



2017 National Adoption Conference Workshop Abstract

Presenter(s): Heather Simmons, Wanda Audette

Presentation Title: Rural Recruitment and Retention

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

Description:

We are facing more and more challenges with recruiting and retaining foster families through the US. Vermont has been utilizing many different techniques which has allowed us to grow our pool of families. Some of the techniques we will talk about are Community Forums, Table Talks and Market Research to find target audiences. You will learn about targeted, general and focused recruitment strategies.

Format: Lecture and open discussion

Presenter(s) Biography:

Heather Simmons has worked at Lund for over 15 years in the Project Family program. Project Family works with youth between the ages of 7-18 who are in foster care and need a permanent family. Heather worked on the Rural Recruitment and Retention federal grant as supervisor. Heather also works with Vermont Kin as Parents as a kinship board member.

Wanda has worked at Lund for over 20 years in the adoption department. She is also co-director of the Project Family program. She helps develop permanency plans for the children in the Vermont foster care system. She has been a lead advocate for children in foster care and adoption.