



Coordinated by Concerned Persons for Adoption (CPFA)  
and co-sponsored by the Adoption Agency Council of New Jersey  
and Rutgers University School of Social Work

### **About Concerned Persons for Adoption (CPFA)**

CPFA is a non-profit organization in the state of NJ dedicated to the belief that every child deserves a family. CPFA is not an adoption agency, but an all-volunteer organization working to support those who wish to adopt, and to provide educational and networking resources to everyone in the adoption community. Visit our website at [www.cpfanj.org](http://www.cpfanj.org). Follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

# Keynote Speaker

## Debbie Riley, LCMFT

Center for Adoption Support and Education (C.A.S.E.), CEO and co-founder  
Nationally and internationally recognized adoption expert, trainer and author



### Keynote Address: “*The Unspoken Trauma: Loss*”

Loss is a significant trauma that is too often unspoken or minimized to youth. And yet, for children to make new attachments, they must be supported in grieving lost and broken ones. This keynote explores the unique losses experienced by children, including how losses affect their development, psychological tasks of grief work, and healing therapies for children and teens. Discussion will include how professionals can work with parents to understand how their children are experiencing the ambiguities and process of foster care/adoption. Effective interventions for opening communication with children and strengthening transitions and attachment to new families will be included. CEH SW-General/1 hour

#### About our Keynote Speaker

Center for Adoption Support and Education (C.A.S.E.) Chief Executive Officer and co-founder, Debbie Riley, LCMFT, is a nationally and internationally recognized adoption expert, trainer, and author. Riley has more than 35 years of professional experience, including extensive health care management and administrative expertise, experience designing, developing, and implementing nationally acclaimed evidenced-informed adoption-competent training programs for professionals including the National Adoption Competency Mental Health Training Initiative (NTI) and Training for Adoption Competency (TAC). Her current delivery of specialized counseling services to adopted children, teens, adults, and their families affords her the broad knowledge and nationally respected expertise needed to promote mental health training, child advocacy, systems reform, and public policy development. She is co-author of the book, **Beneath the Mask: Understanding Adopted Teens**, contributing author for Adoption Competent Clinical Practice: Defining Its Meaning and Development; Adoption Quarterly, November 2013 and co-author of recently published chapter, The Need for Adoption Competent Mental Health Professionals in the newly released book, **Transracial and Intercountry Adoption**, edited by Dr. Ruth McRoy and Dr. Rowena Fong. Ms. Riley was awarded the 2015 Adoption Excellence Award by the Children’s Bureau, Department of Health and Human Services.

**Online Registration and Payment Information at [www.cpfanj.org](http://www.cpfanj.org)**

## **Virtual Conference Platform**

We will be using Zoom as our virtual conference platform. You will need to download Zoom onto a phone, tablet or computer. We encourage you to do this prior to March 11, 2023.

A Zoom pre-registration link will be sent to all registered attendees on March 10, 2023.

You **MUST** complete the pre-registration to attend the conference.

After completing the pre-registration, you will receive the Zoom login information required to enter the conference.

## **Conference Schedule**

### Saturday, March 11

8:50-9:00 am	Check-in
9:00 -9:15 am	Welcome
9:15-10:15 am	Keynote Speaker
10:15-10:30 am	Break
10:30-11:30 am	Session A
11:30-11:45 am	Break
11:45-12:45 pm	Session B
12:45-1:00 pm	Wrap up/Break Out Rooms

**Program handouts and general information will be posted on [www.cpfanj.org](http://www.cpfanj.org) beginning March 10, 2023.**

## **Continuing Education Hours (CEHs)**

Continuing Education Hours are available through the Office of Continuing Education at the Rutgers School of Social Work in accordance with New Jersey Administrative Code 13:44G and recognized by:

- NJ Board of Social Work Examiners
- PA State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Professional Counselors
- NJ Department of Education, approval code #1965
- National Board for Certified Counselors, provider #6389
- Continuing Education Hours are approved for NJ licensed: Social Workers, Professional Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists and Teachers *unless noted*.

After you register for the “Let’s Talk Adoption” Conference, you will receive a web link that must be used to pay the \$20 Continuing Education Hours (CEHs) processing fee to the Office of Continuing Education at Rutgers School of Social Work. **Please note, not every conference program is eligible for CEHs. Please check the session listings. Sessions that are approved for CEHs will be marked accordingly.**

You must do the following for each session in order to prove attendance and be credited with the correct number of CEHs:

- Every individual requesting CEHs must be logged in on their own device.
- Log in for the full keynote session
- Ensure that you appear on the Zoom platform with your first and last name.
- Remain in your selected CEH session for the entire time. Attendance will be taken in each CEH session.

CEHs will be processed through the Office of Continuing Education at Rutgers University School of Social Work; certificates will be emailed to participants two weeks after the conference. For more information, contact the office at 848.932.8758.

### **Conference Workshop Codes, Suggestions, and Certificate of Attendance**

Please note that the following WORKSHOP CODES are presented with each workshop description on the following pages for Sessions A and B. The notations are provided only as suggestions to help guide your selections of relevant workshops. You are welcome to choose any workshop of interest.

AD	ADOPTees
AP	ADOPTIVE PARENTS
BP	BIRTHPARENTS
CW	CHILD WELFARE PROFESSIONALS
ED	EDUCATORS
FP	FOSTER PARENTS (See Note #1 below)
HC	MAY QUALIFY AS HAGUE CONVENTION COMPLIANT TRAINING (See Note #2 below)
HP	HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS
KG	KINSHIP GUARDIANS
PA	PROSPECTIVE ADOPTIVE PARENTS

SOCIAL WORKERS AND ADOPTION PROFESSIONALS (See Note #3 below)

SW-1	SOCIAL AND CULTURAL
SW-4	GENERAL

**Note #1 –FOR FOSTER/RESOURCE PARENTS CURRENTLY LICENSED BY DCP&P:** The conference is approved by the NJ Child Welfare Training Academy for three (3) training hours. “Certificate of Attendance” can be obtained at the end of the conference.

**Note #2 – FOR PRE-ADOPTIVE PARENTS DOING INTERNATIONAL ADOPTIONS:** A CPFA “Certificate of Attendance,” available at the end of the conference, may help partially fill the requirement for the 10 hours of “preparation and training” as required by the Hague Convention. Workshops that **may** qualify as Hague compliant training are listed with the code HC. In all cases, you should check with your agency **FIRST** to verify which workshops they would approve as part of The Hague Convention “preparation and training” requirements.

**Note #3 – FOR NJ AND PA LICENSED SOCIAL WORKERS:** Workshops that Rutgers University School of Social Work has approved to meet the Social and Cultural Competency and General requirements for Social Workers are listed with the above codes. Please see guidelines on receiving Continuing Education Hours on previous page.

## Registration and Conference Fees

Online registration and payment information is located at [www.cpfanj.org](http://www.cpfanj.org). Online registration closes at midnight, March 8, 2023. To cancel a registration, email the conference coordinator at [info@cpfanj.org](mailto:info@cpfanj.org). No refunds can be given after March 10, 2023.

**All sessions will be recorded and made available to conference attendees only, after the conference.**

**\$35 per person (\$40/couple)** – The couple rate is designed for two people who are raising a child together. It is **not** intended for co-workers or other family members.

**\$20 per person** - Full-time Students/DCP&P Staff

**CEH Handling Fee: \$20** – A maximum of three (3) CEHs is available for NJ, NY and PA Licensed Social Workers – for keynote (1) and workshops (1). Social Workers should see special check-in instructions under “Continuing Education Hours.” Note: Not all workshops are eligible for CEHs.

**\$25 CPFA Membership – NEW OR RENEWAL** – Optional

**\$45 CPFA TWO-YEAR Membership – NEW OR RENEWAL** – Optional

We also accept donations.

Email [info@cpfanj.org](mailto:info@cpfanj.org) for any registration questions.

For those who need to mail-in their registration, please call 973.986.5702.

## Sessions

### Session A (Workshops 1-3) 10:30 am-11:30 am

- 1. Telling Your Child’s Difficult History** (CEH SW General/1 hour | AP, CW, FP, HP, KG, PA) Sharing complex and painful information about a child’s history or birth family can be challenging for adoptive parents and caregivers. This workshop will assist parents and caregivers to comfortably and confidentially talk about their child’s birth and adoption/kinship story. This workshop will help you develop the skills to competently tell your children difficult information and help them process it.  
*Rebecca Gallese, LCSW, NJ Adoption Resource Clearing House (NJ ARCH)*
- 2. Adolescence & Emerging Adulthood for LGBTQ+ Adoptees - What Parents Should Know** (SW-1 Social and Cultural/1 hour | AD, AP, BP, CW, ED, FP, HP, KG, PA) Adolescence and emerging adulthood is a period of intense identity exploration. Emerging adulthood for adoptees who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) is even more fraught with competing identities and feelings of isolation. How do parents of adopted adolescents and emerging adults who are LGBTQ+, support their child’s identity development? What is typical of this population during this period of time? Through a combination of lecture and group discussion, this workshop will discuss how our identities develop,

the micro and macro systems which contribute to our identity development, when parents should ‘lean in’ and how, and when to promote independence. We will discuss how to repair our mistakes and will provide tools and resources for parents of LGBTQ+ adoptees to build connection both at home, and within your community. *Sophia Gardner, LMSW, Spence-Chapin Services to Families & Children*

- 3. Too Many Losses Too Soon** (CEH SW General/1 hour | AD, AP, BP, CW, ED, FP, HP, KG, PA) This workshop addresses the unique losses experienced by children in foster care and adoptive families and will include factors that influence children’s reaction to loss, the four psychological tasks of grief work, and healing therapies for children and teens. The critical aspects of loss in foster care and adoption and how these losses impact children will be explored. Discussion will include how professionals can work with parents to understand how their children are experiencing the ambiguities of foster care and adoption. Effective interventions for opening communication with children and strengthening transitions and attachment to new families will be included. *Deborah B. Riley, LCMF, The Center for Adoption Support and Education, Inc.*

## **Session B (Workshops 4-5) 11:45 am-12:45 pm**

- 4. Transracial Adoption, Kinship & Foster Care: Parenting a Child of a Different Race** (SW-1 Social and Cultural/1 hour | AD, AP, BP, CW, ED, FP, HP, KG, PA) Parenting a child from a different race can be challenging. This workshop will explore the various myths in transracial adoption/foster/kinship relationships and will discuss ways to address issues that may come up when parenting a child of a different race. It will help us prepare our children to navigate a race conscious world. *E. Stefani Moon, MA, LPC, IMH-E®, NJ Adoption Resource Clearing House (NJ ARCH)*
- 5. A Parent’s Guide to Trauma Informed School Strategies and Programs** (CEH SW General/1 hour | AD, AP, BP, CW, ED, FP, HP, KG, PA) Recent research in the field of interpersonal neurobiology shows that the toxic stress that results from early exposure to traumatic situations (abuse, neglect, in-utero exposures to drugs and alcohol, exposure to domestic violence, and poverty) impacts brain development. The change in brain development can be connected to adult health outcomes, learning challenges and behavior concerns. This interactive workshop will define trauma, explore its impact on child development, and discuss ways to increase resilience in our children! *Melissa Sadin, Ed.D., Executive Director, Ducks & Lions: Trauma Sensitive Resources*

## **Acknowledgements**

Special thanks to all the CPFA volunteers who make this conference possible as well as the Adoption Agency Council of New Jersey and The Rutgers University School of Social Work.

**We look forward to seeing you on Saturday, March 11, 2023!**