

PACT
(pre/post adoption consulting and training)
Dr. Joyce Maguire Pavao
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**Advanced Consultation/Supervision Course
in Adoption and Complex Blended Families**

Winter – Spring 2014
Pre-Registration Required
Full four-session course \$1000.00
MC/Visa or check accepted
Additional for CEU's

Course Originally developed and written by

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PURPOSE

Consultation, Supervision and Training for mental health professionals, in specialized theories and practices for working with all members of the adoptive triad, including birth mothers and fathers; adoptive mothers and fathers; and the adopted persons. The continuum of care from foster care (or orphanage) to kinship, guardianship or adoption is an important foundation of understanding necessary to be competent in working with families and children in the world of adoption. All of these family constructions will be discussed and included in the program.

The Consult/Supervision Course emphasizes the development of a framework of understanding about the complexity of being a child or adult in a family by adoption and the therapeutic skills that will enable practitioners to work at the individual, couples, group, and family levels of clinical practice. Woven into each section is the impact that trauma, separation and loss-- as well as multiple moves --can have on children's development and wellbeing.

These sessions will take place one Saturday per month for four months, and will last from 3:00 to 5:30p.m.

The cost is \$1,000.00 for the full course - some partial scholarships will be available when consult group is filled

FIRST SESSION

January 10, 2014 Friday 2:30 to 5p.m.

SECOND SESSION

February 28, 2014 Friday 2:30 to 5p.m.

Third SESSION

March 21, 2014 Friday 2:30 to 5p.m.

Fourth SESSION

April 25, 2014 Friday 2:30 to 5p.m.

OBJECTIVES

The major objectives of this consultation/supervision program is to allow therapists who have taken the courses in Adoption Therapy and have a clear understanding of the many dimensions of systemic view one must have to work with the entire constellation of adoption:

- apply advanced clinical knowledge about the system and reality of adoption in the lives of members of the adoption triad and to deepen student's knowledge of child welfare policies and services by applying it 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 ones own attitudes, values, social stereotypes and biases, and to learn to apply specific knowledge and skills in adoption to more generalized issues.

Expectations Concerning Participant Performance, Assignments and Criteria for Evaluation of Participant Performance

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

The consultation/supervision will be done by Dr. Joyce Maguire Pavao Genograms to be done in advance of presentations of cases.

The instructor is available by appointment only. Please use email address listed above to contact us or if you must call leave a message at 617 547 0909 and Amy Grzybinski (eakinnect@gmail.com) will help with anything.

Background

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

Children and youth adopted from the public child welfare system and those adopted internationally bring additional complexity to the mix with histories of abuse, medical and behavioral problems and often they can have difficulties with issues of loss, attachment, 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 and 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 - which includes: birth parents, adopted parents, and the adopted

person. Professionals can lack skills to deal with foster families, kinship care families and families designated as guardians for children. A therapist working with this population must have some familiarity and experience with, not only, foster care, kinship, guardianship and adoption both pre and post, but also with trauma, learning disabilities, and an array of mental health issues that may be part of the child's challenge or part of the parents' challenge. Therapeutic support service providers need to consider everyone affected by adoption, not just the adopted person, and consider as well what supports need to be ongoing since adoption is a lifelong process. These issues can be recurrent, increasing the demand for ongoing and adoption competent therapists.

Finding the right adoption competent therapist can be a daunting task, especially when parents may feel overwhelmed or burdened by the situation or in a crisis. This course is aimed at creating and certifying adoption competent practitioners to support families created through adoption (and we focus not only on legal adoption, but also the emotional adoptions found in kinship care placements, longer term fostering situations and families by guardianship. The course aims to train, certify and create a pool of practitioners who are knowledgeable about adoption (for all members of the adoption triad) and who are experienced about working with members of the adoption triad and the extended family that is created in adoption. In essence, we are about certifying clinicians who understand post permanency issues and speak "adoption". Our goal is to create, not only certified practitioners, but eventually to develop trainers who can extend the certification program and skilled and certified supervisors for ongoing support while working with these challenging family systems.

For these reasons, PACT (pre and post adoption consulting and training), established in 1982, is offering this Certificate Program in Adoption Therapy.

Each session will cover a specific subject relevant to the emotional and behavioral needs of adopted children, youth and affected families.

The specialization creates the opportunity to expand overall social policy knowledge and analytic skills through an in-depth examination of the needs of children, youth, and families or the dynamics of the child welfare policy arena; to identify and assess a range of analytical and ideological, frameworks, to identify and use specialized knowledge for policy, research and program development; and to develop a more sophisticated understanding of diversity, oppression and the processes

of social change. Students advance their capacity to understand, analyze, and modify social policies and services develop specialized policy knowledge related to their long-term professional interests and goals; and learn to generalize what they have learned to other issues and population.

READINGS

Students are encouraged to read widely. Without a broad and critical examination of the literature, they will be unable to grasp the course content, to contribute to class discussions, or complete the assignments. An extensive bibliography, organized by class session is part of this syllabus.

The following Web sites are also critical to your learning in this course and you are strongly encouraged to review them:

<http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us/adopt/> - New York State Office of Children and Family Services

http://www.nyc.gov/html/acs/html/become_parent/become_parent.shtml - NYC Administration for Children's Services

www.nysccc.org - New York State Citizens' Coalition for Children

www.nrcfcppp.org - National Resource Center for Family-Centered Practice and Permanency Planning

<http://www.adoptuskids.org/> - Adopt Us Kids, AdoptUSKids.org is a national photo listing service for children awaiting adoption across the United States.

www.nrcadoption.org - National Resource Center for Adoption Services, this site will provide you with access to the latest noteworthy adoption news, adoption specific chat room discussions and the ability to request information on any adoption topic.

www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/cb/ - U.S. Children's Bureau

<http://naic.acf.hhs.gov/> - National Adoption Clearing House

<http://nccanch.acf.hhs.gov/> - Abuse & Neglect Clearinghouse

www.nacac.org - North American Council on Adoptable Children

www.nicwa.org - National Indian CW Association

www.cwla.org/programs/adoption - Child Welfare League of America

www.kinnect.org - Center For Family Connections

You also are encouraged to sign onto the NRCFCPPP Weekly Update – an electronic newsletter produced weekly. To become a subscriber, go to home page of www.nrcfcppp.org and in the lower left hand corner, add your email address. This weekly electronic newsletter will help you stay current on many of the issues relevant to this course. There are other electronic newsletters, which we will also recommend to you throughout the course.

Although no one is likely to read everything that is on the reading list, students are advised to read in sufficient depth to appreciate and understand the impact of multiple factors on seeking and delivering assistance. Experience has demonstrated that students who are more widely read, and who incorporate their reading into their work, practice more competently.

Texts

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

Required and Recommended Texts:

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.

A collection of useful articles and many publications may be made available for you prior to each class session.