2017 Adoptive Family & Youth Training Seminar
May 19—21, 2017

Crowne Plaza Atlanta SW—Peachtree City Hotel & Conference Center located at
201 Aberdeen Parkway
Peachtree City, Georgia 30269

Sponsored by the Georgia Department of Family & Children Services,
Social Services Administration Unit
And
Family Matters Consulting, Inc.
Greetings Everyone!

Welcome to the 2017 Adoptive Family and Youth Training Seminar known as The Ties That Bind: Parents & Children Strengthening the Bond. Adoption is a life-long process and as such, the needs of children and their families do not end when an adoption is finalized. For this reason, the Social Services Administration Unit understands the need for quality educational opportunities and continued support for our adoptive and foster-to-adopt families. Studies support the need for long-term post-adoption services for adoptive families, especially for families who adopt a child with special needs.

The success and well-being of adopted children and their families is enhanced when professionals truly understand the complex challenges presented by adoption. In order to make this seminar an even greater success, we have reached out to nationally recognized adoption professionals who are dedicated to providing quality services and making a positive impact on all members of the adoption circle. We are very excited to have these inspiring speakers be a part of this year’s event.

We are confident that we have put together a program that focuses on reality-based and trauma informed training to help our families deal with the attachment, emotional, behavioral, and developmental issues their adopted children are experiencing. Parents will equip themselves with useful strategies and effective tools for managing and understanding issues unique to adoptive families. Usually the best support comes from networking with other adoptive families who have experienced similar situations and overcome the same problems. We have also planned an exceptional program for the children and teens who will be attending, including “hands on” activities on topics relevant to each age group.

In addition to the informational times, families will have time to socialize and share in the laughter during the uplifting Kick-Off program with Family Fun Night on Friday evening. Then during the Family Night Celebration on Saturday night we will be “diving” into family fun with our “Under the Sea” themed dinner followed by “Bubbly” entertainment and exciting activities for everyone. Adoptive families will “ride the waves together” enjoying quality family time.

I would like to congratulate the planning committee and our contractor, Family Matters Consulting, who worked so hard together to create this outstanding program. I can assure you that this seminar will improve your knowledge and skill level and I know that you will leave re-charged and motivated to improve the quality of your family’s relationships.

Be safe and we look forward to greeting you in Peachtree City!

Adrian J. Owens
DHS DFCS Social Services Administration Unit Director
ABOUT THE SEMINAR

With a focus on the lifelong aspects of adoption, this annual training seminar celebrates, promotes and explores issues related to adoption. This weekend event provides information on some of the most important issues and concerns in adoption today. The primary focus of this training seminar is on supporting and strengthening adoptive families. Through this event, adoptive parents and foster to adopt parents currently with children placed for adoption are provided an excellent opportunity to increase their knowledge base and skills concerning adoption issues, services for adoptive families and the parenting of adopted children. More than 20 workshops will be offered on topics such as understanding developmental assessments, parenting children with complex medical issues, coping with attachment-related issues, guidance and behavioral concerns, identifying emotional triggers, special educational services, supporting children through developmental stages, and much more.

The Ties That Bind Training Seminar is truly a family centered event with all ages welcome. In addition to childcare, age-appropriate workshops and fun-filled activities will be provided for all children. There will also be a Teen Leadership Program that will provide teen participants with exciting opportunities for personal growth. Teens will be learning valuable life skills that will focus on making positive choices, overcoming obstacles, developing critical thinking, reducing violence, and setting goals. These programs enable parents to enjoy the seminar secure in the knowledge that their children are nearby, having a good time themselves.

To get the most out of this training seminar, please consider becoming a sponsor to help another family in their healing journey. Each year, new families join us at the seminar. Many of them are in crisis, feeling hopeless and alone. They leave this training filled with information, hope and support. Although every effort is made to try and keep this training event as affordable as possible, there are still many families who desperately want to join us, but simply cannot afford to come. As you review the seminar materials, please consider making a difference by becoming a sponsor of the Ties That Bind Parent Scholarship fund. Your gift will cover hotel expenses and seminar fees for families who could not afford to attend otherwise. Just go to www.ties-that-bind.org and click the “Gift certificate” button. No dollar amount is too small and every gift makes a difference.

This seminar is sponsored by:

Georgia Division of FAMILY & CHILDREN SERVICES
Social Services Administration Unit
FOSTER PARENT TRAINING CREDIT

Requests to provide foster parent training hours have been made. Please note that only adoptive parents who also provide foster care and/or foster to adopt parents that currently have children placed for adoption in their homes will be allowed to participate in this training event. In order to receive credits for foster parent training hours, participants MUST attend ALL seminar sessions including all workshops. Participants will be asked to sign an attendance roster during each session to receive credit hours. More information about these credits will be provided at the seminar.

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE SEMINAR

This training seminar has quickly become a favorite event for many adoptive families in Georgia. It is designed to support adoptive families and most importantly provide them with an opportunity to network with one another. Please review this seminar brochure thoroughly, complete all forms online, and forward the information to Family Matters Consulting, Inc. by Friday, April 28, 2017. You will be able to download and complete registration forms for this seminar online at www.ties-that-bind.org. Registration must be completed and deposits received by the deadline of April 28th. Please use the checklist on the registration information page to ensure that you have completed all of the requested documents.

Please note the “Parent Information & Seminar Policies” that you are encouraged to read. Completed registrations will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis, and space is limited so please register on time. Due to the popularity of this event and limited availability, preference will be given to first-time attendees who are receiving adoption assistance. This year’s Children and Youth program is limited to 250 children, and the activities are available ONLY to the children and teens of adoptive families who are registered. Limited spaces will be available for Adoption professionals who wish to attend this seminar and pay the full seminar rate (visit our website at www.ties-that-bind.org for rates and Registration form for Professionals.) Confirmation letters will be emailed out after April 30th to eligible participants whose registrations have been accepted. All registered attendees including children and teens MUST take part in the scheduled activities of the seminar. In order for us to be able to provide this level of high quality programming and training, we are required to obtain proper documentation for all attendees who are registered to participate. Adult attendees MUST be prepared to sign in for all workshops and keynote presentations and parents must be prepared to sign in their children and teens. Only family members that are registered attendees for this seminar will be allowed to participate in the weekend events. Please understand that we have to verify seminar attendance and participation in order to justify the use of these funds for the education and empowerment of our adoptive families. This quality assurance measure is in place to encourage families to be actively engaged and take full advantage of this informative seminar and networking opportunity. It is important that children and youth be supervised at all times. The seminar sponsors will not be responsible for any problems arising from unsupervised children attending the seminar or family night events. The seminar registration fee covers: adult workshops, children and teen programs, family entertainment on Friday night, Family Night Celebration on Saturday evening, and all meals from Saturday morning through Sunday noon.

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Friday, May 19th
4:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.  Early Registration in Front Hotel Lobby area
5:30 p.m.—7:15 p.m.  Dinner on Your Own
7:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m.  Ties That Bind Kick—Off and Family Meet & Greet in the Grand Ballroom

Saturday, May 20th
6:30 a.m.—8:00 a.m.  Breakfast with your family (overnight guests only will eat breakfast in hotel restaurant all others will have snacks in foyer areas)
7:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m.  Registration in Front Hotel Lobby area
7:30 a.m.—8:15 a.m.  Children & Teen Check-in (assigned rooms)
8:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m.  Exhibit Hall in pre-function area outside Grand Ballroom
8:30 a.m.—10:15 a.m.  Opening Session and Keynote Presentation in Grand Ballroom
10:30 a.m.—12:00 a.m.  Session 1 Workshops in rooms 122, 123, 124, 126 & 127
12:00 p.m.—1:00 p.m.  Lunch in hotel dining room/Exhibits in exhibit hall
1:15 p.m.—2:45 p.m.  Session 2 Workshops in rooms 122, 123, 124, 126 & 127
3:00 p.m.—4:30 p.m.  Session 3 Workshops in rooms 122, 123, 124, 126 & 127
4:30 p.m.—4:45 p.m.  Children & Teen pick up from assigned rooms
6:30 p.m.—8:00 p.m.  Teen Dinner check-in with staff for 14 years & older in foyer outside of the Grand Ballroom (Older teens will have dinner together and a special program in the New Event Hall. At 8:00 pm they need to be checked-out to rejoin their families)
6:30 p.m.—8:00 p.m.  Family Dinner and Entertainment in Grand Ballroom
8:00 p.m.  Teen pick-up from the New Event Hall to celebrate with families and participate in the remaining family night activities
8:00 p.m.—9:30 p.m.  Family Night Celebration in assigned areas (arts & crafts, inflatables, family photos, and family dance)

Sunday, May 21st
6:30 a.m.—8:30 a.m.  Breakfast with your family (overnight guests only will eat breakfast in hotel restaurant all others will have snacks in foyer areas)
8:00 a.m.—8:45 a.m.  Children & Teen Check-in (assigned rooms)
9:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m.  Session 4 Workshops in rooms 123, 124, 126 & 127, & Aberdeen Auditorium
11:00 a.m.—11:30 a.m.  Break (Please be sure to check out of your hotel room)
11:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m.  Closing Session Luncheon and Keynote Presentation in Grand Ballroom
1:30 p.m.  Children & Teen pick up from assigned rooms
KEYNOTE PRESENTERS

KEYNOTE ADDRESS * SATURDAY, May 20th—9:00 am during General Session

**Shenandoah Chefalo** is a child advocate and the author of *Garbage Bag Suitcase: A Foster Care Memoir*. This is the true story of Shenandoah’s wholly dysfunctional journey through a childhood with neglectful, drug- and alcohol addicted parents. She endured numerous moves in the middle of the night with just minutes to pack, multiple changes in schools, hunger, cruelty, and loneliness. Despite her early trauma and overcoming many adversities, Shen became part of the 3% of all foster care children who get into college and graduate. She became a successful business woman, got married, and had a daughter. Regardless of her numerous achievements in life she still suffers from the long-term effects of neglect, and the coping skills that she adapted in her childhood are not always productive in her adult life. In this Keynote address, she will not only share her journey to overcome her desolate childhood, but will also present grass-root solutions on how to revamp the broken foster care system. Harnessing the power of her story, Shenandoah Chefalo will motivate, educate, and create an open and honest discussion about being in the foster care system and the improvements that could possibly change the lives of children in care and the landscape of the country.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS * SUNDAY, May 21st—12:15 pm during Closing Luncheon

**Wayne Duehn, Ph.D.** is Professor Emeritus, School of Social Work, The University of Texas at Arlington. Dr. Duehn has considerable experience in working with adoptive and foster care families (and professionals) in both the public and private sectors. He has conducted state-wide training workshops for adoption/foster care families, child welfare personnel and residential treatment staff throughout North America. He serves as ongoing consultant/trainer to adoptive personnel and foster home developers of Casey Family Programs, Neighbor to Family Programs, and the Louisiana and Texas Departments of Child Protective Services. He is a co-author of *Beyond Sexual Abuse: The Healing Power of Adoptive Families*, which is an outgrowth of an ongoing educational program of The Three Rivers Adoptive Council, Pittsburgh, PA. This federally funded project is designed to develop educational materials to assist foster and adoptive families in parenting the sexually abused child. Most recently, Dr. Duehn has completed a state-wide sexual safety training project for the Iowa State Foster and Adoptive Parents Association. In his Keynote address entitled: *Let’s Get It Right: Safety— A Prerequisite For Healing*, Dr. Duehn will reexamine current “best practices” and policies in adoption and therapeutic practices that are critical in ensuring the safety of our children in care.
FRIDAY NIGHT KICK-OFF
Join us on Friday, May 19th at 7:30 pm in the Grand Ballroom for the Ties That Bind Kick-Off event. This will be a great time for families to mix and mingle during FAMILY FUN NIGHT! Families will be able to participate in a variety of activities including family-friendly “Minute to Win It” games, family challenges, and our 2nd Annual Family Talent Show. This is your family’s chance to really “ham it up” and show off your special talents. Be sure to sign up for this exciting event and let us know if your family or any family members are interested in participating. All “acts” must be appropriate for all ages, less than 3 minutes long, and provide their own props, supplies, instruments, and music. Remember that talent comes in many forms and we would like to celebrate the talent of our families with performances that reflect their accomplishments through hard work and dedication such as reading poetry, instrumental performance, dancing, singing, comedy, acting, etc. Refreshments will be served after the show.

FAMILY NIGHT CELEBRATION—Adoptive Families Riding the Waves Together!
After an inspiring day of learning and networking on Saturday, May 20th participants will want to attend our Family Night Dinner Celebration for all ages! This year we will take a dive “under the sea” with Adoptive Families Riding the Waves Together! There will be no troubles because...there will be bubbles! Join us for bubbles of fun presenting BubbleMania: Comedy….with a Drip! Featuring Casey Carle, comic bubble artist who has “burst” onto stages across the world...with a flair for showmanship and an infectious energy for bubbling – from the intricate to the massive. Come SEA beauty, wonder and excitement as Casey presents his amazing one-man show combining spontaneous comedy, jazzy music and brilliant bubbling. Among the many featured skills are fantastic fog-filled bubble sculptures, a cube bubble, funky foam, a bubble vortex cannon, bubble ping-pong, trapping an audience member (or two?) inside a gigantic soap bubble and thousands of bubbles filling the stage.

IN ONE INSTANT
Teen Safe Driving Program
Teens 14 & up will celebrate together with their own special dinner and program featuring the award-winning research-based video assembly entitled In One Instant. This program has demonstrated the ability to impact teens and their decision making in ways that can prevent tragic driving collisions. In One Instant makes distracted, reckless, and impaired driving personal and relevant. By engaging teens on an emotional level, this award-winning safe driving program teaches teens how to make smart choices to stay safe behind the wheel and influence their friends and family to do the same. After the show, families will want to “come out of their shells” and participate together in a variety of activities such as family photos, cooperative games, ocean trivia, arts & crafts, music, dancing and much more! So let the sea set you free and join us!
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<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Presented by</th>
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<tr>
<td>1A</td>
<td>Communicating With Children and Youth: Parents As The Experts</td>
<td>Jackie Hampton, LCSW &amp; Tanya Hampton, Ed. S.</td>
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<td>Professional practitioners, share their knowledge gained from research, varied experiences and experimentation. This workshop will engage participants as the experts based on their life experiences, to discuss strategies in communicating with young children and older youth. Methods of communication will be presented by the workshop leaders, to solicit the most successful strategies. Participants will be encouraged to share their positive and negative experiences with these techniques with a specific focus on communicating with adoptive and foster children.</td>
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<td>1B</td>
<td>Helping Without Harming: A Trauma Informed Approach to Coaching Families</td>
<td>Shenandoah Chefalo</td>
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<td>Research informs that trauma can have a significant, life-long impact when it is not mitigated. This presentation translates evidenced-based research regarding childhood trauma/adversity into skills which can be used immediately to mitigate the negative impacts of trauma. This presentation provides non-clinicians with skills to support better outcomes for children/youth and families.</td>
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<td>1C</td>
<td>Raising Children with Medical Needs: The Reality of What You Need to Know</td>
<td>Christina Mahoney, LCSW</td>
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<td>Are you aware of the systemic barriers leading to life-long challenges for adopted children with medical needs? Children with medical needs cannot be served in the same way as other children. This workshop provides valuable insight into the services available for this special population, barriers and considerations for permanency and adoption planning. Tips for advocating will be shared. The importance of foresight, Medicaid Waivers, SSI vs SSDI &amp; more will be discussed.</td>
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<td>1D</td>
<td>Building Bridges to Connection</td>
<td>Suzanne Clark, MA, LPC</td>
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<td>Parents Building Bridges to Connection isn't just about reunion. Building Bridges is about successfully incorporating birth family into the adoptive family through a variety of ways, many of which do not involve actually meeting the birth family in person. Connection to birth family is a vital component for all adoptive families. This workshop will discuss the reasons for that and how to successfully integrate an adopted person's past with their present.</td>
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<td>1E</td>
<td>Georgia Families 360˚ &amp; Adoption Assistance Services</td>
<td>Amber Hammontree, LPC &amp; Denole J Taylor, LMSW</td>
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<td>In March of 2014, children in the state Adoption Assistance program moved to an innovative, new health program called Georgia Families 360°. This workshop provides an overview of the program, the benefits, and services offered by it. This presentation will also introduce parents in the state Adoption Assistance program to various program staff and provide important contact information.</td>
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### WORKSHOPS *
**Session 2—Saturday, May 20th, 1:15 pm—2:45 pm**

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<tr>
<th>Workshop</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Presenter(s)</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2A</strong></td>
<td>Parenting Individuals with Developmental Delays and Disabilities</td>
<td>Presented by: Fanike-Kiara Olugbala, LCSW &amp; Dale Roberts</td>
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<td>All parents of children with developmental disabilities are at risk for high levels of distress. Children's maladaptive behaviors have been associated with increased parenting stress and psychological distress in parents. Results suggest clinical services aiming to support parents should include a focus on reducing problem behaviors in children with developmental disabilities. This workshop's focus is on educating parents on the symptoms, effective interventions, and possible resources available to them. <em>Attendees will be automatically registered for Part 2 of this workshop.</em></td>
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<td><strong>2B</strong></td>
<td>Whole-Hearted, Whole Brained Parenting: A Must for Adoptive Families</td>
<td>Presented by: Julie Beem, MBA</td>
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<td>So many children who are adopted come to their families through grief, loss, and early childhood trauma. Parents must be taught and empowered to use strategies that are both Whole-Hearted and Whole-Brained. In this workshop, caregivers and professionals who coach and support parents will explore the importance of modeling vulnerability and empathy, and strategies that nurture healthy brain development to build resiliency and promote healing in attachment-impaired, traumatized children.</td>
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<td><strong>2C</strong></td>
<td>Individualized Education Plan (IEP) and 504 Plans: Know Your Rights</td>
<td>Presented by: Kirk Lunde</td>
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<td>Knowledge is Power! The more you know about IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act), the better advocate you can be for your child. Parents will learn about 504 and IEP Plans, the differences between them, the rights each provides students and families, and the obligations of school districts to follow them. You will leave this workshop knowledgeable &amp; feeling empowered!</td>
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<td><strong>2D</strong></td>
<td>Strengthening Attachment Through Play: A Theraplay Journey for Parents</td>
<td>Presented by: Karen Buckwalter, LCSW</td>
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<td>Play is one of the many ways a secure attachment is formed between parents and their children. The dimensions of Theraplay including Structure, Engagement, Nurture, and Challenge teach parents to engage in play with a purpose. This workshop will teach parents ways to play that create positive changes in their children's brains and deepen connections with young children through adolescent age. The speaker is Director of Program Strategy at Chaddock, a multi-service agency providing a range of residential, educational, and community-based services.</td>
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<td><strong>2E</strong></td>
<td>How to Select the Right Therapist to Provide Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT)</td>
<td>Presented by: Jamie Bray, LCSW</td>
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<td>DBT is a therapy designed to help people suffering from mood disorders as well as those who need to change patterns of behavior that are not helpful. The presenter will provide parents with a brief overview of this therapy and what to look for when searching for a DBT Therapist. DBT has been highly researched and shown to be highly effective. The goal of the workshop is to demonstrate and leave parents with the skills to assist their children with managing strong emotions, stressful situations, and learning to get along with others.</td>
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WORKSHOPS *
Session 3—Saturday, May 20th, 3:00 pm—4:30 pm

3A Parenting Individuals with Developmental Delays and Disabilities
Presented by: Fanike-Kiara Olugbala, LCSW & Dale Roberts
All parents of children with developmental disabilities are at risk for high levels of distress. Children's maladaptive behaviors have been associated with increased parenting stress and psychological distress in parents. Results suggest clinical services aiming to support parents should include a focus on reducing problem behaviors in children with developmental disabilities. This workshop's focus is on educating parents on the symptoms, effective interventions, and possible resources available to them. *If you attended 2A you will be automatically registered for Part 2 of this workshop.

3B Advocating for Your Adopted Child At School: Trauma Informed Strategies That Work
Presented by: Julie Beem, MBA
Adoptive parents are often at a loss for how to help their children at school. Trauma is widely not considered when trying to understand a child's unique behaviors and learning struggles. Yet a significant number of adopted children have experienced Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) that hamper their school success. This workshop will focus on trauma-informed strategies that can be implemented with or without an IEP and will help the child feel safe and connected, get regulated, and learn.

3C How Do I Avoid Parental Burnout and Compassion Fatigue
Presented by: Dr. Laklieshia Izzard, EdD, LPC
While parenting is a very rewarding role it can also bring about many challenges that may take a toll on parents. The emotional and physical demands involved with parenting can strain even the most resilient person. It is vital for parental health that parents learn how to appropriately care for themselves. The workshop will focus on Self-Care tips, Stress Management techniques, and Effective therapies that can assist parents with managing the stress of parenting. Parents, you will leave this workshop with less stress.

3D I Thought It Was Just Me: The Journey from Surviving to Thriving Post Adoption Depression
Presented by: Judy Skaer and Lissa Bowen
Two adoptive mothers (foster/private/open) share their journey and experiences with post-adoption depression (PADS), burnout, and secondary trauma. They will share their stories, struggles and strategies for surviving (barely), to thriving in their families and lives. You will leave with a sense of belonging (you are not alone), resources for PADS and secondary trauma, and an individualized self-care plan (with help from a health & wellness coach) that will help you stay healthy and positive.

3E Stuck In the Yuck of Trauma and How to Heal From It
Presented by: Janice Turber, LPC
Most of us have been traumatized to some degree. Experiencing trauma can be a negative, life-changing event, but healing from that trauma can be life changing in a totally different and positive way. This workshop will give you a blueprint to identify your trauma and define ways to set out on a journey to heal from that trauma. In school we are taught a lesson then given a test. Life gives us a test which then teaches us a lesson. What will your life lesson be?
## WORKSHOPS *
### Session 4—Sunday, May 21st, 9:00 am—11:00 am

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<th>Workshop Title</th>
<th>Presenter(s)</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>4A</strong> What Is Trauma Informed Adoption Practice? (And What It Is Not)</td>
<td>Presented by: Wayne Duehn, Ph.D.</td>
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<td>Many adoption programs purport to deliver trauma informed care, but do they?</td>
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<td>This workshop will explore the essential elements of trauma informed care</td>
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<td>and point out the “therapeutic” approaches which run counter to trauma</td>
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<td>informed practices. Critical to trauma informed care is the incorporation</td>
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<td>of recent findings related to the effects of trauma on the neurobiology of the</td>
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<td>brain. Participants will receive tools that guide the process of trauma</td>
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<td>resolution. This workshop is interactive and stimulating.</td>
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<td><strong>4B</strong> Mindset Matters: Raising Complex Kids With Calm and Confidence</td>
<td>Presented by: Elaine Taylor-Klaus,</td>
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<td>PCC, CPCC</td>
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<td>Life can be challenging and stressors more difficult when kids are struggling</td>
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<td>with issues that interfere with learning and relationships. Regardless of the</td>
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<td>underlying reasons for these challenges, parents are the missing link to</td>
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<td>effective management. Parents can minimize meltdowns, improve communication,</td>
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<td>and make family life more manageable by modifying their approach. The coach-</td>
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<td>approach offers a new way of addressing old problems, teaching parents to</td>
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<td>raise kids with calm and confidence, fostering independence and guiding them,</td>
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<td>step by step, to reach their full potential.</td>
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<td><strong>4C</strong> Insight Into Children’s Temperaments</td>
<td>Presented by: Michael Carpenter, Ph.D.</td>
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<td>Dr. Carpenter is an educational consultant and Trainer who has worked with</td>
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<td>school systems over 20 years. This interactive workshop will present an</td>
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<td>overview of emotional intelligence skills and how parents can enhance their</td>
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<td>children’s empathy and other EQ skills. This open discussion workshop is</td>
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<td>designed to provide parents with a framework for appreciating and supporting</td>
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<td>the individual differences of children. The Presenter will share strategies</td>
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<td>that reduce behavior problems and employ problem-solving techniques.</td>
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<td><strong>4D</strong> Managing Madness: A Mom’s Panel</td>
<td>Presented by: Rose Stagemeyer,</td>
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<td>Rachel DeBruce, Pamela Jones, and Heather Colvin</td>
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<td>Four moms will share their experiences as adoptive moms who have adopted</td>
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<td>complex children. They will share how they found success with their children</td>
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<td>who had sometimes been “doomed” to fail. These Moms have important things to</td>
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<td>share that will benefit all parents. These resourceful mothers could be what</td>
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<td>you’ve been looking for to obtain direction, support, knowledge, and resources</td>
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<td>to be your BEST self for your family.</td>
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<td><strong>4E</strong> Men Behaving “Dadly”: A Dad’s Panel</td>
<td>Presented by: Kirk Lunde, Brian</td>
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<td>Stagemeyer, and TBA</td>
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<td>Dads impact a child’s life as much as moms. This panel of adoptive dads will</td>
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<td>share their wealth of experiences and knowledge including open adoption,</td>
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<td>kinship adoption, foster care, single parenting, adopting teens, working with</td>
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<td>school systems, and being involved in your child’s life every day. They will</td>
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<td>share the joys and challenges of parenting by adoption from a dad’s</td>
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<td>perspective. They are witty, funny, and oh, so serious about being dads.</td>
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<td>You will leave feeling empowered, inspired, invigorated, and with strategies/</td>
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<td>tools for being the best dad/parent you can be.</td>
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CHILDREN’S PROGRAM

For many adoptive families with children, making arrangements to attend a training seminar may be difficult. For this reason The Ties That Bind Seminar provides quality infant care and age appropriate activities for children of all ages, which is included in your registration fee. By providing these services parents may attend valuable training sessions while still being able to check in on their children. All of the planned activities will take into consideration the ages and developmental levels of those registered to attend. Some of the highlights of this year’s children’s program will include:

- **Self-Development Workshops:** Through engaging cooperative games and experiential learning activities children will learn how to cope with bullying, build self-esteem, and identify feelings. Workshops will encourage cooperation, empathy for others, and understanding emotions.

- **“Get Into Character” TeamCapades:** Based on the Character First elementary curriculum, children will explore character traits such as compassion, flexibility, responsibility, and self-control. Children will work in teams to complete challenges in which they must show these character traits to win!

- **Outdoor Festival** As in the past years, O’Brien Productions will be providing another special event for our children. Children of all ages will enjoy outdoor fun on a variety of large inflatables like the Giant Slide & Giant Maze. Younger children will also be able to ride the train around the grounds.

- New this year, **My Reptile Guys** will entertain preschool and elementary age children with their creepy and crawly critters. Children will be able to learn about and pet twelve reptiles, including a Burmese python, red foot tortoise, blue tongue skink, bearded dragon, and a jungle carpet python.

- Children pre-K age and older will enjoy **Dave Holland and Beatin' Path Rhythms** as they present “GloboDRUM.” Through drumming, song and audience interaction, children will learn how rhythm is used around the world as a tool for communication bringing communities closer together, & celebrating key life events. GloboDRUM incorporates live performance with multi-media experience designed for maximum inspirational impact!

- **Bruce Bernstein** returns this year to share his love of music as he takes preschool and elementary age children to the Big Top! This puppet show focuses on six different “ani-humes” (animals with human characteristics) who perform in an exciting circus.

- **Wendy Bennett** returns this year to entertain preschoolers and elementary age kids with her delightful musical storytelling. Wendy’s amazing voice and her puppets bring storybook characters to life. Children are involved with plenty of audience participation. Wendy encourages children to experience books in a fun interactive way!

- **Laughing Matters** returns to present **Improvisation for Conflict Resolution**. Improvisational comedy helps upper elementary children learn important conflict resolution techniques to solve problems without hurting anyone. Children suggest problems for the actors to resolve & role-play characters to explore how & why conflicts begin.

- **Corporals Paul Smilley and Monica Lacourly,** School Resource Officers with the local Peachtree City Police Department, will present upper elementary age children with some internet safety strategies, including what is safe to share on the internet, how to deal with cyberbullying, and how to safely handle unwanted or inappropriate texts, e-mails, or instant messages. Children will learn to make smart choices about what they share online.
TEEN PROGRAM

Teens will enjoy their own Youth Training Seminar designed specifically for their age group. All youth participants this year will enjoy an exciting opportunity for personal growth as well as the opportunity to interact and form connections with other teens. Throughout the weekend, teens will participate in a series of workshops focused overall on developing their leadership skills and self-awareness. Some highlights this year include:

Self-Development Workshops: This year’s teen workshops focus on making healthy choices about peers, relationships, food, and drug awareness. Teens will learn strategies for thinking about the positive and negative consequences of their choices, whether these are day-to-day choices or life-changing choices.

Dave Holland and Beatin’ Path Rhythms present “GloboDRUM.” Through drumming, song and audience interaction, teens will learn how rhythm is used around the world as a tool for communication bringing communities closer together, and celebrating important life events. GloboDRUM incorporates live performance with multi-media experience designed for maximum educational and inspirational impact!

Corporal Keith Isaac, School Resource Officer with the Peachtree City Police Department, will demonstrate the dangers of distracted and impaired driving. Cpl. Isaac will also practice with teen participants safe procedures and proper etiquette needed during a traffic stop.

Laughing Matters returns to present Improvisation for Conflict Resolution. Improvisational comedy helps teens learn important conflict resolution techniques that solve problems without hurting anyone involved. Teens suggest problems for the actors to resolve and role-play characters from their own lives to explore how and why conflicts begin. This program is a hands-on approach to resolving conflict.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

M.K. Durand Farley is a Certified Professional Life & Career Coach, Author, and internationally renowned Motivational Speaker. In his presentation, “Is It Worth It?” Durand will use humor, compassion and insight to present basic drug education, put peer pressure in perspective, and illustrate how to maintain, or even re-claim, an anti-drug existence. Durand will help teens realize that while the majority of teens do not use drugs, many non-users are simply too quiet. Teens will learn to speak up about staying free!

Dalia Kinsey, RD, LD, Nutritionist with the Georgia Department of Public Health, will present “Savor the Flavor of Eating Right” and show how to ditch the diet mentality and develop your unique healthy eating style with the help of evidenced based nutrition guidelines. Dalia will teach teens how to make healthy food choices.
REGISTRATION INFORMATION

PLEASE READ DIRECTIONS CAREFULLY! REGISTRATION PROCEDURES MAY HAVE CHANGED FROM PREVIOUS YEARS AND ONLINE OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE.

REGISTRATION FORMS & FEES

MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN April 28, 2017 BY MAIL OR EMAIL by downloading registration forms AT WWW.TIES-THAT-BIND.ORG. Online payment options are preferred and available via Paypal. However, if you prefer to mail your registration form be sure to mail in payment for seminar fees by the stated deadline.

Complete ALL forms included in this registration packet or online according to the instructions given. Please use the following as a checklist to ensure that you submit a complete registration packet:

- Family Registration Form (Be sure to complete both sides and indicate your first, second and third session choices as well as days of attendance)
- Child/Teen Information Form (Children of Adoptive families only, complete one form for each child)
- Consent for Participation (Children of Adoptive families only, complete one form for each child)
- Prescription Medication Administration (for Children of Adoptive families only, complete one form for each child if needed)
- Check, money order or credit card information for Seminar Registration fee and room deposit to reserve hotel room (See list of fees below)
- Limited spaces will be available for Adoption professionals who wish to attend this seminar and pay the full seminar rate (visit our website at www.ties-that-bind.org to download the Registration form for Professionals and view their rates.)

SEMINAR PLANNING SERVICES: Family Matters Consulting, Inc. is providing coordination and planning of this seminar as a service of the Georgia Department of Human Services, Division of Family & Children’s Services, Social Services Administration Unit. If you have any questions about the seminar please contact:

Toll Free 877.669.0634 OR Visit www.ties-that-bind.org
Atlanta area: 770.881.7789
Fax: 770.818.5815

If sending by mail return all registration forms and documents to:
Family Matters Consulting, Inc.
320 Town Center Ave, Suite C-11, PMB 121
Suwanee, GA 30024

REGISTRATION WILL NOT BE COMPLETE UNTIL PAYMENT IS MADE AND ALL REGISTRATION FORMS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED.

Seminar registrations MUST be completed on the registration form. The hotel will NOT take individual reservations for this seminar. All hotel reservations and hotel cancellations will be made through the seminar planning committee. No one will be permitted to make their hotel reservations directly. Confirmations will be sent out by email after April 30, 2017. Please Note: Preference will be given to families who have never attended this conference before and registration is based on a first come first serve basis.

SEMINAR REGISTRATION FEES: Adoptive Families—$45.00 per family of 5 or less and $65.00 per family with 6 or more. Late Registration fee after April 28th will be $75.00 per family.

CHECK, MONEY ORDER or PayPal will be accepted for seminar registration payments. Please make checks payable to Family Matters Consulting, Inc.

REFUND POLICY: Family Matters Consulting, Inc. will gladly issue full refunds for cancellations made in writing by 5 pm on Saturday, April 29, 2017.
HOTEL REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

- Hotel rooms are $135.00 per night per room, which includes hot breakfast, state and local taxes and the newly imposed State of Georgia hotel fee.
- Please complete all required information on the Registration Form and complete a child/teen registration form for each child/teen attending.
- **All hotel reservations and cancellations will be made through the seminar planning committee.** Once your registration has been confirmed we will finalize your hotel reservations. The hotel will **NOT** take individual reservations for this seminar!
- **NOTE:** Two fees will be required for your registration if you are reserving a room: the first one is for the seminar registration fee (either $45 for families of 5 or less or $65 for families of 6 or more) and must be submitted by check or money order made payable to Family Matters Consulting, Inc. or online using the PayPal link on the website. **The second fee is to reserve your hotel accommodations** and guarantee your hotel room during the seminar. **If you use the online registration method you may use the PayPal link on our website to pay all fees by credit card.** This is the preferred method of payment. You may also fax your credit card information to 770-818-5815. For security purposes please do **not** email credit card information. However, using the PayPal link is secure. **If you do not have a credit card, to reserve your room we must still collect a $35.00 room deposit for each room reservation by check or money order, also made payable to Family Matters Consulting.**
- Upon Check-In, the hotel will require you to present a credit card or deposit to insure payment of any incidental charges.
- When the registration process has ended (after April) you will receive a confirmation letter stating whether or not your registration has been accepted for the seminar. The confirmation letters will be emailed after April 30th.

ACCOMMODATIONS:

Crowne Plaza Atlanta SW—Peachtree City Hotel & Conference Center
201 Aberdeen Parkway
Peachtree City, Georgia 30269
770.487.2666


DIRECTIONS TO THE Crowne Plaza Atlanta SW—Peachtree City:

**From the North:** I-85 South to Exit 61 (Peachtree City/Fairburn.) Left onto Hwy 74 South. Follow for 11 Miles turn and then turn left on to Aberdeen Parkway and then left again into the property entrance.

**From the South:** I-85 North to Exit 47 (Peachtree City/Newnan.) Right on Hwy. 34. Ten miles to the intersection of Hwy 34 and Hwy. 74. Turn left on Hwy. 74 and go about 1 mile before turning right onto Aberdeen Parkway and then left again into property entrance.

Among hotels in Atlanta, the Crowne Plaza Atlanta SW provides the perfect balance of relaxation and convenience.
We are delighted to be working with your child(ren) and youth while you enjoy the seminar. We have many exciting events planned for the Children and Youth portion of this seminar. Much planning and thought has gone into preparation of the program activities, as well as finding experienced staff to take care of your child's/youth's needs during the conference.

In order to meet your child's/teen's needs the following tips may be helpful:

- Please be aware that all registered children and teens will be required to participate in the children's program and the youth/teen training seminar. Minors must be chaperoned at all times while you are attending the adult seminar workshops. If you have children or teens onsite that will not be participating in the Children and Teen portion of the conference then you will be responsible for providing their meals and proper supervision at all times. Teens should NOT be allowed to stay in their hotel rooms without parent supervision during planned meeting times. If they are registered to attend then they must participate in the planned programs.

- All children and youth who are registered to attend the seminar will be assigned to an age appropriate Classroom. Placement will be based on your child/teen's current age. This includes those teens in middle school and high school. If you have any concerns about your child's room placement please contact Ami Taharka at 912-507-8596.

- Depending on the age breakdowns of those attending, siblings may be separated. However, they will have access to one another for short periods of time if a child needs comforting. If you have any concerns regarding this policy please note this on your child’s information form.

- To insure the safety of all children and teens attending the seminar they MUST BE ESCORTED BY THEIR PARENTS to and from assigned classrooms. Each Room Coordinator will have a Sign In/Out Sheet outside of each classroom. You must sign your name, your child's/teen's name and the time you leave your child/youth. When you pick your child/teen up, please sign-out by putting the time that you take your child/youth. This includes those youth in middle school and high school who will be participating in the teen seminar.

- ONLY PARENTS may sign children/youth out -- not siblings. Once your child/youth has been signed in they must remain with the childcare staff and youth leaders until a parent has signed them out.

- Please make sure that your child/youth is dressed in appropriate and comfortable play clothing. Please provide an extra set of clothing for children under the age of 3.

- Please make sure that all infants/toddlers have diapers, wipes, bottles, food, formula, etc. (snacks/meals will be provided for older toddlers)

- Youth will not be allowed to return to your hotel room during planned activities unless signed out by parent.

- Please allow enough time before morning workshops to feed your child/youth and then escort them to their assigned classroom. All children/youth must be signed out following the last workshop each day.
• Please let us know if your child has any food allergies or has any other special needs (i.e., disabilities, medical conditions, behavior issues) that the staff needs to be made aware of. Attach an additional sheet if necessary.

• If you have concerns regarding the placement of your child/teen in a certain age group or issues relating to your child/youth’s functioning level please contact Ami Taharka at 912-507-8596. Children and Youth will not be grouped or labeled based on their disability and/or specific diagnosis; however, we will have a separate VSP (Very Special People) room available for those families who may prefer that their children/youth receive more individualized care or have more severe health issues.

• In order to meet your child’s/teen’s needs every parent must complete the **Child/Youth Information form** (one for each child/teen) which gives us specific information about your child/teen. Parents must also complete the **Consent Form for Participation** in the Children and Youth Programs for the Ties that Bind Training Seminar. Please make sure that all required forms are completely filled out with all pertinent information. Verify that your contact information is legible in case we have any questions regarding your child/youth needs.

• If your child requires medication, you must complete a Prescription Medicine Administration Form. **All medications must be in original prescription bottle with the child’s name, doctor, dosage and times to be dispensed. All prescription drugs must be turned in to the nurse on staff.**

• If we need to come and get you during a workshop we will go to the session that you have indicated you will be attending and hold up your name. This is to avoid interrupting the speaker for that session. Please go to your child’s room as quickly as possible. We will come and get you immediately if your child/youth is ill, injured, or if a situation arises in which your child’s needs are such that we are unable to meet them adequately.

• Plenty of toys, activities and entertainment will be provided for your children and youth. Please do not allow them to bring personal items/toys/electronics into childcare area unless it is absolutely necessary to comfort your child. Staff will not be responsible for any personal items.

• This year all teens 14 years and older will enjoy a special teen night dinner and entertainment with their peers on Saturday evening and must be signed in and out at designated times and locations. More details will be provided at check-in.

• **During the program breaks and Family Night activities NO youth will be allowed to leave the designated area without being accompanied by their parents. This includes the swimming pool and outdoor recreation facilities (i.e., basketball courts, tennis courts, etc.)**

**PLEASE COMPLETE ALL THE APPLICABLE REGISTRATION FORMS FOR EACH OF YOUR CHILDREN/TEENS. THIS WILL INSURE THAT YOUR REGISTRATION FOR THE SEMINAR WILL BE COMPLETE AND SUBMITTED ON TIME. IF WE ARE MISSING INFORMATION AND/OR FEES WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PROCESS YOUR REGISTRATION FOR THIS SEMINAR.**
Crowne Plaza Atlanta SW—Peachtree City
Hotel & Conference Center
201 Aberdeen Parkway,
Peachtree City, GA 30269. USA
770-487-2666

Directions
- From Interstate 85, South of Atlanta, Take exit 61
- Follow GA Hwy 74 south to Peachtree City for 11 miles
  Turn left onto Aberdeen Parkway then left into Crowne Plaza Atlanta SW.,
  There is a sign that says Aberdeen Village.