The Ties That Bind: Parents and Children Strengthening the Bond, is Georgia's annual adoptive family and youth training seminar, which provides adoptive and foster-to-adopt parents training and information on some of today's most important adoption issues. As an important part of Georgia's post-adoption services program, the event focuses on supporting and strengthening adoptive families by bringing together adoptive families and adoption professionals to increase their knowledge and skills concerning adoption issues and the parenting of adopted children.

Over the years, the Ties That Bind Training has been a tremendous success and 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.

Each year featured speakers along with numerous workshop presenters provide quality training opportunities for over 200 parents and adoption professionals. The Ties That Bind is truly a family-centered event as adoptive parents are invited and encouraged to bring their children (including infants and medically fragile) with them to the seminar. Age appropriate activities are provided for children of all ages free of charge. In addition, a Teen Leadership Seminar designed specifically for adopted teens and preteens provides structured activities designed to provide enrichment, support, and motivation for adopted youth.

The Ties That Bind is coordinated and organized by Family Matters Consulting, Inc. and funded through a contract with the Georgia Department of Family and Children Services, Social Services Administration Unit. This conference is open to adoptive families and their children; prospective adoptive parents (i.e. those seriously considering adopting, in the process of adopting, and foster-to-adopt parents.)

The seminar will be held May 15–17, 2020 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel and Conference Center in Peachtree City, GA. Located 20 minutes south of downtown Atlanta, the Crowne Plaza Hotel is a perfect setting for a family conference.

Call for Proposals

Family Matters Consulting, Inc is seeking presenters to help parents gain skills and knowledge in adoption and foster care related topics at its 2020 conference. Family Matters Consulting encourages adoptive and foster parents, child welfare professionals, adoptees, birth parents, former foster youth, researchers, therapists, and other child advocates to submit workshop proposals for the conference that will be held May 15 - 17, 2020 in Peachtree City, Georgia. Workshops will be 1.5 hours; a VERY limited number of two-part workshops (may offer part 1
and part 2 for a total of 3 hours) will be considered. **We ask presenters to submit proposals for no more than two workshops. If you are interested in being a keynote speaker please email us separately at chris_greer@familymatters-ga.com or to Doxeylaveda@gmail.com**

**Guidelines**

Family Matters Consulting pays $300 per workshop. Proposed presentations should address one of the topics listed below. Follow the provided format and **submit no later than January 31, 2020.** All proposals MUST be typed and emailed (no faxed proposals or proposals in a pdf format will be accepted.) Family Matters Consulting and the Georgia Division of Family & Children Services will make the final selections after reviewing proposals. We will **notify prospective presenters in February 2020.**

**Presentation Information**

Please use the following outline for your proposal(s):

- **Topic** (Choose topic from the list below).
- **Workshop title**
- **Length**-Indicate preferred length of workshop (1.5 or 3 hours).
- **Written description for conference brochure:**
  Descriptions (including workshop title) should be 35 to 75 words in length and give conference attendees a good sense of what to expect from the workshop. Briefly state what participants will gain from the presentation including goals and objectives. Please submit proposals in **MicroSoft Word document with No special designs, bullets, diagrams, etc.** Family Matters Consulting will edit descriptions for length, content, and clarity for the brochure.
- **Training method & content.** Please indicate your intended format (i.e., lecture, open discussion, panel presentation, video, etc.) and state the material you plan to present. We would like for you to make handouts available if selected to present. The handouts will be placed on a USB drive and given to the parents in their conference bags. These handouts will be submitted at a later deadline date in April.

**Lead Presenter**

- Name
- Title
- Agency or Business Affiliation
- Address, e-mail, day and evening phone numbers
Experience, Educational background, and brief bio (*make sure you include this.*) Please provide us with how you would like your name to be listed in brochure and include accurate credentials.

**Other Presenters** (no more than two)

- Name
- Title
- Agency or Business Affiliation
- Address, e-mail, day and evening phone numbers
- Experience, Educational background, and brief bio (*make sure you include this.*) Please provide us with how you would like your name to be listed in brochure and include accurate credentials.

**Audio/Visual Equipment Requested**

Please list the audio/video equipment, supplies, and any other equipment that you will need. At this time, Family Matters Consulting will only be providing the following: LCD projectors, projection screen, projector cart, a microphone and free access to Wifi. Family Matters Consulting will not be able to provide Lap top computers, please plan on using your own.

**Please note:** All handouts from presenters will be given to participants on flash drives provided by Family Matters Consulting. Speakers may bring paper handouts if they choose. Family Matters Consulting is not responsible for verifying the originality of submissions and cannot be held liable for presenters’ copyright infringements or other ownership rights violations.

**Please submit proposals before January 31, 2020**

By e-mail ONLY in (Word) format to Doxeylaveda@gmail.com and chris_greer@familymatters-ga.com. Please DO NOT submit any faxed proposals or any proposals in a pdf format. **Questions? Call 770-881-7789 during business hours or 470-777-2202 after 7:30 pm (EST). Please email your Proposal to both Chris Greer and Laveda Doxey.**

**Topics:**

- Post Adoption Services
- Advocacy & Public Policy
- Community Resources, Support, Support Groups
- Parenting Children With Challenging Behaviors
- Attachment Disorder and Regulation Issues
- Behavior & Sensory Processing
- How to select a therapist
- Parenting Traumatized Children
- Love and Logic Parenting
• Models for Guidance and Discipline
• Therapeutic Techniques for Traumatized Children
• Attachment Therapy
• Music, Art, Dance Therapy
• Equestrian Therapy
• Understanding Sexual Abuse & Healing
• Brain Development & Trauma Recovery
• Specialized Services to ensure success for families
• Transracial parenting
• Supporting LGBTQ+ youth and families
• Special Education Services (IDEA, Resources & support, developing an IEP)
• Adoption Issues
• Talking to children about their histories
• Sibling Connections
• Kinship Care
• Birth Family Connections
• Open Adoption and Reunions
• Adoption & Family Culture
• Core adoption issues
• Grief & Loss
• Adoptive & Foster parenting issues (single parents, managing stress, parenting techniques or styles, self-care)
• Understanding Acting-Out Behaviors
• Parenting Children with Special Needs
• Self Care: Tips for Foster and Adoptive Parents
• Bullying
• Learning Disabilities and Educational Issues (technology, resources, services, support, programs, techniques that work)
• Parenting Medically Fragile Children
• Specific Disabilities/Disorders
  1. ADHD,
  2. Autism,
  3. Fetal Alcohol Syndrome,
  4. Bipolar Disorder
  5. Reactive Attachment Disorder
  6. Post-Traumatic Stress
  7. Traumatic Brain Injuries
  8. Tourette Syndrome
  9. Prenatal Exposure
  10. Conduct Disorder
• Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
• Developmental Stages, Developmental Delays, and Developmental Screening
• Older Adoptive Children and Youth Issues
1. Transitioning of older adopted youth
2. Anger Management as it relates to early trauma
3. Adolescent development and adoption
4. Parenting Children Who have Sexualized Reactions
5. After High School, Secondary Education, Vocational Rehabilitation Services

- Strategies for Positive Family Communication
- Food Issues in Foster and Adopted Children

We hope that your schedule will allow you to participate in this important training conference as a featured speaker to share your knowledge with adoptive and foster families in Georgia. If you have any more questions about this event or would like to discuss this further please feel free to contact Laveda Doxey, Adult Program Conference Coordinator at 470-777-2202 or email at doxeylaveda@gmail.com.

Family Matters Consulting will notify Speakers of final workshop selections after the DFCS Conference committee reviews and selects proposals. We will notify prospective presenters in February 2020.

Thank you for your interest and we look forward to hearing from you.

Kind Regards,
Laveda Doxey
Ties That Bind Conference Coordinator
Family Matters Consulting, Inc.
320 Town Center Ave.
Suite C-11, PMB 121
Suwanee, GA 30024
Cell: 470-777-2202
Phone: 770-881-7789 or 1-877-669-0634
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