



2017 National Adoption Conference Workshop Abstract

Presenter(s): Adam Pertman, Ruth McRoy

Presentation Title: Reshaping Adoption in the 21st Century: from “Child Placement” to “Family Success” Care

Topic Area: Promising practices that adoption exchanges, child welfare agencies, and others in the field are using to develop and support foster, adoptive, and kinship families;

Description:

While child welfare professionals agree the field needs to move beyond its historical “child placement” model, a key question is how to reshape policy and practice to incorporate education, supports and services that enable children and their families to be truly successful. In this keynote two leading experts on adoption and child welfare review and research experience of the last few decades, analyze what we’ve learned, and offer a road map for future progress.

Format: Lecture

Presenter(s) Biography:

Adam Pertman is President, CEO and Founder of the National Center on Adoption and Permanency (NCAP), a unique national nonprofit organization that provides research, resources, education, training, consulting and advocacy to improve the lives of children, families and the professionals who serve them.

Pertman brings his experience and expertise from two highly successful careers to NCAP. For the past decade, he established himself as one of the most effective and respected thought leaders in the child welfare world as head of the Donaldson Adoption Institute, a national nonprofit that he built into the pre-eminent research, policy and advocacy think tank in its field. Pertman also served as Associate Editor of the scholarly journal *Adoption Quarterly* and is a widely published author, including of the new edition of his classic book *Adoption Nation*, which has been reviewed as “the most important book ever written on the subject.” Previously, he

distinguished himself for over 20 years as a senior reporter and editor with the Boston Globe, where he was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize for his writing about adoption.

Pertman has delivered hundreds of keynotes, trainings and other presentations internationally, and the research reports he instigated, helped to conduct and edited – along with his writing, testimony and other advocacy – have been utilized to improve practice, shape law and policy, and educate professionals, students, the media and the public. His commentaries on families and children have appeared in major print and online publications nationwide, on National Public Radio, CNN, NBC, CBS, ABC and Fox News, as well as in media around the world.

Pertman's honors include a 2016 Adoption Excellence Award from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; an Adoption Angel in Adoption award from the U.S. Congressional Coalition on Adoption; the Special Friend of Children Award from the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry; the Dave Thomas Center for Adoption Law's first award for "the nation's greatest contributor to public understanding about adoption and permanency placement issues;" the President's Award from the African American Cultural Council of Virginia; a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Florida Adoption Council; and, when he was a journalist, an award from the American Adoption Congress "for his eloquent witnessing of contemporary adoption."

Pertman is a member of the National Joint Commission for Policy and Practice of the Child Welfare League of America, the Council on Contemporary Families and the Editorial Advisory Board of Adoptive Families magazine. He also serves as Senior Advisor to the Massachusetts Chapter of Foster Care Alumni of America. He and his wife are the parents of two children by adoption.

Ruth McRoy, PhD, is one of the most highly regarded scholars in the field of adoption and child welfare. In September 2009, McRoy became the first holder of the Donahue and DiFelice Endowed Professorship at Boston College Graduate School of Social Work. For 25 years prior to moving to BC, she was a faculty member of the University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work, where she held the Ruby Lee Piester Centennial Professorship.

McRoy is a practitioner, academician, researcher, and lecturer whose extensive body of work has focused on such topics as culturally competent service delivery, family preservation, open adoptions, post-adoption services, transracial adoptions, and older child adoptions. She has published over 100 articles and 10 books, including: "Transracial and Inracial Adoptees: The Adolescent Years" (with L. Zurcher); "Emotional Disturbance in Adopted Adolescents: Origins and Development" (with H. Grotevant and L. Zurcher); "Special Needs Adoptions: Practice Issues;" and "Openness in Adoption: Family Connections" (with H. Grotevant).

McRoy's recent honors include: the St. John's 2010 Outstanding Scholar in Adoption

Award; the 2013 Children's Bureau Adoption Excellence Award; the University of Texas at Austin Graduate School of Social Work's 2014 Alumni of the Year Award; and the 2014 Child Advocate of the Year Award from the North American Council on Adoptable Children.