

ADOPTION

KNOWLEDGE AFFILIATES

19TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

“ATTACHING IN ADOPTION: NURTURING RESILIENCY”

FRIDAY & SATURDAY,

NOVEMBER 4 & 5, 2011 AUSTIN, TX

Deborah Gray, MSW, MPH

Featured Speaker

Deborah Gray, MSW, MPH, specializes in the attachment, grief, and trauma issues of children in her practice, Nurturing Attachments. Her passion is to help families develop close, satisfying relationships. She has worked 25 years in children's therapies. Deborah Gray is the author of two books, *Nurturing Adoptions: Creating Resilience after Neglect and Trauma*, 2007, and *Attaching in Adoption: Practical Tools for Today's Parents*, 2002. Nurturing Adoptions was a 2008 award finalist for the Benjamin Franklin best professional book of the year.

Deborah is on faculty for Portland State University's post-graduate certificate programs in foster and adoption therapy. She was the 2008 Henry W. Maier Practitioner in Residence at the School of Social Work at the University of Washington.



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**Social Work 11 CEUs (5 Friday/6 Saturday)
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AGENDA

FRIDAY

9:00-9:45

Registration

9:45-10:00

Welcome and Conference Overview
AKA President Dawn Scott

10:00-12:30

Keynote Address:

Nurturing Resiliency: Trauma and the Brain- Deborah Gray, MSW, MPH (2.5 CEU)

What is happening in brain development when children are under the stress of neglect and trauma, including prenatal stress and substance exposure? This keynote will describe the changes in the way children process information and meet their world after maltreatment. Scientific advances are helping parents and professionals better understand the brain based changes that occur in children's processing after exposure to trauma and neglect. Ms. Gray will define executive dysfunction and the audience will learn about the effects of chronic trauma in the early years including how we can help children with executive dysfunctions best processes information. This keynote will also examine the latest research on children's brains and the impacts of moves on vulnerability to stress and development of pathological grief, Attention Deficit Disorder, and/or Executive Dysfunction.

12:30-1:30

Lunch (on your own)

1:30-4:00

Keynote Address:

Resiliency: Ethical Child Welfare Practices- Deborah Gray, MSW, MPH (2.5 ethics).

Moving children between families: What are the techniques that work best for children with prenatal exposure? What are the time frames that are important based on the children's ages? The specific and practical methods of moving children will be described in depth.

Attachment-oriented Home Studies: How do we assess for qualities that are the best fit for today's children coming into foster and adoptive homes? What home and parental qualities help children to develop emotional resilience? This session will equip the audience in focusing on the "right stuff" when assessing families. It will also help them to encourage and protect these key qualities in foster and adoptive families.

SATURDAY

8:30-8:45

Registration

8:45-9:00

Welcome

9:00-12:00

Keynote Address:

Attaching in Adoption- Deborah Gray, MSW, MPH (3 CEU)

What are attachments and why is "attachment" such an issue in adoption? Ms. Gray will provide the essentials of building secure and mutually gratifying relationships over the growing-up years. She will describe specific challenges to secure attachment after maltreatment-and appropriate tools for overcoming obstacles. This keynote address will give participants practical tools to use with children and teens by examining the following questions: What is the role of attachment in stress regulation, empathy, and social relatedness? What are the effects of disorganized attachments (the most common style after neglect and abuse) on children's development? What are some practical methods of helping parents and children move into a secure attachment style and methods of protecting that secure attachment relationship. What are the effects of trauma on children's attachments, and the need to prevent continuing stresses and trauma for children?

12:00-1:00

Lunch (provided)

1:00-2:30

Session I Breakout Sessions:

A. Reconnecting When Your Open Adoption has Fizzled Out - Patricia Martinez Dorner, MA, LPC, LMFT (1.5 CEU)

At the beginning of most open placements, contact is exciting and central to the experience. For various reasons, however, the relationship everyone agreed to may fade, become unpredictable, or cease. This workshop address both the birth family and the adopting family's complicated emotions about this development, and a panel will share their experiences with rebuilding communication after a breach in open adoption.

B. Healing Hidden Wounds: Grief and Shame in the Adopted Individual- Tammy Linseisen, LCSW (1.5 CEU)

People who are adopted experience different variations of loss as part of their adoption processes. This workshop will offer information about developmental grief responses and highlight the attachment milestones in which these grief responses might emerge more readily. Participants will be asked to reflect on their own experiences while also learning about ways that attachment relationships both enhance and mitigate loss.

C. So You're Thinking about Adoption?- Janie Cravens, LCSW (1.5 CEU)

There are only a few absolute "rights" and "wrongs" when it comes to adopting because all the world's children need parents. Despite this, making the decisions about where to focus one's adoption efforts can be confusing and fear ridden. This workshop will address Pros and Cons for domestic, international, older child, infant, and independent adoption options.

2:30-2:45

Break

2:45-4:15

Session II Breakout Sessions:

A. Healing Hidden Wounds; Grief and Shame in the Relinquishing Parent – Donna Crews Finney, LMSW (1.5 CEU)

The emotional complexity of being a person who has a child being raised in another's family spans one's whole life time. Often the grief from this experience hides underground, wears disguises, and invites coping mechanisms that cause new problems. A panel of relinquishing parents will share their experience and strength in this interactive workshop.

B. Exploring the Gift of Resiliency - Nyla Lengacher, LCSW (1.5 CEU)

A panel of adoptees will discuss the commonalities in their different experiences growing up as adopted children. We will examine what elements they believe contributed to their resiliency as children and ultimately their success as adults. This panel will include adults adopted internationally, as an older child, and in open and closed adoptions.

C. What Do Prenatal Exposures Mean to Your Baby?- Lori Wolfe, MS, CGC (1.5 CEU)

Pregnancies are often exposed to many different substances including alcohol, cigarette and marijuana smoking, prescription medication, and illegal drugs. All of these substances can have different effects on a pregnancy depending on the timing and the dose of the exposure. This presentation will look at the common pregnancy exposures and the possible risks to the unborn baby.

4:15-4:30

Closing Session and
Conference Wrap Up

PRESENTERS

Janie Cravens, LCSW has more than 30 years of experience in adoption, infertility, attachment, child welfare, and birth parent concerns. She is a pioneer of open adoption practices in the U.S. and orphanage care in the developing world. She resides in Austin where she owns a consulting company, Adoption Development Resources.

Donna Crews Finney, LMSW is the Outreach and Marketing Specialist for the University of Spiritual Healing and Sufism and maintains a private practice. Her extensive social work and counseling background includes over 25 years helping women recover from addiction to drugs, alcohol, and negative thinking.

Tammy Linseisen, LCSW has been a member of the clinical faculty at the University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work for 13 years. Her educational and clinical interests involve many areas of child and family welfare. Currently, Tammy has developed and teaches a graduate course on Child and Adult Attachment, and the study of attachment is currently one of her strongest passions. She is a member of the adoption triad as an adoptee and believes that this truth sparked much of her passion in this study and practice.

Lori Wolfe, MS, CGC, is the Director of the Texas Teratogen Information Service for the state of Texas and is the current President for OTIS, the national Organization of Teratology Information Specialists. Lori, a board-certified Genetic Counselor specializing in the area of teratogen counseling, began the Texas service in 1991. The teratogen service answers questions on the toll free Pregnancy Risk line from both the public and health care professionals about pregnancy and breast feeding exposures to common agents such as alcohol, cigarette smoking, illicit drugs, prescription medications, and over-the-counter products. Lori's area of special interest is adoption. Lori is happily married to Doug, who is an engineer at Vought Aircraft in Dallas. They have three wonderful children: Shaelynn, Shaun and Shane.

Nyla Lengacher, LCSW has worked in the mental health field for the past 20 years. Her work has included: individual; group and couples counseling; program administration; life coaching and consulting. Nyla currently has a private practice in Austin. In her private practice, she focuses most of her work with issues related to mood disorders, social anxiety and adoption issues. She also provides pre and post reunion counseling for adoptees.

Patricia Martinez Dorner, MA, LPC, LMFT has been an advocate for adoption reform since the 1980s. She is the author of *How to Open an Adoption: a guide for parents and birth parents of minors*; *ADOPTION SEARCH: An ethical guide for professionals*; *Talking to your Child About Adoption*; *ADOPCION: hablando con tu hijo* (Spanish translation), and co-author of *Child of Open Adoption*. Patricia has an adoption and foster care focused private practice which includes counseling, search assistance, preparation and support. Patricia has been a passionate advocate for children in foster care, locating and mediating contact with their original families.

ONE REGISTRATION FORM PER PERSON; PHOTOCOPY AS NECESSARY

REGISTRATION

NAME _____
 ORGANIZATION/AGENCY _____
 MAILING ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
 EMAIL _____
 PHONE _____

I AM: Adopted Person Birth Parent Adoptive Parent Prospective Adoptive Parent
 Social Worker Attorney Therapist/Counselor Other _____

MY MEAL PREFERENCE IS: Vegetarian Non-vegetarian
 I will need childcare (see details on back) for (# of children) _____ (ages) _____

PLEASE CIRCLE ONE

	Friday Only	Saturday Only	Both Days	
AKA Member	\$90	\$65	\$105	\$ _____
Non-Member	\$115	\$90	\$140	\$ _____
Student	\$35	\$35	\$60	\$ _____
Social Work CEUs	One payment of \$15 for one or both days			\$ _____
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Childcare	\$25			\$ _____
Total Check Enclosed:				\$ _____

WEBSITE REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS

To Register online
 (through November 1st)
 go to www.adoptionknowledge.org

**PLEASE CIRCLE
 APPLICABLE
 BREAKOUT:
 SESSION I A B C
 SESSION II A B C**

Mail-in registrations must be postmarked by Oct. 28th, 2011. The additional fee for on-site registration is \$15.
 10% discount given to groups of 10 or more from a single organization.

Cancellations/Refunds:

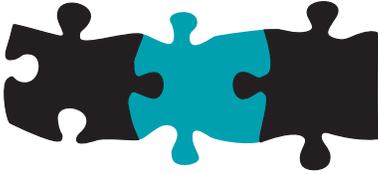
Refunds are available provided notice is received on or before October 28, 2011. An administrative charge of \$15 will be deducted from the fee paid. After October 28, 2011, refunds will no longer be issued.

Purchase an advertisement in the conference program. Full-page ad is \$300, half-page ad is \$188, sixth-page ad is \$75 and business card ad is \$38.
Purchase an exhibitor booth at the conference for \$125 (includes both days).

Visit <http://www.adoptionknowledge.org/confer1.htm> to print advertiser and exhibitor forms or email aka@adoptionknowledge.org or call 512-442-8252.

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for \$25 per child.

Please provide your child's lunch.
We will provide snacks.

You MUST have a reservation by
October 28, 2010 to use the child care services.

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The University of Texas at Austin
School of Social Work

CONFERENCE SITE

LOCATION: Westover Hills Church

8332 Mesa, Austin, TX 78759
(corner of Steck and Mesa, across from
Anderson High School)

HOTEL: Holiday Inn Austin NW

8901 Business Park Dr., Austin, TX 78759
Call 877-719-8291 or 512-343-0888 to reserve
the "Adoption Knowledge" rate of \$109.95
and \$129.95 per night. Room block is
available through October 3, 2011

AKA MISSION STATEMENT

ADOPTION
KNOWLEDGE AFFILIATES



Adoption Knowledge Affiliates, Inc., (AKA) is a 501 (c)(3) educational organization whose purposes are to foster understanding of adoption issues and to serve as a resource to people whose lives are touched by adoption, the professionals who work with them, and the general public. AKA is supported by membership dues and contributions.

www.adoptionknowledge.org