

**THE NEW YORK FOUNDLING and its
VINCENT J. FONTANA CENTER FOR CHILD PROTECTION**
Co-sponsored with NEW YORK UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
presents **The Sr. Helen Murphy Annual Professional Conference**
Friday, November 2, 2007
Critical Transitions in Child Welfare

Founded as a home for abandoned children, The New York Foundling has been saving children, preserving families and building communities since 1869. The agency helps children, youth and adults in need through advocacy and through preventive and in-care services that help each individual reach his or her full potential. In the tradition of openness and compassion of its sponsors, the Sisters of Charity, the agency cares for more than 13,000 children each year in the New York City area and Puerto Rico as it upholds its guiding principle:

Abandon No One.

The Vincent J. Fontana Center for Child Protection is dedicated to advancing state-of-the-art prevention and treatment services for abused and neglected children and their families. The Fontana Center engages in research, training, evidence-based trauma specific treatment, public education and advocacy to help prevent child abuse and neglect.

The New York University School of Social Work is committed to building knowledge and educating professionals for leadership to meet the challenges of the 21st century. Established in 1953, social work education at NYU has had a distinguished history of service, research, and scholarship addressing the most pressing problems of a complex urban environment, and the needs of our most vulnerable citizens. The School's priorities reflect the primary obligations of the social work profession-to advance the cause of social justice and promote the ideals of a humane society.

This conference will offer participating professionals the opportunity to further their knowledge and skills in their work with abused and neglected children within New York City's child welfare system.



school of **social
work** at nyu

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CRITICAL TRANSITIONS IN CHILD WELFARE

Friday, November 2, 2007
8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Association of the Bar of the City of New York
42 West 44th Street, New York, New York
(Between Fifth and Sixth Avenues)

WORKSHOP TOPICS

Placement Experience and Outcomes for Children in Out-of-Home Care ~ Does a Child's Aggression in Foster Care Predict Post-Discharge Aggression: Implications for Permanency Planning in Child Welfare ~ Attachment Theory: Can It Predict Successful Foster Home and Adoption Outcomes ~ Family Team Conferences/Team Decision Making: Improving the Placement Decision Making Process for Children and Families ~ Empowering Children and Families: Building Adoptions That Work ~ Retaining Culture During Periods of Transition ~ Advocating for the Special Education Needs of Children in Foster Care ~ Getting Beyond the Foster Care System ~ Identifying Factors Contributing to Positive Foster Parenting: How to Help Prevent Foster Home Disruption ~ Community Partnership for Better Results for Children and Families

Keynote Speaker

Keynote Speaker:
Katharine Briar-Lawson, Ph.D.
Dean and Professor
School of Social Welfare
University at Albany, SUNY

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

8:30-9:00 a.m.	Registration and Coffee
9:00-9:10	Welcome Bill Baccaglini <i>Executive Director, New York Foundling</i>
9:10-10:45	Keynote Address Katharine Briar-Lawson, Ph.D. <i>Dean and Professor</i> <i>The School of Social Welfare, University at Albany, SUNY</i>
10:45-11:00	Break
11:00-12:30	Workshops: (Please see workshop descriptions)
12:30-1:45	Lunch on your own
1:45-3:15	Workshops: (Please see workshop descriptions)
3:15-3:30	Closing Comments and Future Directions Carmen Jirau-Rivera <i>Associate Executive Director, New York Foundling</i>



The New York Foundling
27 Christopher Street
New York, NY 1004

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Critical Transitions in Child Welfare

WORKSHOPS

A. Placement Experience and Outcomes for Children in Out-of-Home Care –

This workshop will review recent findings from the National Survey of Child & Adolescent Well-Being on a nationally representative cohort of children who entered out-of-home care. Key topics will include the impact of placement stability and kinship care on behavioral outcomes for children three years after placement. Policy-relevant implications will be reviewed and a lively discussion will be encouraged.

David Rubin, MD MSCE
 Director of Research & Policy
 Safe Place: The Center for Child Protection & Health
 The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia

B. Does a Child’s Aggression in Foster Care Predict Post-Discharge

Aggression: Implications for Permanency Planning in Child Welfare -

This workshop will describe the association between initial aggression while in care and post placement discharge in children living in foster care. The presenter will highlight ways to reduce child aggression and to promote successful child adjustment following discharge from foster care.

Dr. Oriana Linares
 Associate Professor of Psychiatry
 NYU School of Medicine
 Director of the Foster Care and Mental Health Research Program
 NYU Child Study Center

C. Attachment Theory: Can it Predict Successful Foster Home and Adoption Outcomes–

The workshop will focus on a unique study of the developing attachment relationships between previously maltreated children and their new adoptive parents. Implications for attachment relationships with foster parents and successful foster home outcome will also be discussed. Clinical implications will be discussed with a view on how to assess change and the impact of trauma in both parents and children’s attachment styles.

Miriam Steele, Ph.D
 Associate Professor of Psychology &
 Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychology in the Graduate Faculty of the New School for Social Research

D. Community Partnership for Better Results for Children and Families -

This workshop will explore how community coalitions can work together and in partnership with public agencies and their contracted partners to achieve better results for children and families. The Administration for Children’s Services has been partnering with communities for over 10 years with limited resources and mixed results. Come and explore why now there is an opportunity to deepen this work and influence practice at the local level.

Anne Williams-Isom
 Deputy Commissioner
 Administration for Children’s Services

E. Family Team Conferences/Team Decision Making: Improving the Placement Decision Making Process for Children and Families -

ACS and provider agencies have been implementing a new practice model of Family Team Conferences, based on the Family to Family Team Decision-making (TDM) practice. Participants will learn how team decision-making can be an invaluable tool when making critical decisions about transitioning children into or out of placement. Presenters will provide an overview of the TDM process; the goals, benefits and challenges; roles and responsibilities of meeting participants; stages of the meeting; the importance of building consensus as part of the process; and critical decision points when planning transitions. Presenters will offer a variety of examples of how ACS and provider agencies are implementing Family Team Conferences using this model, including Child Safety Conferences, Placement Preservation Conferences, Goal Change Conferences, Reunification/Discharge Conferences and Pre-Adoption Conferences, as well as a national perspective on the implementation of the Family to Family TDM model.

Fayette Bennett
 Borough Director
 Office of Family Permanency Team Conferencing
 Administration for Children’s Services

Suzanne Barnard
 Senior Operations Manager
 Family to Family Initiative
 Annie E. Casey Foundation

Helene Etienne
 Child Safety Conference Coordinator
 Administration for Children’s Services

Robert Martinez
 Borough Director
 Office of Family Permanency Team Conferencing
 Administration for Children’s Services

F. Empowering Children and Families: Building Adoptions That Work -

Family Focus Adoption Services, a twenty-year-old special needs adoption agency, describes its extremely successful techniques for moving older children and youth into adoptive families. The child and prospective family each have their own advocates during the visiting process, and are equal participants. Families and children come together in solid permanent family life, and disruptions are at a minimum. This workshop offers both practical advice and the belief system that feeds the techniques.

Maris Blechner
 Executive Director
 Family Focus Adoption Services

G. Retaining Culture During Periods of Transition in Child Welfare -

Child welfare scholars and practitioners argue that good child welfare practice requires assessing the functioning of the family and its members within the social context. Such an assessment must consider the variable of culture as a protective factor that may enhance the psychosocial well-being of children. This workshop will examine the impact of culture on positive mental health outcomes of children and adolescents who are transitioning through the child welfare system. Strategies and tools for formulating culturally-competent direct service plans will be reviewed. Culture will be appraised as a core construct of competent child welfare practice.

Manny J. Gonzalez, PhD
 Associate Professor
 Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service

H. Advocating for the Special Education Needs of Children in Foster Care -

The workshop will highlight the special educational needs of children in foster care and how the foster care professional can successfully negotiate the New York Board of Education system. A brief overview of the Early Intervention, Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE), and the Committee on Special Education (CSE) will be presented, and a discussion of best advocacy practice and troubleshooting on behalf of children in foster care will be discussed.

Regina Schaefer
 Social Work Director, Education Unit
 Administration for Children’s Services

Maya Cooper
 Attorney, Education Unit
 Administration for Children’s Services

I. Preparing Youth for Adulthood and Living Outside of the Child Welfare System -

This seminar will present the New York City ACS goals and objectives in the Preparing Youth for Adulthood program and describe effective interventions to assist in meeting the stated goals. A model developed by the Youth Advocacy Center in New York City for working with youth on the development of self-advocacy skills and career planning will be highlighted. A panel of youth participating in the program will present on their experiences participating in the program and their ideas about programming to help prepare them to live outside of the child welfare system.

Paul Pitoff, JD
 Co-Founder and Director
 Education of Youth Advocacy Center

Chuck Caputo, MPS, CPHQ
 Director of CQI/Staff Training and Youth Development
 New York Foundling

Jane Feyder, MSW
 Coordinator of Youth Development
 New York Foundling

J. Identifying Factors Contributing to Positive Foster Parenting: How to Help Prevent Foster Home Disruption

This workshop will consist of a panel of foster parents who will describe their experiences and how they have learned to overcome and deal with child behavioral problems and systemic issues. A treatment intervention model to prevent foster home disruption will be presented. The treatment model identifies risk factors contributing to foster home disruption and assigns appropriate therapeutic interventions to promote successful outcomes.

Cynthia Blake, CSW
 Brooklyn Regional Director of Foster Care Services
 New York Foundling

Mel Schneiderman, Ph.D.
 Director, Vincent J. Fontana Center for Child Protection
 Director, Mental Health Services
 New York Foundling

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Critical Transitions in Child Welfare:

Please submit a separate registration form for each person.

Please Type or Print:

Name

Title

Agency/Organization

Address

City

State

Zip

Work Phone ()

Home Phone ()

Workshop Choices:

Please indicate your first, second and third choice for morning and afternoon sessions.

Workshop assignments will be given out at registration.

Morning Workshops 11:00 am– 12:30 pm

- ____A. Placement Experience and Outcomes for Children in Out-of-Home Care
- ____B. Does a Child’s Aggression in Foster Care Predict Post-Discharge Aggression?
- ____E. Family Team Conferences/Team Decision Making: Improving the Placement Decision Making Process for Children and Families
- ____F. Empowering Children and Families: Building Adoptions That Work
- ____G. Retaining Culture During Periods of Transitions in Child Welfare
- ____H. Advocating for the Special Education Needs of Children in Foster Care
- ____I. Preparing Youth for Adulthood and Living Outside of the Child Welfare System
- ____J. Identifying Factors Contributing to Positive Foster Parenting: How to Help Prevent Foster Home Disruption

Afternoon Workshops 1:45 pm– 3:15 pm

- ____A. Placement Experience and Outcomes for Children in Out-of-Home Care
- ____B. Does a Child’s Aggression in Foster Care Predict Post-Discharge Aggression?
- ____C. Attachment Theory: Can it Predict Successful Foster Home and Adoption Outcomes?
- ____D. Community Partnership for Better Results for Children and Families
- ____E. Family Team Conferences/Team Decision Making: Improving the Placement Decision Making Process for Children and Families
- ____F. Empowering Children and Families: Building Adoptions That Work
- ____G. Retaining Culture During Periods of Transition in Child Welfare
- ____I. Preparing Youth for Adulthood and Living Outside of the Child Welfare System

Registration Fee: \$40 (includes breakfast)

Make check payable to Vincent J. Fontana Center for Child Protection.

Please send check and registration form before October 26, 2007 to:

William Melendez, Conference Organizer

Vincent J. Fontana Center for Child Protection

27 Christopher Street, New York, New York 10014

Questions regarding registration?

Call (212) 660-1315, or email: William.Melendez@NYfoundling.org

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