2019 Adoptive Family & Youth Training Seminar
May 17—19, 2019
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
Greetings Everyone!

Welcome to the 2019 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 the “Super Me Anti-Bullying” program on Friday evening. Then during the Family Night Celebration on Saturday night we will “JOIN FORCES” for our “Super Hero” themed dinner followed by a very special show that will give us all the “POWER” that we need to learn what it means to be a true “HERO.” It’s sure to be an exciting evening for everyone with our SUPER families enjoying quality family time together.

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.
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 Monday, May 6, 2019. 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 May 6th. 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 May 6th 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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**SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE**

**Friday, May 17th**
- 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
- 7:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m. Ties That Bind Kick—Off and Family Meet & Greet in the Grand Ballroom

**Saturday, May 18th**
- 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 McIntosh Ballroom. 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 McIntosh Ballroom to celebrate with families and participate in the remaining family night activities
- 8:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m. Family Night Celebration in assigned areas (arts & crafts, inflatables, family photos, and family dance)

**Sunday, May 19th**
- 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 122, 123, 124, 126 & 127
- 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

Please be sure to check out of your hotel room prior to workshops.
KEYNOTE PRESENTERS

KEYNOTE ADDRESS * SATURDAY, May 18th—9:00 am during General Session

April Dinwoodie is a nationally recognized leader on adoption and foster care. As a transracially adopted person, she has lived a life where it was imperative she learn how to gracefully and effectively navigate complex circumstances and situations that many can’t imagine or maybe even recognize. A part of April’s personal mission is to address how differences of race, class, and culture impact adoption and foster care systematically and individually. Inspired by her personal narrative, April’s keynote presentation, Born in June, Raised in April: What Adoption Can Teach the World, will weave together her personal and professional experiences, sharing her journey of adoption with the calendar as a backdrop. Participants will be guided through each month to explore how holidays, special days and transitions can be challenges and opportunities to understand ourselves and how our roles as members of the extended family of adoption can affect those around us. She will discuss; birthdays, Mother’s/Father’s Day and Thanksgiving, etc., as well as meaningful life-transitions like back-to-school, changing schools, transitions to college, and changing jobs. This Keynote address will set the tone for the weekend as April gives parents some things to think about as they move through the conference.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS * SUNDAY, May 19th—12:15 pm during Closing Luncheon

Ryan & Kayla North, have 6 children, 4 who were adopted from foster care. They spent 10 years as foster parents with over 30 placements and learned many of the things that they share with families in the trenches. The Norths are co-founders of One Big Happy Home and are considered experts on childhood trauma and its impact on families. They are both TBRI Practitioners and speak nationwide to bring hope and healing to adoptive and foster parents, children, and their families. The Norths have developed trainings for parents educating them on trauma, its impact, and how it informs behavior. In their keynote presentation, When Two Worlds Collide they will address how conflict in relationships often arises when one person’s history intersects with another person’s history. Parenting is no different. Some of the toughest moments in parenting occur when a child’s history and beliefs collide with their parents history, motivations, and expectations. Ryan and Kayla will assist parents in trying to understand the impact of their child’s traumatic histories and how compassion and empathy should be the appropriate responses to their expressed needs. In addition, they will walk attendees through how their own histories and experiences inform how they respond to their children. Our individual histories (both ours and our children’s) inform where we are, but does not have to determine where our story as a family develops together.
FRIDAY NIGHT KICK-OFF

Join us on Friday, May 17th at 7:00 pm in the Grand Ballroom for the Ties That Bind Kick-Off event. This will be a great time for families to “power up” and be entertained. Sean Driscoll, creator of The Story Ship Company has thrilled audiences with educational workshops and performances of interactive animation, music, storytelling, theater, comedy and magic for thirty years reaching tens of thousands of children and adults each year. The Super Me Anti-Bullying Training show is a fast paced theatrical adventure that combines high-energy hip-hop dance, intense video gaming, astounding magic, interactive animation and a live actor. We will be taken on a virtual journey into a comic book world to help a young boy escape from bullies. Amazing animated and real life videos are projected onto a large screen during the performance allowing audience members to interact with the characters. We will not only see real life examples of bullying, but we will be given our “super powers” and clear step by step actions to help stop bullying. Refreshments will be served after the show.

FAMILY NIGHT CELEBRATION—Creating A United Force!

After an inspiring day of learning and networking on Saturday, May 18th participants will definitely want to attend our Family Night Celebration for all ages! Your “spidey senses” will be tingling as we come together for the Super Hero event of the year! Adoptive & Foster Families...Super Heroes Creating A United Force! So grab your cape, throw on your mask, and feel the power! Following dinner you won’t want to miss a very special Super Hero Show and learn what being a true HERO is all about. Get ready to have a “Marvel-ous” time with other fantastic families as we “join forces” for a night of family fun! Teens 14 & up will celebrate together with their own special dinner and program featuring Johnelle Simpson, an inspiring speaker who uses his personal story to showcase how passion and hard work can really pay off. For Johnelle, “Every no in his life led to a new opportunity.” He believes that sometimes adversity and life’s unfortunate events can be used as fuel to learn how to lead others and embrace success. His keynote address is entitled Keys to Success: Keeping a Positive Attitude, Embracing Challenges, and Remembering that It’s All Up To You! Mr. Simpson leads by example, connecting business leaders with students and providing them with career, life, leadership and employability skills necessary for a successful future. The stories and anecdotes Johnelle shares will take teens on a journey that will motivate them to be the powerful leaders of tomorrow. Following the show, families will enjoy a variety of fun-filled activities such as family photos, cooperative games, Super Hero trivia, arts & crafts, music, dancing and much more! Find your inner super powers and join us for this exciting night celebrating our special families. After all, “there is a Super Hero inside all of us, we just need the courage to put on the cape.”
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<th>WORKSHOPS *</th>
<th>Session 1—Saturday, May 18th, 10:30 am—12:00 pm</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1A</strong> Born in June, Raised in April: What Adoption Can Teach the World!</td>
<td>Presented by: April Dinwoodie</td>
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<td>Through a rich and personal lens of adoption and foster care Ms. Dinwoodie will expand on her keynote and candidly explore the beauty and complexity of our closest, most powerful relationships with our families and how those relationships impact our identity and place in the world. She will explore the role that race, class, and culture play in adoption and how each impacts not only the child, but the whole family.</td>
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<td><strong>1B</strong> Communicating With Children and Youth: Parents As The Experts</td>
<td>Presented by: 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><strong>1C</strong> Whole-Hearted, Whole-Brained Parenting: A Must for Adoptive Families</td>
<td>Presented by: Julie Beem, MBA</td>
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<td>Children coming to our families through adoption bring their grief, loss and early childhood trauma along too. Parents must be taught and empowered to use strategies that are Whole-Hearted and Whole-Brained to create a safe place to build relationships and teach self-regulation. In this workshop, caregivers and professionals who 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>1D</strong> Secondary Traumatic Stress in Caregivers</td>
<td>Presented by: Dr. Lakileshia Izzard</td>
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<td>As adoptive and foster-to-adopt parents, you have opened your hearts and home to children in need. You may have accepted a child who has many traumatic issues to deal with which means having to hear about their traumatic stories. As a result Caregivers can develop Secondary Traumatic Stress (STS). This presentation will offer a deeper understanding of STS and its treatment.</td>
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<td><strong>1E</strong> Connecting the Dots: Adoption Issues and Birth Family Connections</td>
<td>Presented by: Chena Blanchard, LPC</td>
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<td>The purpose of this workshop is to help adoptive families recognize the importance of maintaining birth family connections. Common myths and fears associated with maintaining birth family contact will be addressed along with understanding the impact of missing connections on identity formation. Adoptive parents will be provided with suggestions and resources for assisting their family and adoptive child(ren) in staying connected.</td>
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WORKSHOPS *
Session 2—Saturday, May 18th, 1:15 pm–2:45 pm

2A Adoptive Mothers – Saints or Demons?  
Presented by: Janice Turber, M.Ed., LPC
This workshop will dispel the myth that adoptive mothers are controlling, manipulating parents who make up horrible stories about their adoptive children. Ways to heal posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) symptoms acquired due to their child/adolescent’s negative behaviors and attitudes towards them will be discussed. Parents will also learn effective techniques needed to excel at parenting their traumatized and attachment-disorder children and adolescents. Self-care suggestions will also be given.

2B Can Everybody Just Calm Down? Understanding and helping traumatized children  
Presented by: Brenda Romanchik, LCSW
The purpose of this workshop is to help adoptive families recognize the importance of maintaining birth family connections. Common myths and fears associated with maintaining birth family contact will be addressed along with understanding the impact of missing connections on identity formation. Adoptive parents will be provided with suggestions and resources for assisting their family and adoptive child(ren) in staying connected.

2C Choosing A Therapist: Dismantling the scientific formula  
Presented by: Dr. Fanike-Kiara Olugbala Young, LCSW, MAC & Dale Roberts
Selecting the right therapist can often be compared to solving a difficult scientific equation. There are so many options and after a while, they all begin to sound and look the same. This workshop will explore criteria, matching specialties, understanding theoretical orientation and many other important factors that are important during the process.

2D Raising Children with Medical and Developmental Needs  
Presented by: Christina Mahoney, LCSW
Due to systemic barriers leading to life-long challenges for adopted children with medical needs they cannot be served in the same way as other children. This workshop is intended for parents of individuals with intellectual disabilities, Autism, Down Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, genetic disorders, traumatic brain injuries, shaken baby syndrome, complications of prematurity, and other medical complexities. This workshop provides valuable insight into the services available for this special population.

2E Individualized Education Plan (IEP) and 504 Plans: Know Your Rights  
Presented by: Kirk Lunde
Knowledge is Power! For the last six years, this adoptive father of two complex boys has tutored, and advocated for all students with disabilities. 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 & feeling empowered!
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<th>Session 3—Saturday, May 18th, 3:00 pm—4:30 pm</th>
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| **3A** Advocating For Your Adopted Child at School—Trauma Informed Strategies That Work | **Presented by:** Julie Beem, MBA |
| Adptive 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 or 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. |

| **3B** Building Respectful Relationships | **Presented by:** Brenda Romanchik, LCSW |
| Open adoption creates complicated relationships. Navigating and nurturing these relationships, while also understanding each other’s losses and roles can be tricky territory. This workshop will explore the language, losses and ways to build respectful relationships in open adoption. Brenda Romanchik, LCSW, is a birth parent who placed her first child in an open adoption in 1984. Brenda has been an outspoken educator for open adoption and birth parent rights. |

| **3C** Planning For The Future: Adopted Children & Youth Issues | **Presented by:** Dr. Fanike-Kiara Olugbala Young, LCSW, MAC & Dale Roberts |
| Planning for the future can be difficult at any age, however, adoptive and foster care youth often have other challenges to consider such as aging out of the system and services, developmental diagnoses, history of trauma and lack of support. This workshop will examine options for youth and what their parents can do in an effort to support them with preparing to transition into the workforce or secondary education. |

| **3D** The Impact of Maternal Substance Abuse on Child Development | **Presented by:** Dr. Karen Kuehn Howell |
| We will discuss the impact that maternal substance abuse (MSA) has on the physical and social/emotional functioning of a young child. We will review the long-term effects of prenatal exposure to alcohol, tobacco, prescription drugs such as opiates, and illicit drugs such as marijuana, on a child’s development. We will discuss conditions of MSA, including disease, prematurity, sub-optimal caretaking, poverty, exposure to violence, neglect and maternal mental illness. Interventions and resources for children impacted by MSA will be discussed. |

| **3E** Ten Things Every Parent Should Know About Parenting A Defiant Child | **Presented by:** Natasha LaMarr, Ph.D. |
| Children that have experienced trauma due to abuse, abandonment, and or neglect struggle with trusting authorities and expressing their emotions and feelings. A child’s fear can look like anger, aggression or defiance. Understanding how to help a child that is acting out is the first step to not re-traumatizing their child. This interactive workshop will give parents the tools that they will need to parent children experiencing defiant behaviors. |
### WORKSHOPS *
**Session 4—Sunday, May 19th, 9:00 am—11:00 am**

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<th>Workshop</th>
<th>Presented by</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td><strong>4A</strong> Addictive Illness in Adolescence &amp; Adolescent Strengths</td>
<td>Dr. Michael R. Carpenter</td>
<td>Addiction is a developmental brain disorder that can hijack the brain early in life and rewire it. This workshop will address the latest research on addictive illness and how alcohol, nicotine/vaping, prescription drugs, and marijuana impact the adolescent brain. We will discuss environmental prevention strategies along with best practices and local conditions for decreasing teen drug use. Dr. Carpenter will demonstrate how protective factors such as developmental assets, emotional intelligence, and temperament types can impact teen use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs.</td>
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<td><strong>4B</strong> Understanding Teen Anger</td>
<td>Dr. Gary Byrd</td>
<td>Tired of power struggles and yelling between you and your teenager? It doesn’t have to be that way. You can change the patterns of dealing with misbehavior and teach your teen a better way to manage anger. One of the greatest gifts a parent can give to their teen is a set of attitudes and skills that will enable them to manage their anger and find solutions to conflict. This workshop will help you assist your teen in developing a mindset that favors peace, not by avoiding anger and conflict nor by winning through intimidation, but by resolving anger and conflict with emotional intelligence.</td>
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<td><strong>4C</strong> Lying and Other Challenging Behaviors</td>
<td>Ryan and Kayla North</td>
<td>There are many challenging behaviors that parents encounter every day. Among them are lying, stealing, and disrespect. These behaviors can be a huge trigger for parents and lead to disconnection in the parent-child relationship. In this session, we will discuss how trauma impacts the brain, and how to look for the need behind the behavior in order to get to the root of the problem. Participants will learn how to help kids find honest alternatives to bending the truth.</td>
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<td><strong>4D</strong> Mom’s Methods for Managing Madness</td>
<td>Rose Stagemeyer, Rachel DeBruce, Tammy Coles, and Heather Colvin</td>
<td>Four moms will share their experiences as adoptive moms who have adopted complex children. They will share how they found success with their children who had sometimes been “doomed” to fail. These Moms have important things to share that will benefit all parents. These resourceful mothers could be what you’ve been looking for to obtain direction, support, knowledge, and resources 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>Kirk Lunde, Brian Stagemeyer, Roberto Rivera , Jr. and Christopher Matos-Rogers</td>
<td>Dads impact a child’s life as much as moms. This panel of adoptive dads will share their wealth of experiences and knowledge including open adoption, foster care, adopting teens, working with school systems, and being involved in your child’s life every day. They will share the joys and challenges of parenting by adoption from a dad’s perspective. They are witty, funny, and oh, so serious about being dads. You will leave feeling empowered, inspired, invigorated, and with strategies/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 build self-esteem, and identify feelings. All workshops will encourage cooperation, empathy for others, and understanding emotions.

- **“Superhero Character” Scavenger Hunt and Team Challenges:** Based on the Character First elementary curriculum, children will explore some of the character traits exhibited by superheroes, such as compassion, flexibility, responsibility, patience, and self-control. Children will work in small groups for an interactive scavenger hunt as well as team challenges in which they must demonstrate these character traits in order to complete their assigned tasks successfully.

- Returning 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. In addition to an informative and entertaining show, all children will have a chance to touch and see the reptiles up close.

- **Wendy Bennett** returns this year to entertain preschoolers and elementary kids with her delightful musical storytelling in her programs Storybook Alive! and Cinderella. 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!

- We are glad to welcome back **Bruce Bernstein**, who will engage preschool and elementary age children with his love of music as he introduces the musical families of percussion, strings, woodwinds, and brass. He will show how all are needed for an orchestra and how each instrument depends on the others to create a song. Differences sure do make a difference!

- Former teacher and current juggler **Ron Anglin** entertains and educates children with his comic character education program, “Quite A Character.” Ron uses physical and vocal acrobatics, a Japanese kendama, soap bubbles, three props from China, music from Mali, a unicycle and plenty of volunteer club-passers to teach the Golden Rule and more.

- **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, including a slide and bouncy house. All younger children will also be able to ride the train all around the conference center grounds and enjoy some energy-burning fun!
TEEN PROGRAM

Teens will enjoy their own Leadership 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, all teens will participate in a series of workshops focused on aspects of healthy living. Some highlights this year include:

- All teens will participate in a “Super Leader League” Leadership Workshop series designed to help them develop their “Super” leadership skills!
- “Imagine Your Life” Vision Board Workshop: Presented by adoptive mom, Lissa Bowen, middle-school teens will learn visualization and relaxation strategies & how to utilize empowering beliefs to create a vision that can be life changing. A vision board is a tool used to help clarify and focus on goals and will serve as a visual reminder that your future is in your hands! Younger teens will leave the session with their own vision boards.
- Claire Lisco, M.A., Teen Empowerment Advocate with the Partnership Against Domestic Violence, will present a Teen Dating Violence Prevention Program. Teen Dating Violence (TDV) is a growing epidemic within the teen community; 1 in 3 teens report verbal, physical, emotional, or sexual abuse in their dating relationships. Claire’s workshop will address the definition of Teen Dating Violence, how it looks, warning signs, barriers to leaving, and safe bystander intervention. Teens will gain valuable information on relationship safety and setting healthy boundaries with others.

TEEN PROGRAM KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

This year, we welcome, Johnelle Simpson, an inspiring speaker who uses his personal story to showcase how passion and hard work can really pay off. For Johnelle, “Every no in his life led to a new opportunity.” He believes that sometimes adversity and life’s unfortunate events can be used as fuel to learn how to lead others and embrace success. The stories and anecdotes Johnelle shares will take teens on a journey that will motivate them to be the powerful leaders of tomorrow. We are also pleased to have youth speaker, Sarah Leeper, who has uncovered what she thinks is the greatest-kept secret of her generation: we are all hiding something. In a time where young adults are allowed to craft their most presentable public image, sometimes we fail to bring to light the unpresentable: fear, hardships, and challenges. Today’s young adults absorb messages of being the best, being fearless and unstoppable from all directions, pushing them further into hidden isolation and the continued creation of a more idealistic persona. But what if these young adults heard a new message? What if instead of being told to be the best, they were told to be real, flawed, different? In addition, anger management expert, Dr. Gary Byrd, will share information on Choice-based Anger Control, which is designed to empower teens to take control of their lives by developing strategies and techniques to calm the anger within. This is based on a simple philosophy: “Our lives are the sum total of our choices and actions.” Each of us is ultimately responsible for choosing the direction, meaning, and purpose for our lives.
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 May 6, 2019 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 May 6, 2019. 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 May 6th 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 Monday, May 13, 2019.
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 May 6th) you will receive a confirmation letter stating whether or not your registration has been accepted for the seminar. The confirmation letters will be emailed as soon as possible after the registration deadline.

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 withoutparent 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.