



2017 National Adoption Conference Workshop Abstract

Presenter(s): Teresa J. Hess,

Presentation Title: Building An Adoption Aware Community

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:

This workshop will focus on engagement and tools for training community members and providers about adoption and trauma history. During the workshop participants will learn how to communicate to and with service providers about the needs of children in care and post adoption. The material will review how child welfare professionals can reach out to medical providers, therapists, education providers, and the general public, in order to form a community who is adoption aware.

Format: Lecture with open time for questions

Presenter(s) Biography:

Teresa J. Hess, LMHC, has been the Team Manager for Adoptions and Young Adult Services for FamiliesFirst Network since 2011. She is a Licensed Mental Health Counselor with a focus in Adoption Competency and parent training. Ms. Hess has previously provided transitional and post adoption counseling to families working with the agency. Ms. Hess is experienced in helping children and families through the adoption process; from understanding the system to understanding the needs of children in foster care and the families who build their families through adoption. Additionally, Ms. Hess works with her local CERT team in Psychological First Aid training for first responders and community members.