Pre/Post Adoption Consulting and Training
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Advanced Clinical Consultation/Supervision Program
in Adoption and Complex Blended Families
2014-2015
Virtual/Distance Attendance via Google Hangouts

for clinicians and professionals working with adoption and complex families

Pre-registration required
Full six-session program: $ 1,200.00 (check or credit)
There will be an agency discount for 2 or more people in attendance.

Supervisor: Dr. Joyce Maguire Pavao
Course originally developed and written by Dr. Joyce Maguire Pavao

By popular demand, we are endeavoring to make the Consultation/Supervision Program available for virtual attendance via Google Hangouts for those who live far away and cannot attend in person. This project is a first for us, and we will do our best to give everyone the technical assistance they need to have the program run smoothly. Attendees will work with Dr. Pavao's assistant to be sure that their Gmail/Google+ Account and Google Hangouts are set up properly for the sessions. Once attendees have trained with her in the set-up and use of the videoconference application, we cannot be responsible for any technical glitches on the attendee's end.

PURPOSE

This program offers consultation, supervision, and training for mental health professionals in specialized theories and practices for working with all members of the adoptive triad (birthparents, adoptive parents, and the adopted persons). The purpose of the Advanced Clinical Consultation/Supervision Program is twofold. First, PACT believes that all clinical professionals require supervision for support and clinical guidance to provide top quality services to clients. Secondly, the PACT supervisory structure ensures that the services provided by our network of clinicians, to whom we refer clients, are clinically sound and follow PACT policies.

BACKGROUND

Adoption has a life-long effect on everyone involved and brings unique rewards as well as challenges to parents, children, and the extended family. Sometimes families will need help as concerns or difficulties arise. Timely intervention by a professional who is skilled and trained in adoption issues can often prevent these issues from becoming more serious problems that might be more difficult to resolve later on.

Children and youth adopted from the public child welfare system and those adopted internationally can bring additional complexity to the mix with histories of abuse, medical and behavioral problems. Often these children can struggle with loss, grief, and identity formation, as well as adjustment and attachment disorders. These unique developmental needs frequently place additional stress on the family system, especially when they are manifested as challenging behaviors or clinical disorders.

Adoptive parents often report that counselors, therapists, and other professionals are lacking in the basic understanding and skills necessary to address the issues particular to members of the adoption triad. A therapist working with these populations must have some familiarity and experience not only with foster care, kinship, guardianship, and adoption, but also with trauma, learning disabilities, and an array of mental health issues that may be part of the child's or the parents' challenges. Therapeutic support service providers need to consider everyone affected by adoption, not just the adopted person, as well as what supports need to be ongoing since adoption is a lifelong process. These issues can be recurrent, increasing the demand for ongoing support from adoption-competent therapists.

OBJECTIVES

Participants in the consultation/supervision program are clinicians who have taken the course in adoption competency and have a clear understanding of the many dimensions of systemic view one must have to work with the entire constellation of adoption. Each participant will:

- apply advanced clinical knowledge about the system and reality of adoption in the lives of members of the adoption triad and deepen his/her understanding of child welfare policies and services by applying this knowledge to this specific population affected by the service delivery system.

- develop the analytic skills, scientific knowledge, historical background, theoretical frameworks, and awareness of the adoption world needed to understand, assess, and address particular issues and needs of populations whose lives are affected by adoption.

- apply the understanding of value dilemmas, ethical issues, and social needs to adoption service delivery and practice in child welfare.

- explore his/her own attitudes, values, social stereotypes, and biases and learn to apply specific knowledge and skills in adoption to more generalized issues.

FORMAT

1. Each clinician will submit a Case Review Request Form (with genogram) at least one week prior to the group meeting. We will triage cases according to clinical need. As often as possible, clinicians will have an equal opportunity to present a case.
2. At the beginning of each group, the clinicians will review their client lists to ensure that the status of each case is accurate. (Clinician must email a list of all clients with statuses so that it can be expediently reviewed)

3. During the group meeting, a minimum of two cases will be presented (20-30 minutes each). The following format will be used:
   - Distribute and discuss case materials
   - Generate systemic hypotheses and discuss clinical question(s) posed by therapist
   - Formulate recommendations for treatment
4. The supervisor will complete a Supervision Form for all clinicians who present a case.

If a clinician has a crisis/concern between group meetings, the clinician can email Dr. Pavao.

SCHEDULE

The Advanced Clinical Consultation/Supervision course will meet one Friday per month, November 2014 - April 2015, from 2pm to 4pm.

First session: Friday, November 14, 2014	Fourth session: Friday, February 20, 2015
Second session: Friday, December 12, 2014	Fifth session: Friday March 13, 2015
Third session: Friday, January 16, 2015	Sixth session: Friday, April 17, 2015

***Each session meets from 2pm to 4pm.**

PARTICIPANT EXPECTATIONS

- Participants are expected to attend all six sessions and to notify the supervisor (via email) if they must be absent.

- Genograms/Intakes and Case Review Request Forms are to be completed and submitted at least one week in advance of the presentation of the case. Intakes must be scheduled with Dr. Pavao's assistant in advance.

- Following the completion of this course, each clinician in the PACT network is expected to attend (via phone or video) at least five times per year a 90-minute supervision group.

The supervisor is available by appointment only. Please contact Dr. Pavao's assistant, Emily Adcox, at eakinnect@gmail.com or 617-547-0909 with any questions or concerns or to schedule an appointment with Dr. Pavao.

READINGS

Participants are encouraged to read widely. Without a broad and critical examination of the literature, they will be unable to engage thoroughly with the content or to contribute meaningfully to group discussions. Experience has demonstrated that clinicians who are more widely read, and who

incorporate their reading into their work, practice more competently. A collection of useful articles and many publications may be made available for you prior to each group meeting.

Recommended Texts
The following books should be purchased via amazon.com; they are essential for every adoption competent practitioner's collection:

Pavao, J.M. (2005). The Family of Adoption. Boston: Beacon Press.
Brodzinsky, D. M., Schechter, M. D., & Marantz, R. (1992). Being adopted: The lifelong search for self. NY: Anchor Books.

Eldridge, S. (1999). Twenty things adopted kids wish their adoptive parents knew. NY: Delta.

Crumbley, J. (1999). Transracial adoption and foster care: Practice issues for professionals. Washington, D.C.: CWLA Press.

Melina, L. R. (2002). Raising adopted children: Practical, reassuring advice for every adoptive parent. New York: Quill.

Triseliotis, J., Shireman, J. & Hundleby, M. (1999). Adoption: Theory, policy, and practice. London: Cassell.