Non-Social-Workers Doing Social Work: How Interdisciplinary Teams Provide Effective Recruitment

Adoption Professional Track - best practices, evidence-based post-adopt programs, trends, recruitment strategies, technical skill-building, supervision.

Both Indiana and Michigan use media profiles and matching events to highlight children's strengths and to match those children with adoptive homes. Both states also use foster and adoptive parents to recruit more foster and adoptive parents. But these tasks take skills that social workers don't necessarily have. Heidi and Anna will share their lessons learned in managing interdisciplinary teams and how non-social workers have turned into some of the best resources for waiting youth and families. The trainers will provide practical examples of successful adoption recruitment tools and methods, discuss the ways they leverage public and private partnerships, and then explore promising practices for the future of adoption recruitment.

Lecture, Other (please specify): A hybrid of Lecture and Open Discussion

Yes
Q6 Lead Presenter Information

Name: Anna Wolak
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Q7 Brief Biography of Lead Presenter

Anna Wolak directs the Indiana Adoption Program (IAP), an initiative to match children in foster care with adoptive homes. Wolak has her Bachelor's in creative writing from Butler University and her Master’s in new arts journalism from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She has worked with the Indiana Adoption Program since 2009, where she began as a volunteer photographer.

Q8 Second Presenter Information

Name: Heidi Raubenolt
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Q9 Brief Biography of Second Presenter

Heidi Raubenolt, LMSW is the Child Welfare Director for Judson Center, a multi-faceted non-profit human service agency in Southeast Michigan. She oversees programming spanning from family preservation, foster care, adoption and post-permanency support. She works on a statewide and national level to address the needs of youth waiting for adoption in Michigan's foster care system through Judson Center’s administration of the Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) and as a board member of the Adoption Exchange Association (AEA). Raubenolt holds a bachelor’s degree in social work from Eastern Michigan University and a master’s degree in social work from Wayne State University, with a concentration on Community Practice and Social Action.