

MAPP Leader's Seminar

Training, Networking, and Information-Sharing for Certified GPSII/MAPP Leaders



August 9-11, 2011

Best Western Sovereign Hotel

1228 Western Avenue Albany, New York 12203



Seminar agenda

Tuesday, August 9

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Registration (lunch on your own)
2:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.	Welcome: Ron Robinson, Director RF/CDHS Foster/Adoptive Parent Training Project
2:15 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.	General Session: Part I: <i>Update on New Child Welfare Laws</i> Margaret Burt, Esq.
3:45 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Break (hotel check-in)
4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.	General Session: Part II: <i>Update on New Child Welfare Laws</i> Margaret Burt, Esq.
5:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Break (on your own)
6:00 p.m.	Reception and Seventies Theme Dinner

Wednesday, August 10

8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Breakfast
9:30 a.m. – 11:45 p.m.	Workshop Session I
11:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Lunch (on your own)
1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	Cracker Barrel Sessions*
2:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Break
3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Topic Networking Groups**
4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.	Informal Networking/Free Time
5:30 p.m.	Dinner

Thursday, August 11

8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Breakfast
9:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	Workshop Session II
11:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	Hotel Check-Out
12:15 p.m.	Lunch/Closing Remarks

Important Note: This year there will be a two-part general session for all participants held on Tuesday, so it is only necessary to indicate preferences for the Wednesday and Thursday workshop sessions when registering. Both the Cracker Barrel Sessions and Topic Networking Groups are selected on-site and do not require prior registration. A complete list of sessions and groups will be available at the seminar and participants will make their selections informally at that time.

**Cracker Barrel Sessions are brief, informal presentations offered multiple times simultaneously at tables set up around the room. Participants will select and visit up to three presentations.*

***Topic Networking Groups are designed to enable participants with special interests or concerns to meet with others with similar backgrounds, experiences, or areas of expertise for the purpose of exchanging ideas and establishing relationships that may provide future information and support.*

Seminar Coordinators: Ron Robinson, Jack Fuentes, and the RF/CDHS MAPP Team
Cracker Barrel Coordinators: Heather Dominguez, Pura Gonzalez, and Wendy Neilson
Topic Networking Groups Coordinator: Helen Shin
Video Salute Coordinators: Helen Shin and Sarah Tooley
Editor: Cheryl Bell
Graphics Coordinators: Carol Alex and Beth Graff-Baker

This year's seminar theme, "We Are Family," was suggested by Christina McDonald of Graham-Windham in New York City.



General Sessions Part I and Part II

About Our General Session Speaker

Margaret Burt

Margaret Burt, Esq., a Rochester area child welfare attorney, has been a passionate defender of children and their rights over a span of many years. The recipient of several prestigious awards in recognition for her hard work and contributions, she has been awarded the Juvenile Justice Award by the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York (WBASNY) in honor of her unflagging advocacy for children and her longstanding efforts to protect their rights and assure them fair representation over the entire course of her legal career.

In addition to providing legal help for children, Ms. Burt has also provided consultation and training on the subject of child welfare issues to child welfare staff members, as well as to other legal professionals across the state who must be kept informed of the most current legal mandates regarding custody and adoption. Ms. Burt has been a guest speaker at numerous convocations at both state and national levels, where she is frequently called upon to share her knowledge, insights, and expertise. Her audiences have been very responsive and she is widely known for her insightful observations, quick wit, and ready willingness to share the benefits of her extensive research and experience.

About the General Sessions Part I and Part II

New Child Welfare Laws

These two sessions will cover the major new child welfare laws that have gone into effect in the last 12 months. These laws involve the following topics:

- The *kinship guardianship* option for relatives.
- The new option for birth parents whose rights were terminated to seek a reinstatement of those rights and a return of their child.
- The legal processes for youth over 18 to petition to be returned to care after choosing to leave.
- The changes required for termination of parental rights for parents who are incarcerated or in an inpatient drug treatment program.

There is a lot of new information here—come and get all your questions about the new laws answered!

Workshop descriptions

All workshops will be offered once during the Wednesday morning workshop session I and once during the Thursday morning workshop session II. Be sure to indicate your first and second choices for each of those workshop sessions when completing the seminar registration form.



1

What's the Real Deal with Parent Support Groups?

Are parent support groups *really* worth the time and financial and emotional investment? The answer is a resounding “yes,” if you are ready to think differently and follow a few simple guidelines. Susie Collins, NYSCCC Program Director, will share her 12 years of experience developing and supporting New York State foster and adoptive parent support groups to answer these questions. She will also assist you in developing (or re-energizing) an effective support group in your agency or county.

Susan E. Collins, *Project Director*
New York State Citizens' Coalition for Children



2

Transitioning from Foster Parent to Adoptive Parent

This workshop will focus on assessing families for their readiness to shift from being temporary foster parents to becoming permanent adoptive families. The topics covered will include the following: assessing and preparing foster parents for their new role as adoptive parents; characteristics of successful and unsuccessful foster family adoptions; and techniques for having difficult discussions with foster families regarding permanency.

Sasha Bomberry, *Adoption Specialist*
Research Foundation of SUNY
Center for Development of Human Services



3

You Do Need to Be a Know-It-All

When it comes to getting a prospective foster family ready for certification, it takes a partnership of multiple staff to guide them through a nerve-racking—as well as exciting—process that will result in having an available home that is nurturing, secure, and ready for placement at a moment's notice. This workshop will present the importance of the working partnership of the homefinders, recruiters, and caseworkers and how their experience and knowledge regarding foster home certification is crucial to getting foster homes approved on a timely basis. The shared knowledge of this partnership becomes an important tool in the recruitment process.

Carolyn Rabolt Betancourt, *Community Coordinator*
New York City Children's Services



Support for Foster and Adoptive Parents Starts Right from the Beginning!

Let's talk strategies, core elements, and components for foster parent support groups. Are they working? What is your agency doing to build current working partnerships between foster and adoptive parents, recruiters, and homefinders? Come to this workshop to share your own demanding situations about how to provide support for foster and adoptive parents. Leave with tips and new insights about practical recruitment and retention information to take back and use in your foster parent support groups!

Felicia Leary, *Community Coordinator*
Department of Parent Support and Recruitment
New York City Administration for Children's Services



Families, Foster Parents, and Caseworkers, Oh My!: Navigating Boundaries Through the Foster Care Maze

Sharing children, sharing households, sharing decision-making, and sharing personal information...how much is *too much*? This workshop will explain how to define, implement, maintain, and reclaim boundaries at home and in the workplace. Participants will learn how establishing appropriate boundaries for interpersonal relatedness can strengthen the teaming partnerships that exist among families, foster parents, and caseworkers.

Jewel M. Thompson, *Project Trainer*
Research Foundation of SUNY
Center for Development of Human Services

Sandra Wilson, *Senior Trainer*
Research Foundation of SUNY
Center for Development of Human Services



Internet Safety: It's All in the Family

Keeping children safe on the Internet is a challenge. The reality is that young people often know considerably more about computer technology and its uses than their parents. This training will identify resources and strategies that can be tapped by parents so that they can empower themselves to manage the Internet usage in their homes. The presenter will also discuss the unique and positive bonding that can take place between parent and child by identifying ways to harness the "technical expertise" of the young person. This can help foster positive self-esteem, create trust, and encourage open and meaningful dialogue about Internet safety. Participants will be given helpful hints and tips to share with the foster parents in their agencies.

Judith M. Williamson, *Distance Learning Developer*
Research Foundation of CUNY



Homefinders as Leaders and Agents of Change

Homefinders must take on various leadership roles, including serving as advocates for foster parents, as helpful guides for the caseworkers who work with foster parents, and as messengers of the MAPP philosophy at their agencies. Because so often their leadership role is unofficial or unacknowledged, homefinders need to be very creative and resourceful in carrying out their various roles and responsibilities. At the very same time, they also have to deal with complying with ever-changing directives from state and local administrators—along with directives from their own agency management. This workshop will use key elements and tools from the Creativity and Change Leadership program at Buffalo State College’s acclaimed International Center for Studies in Creativity to help homefinders become more effective leaders and successful agents of change at their agencies.

Patricia Hartman, *Creativity and Change Leadership Program Graduate*
Research Foundation of SUNY
Center for Development of Human Services

Anna Miller, *Homefinder*
Berkshire Farm Center and Services for Youth

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



Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor
Gladys Carrión, Esq., Commissioner

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Research Foundation of SUNY
Buffalo State College
Center for Development of Human Services
New York State Child Welfare Training Institute
Foster/Adoptive Parent Training Project