



NYS Citizens' Coalition for Children

21st Annual Foster Care
and Adoption Conference

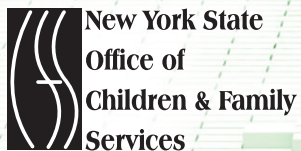
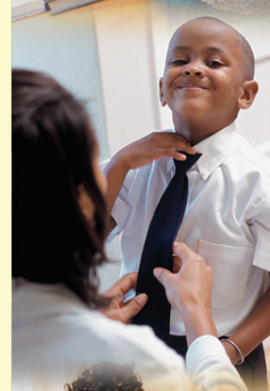
Moving Forward!

Featuring

Joyce Thomas
Francine Cournos
Gregory Keck

May 7–8th, 2010

Marriott Hotel ▲ Albany, N.Y.



New York State
Office of
Children & Family
Services

David A. Paterson, Governor
Gladys Carrión, Esq., Commissioner

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Moving Forward!, our 21st annual statewide conference, will offer the most current research and practice information for parents and professionals via dynamic, nationally-known keynote speakers and experts in child welfare and related fields in 30 different workshop presentations. Child welfare is a challenging field but one where the possibility of progress inspires us all – whether on the implementation of statewide policy to improve families' lives or on the individual level where a child getting herself independently dressed for school can fill a parent with joy. This conference will give you an opportunity to ensure you are current on law and policy as well as learn new skills and strategies to work with families and children. It is also an opportunity to gain perspective, network with other parents and professionals and have some fun. As noted by one of last year's participants, "I will go back to parent my difficult children where they are, not where it is expected for them to be. I always leave feeling recharged with renewed purpose."

ACCOMMODATIONS

The conference will be held at the Marriott Hotel in Albany, NY. *The hotel must receive reservations no later than April 16th, 2010* to receive the special conference rate of \$104 plus applicable taxes. Reservations made after that date are subject to availability only.

Albany Marriott Hotel

189 Wolf Road / Albany, N.Y. 12205
518-458-8444 / 800-443-8952

USEFUL INFORMATION

- ▲ Extra copies of the conference brochure are available from the NYSCCC office or online at www.nysccc.org.
- ▲ Temperature in conference rooms can vary widely, so be sure to bring a sweater or jacket to ensure your comfort.
- ▲ A limited number of exhibit tables are available. There will also be tables available to display free resource materials. Contact NYSCCC for details regarding reservations and fees.

- ▲ The conference will feature a large adoption and foster care bookstore plus sales of many popular NYSCCC items. VISA and MasterCharge credit cards and checks are welcome.
- ▲ Children are not permitted to attend workshops and plenary sessions. We appreciate your cooperation with this necessity.
- ▲ Please silence all cell phones during conference sessions! We have received many complaints about cell phone disturbances.
- ▲ Continuing Education credit is available for \$15. See registration information for details.
- ▲ Recordings of conference proceedings will be for sale at the conference and afterwards. The recordings provide an excellent opportunity to "attend" all of the workshops and to share the information with others.
- ▲ Door prizes will be awarded at the closing session! You must be present to win.



ABOUT NYSCCC

The New York State Citizens' Coalition for Children provides information, support and advocacy to foster and adoptive parents and professionals. We believe *every* child has the right to a permanent, loving family. Our activities include:

- ▲ adoption and foster care reform
- ▲ administrative and legislative advocacy
- ▲ parent group development and support
- ▲ information and referral services
- ▲ education and training



NYS Citizens' Coalition for Children

Sarah Gerstenzang, Executive Director
501 Fourth Street / Brooklyn, N.Y. 11215
607-272-0034 / fax: 888-482-9112
info@nysccc.org / www.nysccc.org

FEATURED SPEAKERS

Joyce A. Thomas is the Regional Administrator for Region II of the *Administration for Children and Families* (ACF), a division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Ms. Thomas provides executive leadership and direction to ensure coordination and integration of activities among Head Start, child care, foster care and adoption, child support enforcement, youth services and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) programs. Prior to her employment with ACF, Ms. Thomas served as the Commissioner of the State of Connecticut's Department of Social Services.

Francine Cournos, M.D., is a Professor of Clinical Psychiatry at Columbia University where she teaches, conducts research, and runs a program for people with severe mental illness. She has published many scientific articles and book chapters, but in 1999 she published something much more personal, a memoir entitled *City of One*, which describes her experiences as an orphan and child in foster care.

Gregory C. Keck, PhD, is the founder and director of the Attachment and Bonding Center of Ohio. Dr Keck specializes in working with adoptive families whose children experienced early trauma. He is also the co-author with Regina Kupecky, LSW of *Parenting the Hurt Child: Helping Adoptive Families Heal and Grow* (2002) and *Adopting the Hurt Child: Hope for Families with Special Needs Kids* (1995) and author of *Parenting Adopted Adolescents: Understanding and Appreciating Their Journeys* (2009).

Save the Dates!

Next Year: May 6-7, 2011

22nd Annual NYSCCC
Foster Care and
Adoption Conference
Albany, N.Y.



SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

Thursday, May 6, 2010

7:00 p.m. NYSCCC Annual Meeting
For Parent Group Representatives
and NYSCCC members

Friday, May 7, 2010

8:00 a.m. Registration/Exhibits

9:00 a.m. Opening Session
Welcome

Stewart Blechner
President, NYSCCC

Keynote Presentation
Joyce Thomas with an
introduction by *Junius Scott*

10:00 a.m. Beverage Break

10:30 a.m. Workshop Period 1

12:00 p.m. Lunch
Plenary Address
Foster Care: A Personal and
Professional Perspective
Francine Cournos

1:30 p.m. Workshop Period 2

2:50 p.m. Beverage Break

3:15 p.m. Workshop Period 3

5:00 p.m. Reception and Music by FLAME!

Saturday, May 8, 2010

8:00 a.m. Registration/Exhibits

8:30 a.m. Workshop Period 4

9:50 a.m. Beverage Break

10:05 a.m. Workshop Period 5

11:40 a.m. Workshop Period 6

1:00 p.m. Lunch

Closing Session
Sarah Gerstenzang
Executive Director, NYSCCC

Closing Address
Gregory Keck

2010: Moving Forward!

Friday, May 7, 2010



WORKSHOP PERIOD 1 ▲ 10:30–11:50 a.m.

1. Medication Use and Children in Foster Care

Many children in foster care are prescribed medications for a variety of behavioral issues. Come learn about commonly prescribed medications, their possible side effects and how these medications are used. *Brian Cowles*

2. Rolling out the Welcome Mat to LGBT Families

Finding an agency that is truly welcoming and supportive to prospective lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) parents is often a great challenge. Come learn essential steps to make policies and practices more inclusive, culturally competent and effective when working with the LGBT community. *Ellen Kahn*

3. The National Survey of Adoptive Parents

Learn about the first nationally representative survey of adoptive families across adoption types including information on the characteristics, adoption experiences, and well-being of children and their families. *Sharon Vandivere and Karin Malm*

4. Parent Group Cracker Barrel – 3 sessions in one!

Learn from the experts! Parent group leaders from across the state will do presentations on marketing, advocacy, member recruitment/retention and more. *Marie Dolfi, Antionette Sumter Cotman, Linda Finnerson and others (Susie Collins, moderator)*

5. A Parent for Every Child: Successes and Challenges

Learn about a new federally-funded multi-system effort to find families for at least 50 youth who reside in an OMH or OMRDD residence or an OCFS juvenile justice facility. Barriers encountered by youth and permanency resources and successes will be discussed. *Michael Carroll*

WORKSHOP PERIOD 2 ▲ 1:30–2:50 p.m.

6. Reducing the Impact of Loss and Trauma: Part 1

Strategies will be shared to address trauma. Attendees will also be asked what has worked for them with children in their care so that collective wisdom of the group emerges. *Francine Cournos*

7. Home Assessments and Child Matching with LGBT Parents:

Specific, practical suggestions will be offered to help social workers conduct non-biased, helpful, LGBT-competent home assessments, and to talk to children and youth about the potential of being placed with a same-sex couple or LGBT parent. *Ellen Kahn*

8. Adoption Subsidies and Tax Credits

Can an adoption subsidy increase after an adoption? What happens to the subsidy if the child leaves the home? Can foster parents claim children in their care on their taxes? Do parents have to pay taxes on adoption subsidies? Come find the answers to these questions and more from NYS and national experts. *Sallie D'Asaro and Josh Kroll*

9. High-tech Search and Reunion

From Facebook to blogs to websites dedicated to search – explore the pros and cons of utilizing these resources. Information will be shared by a marketing and communications consultant who was adopted. *April Dinwoodie*

10. Adopting from Within

How can professionals adopt youth they have worked with? Hear from parents who have done just this! Learn guidelines to make this work for agencies, prospective adoptive parents and youth. *Paul Snellgrove, Iris Johnson, Mary Keane, Stephen McCall, and Susan Grundberg (Moderated by Pat O'Brien)*

WORKSHOP PERIOD 3 ▲ 3:15–4:35 p.m.

11. Reducing the Impact of Loss and Trauma: Part 2

Strategies will be shared to address trauma. Attendees will also be asked what has worked for them with children in their care so that collective wisdom of the group emerges. *Francine Cournos*

12. You Want ME, a Foster Parent, to Supervise a Visit?

Learn the benefits and basic principles of visit coaching as well as suggestions as to how to make visits more meaningful for parents and children. *Erika Brunelle*

13. Critical Decision-Making

When is a child ready to go home safely? When is it time to terminate parental rights? Collecting information, questions to ask, and awareness of how personal and professional histories affect the decision-making process will be discussed. Bring your own challenging situations to this workshop! *Barry Chaffkin*

14. Shared Parenting with a Parent who has Mental Illness

An introduction to some basic information regarding mental illness, to the processes common in families where mental illness exists, and to the needs of children and youth whose parents have a mental illness, including the need to have their parents accorded respect, and to maintain a connection with their birth families. *Diana Shultz*

15. Building a Bridge

Learn how to use true stories written by parents, foster parents and youth to build collaboration for the benefit of children in foster care. This train-the-trainer workshop will give you tools to use to train and support staff, foster parents and birth parents in your agency or county. *Nora McCarthy*

Saturday, May 8, 2010

WORKSHOP PERIOD 4 ▲ 8:30–9:50 a.m.

16. Attachment-focused Intervention: Part 1

Learn how to create nurturing therapeutic and home environments to enhance parent-child attachment.

Gregory Keck

17. Health: The Foundation of an Effective Transition Plan

This session explores the impact disability, chronic illness and special health care needs have when preparing for adulthood. Strategies for supporting the development of health skills both at home and within the school-based transition plan for students with disabilities will be discussed. *Michele Juda and Tina Beauparlant*

18. Impact of Substance Abuse during Pregnancy on a Child

How do the use of drugs and alcohol by a pregnant parent impact a child during his lifetime? What can a parent do to remediate the effects? *Elaine Schulte*

19. Creating Adoption Ceremonies

Whether a child is moving into a new family or being adopted by their foster family, it is important to recognize that commitment with a ceremony and “paperwork” for the parents and child to sign. Come away with practical information to use in your work Monday morning! *Maris Blechner*

20. Having a Voice and a Choice: Legal Options for Kin and Fictive Kin

What are the options for friends and relatives when a child is removed from his or her family? How do you make a good decision about which option is best? *Margaret Burt*

WORKSHOP PERIOD 5 ▲ 10:05–11:25 a.m.

21. Attachment-focused Intervention: Part 2

Learn how to create nurturing therapeutic and home environments to enhance parent-child attachment.

Gregory Keck

22. Understanding Supports and Services Administered by OMRDD

An awareness of the service delivery system, eligibility criteria and determination process, and available services to qualifying individuals is critical when preparing young adults with disabilities to fully participate in adult life in the community after high school. *Mary Jo Herbert*

23. Learning Disabilities: Why Doesn't your Child Understand What You Say?

What is a learning disability? How is it diagnosed and how can a parent help their child overcome challenges? *Elaine Schulte*

24. In-home Assessments: Supporting Children and their Foster Parents

Learn about the Westchester Institute for Human Development's innovative program to determine a child's needs early in a placement and develop a collaborative working relationship with the child's foster parent. A foster parent who has participated in the process will also join the discussion.

Wendy Breitner and Lisa Katz

25. Freeing a Child for Adoption I – Termination of Parental Rights

A discussion of the legal grounds for termination of parental rights including how the court proceedings work, potential suspended judgments and appeals as well as the rights of foster parents and relatives. *Margaret Burt*

WORKSHOP PERIOD 6 ▲ 11:40–1:00 p.m.

26. Parenting Adopted Adolescents

Strategies and insights to manage tough situations in your family from this attachment expert and father of two sons adopted in adolescence. *Gregory Keck*

27. The Adoptive Family Grows Up

A long view of the impact of adoption and the developmental stages of adoptive families. *Maris Blechner*

28. Is it Depression or a Normative Stage of Adoption?

Children who are adopted deal with issues of loss at each developmental stage. Come hear about typical child development and when grieving and depression is normative in the life of the child who is adopted. Two adults who were adopted will contribute to the discussion from their own experience. *Sue D'Aversa*

29. Five Questions to Guide Permanency Planning for Children with Special Needs

How do you move from the vision to reality? This interactive session will provide 5 Key Questions that help workers, families, youth and advocates think about achieving permanence. Real-life success stories that resulted from the diligent application of these questions will be shared. *Sue Badeau*

30. Freeing a Child for Adoption II – Surrenders and Adoptions

A discussion of the legal process of surrendering a foster child for adoption, including conditional surrenders as well as the process for the subsequent adoption. *Margaret Burt*



**PLEASE JOIN US
FRIDAY EVENING!**

Reception with food and music with *FLAME!*
5:00 p.m.

SPECIAL EVENT

FLAME

Friday, May 7, 2010

Back by popular demand, *FLAME* joins us once again – after a world tour and a feature on ABC news! *FLAME* came to together as a band in 2003 in Lexington Center, Fulton County Chapter, NYSARC, Inc. The band is made up of people with developmental and/or physical disabilities, including autism, Down Syndrome, mental retardation, and blindness.



The musicians' mission is to change the world through music. They not only inspire others but change the way the public views people with disabilities. Their song list includes over 100 classic rock, country, and blues songs from the past five decades. Their music is energizing, dance-inspiring and the perfect way to end a day of attending workshops!

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Registration fees include all instructional materials, refreshment breaks, two lunches, reception, Friday evening special event, and any other scheduled conference activities for the two-day conference (Friday and Saturday).

Continuing Education Credit is available for an additional fee of \$15. A certificate granting 1 continuing education credit (10 contact hours equal 1 CEU) will be awarded by Tompkins Cortland Community College to those attending the full 2-day conference on Friday and Saturday. A Certificate of Attendance will be available after the conference, at no charge, upon request only.

Cancellation Policy: A \$40 administrative fee will be charged on all cancellations. The balance of the registration fee will be refunded if written cancellation is received by April 23, 2010. Refunds will be issued after the conference. Any registration may be transferred to another person with advance notice to NYSCCC.

No refunds will be given for cancellations after April 23, 2010. No-shows will be billed! Agencies are responsible for paying purchase orders for any no-shows.

NYSCCC Members are those who currently hold a 2010 membership or those who join NYSCCC when registering for the conference. **Important:** *Parent groups and agencies that are 2010 members are entitled to send three representatives at the NYSCCC member price.* All other representatives from the same parent group or agency must either join as individuals or pay the non-member rate. **Do not use the member rate unless you are certain you are a paid-up member for 2010.** To verify membership status, contact the NYSCCC office, info@nysccc.org or 607-272-0034.

Please calculate registration fees carefully! Any overpayment will be considered a donation to NYSCCC.

Submit a separate Registration Form, including workshop selections, for each attendee. Feel free to make copies of the Registration Form.

Do not fax or mail any registrations after May 1! After May 1, registrations are accepted at the door only.

THANK YOU!

NYS Office of Children and Family Services

National Resource Center for Permanency
and Family Connections

Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption





NYS Citizens' Coalition for Children

21st Annual Foster Care and Adoption Conference

Moving Forward!

May 7–8th, 2010 ▲ Albany, N.Y.

Please Type or Print Clearly. Use a separate form for each registrant. Feel free to copy the form as needed.

Mail or fax registration form before **May 1, 2010** to:

NYS Citizens' Coalition for Children
501 Fourth Street, Brooklyn, NY 11215
Fax: 888-482-9112

Do not fax or mail any registrations after May 1, 2010. NYSCCC Members are those who hold a current 2010 membership or join when registering for the conference.

Name _____ Job Title _____

Parent Group or Agency Affiliation (if applicable) _____ No Agency Group (check if applicable)

Agency Address, City, State, Zip Code, Phone Number _____

Address (parent: home address) _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime Phone _____ Email _____

Enter all codes (refer to code listing on opposite page): Job Type Code Functional Area Code

Event Registration	Member	Non Member	Amount Due
2 Day Conference (Friday & Saturday)	\$135.00	\$170.00	\$
Friday Only	\$110.00	\$140.00	\$
Saturday Only	\$90.00	\$120.00	\$
Individual Membership Add \$25.00			\$
Agency or Parent Group Membership Add \$50.00 (Includes member discounts for 3 registrants)			\$
Continuing Education Add \$15.00			\$
Add \$40 to Conference Registration Fee after 4/16/2010			\$
Total Amount Enclosed			\$

Method of Payment

- Check** – Make Checks Payable to New York State Citizens' Coalition for Children
 - Purchase Order/Voucher** – Payable within 30 days NYSCCC Federal ID# 51-0194916
 - Visa** **Master Card**
- Card # _____ Exp. Date _____
Name on Card _____ Signature _____

Circle the number of the workshop you plan to attend in each workshop period

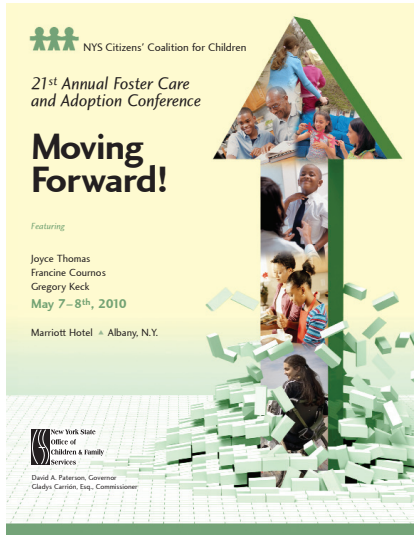
Friday Workshops			Saturday Workshops		
Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5	Period 6
1	6	11	16	21	26
2	7	12	17	22	27
3	8	13	18	23	28
4	9	14	19	24	29
5	10	15	20	25	30

Accommodations: Marriott Hotel, 189 Wolf Rd, Albany, N.Y. ▲ 518-458-8444 / 800-443-8952. Contact the hotel directly to make your reservation at the conference rate of \$104 plus applicable taxes. Reservations MUST be received prior to 4/16/10 to guarantee availability at the special rate.



NYS Citizens' Coalition for Children

501 Fourth Street
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11215



Application Codes

Job Type Codes

1. Administrator
2. Supervisor/Manager
3. Clerical/Support Staff
4. Consultant
5. Caseworker/Case Mgr/Social Work
6. Direct Child Care Worker
7. Eligibility Worker
8. Foster/Adoptive Parent
9. Investigator
10. Volunteer Worker
11. Health Care Worker
12. Teacher Vocational Specialist
13. Professional (Policy, Prog Dev)
14. Recreation Specialist

Functional Area Codes

1. Administrative
2. OCFS Rehabilitative Svc
3. Adoption
4. Child Protective Services
5. Day Care
6. Domestic Violence Pre
7. Foster Care
8. Residential Child Care
9. Blind & Visually Handicap
10. Prev/Family Support Svc
11. Indian Affairs Services
12. Adult Services/Other
13. Services/Other
14. Legal Affairs/Counsel
15. Energy Programs
16. Food Stamps
17. Temporary Assistance
18. Child Support Enforce
19. Disability Determinations
20. Transitional Services
21. Homeless Services
22. Fraud & Abuse
23. Medicaid Skills
24. Medicaid Eligibility
25. Managed Care
26. Dept of Health/Other
27. Welfare to Work
28. Dept of Labor/Other
29. F-30 Non Admin/Local