



## 2017 National Adoption Conference Workshop Abstract

Presenter(s): Mark Lacava, LCSW-R

Presentation Title: Moving to Permanency 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:

Despite tremendous efforts, many foster care agencies lack the capacity to effectively intervene, treat, and transition children in foster care ages five and up with complex behavioral challenges to permanent families. This workshop reviews Spence-Chapin's innovative approach to help NYC children living in foster care transition home or adoption. We'll review how Spence-Chapin provides case management, comprehensive evidence-based therapy, and engages birth and foster families for the most complex cases.

Format: Lecture and Q and A

Presenter(s) Biography:

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Clinical Director Spence-Chapin Modern Family Center 1/1/2014 to Present

- Supervise Clinical staff
- Lead Staff trainings
- Manage the foster care adoption programs with multiple provider agencies.
- Develop and present foster care and parent trainings to staff and foster parents
- Participate in Conferences and seminars
- Develop Curriculum for Adoption and children based Issues Consultant

Work in Foster Care Agencies 2/2008 to 1/1/2014

- Provide therapy for children and families

- Review records for ways to provide clinical review and interventions for quality assurance
- Facilitate conferences on cases with the case planner and families.
- Staff development in clinical skills through case presentations with their peers and in-service trainings
- Provide crisis interventions to both staff and families
- Coach Parents during family visits
- Coordinate clinical care between agency and psychiatric hospitals
- Assist staff with family court presentations

Program Director Intensive Preventive Program 5/2006 to 2/2008  
 Episcopal Social Services

- Developed and implemented new program
- Hired staff for both sites for a total of 19 people
- Developed the program's operating manual
- Trained staff both in house and arranged for specialized Functional Family Therapy Training at sites throughout the country
- Provided outreach to community services to inform them of the new program.
- Developed and maintained the budget
- Interfaced with both funders Administration for Children's Service and our service contract with Functional Family Therapy
- Monitored all audits fiscal, administrative and clinical
- Lobbied at both the local and city government for funds and the need for the service

Social Work Supervisor 9/2000 to 5/ 2006  
 Episcopal Social Services, Group Home Division

- Provide general supervision of staff
- Assist childcare workers at each of four group homes in implementing social work plans and understanding the different needs of each student in their care
- Monitor case records for compliance issues and agency audits
- Conduct Service Plan reviews for each student in the unit on a semi-annual basis
- Provide psychosocial evaluations on students
- Create and manage mental health and drug treatment programs for the group homes
- Creatively engage parents in services needed to have their adolescents returned home
- Oversee the provision of community services for students on trial discharge
- Directed the Independent Living Program

Consultant/ Psychotherapist 8/1998-7/2005  
 Episcopal Social Services/ Group Homes & Foster Boarding Homes

- Provide psychotherapy for children and adolescents who have been recommended by their caseworkers for treatment
- Attend clinical supervision concerning clients on a weekly basis
- Presented each case at a semi-annual clinical conference to review the treatment plan needs and to continue therapy
- Complete monthly progress reports for each client

Clinical Therapist 6/1997 to 9/2000  
 Upper Manhattan Mental Health Center, Inc. /Child Adolescent Unit

- Provided individual and group therapy for children, adolescents and their guardians
- Conducted intake assessments
- Provided clinical treatment and social services, which include outreach and case management, but are not limited to client advocacy, school visits, and home visits
- Completed intake reports, treatment plans, psychosocial evaluations, progress notes, and other clinical materials
- Attended agency grand rounds, staff meetings, case conferences, and inter-agency training

#### EDUCATION

Ackerman Institute for the Family		
Columbia University School of Social Work	M.S.W	5/1997
Awarded the Hutchinson Scholarship		
Kutztown University of Pennsylvania		B.A 5/1984
Major: Speech and Theater with Minor in History		