

MARCH 28, 2017

Spring Conference

APRIL 7-8, 2017
DES MOINES AIRPORT HOLIDAY INN

Final Statewide Conference

Don't miss your chance to attend the last statewide conference held by IFAPA for foster and adoptive parents and professionals.

Read what past attendees have said about our conference:

"Many good topics this weekend, wish I could have attended more of them!"

"Amazingly organized. Good flow. Thank you to everyone who worked hard to make this a day of awesome trainings!"

Introducing Workshop & Keynote Presenter:

Dr. Richard Delaney

Dr. Richard Delaney is an internationally known clinical psychologist, speaker and consultant to foster, kinship, and adoptive parents and programs. Dr. Delaney has given several hundred presentations throughout the United States and beyond. Dr. Delaney is currently the principal investigator of Foster Parent College. He is the author (or co-author) of: *Fostering Changes: Myth, Meaning, and Magic Bullets in Attachment Theory* and *A 3-D View of Foster, Kinship, and Adopted Children* (with James M. Kagan, M.D.).



Dr. Delaney will present the following workshops:

- **A1 (Friday)** In Touch Parenting: Foster Parents as Mind-Readers
- **KEYNOTE (Friday Luncheon)** The Healing Power of the Family
- **B1 (Friday)** Fostering Changes: Understanding & Addressing the Eight Most Common Behavior Problems in Foster & Kinship Children & Youth
- **C1 (Friday)** Eating and Food-Related Problems of Foster & Adopted Children

VIEW ADDITIONAL WORKSHOPS ON THE NEXT PAGE



Airport Holiday Inn

6111 Fleur Dr, Des Moines

Conference Cost

Foster/Adoptive Parents:
\$50 (1-Day) OR \$70 (2-Day)

Social Worker/Professional:
\$80 (1-Day) OR \$100 (2-Day)

Conference Eats

Each day of the conference includes morning coffee and donuts, a luncheon and an afternoon snack.

Prizes & Raffle Baskets

IFAPA will be giving away door prizes each day of the conference and will be selling tickets to win raffle baskets.

REGISTER ONLINE

REGISTER BY MAIL

REGISTRATION DEADLINE HAS BEEN
EXTENDED TO THURS., MAR. 30

More Conference Workshops

Celebrating the Challenge: Partnering with Birth Parents

In this session, we will celebrate the challenges that foster parents and adoptive parents have when caring for someone else's child. Our challenge is to prove we love unconditionally, which means celebrating who the child is starting from birth and including the child's important connections. This experiential workshop will help participants examine practical ideas for building working partnerships between foster parents and birth parents to effectively share parenting and celebrate the challenges and successes of partnering for children. **Presenters: Donna Foster & Heather Craig-Oldsen, MSW, CSW** [Approved for SW CEUs](#)

CHECK OUT DONNA FOSTER'S RECENT ARTICLE 

It is a Matter of Justice: Strategies for Working with Children with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders is a range of physical, cognitive, and behavioral problems that can occur in individuals exposed to alcohol prenatally. The research suggests that children on the spectrum are at high risk for a disrupted school experience and coming into contact with the criminal justice system. This presentation will provide an overview of FASD, challenges that are common when raising a child that is impacted, and will explore practical strategies for addressing FASD at home, in the school, and in the community to work towards better outcomes.

Presenter: Ruth Richardson, JD [Approved for SW CEUs](#)

Understanding LGBTQ Youth: Concepts, Terminology, and Disparities

The acronym "LGBTQ" encompasses a broad range of identities, terms and concepts. This session will define terms while encouraging understanding of "big concepts". LGBTQ youth also experience significant health disparities compared to their peers, including representation in homeless and foster care populations. This session will increase knowledge of who LGBTQ youth are and issues they face. **Presenter: Molly Herrmann, MA** [Approved for SW CEUs](#)

Welcoming LGBTQ Youth into Your Home

This session will increase your skill and comfort engaging with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning/queer (LGBTQ) youth. LGBTQ youth are disproportionately represented in the homeless youth population and foster system. They also have often experienced a lack of acceptance in their families of origin. This presentation will offer practical tips for creating a safe and supportive environment where LGBTQ youth can thrive. Participants can expect to learn, stretch, and grow as they build their skills in being a positive and supportive adult in the lives of LGBTQ youth. **Presenter: Molly Herrmann, MA**

[Approved for SW CEUs](#)

Making a Difference by Maintaining Connections

by Donna Gillespie Foster

When they're in foster care, one of the greatest gifts we can give young people is to help maintain—or strengthen—their connections to their families. To do this well, it really helps if we have good relationships with the birth families as well.

This isn't always easy. Working with birth parents and maintaining children's connections to them can be very challenging. In fact, maintaining connections often requires "out of the box" thinking and approaches.

[CONTINUE READING](#)

How LGBTQ Youth Enter the Foster Care System

Because of homophobia and transphobia in their homes, schools, and social settings, LGBTQ youth enter the foster care system at a disproportionate rate.

- Many LGBTQ youth face neglect or abuse from their families of origin because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. A recent study found that over 30% of LGBTQ youth reported suffering physical violence at the hands of a family member after coming out.
- Because of lack of acceptance and abuse by their families of origin, many LGBTQ youth are removed from their homes or found to be "throwaways" by child protection agencies and placed in the foster care system.
- In addition, many LGBTQ youth — 26% according to one study — are forced to leave their families of origin as a result of conflicts with their parents regarding their sexual orientation or gender identity.
- As a result of lack of acceptance and abuse in the home and at school, a disproportionate number of youth living on the streets are LGBTQ. The National Network of Runaway and Youth Services estimates that between 20-40% of homeless youth are LGBTQ.

[LEARN MORE](#)