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Q1 Presentation Title

Collaborating to Prevent Re-entry After Adoption: Adopt America Network and National Exchange Parent Aide Program Explore a Collaborative Approach to Prevent Adoption Disruption and Dissolution

Q2 Topic Area

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

Q3 75-Word Description of Workshop

Adopt America Network and National Exchange Club are exploring a partnership to bring the Exchange Parent Aide program to adoptive families to prevent disruptions, dissolutions and re-entry of children into foster care. Intensive, relationship-based in-home services for families from match through post-finalization will assist the family in accessing the additional services needed and provide guidance as they navigate educational, medical and mental health systems. Program funding will be explored through the Family First Prevention Services Act, Adoption Incentive funding and IV-E de-link savings for post-adoption services.

Q4 Format

Lecture,
 Other (please specify):
 Combination of Lecture and Discussion

Q5 AEA will not provide LCD projectors or computers. However, we will provide a hook-up. Will you need hook-up for your computer and projector?

Yes

2019 AEA Conference Workshop Proposals

Q6 Lead Presenter Information

Name	Wendy Spoerl
Title	President
Affiliation	Adopt America Network
Street	3100 W. Central Avenue, Suite 225
City	Toledo
State	Ohio
Zip	43606
Daytime Phone Number	419-726-5100
Email Address	wspoerl@adoptamericanetwork.org

Q7 Brief Biography of Lead Presenter

Throughout her 30 year career in children's charities and human service organizations, Wendy Spoerl has shown an unwavering commitment to improving the lives of those whose voices have too often gone unheard. Standing up for over 100,000 children who have been abused and neglected and who wait in U.S. foster care for permanency has been the focus of her efforts during her 17-year tenure at Adopt America Network. Under her leadership, AAN helped to place its 4,500th child, a remarkable accomplishment considering that on average, 64% of the children were placed as members of sibling groups, 80% of the children had emotional challenges, 60% of the children had physical issues, and over 30% of them were older youth.

Adopt America Network is a national nonprofit charity founded in 1983 by Richard K. Ransom, the founder of Hickory Farms. Ms. Spoerl has continued Mr. Ransom's vision of helping children grow up in safe, loving, permanent homes. From the first placement in 1983, this commitment has not been restricted by geographic or political boundaries. Ms. Spoerl has traveled tens of thousands of miles, meeting with public agency caseworkers to learn about the children in their care and help them find loving families who are able to open their homes to the children waiting in foster care.

Ms. Spoerl served as the president of Voice for Adoption, the national adoption advocacy organization headquartered in Washington, D.C. In this role, she assisted in educating legislators regarding issues affecting child welfare, children in foster care, and families who adopt children from foster care; including, the refundable adoption tax credit, kinship support, interstate adoption, and PPLA (Planned Permanent Living Arrangements). Additionally, she served as co-chairman of the Ohio Adoption Planning Group. Currently, Ms. Spoerl serves on the national board of the Adoption Exchange Association. Ms. Spoerl has been a presenter at national adoption conferences including the North American Council on Adoptable Children, the Adoption Exchange Association, and most recently at the 100th National Exchange Club Convention and Symposium. She trains public and private agency staff on topics ranging from child and family matching methods to agency customer service techniques to nonprofit funding strategies.

Prior to her work in nonprofit charities, Ms. Spoerl was an instructor at the University of Toledo and at her alma mater, Bowling Green State University. She and her husband are very proud parents of two daughters and a son and live in Bowling Green, Ohio.

Q8 Second Presenter Information

Name	Genevieve Stults
Title	Director, Child Abuse Prevention Services
Affiliation	The National Exchange Club
Street	3050 Central Avenue
City	Toledo
State	Ohio
Zip	43606
Daytime Phone Number	419-535-3232
Email Address	gstults@nationalexchangeclub.org

Q9 Brief Biography of Second Presenter

Genevieve has worked with children and families for 36 years, in protective services, treatment, home visiting programs, and child abuse prevention programs as a direct service provider and program manager. She has been a national trainer for Healthy Families America, The Midwest Learning Center of Family Focus, Inc. and Ohio's statewide home visitation program, Help Me Grow. She has been employed with the National Exchange Club since 2006, and has been director of CAP Services for 6 years. Genevieve holds a BS in Social Work and a Master's in Organization Development.
