2007 National Adoption and Foster Care Training Conference

Shared Beliefs, Shared Values: Achieving Excellence in Adoption and Foster Care

Save the Dates

- **Dates**: December 10-12, 2007
- **Location**: New Orleans Marriott, New Orleans, LA

Request for Presentations

- Read the Introduction

- Submit your Workshop Proposal via our Online Form
  Deadline: 5:00 p.m. (ET), May 4, 2007*

  * Please Note: You should receive an e-mail confirmation after you submit your proposal. If you do not, please contact Ada White, awhite@cwla.org or Millicent Williams, mwillia@cwla.org.

Proposal Submission Introduction

Deadline: 5:00 p.m. (ET), May 4, 2007

Call for Papers and Save the Dates

Dear Colleagues:

New Orleans, Louisiana will be the host city for *Shared Beliefs, Shared Values: Achieving Excellence in Adoption and Foster Care*, the CWLA National Adoption and Foster Care Training Conference scheduled for December 10-12, 2007.

We will present a collaborative national training conference celebrating the continued increase in adoptions of waiting children, primarily by their foster parents. The conference will feature workshops and information on all facets of adoption: special needs, placement of older children, kinship adoptions, domestic (private infant agency) adoption and intercountry adoption. We will also focus on foster care, including placement stability, education, mental health, medical issues, youth permanency, overrepresentation of children of color in foster care, and innovative foster care programs that address some of these issues.

You can help us create an informative, stimulating conference that provides national leadership for child welfare and permanency professionals. We encourage you to submit proposals for workshops that reflect the criteria outlined in this announcement and are solution-focused.

Proposals must be received no later than May 4, 2007, to be considered. We look forward to seeing you in New Orleans!

Sincerely,

Ada White
Director of Adoption Services

Millicent Williams
Director of Foster Care Services

Call for Papers

This conference is designed to provide quality training for beginning and experienced frontline staff and supervisors, administrators of adoption and foster care and related child welfare programs, and professionals in related disciplines. Priority will be given to information new to the field.

In preparing your workshop proposal, select from one of the following conference focus areas:

Focus Areas

(Indicate on the workshop form below the number of the focus area for your workshop.)

1. **Children**
   - Preparing older children for adoption
   - Teen permanency
   - Successful/innovative placements of teens in adoption
   - Innovative approaches to expedite permanency for all children
   - Placement of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and questioning youth in adoption and foster care
   - Refugee and undocumented minors
   - Trafficking of children

2. **Families**
   - Recruiting and preparing families for adoption (special needs, domestic, intercountry, gay and lesbian)
   - Family finding
   - Rural adoption and foster care
   - Kinship adoption and foster care, guardianship
   - Foster parent adoption
   - Birth parent issues and concerns
   - Concurrent planning, family team conferencing
   - Foster and adoptive parent support systems

3. **Services and Strategies**
   - Strategies for using community resources (faith, neighborhood, education, etc) in adoption and foster care
   - Connecting systems of care
   - Postadoption services--special needs, domestic adoption, and intercountry
   - Toolkits and tools that work for permanency
   - Overcoming Interjurisdictional barriers to adoption and foster care
   - Adoption exchanges
   - Public-private collaborations
   - Residential treatment and adoption
   - Cooperative (open) adoption
   - Promoting educational stability for children in care

4. **Culture**

- o Cultural adoption patterns, Latino, African American, and Native American perspectives and solutions
- o The role of race and culture in adoption, transracial adoption
- o Intercountry adoption cultural issues
- o Disproportionality

5. **Legal/regulation/Policy**
   - o Federal adoption and foster care law: ASFA, MEPA, ICWA, CAPTA
   - o Child and Family Services Reviews
   - o Legal issues: court, CASA, GAL, agency/court, collaborations
   - o The Hague Convention: implementation, home study process
   - o Child welfare practice issues
   - o The Convention on the Rights of the Child

6. **Medical/Therapeutic**
   - o Brain development of infants and toddlers
   - o Medical homes, international medical evaluations
   - o Postadoption depression syndrome
   - o Health and mental health services in adoption, foster care, kinship care, and international adoption
   - o Therapeutic issues and models in adoption, foster care, kinship care, and international adoption

7. **Data and Research**
   - o Adoption and foster care research, data collection, AFCARS, new technology
   - o Evidence-based practice in adoption and foster care

8. **Triad and Adult Foster Care Issues**
   - o Foster care and adopted adult issues
   - o Open records, search
   - o Postadoption birth parent and adoptive parents supports

9. **Professional Training**
   - o Training and evaluation of public and private agency staff
   - o Training and education for adoptive and foster parents
   - o Adoption competence certification
   - o Uniform Home Study, dual licensure
   - o Training for racial and cultural issues

10. **Other (not limited to those below)**
    - o Innovative approaches to expediting permanence for children
    - o Creating an effective advocacy campaign for adoption and foster care

- o Working with the media
- o Adoption, foster care, and the juvenile justice system

Selection Criteria

Proposals will be rated on their relevance to the conference theme, clarity, originality, ability to be replicated, cultural content, and relevance to the target audience. Special attention will be given to ensuring cultural and geographic diversity and public and private agency representation. Presentations that highlight effective program models, creative policy strategies, and approaches that provide participants with information and guidance that will support and enhance their work in the field are desired.

Those selected will be notified by June 15, 2007. Selected presenters must agree to attend and facilitate their presentations and provide handout materials for workshop presentations.

Guidelines for Submission

1. Your workshop proposal must include the following components to be considered:
   - o A 25- to 50-word description of your workshop for the conference brochure, with a title that reflects the proposed workshop's content.
   - o An abstract of your workshop (not to exceed 500 words) that summarizes the proposed workshop's content, describes the presentation format, and identifies the target audience.
   - o A 50-word biographical sketch for each presenter identified in the abstract.
2. Proposals must be received by **5:00 p.m. (ET), May 4, 2007**.

For More Information

If you have questions regarding the process or the conference, contact Ada White, awhite@cwla.org, 225/683-9233, or Millicent Williams, mwillia@cwla.org, 202/942-0253.

If you have questions about advertising in the conference program or exhibiting at the conference, contact Karen Dunn, 202/639-4923, or e-mail advertising@cwla.org.

Please Note

- All workshops will be 1.5 hours.

- CWLA may publish part of all of the proceedings of this conference. Sessions may also be recorded and distributed. By presenting at the conference, you agree CWLA has the right to include your presentation in a future publication should it decide to do so. You are not precluded from publishing your material elsewhere, nor is CLWA obligated to include it in any book or monograph that may arise from this conference.

- Presenters are expected to register for the conference and pay their own expenses. The daily attendance fee is waived for presenters only for the day of their presentation, which will include any food service scheduled as part of that day's activity.

- CWLA may publish part or all of the proceedings of this conference. By presenting at the conference, you agree that CWLA has the right to include your presentation in a future publication or on its website should it decide to do so. You are not precluded from publishing your material elsewhere, nor is CWLA obligated to include it in any book, monograph, or other communication that may arise from this conference.

- Submissions must indicate a primary subject area under which it is to be considered. List more than one if appropriate, with primary focus number first. Submissions that do not indicate a primary subject area will not be considered.

- It is recommended that you have no more than three presenters total in your workshop so each may be able to complete their presentation.
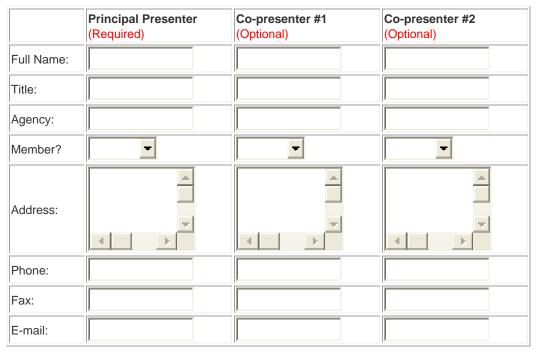
Travel Discounts

Click here to get information on car rental discounts. This information may be updated on the website over the summer.

Lodging

Registration for lodging at the New Orleans Marriott is available at $140.00 single/double by calling Marriott reservations toll-free at 800/-654-3990. Ask for the group rate of $140.00 for the Child Welfare League of America. We encourage early registration, as rooms in the conference hotel are limited.

Proposal Submission

Presenter Information

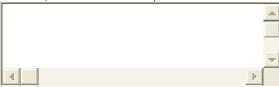|	Principal Presenter (Required)	Co-presenter #1 (Optional)	Co-presenter #2 (Optional)
Full Name:			
Title:			
Agency:			
Member?			
Address:			
Phone:			
Fax:			
E-mail:			

Additional Presenters:

Proposal Information

Select the primary focus area which best reflects your proposed workshop's content:

Select One ▾

Select a secondary focus area if it applies:

Select One ▾

What are the key learning objectives of this session?

1. [   ]

2. [   ]

3. [   ]

List any times or days during the conference that you will NOT be available (workshop time assignments will be made based on this information):

[   ]

Primary Audience:

Select One ▾

Enter a brief title that clearly reflects your proposed workshop's content:

[   ]

Enter a 25-50 word abstract of your workshop for the conference program:

[   ]

Enter a workshop description (not to exceed 500 words) that summarizes the proposed workshop's objectives and content and describes the presentation format.

[   ]

Enter a brief biographical summary (not to exceed 50 words per presenter) of each presenter.

List any special equipment you will require for your presentation
(Overhead Projector, Flip chart/easel, Laptop computer, DVD player, LCD projector,
VCR/TV, Internet connection):

Note: Presenters who need a laptop computer, LCD projector, or Internet connection will
be billed at cost.