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Meet the Education Team



Stephanie Regnier
Education Program Director



Kris Horman
Education Coordinator



Bridget Leonard
Education Coordinator



Kayla Olson
Education Outreach Coordinator

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Upcoming AdoptEd & FosterEd Webinars

PLEASE NOTE: To receive a certificate of attendance for the live webinar, attendees must register individually, attend the entire training, and watch from their own device to ensure proper tracking.



2 Part Series: Adolescent Sexual & Reproductive Health

Presented by: Jill Farris, MPH

**Part 2: Friday, October 4, 2024
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (Central Time)**

Adolescence is a time of major transition physically, emotionally, and socially. Healthy sexuality is an important part of adolescent development, and caring adults play a key role in helping young people develop healthy routines, behaviors, and relationships that they can carry into their adult lives. During this workshop, participants will review adolescent health data trends, learn basic information about puberty and anatomy, and gain skills for answering sensitive questions regarding sexuality. Participants will also learn how experiences of trauma may impact adolescent sexual health, and how their own values impact their ability to effectively support young people during this important time in their lives.

Please note this training is two days, Part 1 takes place on September 27th. Register for part 1 [here](#).

REGISTER

Positive Identity Development for Transracial/ Transcultural Composed Families

*Presented by: Kimara Gustafson, MD,
MPH*

**Tuesday, October 15, 2024
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM (Central
Time)**



This workshop will provide an overview of racial and cultural identity development from birth through early grade school. It will also address how adult caregivers/providers can intentionally support and encourage healthy and positive identity development for children who may differ in terms of perceived race or culture from their caregivers/parents/family.

REGISTER



Prenatal Substance Exposure: Behavior Belongs in the Brain

Presented by: Ira Chasnoff, MD

**Monday, October 21, 2024
12:30 PM - 2:00 PM (Central Time)**

Early development often falls into the normal range for young children with a history of prenatal substance exposure. However, regulatory difficulties have significant implications for long term development, learning and behavior. This session will present a framework for understanding the brain-based developmental and behavioral difficulties of children and teens affected by prenatal substance exposure and discuss how this framework can be applied to developing appropriate interventions and treatment.

REGISTER



Embracing Your Skills as a Foster Parent: Session Two

Presented by: Lorie Leske & Angie Ellsworth

Tuesday, October 22, 2024
1:00 PM - 2:30 PM (Central Time)

A foster parent must be many things to many people. Child welfare professionals depend on the skills of foster parents. Children need safety and guidance to heal from the various traumas that they have experienced in their short lives. In session 2 of this 3-part series, we will explore the following skills: patience and humor, stability and

consistency in relationships, discipline. We will end with session 3 in December: self-care, collaboration with multiple people in the child's life, and cultural and identity development.

If you missed session 1, we learned about listening with empathy, perseverance in the midst of the struggle, flexibility and adaptability. This session can be found in our webinar library [here](#).

We will end with session 3 in December: self-care, collaboration with multiple people in the child's life, and cultural and identity development. Register [here](#).

REGISTER

Guardianship Commitments

Presented by: Sarah Johnstone, MA

Thursday, October 24, 2024
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM (Central Time)



An introduction to legal guardianship and mentally ill (MI) and chemical dependency (CD) commitments. What is it? What are the legal parameters based on Minnesota State Statutes? What is the process? What are your rights and responsibilities? Sara Johnstone's workshop will answer these questions, and any others you may have regarding guardianship and MI/CD commitments.

REGISTER

FREE Pre-Recorded Webinars

Certificates of Completion are available. Look for the instructions in the confirmation email once you purchase the pre-recorded webinar.

How to Talk About Difficult Birth Histories with Adopted Children

Learn how to share your child's history with them in ways that promote healthy communication, offer developmentally appropriate language, and support the reduction of potential negative internalizations.

Watch time: 80 minutes

Eligible Certificate of Completion time:
75 minutes

Coupon code: WCAHBJGJ

Available October 1-31

[View Webinar](#)

Exploring Complicated Relationships in Foster and Adoptive Families

We will explore the complexities that adoptees, birth/first families, and family members of adoptees might face after accessing original birth records.

Watch time: 110 minutes

Eligible Certificate of Completion time:
110 minutes

Coupon code: RQ873X27

Available October 1-31

[View Webinar](#)

In her webinar, How to Talk About Difficult Birth Histories with Adopted Children Dr. Chaitra Wirta-Leiker discusses how to address challenging birth histories with adopted children. She provided a helpful template for a letter to send to an adopted child's teacher, especially useful for the back-to-school season. This letter is designed

to inform the teacher about the child's unique background and any specific considerations or support they may need, ensuring a supportive and understanding environment in the classroom.

You can find the template here: [A Letter to My Adopted Child's Teacher - Beyond Words Psychological Services \(growbeyondwords.com\)](https://www.growbeyondwords.com/letter-to-teacher)

FAM News & Announcements

Join us for the kick-off of Minnesota's Adoption Awareness Month, honoring families who have grown through adoption and kinship care.

We will be back at the North End Event Center in St. Paul. We will also have a virtual option available. Both will take place Saturday, November 2.

This is a free celebration and recruitment event. Fun for all ages!

REGISTRATION

Now Open!



- SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2
- IN-PERSON OR VIRTUAL

**CIRCUS OF
THE Heart** 



LEARN MORE AND REGISTER

*Register by October 12 to reserve your spot for the in-person or virtual event



SAVE THE DATES!

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

We're thrilled to announce our upcoming 3-Day Fall Forum, featuring FREE live webinars designed to enhance your skills and expand your knowledge.

Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details!

This is a fantastic opportunity to gain valuable insights from experts, engage in interactive discussions, and connect with fellow professionals and caregivers. We can't wait to share more with you soon!

CHECK OUR WORKSHOP PAGE FOR UPDATES

Let's Talk Podcast:

Check out our latest episode,

The experiences of Biological Children in Foster Families

 [Listen now](#)



Daniela Coats, Licensed Masters Social Worker, joins us from Texas to talk about her personal experiences growing up in a home that fostered and adopted as well as her work as a therapist and trainer supporting the entire foster family. She will share

about lessons offered in her new book, *The Day Lily Turned(Un)Invisible*, on ways we can support and value birth children in foster families.

Learn more about our services

Information and resources for the foster, adoption, and kinship communities in Minnesota and the professionals who support them.

The Zero Kids Waiting Program is the gateway to information about adoption, foster care, and kinship in Minnesota.

Support, guidance, and resource connection for Minnesota's adoption, foster and kinship communities

Information, resources, and referrals regarding post-adoption support in Minnesota.

Our Education Program provides workshops on topics relevant to foster, adoptive, and kinship families.

Provides information and referral to adopted persons, birth families, and adoptive families who need records or have questions about the search process.



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