennifer Wakerhauser, Attorney-DCF Office of Legal Counsel  
**8. Children’s Long-Term Support (CLTS) Programs: What you want to Know**  
Karen Meulendyke, DHS Project Coordinator  
Maddie Valent, DHS Children’s Services Specialist  
**9. Independent Living Planning, Requirements and Resources for Youth in Out-of-Home Care**  
Christine Lenske, DCF Independent Living Coordinator  
**10. Special Ed/IEP Guardian Rights**  
Nico Mittnacht, Special Education Consultant, DPI  
Marge Resan, Special Education Consultant, DPI  
**11. ICPC – Requirements for Placement of Children From One State to Another**  
Kendra Allen, DCF ICPC Specialist, Brooke Hobbs, DCF ICPC Specialist  
**12. Adoption Assistance Amendments**  
Amy Anderson, DCF Adoption Assistance Amendment & Appeals Specialist  
**13. Camp-to-Belong-Wisconsin**  
Bob Bauer, MSW and Kate Bauer Co-Directors  
**14. Introduction to Sensory Smart Strategies**  
Jennifer Krull, OTR  
**15. Creativity, Patience, and Persistence Islands of Brilliance**  
Mark Fairbanks Margaret Fairbanks Founders |
The Changing Face of Adoption 2015

Thursday, September 17th Learning Circles – 12:30-3:30pm

Tables for the Learning Circles will be identified by the numbers listed below. Attendees will have the opportunity to attend 6 different Learning Circles during this session.

1. Autism and Adoption -- How to Find Help For a Child at Any Age
   Cynthia Thomas
   This presentation will provide information about services for children with an autism/Asperger's diagnosis at all ages, their availability in urban and rural settings, and getting the correct diagnosis.

2. Human Trafficking Awareness in Child Welfare
   Eric Underly
   Human Trafficking is a hidden crime with traffickers often recruiting young girls that are living in foster care, group homes, assessment centers and residential treatment centers across Wisconsin. As Social Workers we must be aware of the signs of human trafficking and the difficulty the children have removing themselves from this crime. We will speak about our experiences in the field and the treatment that we are currently using.

3. Office of Children's Mental Health
   Kim Eithun Harshner
   The OCMH was established in February 2014 to coordinate and assess Wisconsin’s child and family-serving systems’ activities. This presentation will outline OCMH’s conceptual framework as well as report on initial statewide data related to children and youth’s social and emotional wellbeing.

4. How to Apply ICWA in Adoption Proceedings
   Tania Cornelius
   During this presentation, learn or refresh your memory on the requirements of the federal and state Indian Child Welfare Acts (ICWA). This presentation will cover identifying and determining ICWA applicability as well as requirements for adoption proceedings such as notice requirements, placement preferences and Qualified Expert Witness Testimony (QEWT). Bring any case specific question you have and be prepared for an engaging conversation.

5. Meet Your Post Adoption Resource Center (PARC)
   PARC Representative from NRO, NERO, SRO, SERO or WRO
   Staff from Wisconsin’s Post-Adoption Resource Centers, or PARCs, realize that all families need support and information, and that every family experiences difficult times. Families formed through adoption sometimes find that their unique needs go beyond the general parenting information offered in the community. Each PARC serves a specific area of the state and focuses on families in many ways. Come meet the Post Adoption Resource Specialists and find out how your PARC can help YOU!
6. AA Packet/MA & ICAMA/SSI Overview  
*Brenda Duchow, Karen Slaney and Thomas Smith*  
This Learning Circle will provide a brief overview of the following topics & will allow time for participants to discuss specific case questions. We will follow a short handout of each topic:  
**AA Packets**: Karen Slaney will review a checklist of the documents required to submit the child for Adoption Assistance and the timeframe necessary for processing prior to finalization.  
**MA/ICAMA**: Brenda Duchow will provide a general overview of how Medicaid is established and maintained throughout the preadoptive and adoptive placement, as well as cover how it is transferred when the child(ren) move(s) out of WI, through the ICAMA (Interstate Compact on Adoption & Medical Assistance) process.  
**SSI**: Thomas Smith will explain if a child receives SSI while in foster care, how a determination is made to continue through Adoption Assistance or make the SSI payable to the State.

*Mary Morse and Jennifer Wakerhauser*  
The Department of Children and Families will be updating all of our child welfare licensing administrative rules which includes child placing agencies (DCF 54), residential care centers for children and youth (DCF 52), group homes (DCF 57) and shelter care (DCF 59). This will be an opportunity for participants to bring their suggestions and ideas for creating the new rules before the new rules are written. There will be further opportunities in the next year or so for feedback on the new rules.

8. Children’s Long-Term Support (CLTS) Programs: What You Want to Know  
*Karen Meulendyke and Maddie Valent*  
The Children's Long-Term Support Home and Community-Based Medicaid (CLTS) Waivers support children who are living at home or in the community and who have significant developmental, physical or emotional disabilities. Learn more about the CLTS programs, including the CLTS Waivers and Katie Beckett Medicaid. The session will focus on eligibility, program requirements and the services that are covered under these programs.

9. Independent Living Planning, Requirements and Resources for Youth in Out-of-Home Care  
*Christine A. Lenske*  
All youth in out-of-home care who are over the age of 15 are required to have an independent living assessment and plan created in preparation for adulthood within the Permanency Plan. What does this mean for youth in pre-adoptive placements? This session will review the requirements of the independent living plan, ideas on how to provide life skills development opportunities, why it’s important for pre-adoptive youth and how to document activities in eWiSACWIS.

10. Special Ed/IEP Guardian Rights  
*Nico Mittnacht*  
This presentation provides an overview of state and federal special education laws, including procedural safeguards, alternate dispute resolution options, and requirements pertaining to students transitioning out of special education. The presentation also provides a more focused explanation of procedural issues that may arise for foster parents or guardians. Additionally, the presentation highlights relevant resources and materials.
11. ICPC – Requirements for Placement of Children From One State to Another
Brooke Hobbs, Charlotte Kuchan and Kendra Allen
An overview of the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) which is a statutory agreement between all 50 states, the District of Columbia and the US Virgin Islands and sets forth the requirements that must be met before a child can be placed out of state. Learn about the transition to NEICE, an electronic case management tool that WI piloted along with five other states and due to the success of NEICE, a further implementation grant was awarded to go national.

12. Adoption Assistance Amendments
Amy Anderson
In this Learning Circle we will explore the process of requesting an amendment to a child’s Adoption Assistance Agreement. The following will be reviewed in detail: amendment eligibility criteria; how to initiate a request; the difference between “CANS” and “Pre-CANS” amendments; duration of approved amendments; and reasons for amendment denial. Please join us and share any amendment questions you may have. Handouts will be available.

13. Camp-to-Belong-Wisconsin
Rob Bauer and Kate Bauer
Camp to Belong–Wisconsin, Inc. connects and reunites siblings involved with the child welfare system. This includes separated siblings regardless of what their particular living arrangements are (i.e. biological home, kinship providers, foster homes, adoptive homes, living independently). Our mission is for separated siblings to build and maintain connections through a variety of programs. The main program is a summer camp at which children placed in out-of-home care can be with their biological siblings to build shared memories and connections.

14. Introduction to Sensory Smart Strategies
Jennifer Krull
This mini presentation will introduce you the concepts of sensory processing and sensory regulation as it affects children’s ability to learn from and feel successful within relationships and their interactions with their world. A handful of strategies will be discussed for you to try. As this is just an introduction, you will walk away ready to learn more!

15. Creativity, Patience, and Persistence Islands of Brilliance
Mark Fairbanks and Mary Fairbanks
Mark and Margaret Fairbanks will relate the story of their son Harry’s diagnosis with autism, the at-home breakthroughs with him, his gradual growth and success, and the key moments that led them to founding Islands of Brilliance in 2012. They will spend time sharing at-home strategies centered on a child’s area of perseveration—the clinical term for autistic children’s hyper focus on a subject—as a conduit for teaching moments. They will also discuss collaboration with early-intervention teachers, as well as the challenges and potential strategies of effectively dealing with the IEP process.
Dafna Lender, is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) and is a Certified Theraplay Therapist and trainer. She holds the position of Training Director for The Theraplay® Institute. Dafna received her bachelor’s degree in Political Science at the University of Illinois and worked as a policy analyst in the Illinois State Senate. She then returned to Israel, her country of origin, and earned a B.S.W. from Tel Aviv University. Dafna earned her M.S.W. from Yeshiva University in New York. In her previous professional roles, Dafna was a foster care case worker for specialized children and a therapist for children with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and orphanage neglect.
Kate Bauer
In 2014 Kate graduated with her BA in Psychology/Communications from UW-Milwaukee. She is currently enrolled in the Professional Counseling Clinical Mental Health Program at UW-Oshkosh. Kate and Rob Bauer are Co-Directors of Camp To Belong-Wisconsin, Inc., a camp that reunites siblings separated through the foster care system. Kate Bauer is the mother of six children and grandmother of two. Recently Kate and her husband, Rob, became licensed foster parents and have placement of their two grandchildren.

Robbie Bauer
Rob Bauer has worked as a Case Manager in Milwaukee County for over 10 years and obtained his MSW at UW-Milwaukee in 2003. Rob worked as a supervisor in Fond du Lac County for the last 8 years. Rob is a Co-Director of Camp To Belong-Wisconsin with his wife, Kate. Rob and Kate are also licensed foster parents for two grandchildren.
Paula Brown

Paula Brown is the Prevention Initiatives Coordinator for the State of Wisconsin Dept. of Children & Families. She is a Wisconsin ACE Interface Master Trainer responsible for ACE education and advancing the application of adverse childhood experiences and trauma-informed care into child welfare and other initiatives targeting prevention of child maltreatment. She is the DCF State Coordinator for Wisconsin Citizen Review Panels and the DCF sponsored Families & Schools Together (FAST) Project. She also represents the DCF on the Abusive Head Trauma workgroup, Drug Endangered Children Steering Committee, Statewide ACE & Trauma Workgroup, and the State Child Death Review Council.

Paula has a Master’s Degree in Social Work, with a specialization in child welfare. She has extensive child welfare experience including management, consulting, training, statewide program coordination, direct services and volunteer work. Her previous work with the State includes implementing and managing the Child Welfare Public Disclosure Act, Independent Living and Kinship Care Programs, and serving as a program auditor for the Wisconsin DHFS Office of Program Review and Audit. Prior to state service, she was a social worker in the private sector, providing direct services to children and families in the areas of reunification, family preservation, primary prevention, parent education/support and crisis programs and adults with developmental disabilities. She was Executive Director of the Mini O’Beirne Crisis Nursery in Springfield, Illinois and Executive Director for two Wisconsin child care/preschool agencies.
Jan Collins

Jan Collins, LMSW is a speaker and educator with over 15 years in the social service field. She earned her MSW from Baylor University and completed her graduate research on the long-term impact of relinquishment on birth mothers. She is also a birth mother of 23 years and understands on a more personal level the profound grief, confusion and conflicting emotions that can occur from placing a child for adoption. She is committed to sharing her story, the research and evidence-based best practices for serving birth parents with anyone who wants to better understand this lifelong journey. Jan currently works at The Parenting Network in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and is Director of The Birthmother Wellness Institute.

Mitchell Hagopian

Mitchell Hagopian is an attorney with Disability Rights Wisconsin (DRW), Wisconsin’s protection and advocacy agency for people with disabilities and mental illness. Before joining DRW he worked at the Elder Law Center, the Center for Public Representation, and Western Wisconsin Legal Services. He is a 1985 graduate of the University of Wisconsin Law School. He received his undergraduate degree in history from the University of Illinois Urbana–Champaign (Phi Beta Kappa, 1981). His areas of practice include community-based long-term care services and support for people with disabilities, guardianship and protective placement, and prevention of abuse and neglect.
Christy Reppe

Christy Reppe has been with Catholic Charities Post Adoption Resource Center since 2008, where she is the Post Adoption Coordinator. She and her husband live in Eau Claire with their three precious boys, ages 10, 8, and 7. Christy had the opportunity to train in Trust-Based Relational Intervention® at Texas Christian University in 2012, and since then has trained foster and adoptive parents, professionals, schools, and churches on the TBRI® model throughout the state of Wisconsin. Her passion is to see families realize emotional healing and life change through a better understanding of themselves and their children.

Jennifer Robers Miller

Jennifer Robers Miller, M.S. LPC is a licensed professional counselor specializing in infant and toddler mental health. She obtained her Master of Science in Counseling Psychology from Loyola College in Maryland in 2001. She was part of a pioneering Head Start Mental Health project targeting early intervention for children suffering the effects of exposure to trauma, poverty, and other mental health and behavioral issues. She has received additional trainings in areas of adoption, effective parenting, multicultural issues in parenting, effects of exposure to violence on brain development, maternal depression, lead exposure and malnutrition, effects of exposure to drugs and pregnancy, movement and brain development, speech and language development, sensory integration dysfunction, and diagnosing young children. She regularly gives workshops and trainings to educators, early interventionists, and parents, and presents nationally with Cross Country Education on Infant and Toddler Mental Health, and Trauma-Informed Care.
Breakout Session Speakers

**Dr. Samantha Wilson**

Samantha Wilson, Ph.D. is Associate Professor of Pediatrics in the Division of Child Development at the Medical College of Wisconsin. She is the staff psychologist within the International Adoption Clinic at Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin. In this role, she provides support to families at all stages of their adoption journeys, including pre-adoption education, initial consultation following a child’s immigration, school-age assessment, and child/family therapy. She has published numerous scholarly articles on adoption, institutional care, attachment, and early child development and is a contributing author to a current book on the post-adoption development of children adopted internationally (Supporting Development in Internationally Adopted Children). She is an adjunct staff to the Wisconsin-based TIES program, a heritage travel experience for children and families. Additionally, Dr. Wilson has clinical training/education to support the unique social-emotional development of infants/toddlers and provides reflective supervision to Early Head Start home visitors within Waukesha and West Bend, WI.
Lindsay Wood is the Out-of-Home Care Specialist for the Department of Children and Families in the Out-of-Home Care Section. Lindsay is a program and policy analyst for the Department answering and providing guidance on Chapter DCF 56 Admin. Code requirements. Additionally, Lindsay provides guidance on a variety of other programs and policies, such as the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) Tool, the Geographic Placement Resource System, Levels of Care, Uniform Foster Care Rate Setting, licensing exceptions, and foster parent training.

Erin Winkler

Erin N. Winkler is associate professor and chair of the Department of Africology at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, where she also serves on the Advisory boards of Childhood and Adolescent Studies; Ethnic Studies; and Latin American, Caribbean, and US Latino/a Studies; and is affiliated faculty in Urban Studies and Women’s Studies. She earned her Ph.D. in African American Studies at the University of California-Berkeley and was a postdoctoral fellow in African American Studies at Northwestern University. She is author of the book *Learning Race, Learning Place: Shaping Racial Identities and Ideas in African American Childhoods*.

Lindsay Wood

Lindsay Wood is the Out-of-Home Care Specialist for the Department of Children and Families in the Out-of-Home Care Section. Lindsay is a program and policy analyst for the Department answering and providing guidance on Chapter DCF 56 Admin. Code requirements. Additionally, Lindsay provides guidance on a variety of other programs and policies, such as the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) Tool, the Geographic Placement Resource System, Levels of Care, Uniform Foster Care Rate Setting, licensing exceptions, and foster parent training.
Lodging

To reserve a guest room, please call the Radisson Paper Valley and refer to the Adoption Conference.

Reserved blocks will be released after August 18th, 2015.  
Radisson Paper Valley  
333 W College Ave  
Appleton, WI 54911  
(920) 733-8000

Continuing Education Units

Continuing Education Hours (CEHs) will be provided to attendees after the submission of electronic conference evaluation. All information submitted on the evaluation will be shared with DCF anonymously. No personally identifying information will be shared as part of the evaluation submission.

11 CEHs will be provided for completed conference session attendance.

Questions & Contact Information

For registration and hotel information, please contact David Hafner  
dshafner@wisc.edu

For information about conference items, please contact Diane Bloecker  
diane.bloecker@Wisconsin.gov