



2017 National Adoption Conference Workshop Abstract

Presenter(s): Beverly Clarke, Brandi Hill

Presentation Title: Partnering for Permanency: How Private & Public Agencies Can Help Waiting Children

Topic Area: Effective new methods for recruiting foster, adoptive, and kinship families; 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:

During this workshop you will hear from both a public child welfare worker and a director of a private older child adoption program. Together, we will explore how private adoption agencies and public child welfare agencies can effectively partner with each other to find permanent and loving adoptive families for waiting children.

Format: Lecture

Presenter(s) Biography:

Ms. Clarke is the Director of Project Wait No Longer: Permanency for Foster Youth, a Barker initiative that seeks to find permanent homes for children currently in the public foster care system. She is responsible for the Project's overall administration, including recruitment, training, outreach and matching. Ms. Clarke has over 17 years of experience as a social worker and clinician, with many of those years focusing on children and families. Ms. Clarke's past experience includes work with the foster care system, family preservation programs as well as domestic and international adoption work. As an adoptive parent herself, she brings both a personal and professional understanding of the adoption process as well as a passion for achieving permanency for at-risk children.

With over 10 years experience working in the field of adoption, Brandi Hill continues to cultivate her passion for educating families about racial identity development and the unique aspects of transracial adoption. Over the course of her

adoption career, Ms. Hill has facilitated pre-adoption education classes, assisted families in the home study process and provided post placement support services. Ms. Hill also has extensive experience working with families formed through both international and domestic adoption; as well as facilitating numerous workshops and programs for parents, professionals, children and youth of all ages at culture camps, post adoption groups and adoptive and foster parent trainings. She is the Supervisor of the Adoption and Guardianship Unit at Prince George's County Department of Social Services.