



2017 National Adoption Conference Workshop Proposal Abstract

Presenter(s): Brandi Hill, Lisa Robertson

Presentation Title: The Making of a Man: Raising African American Youth in Foster 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:

In our current political and social climate, racist acts in the United States have become commonplace. This is a contributing factor to the already difficult task of parenting teens. Child welfare professionals and foster parents are faced with the responsibility of preparing young African American males for the stigma and the social perceptions they are likely to encounter; while preserving their sense of self worth, dignity and respect. This workshop will explore the impact of these racial misconceptions on the youth we serve. Participants will identify and discuss strategies for raising emotionally healthy African American youth.

Format: Combination of lecture and open discussion

Presenter(s) Biography:

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.

Lisa Robertson has been with Prince George's County Department of Social Services for 22 years where she began her career as a case manager in Foster Care. For the past six years, Ms. Robertson has been employed in the capacity of the agency's resource home recruiter and retention specialist, with the primary role of educating the community about the need for resource families in Prince George's County and recruiting those individuals to be foster and adoptive parents. In this position, Ms. Robertson has hosted successful "Adoption Matching Parties", developed and coordinated educational conferences for current licensed resource parents, as well as redeveloped the in-service training program for foster and adoptive parents. Ms. Robertson is an active participant with the Foster Care Advisory Committee through the Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments and is a certified PRIDE trainer