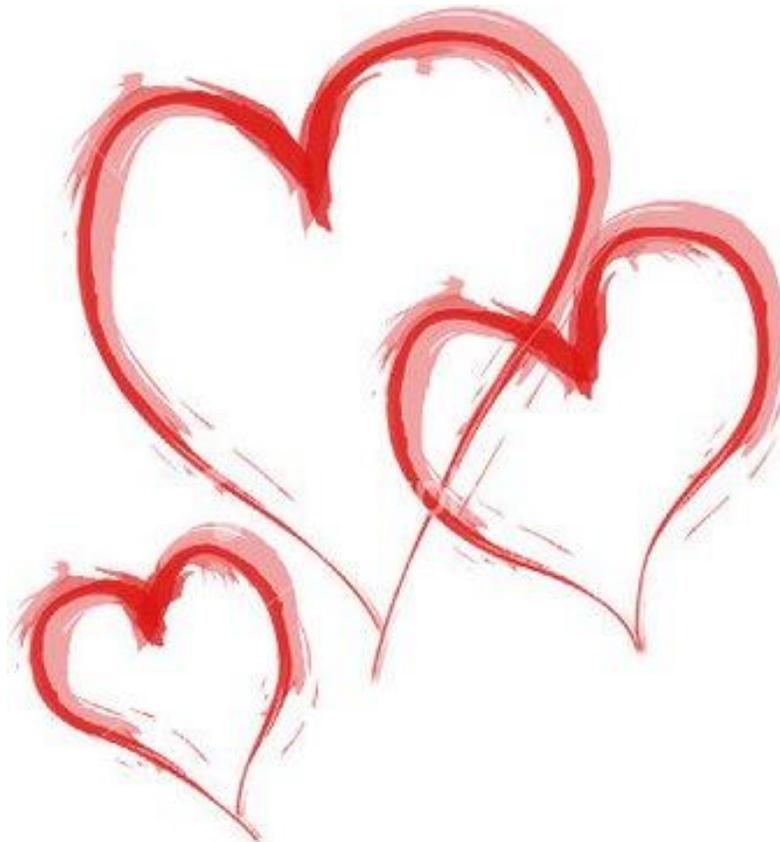




**12th Annual NEORTC
Foster Parent Conference**

**Thursday, Friday and Saturday
May 2, 3, and 4, 2019**



Schedule at a Glance

Thursday, May 2

Registration begins at 8:30am

| | | |
|-------------------------|---|-------------------|
| 9:00am – 4:00pm | #925-59 Essential Parenting: Understanding and Managing Behavior in Children | Gene Smiley |
| 9:00am – 12:00pm | #949-20 Impacting Visitation for Success | Anthony President |
| 1:00pm – 4:00 pm | #949-43 Baby, Sister and Me: A Plea to Keep Siblings Connected | Anthony President |

Concurrent Sessions Choose ONE of the following evening sessions

Registration begins at 5:30pm

| | | |
|------------------------|---|--------------|
| 6:00pm – 9:00pm | #928-FF8-S-PILOT2019 Relating to Primary Families: Understanding Challenges, Issues and Strategies for Success | Brian Lowery |
| 6:00pm – 9:00pm | #924-6 Difficult Conversations: "Why Do I Have to Live with You and Not My Mom?" | Gene Smiley |

Friday, May 3

Registration begins at 8:30am

| | | |
|-------------------------|--|----------------|
| 9:00am – 4:00pm | #927-FF11-S Cultural Issues in Foster Care: Dealing with the Dynamics of Difference | CeCe Norwood |
| 9:00am – 12:00pm | #925-10 Discipline: Thinking Outside the Box | Marlin Cheyney |
| 1:00pm – 4:00pm | #925-8 Day In and Day Out: Battle of the Wills | Marlin Cheyney |

Concurrent Sessions Choose ONE of the following evening sessions

Registration begins at 5:30pm

| | | |
|------------------------|---|-----------------|
| 6:00pm – 9:00pm | #989-67 Understanding Grief and Loss While Fostering: The Emotional Roller Coaster | Deanna Prezioso |
| 6:00pm – 9:00pm | #949-16 Working with Malfunctioning Families | Susan Tucker |

Saturday, May 4

Registration begins at 8:30am

| | | |
|-------------------------|--|-------------|
| 9:00am – 4:00pm | #941-53 The Lost Art of Empathy - NEW | John Ward |
| 9:00am – 12:00pm | #950-6 Professional Boundaries | David Zidar |
| 1:00pm – 4:00pm | #925-40 Interventions with Lying and Stealing | David Zidar |

Conference Location

Northeast Ohio Regional Training Center at Summit County Children Services
264 South Arlington Street
Akron, OH 44306
330-379-1805



Registration

Public agency foster parents can register through E-Track using the learning codes provided .

Private agency foster parents can register by calling our toll free number at 1-866-294-3787.

Please spell your first and last name, provide your phone number, name of your agency, date, e-track learning code, and title for each training you plan to attend.

There is no charge to attend the Foster Parent Conference

Questions?

Contact Julie Hayden at 330-379-1976 or jhayden@summitkids.org
or Debbie Huff at 330-379-1931 or dhuff@summitkids.org
or Vickie Webb at 330-379-1935 or webbv@summitkids.org

The Ohio Child Welfare Training Program is an approved Continuing Education Provider through the Ohio Counselor, Social Worker and Marriage & Family Therapist Board.
Social Worker Approved Provider # RSX 088728
Counselor Approved Provider # RCX 039201



Thursday, May 2

9:00am – 4:00pm

Essential Parenting: Understanding and Managing Behavior in Children

Presenter: Gene Smiley

E-Track Learning Code: 925-59

This workshop considers how those caring for children can become more intentional, less stressed, and less passive and/or reactive when working with children and their behaviors. Participants will consider five important factors contributing to healthier and happier family settings. They will explore the importance of establishing boundaries, structure, and routines, and the correlation between good boundaries and improved child behavior. They will look at the clear differences in a discipline vs. punishment (abuse) approach to child behavior management. They will identify and understand their specific parenting style, and will consider three basic and essential core principles directly related to effective and successful care-giving/parenting. Finally, eight practical techniques will be presented as “tools” to effectively manage child and adolescent behavior.

9:00am – 12:00pm

Impacting Visitation For Success

Presenter: Anthony President

E-Track Learning Code: 949-20

Visits between children in care and their primary family can be very much like a Dickens Novel - "...the best of times...the worst of times." For children in care, seeing birth parents may conjure up a vast array of emotions - from anger to joy - and questions, such as, "Why did this happen to me?" Children may need help in making sense of their feelings and understanding why they cannot return to their parents. This workshop considers the positive and negative effects that visits may have on children in care, and explores how caregivers can help prepare children and their parents for visits and help them process the visit afterwards, using empathetic communication techniques and active listening skills.

1:00pm – 4:00pm

Baby, Sister and Me: A Plea to Keep Siblings Connected

Presenter: Anthony President

E-Track Learning Code: 949-43

The longest relationship most of us will have in our lives is with our siblings. From cradle to grave, siblings can be a constant relationship that we can depend on for social support. For children who have experienced child maltreatment, sibling relationships may be the strongest relationships they have. Unfortunately, 75% of siblings placed into foster care end up living apart (Child Welfare Information Gateway.) Foster and adoptive children need opportunities to bond with their siblings who live outside of their homes. This workshop takes an exploratory view of the unique bond abused siblings share, and presents strategies for caregivers for keeping siblings connected.

Thursday, May 2

Two Concurrent Sessions – Please Choose One to Attend

6:00pm – 9:00pm

Relating to Primary Families: Understanding Challenges, Issues, and Strategies for Success

Presenter: Brian Lowery

E-Track Learning Code: 928-FF8-S-PILOT2019

This three-hour training is part of the Fundamentals of Fostering series. Participants will discuss the importance of working with primary families and the benefits to the child. Strategies to engage and support the primary family will be introduced, along with strategies for addressing conflict. Participants will also explore strategies for addressing the sometimes difficult emotions that stem from the child's relationship with the primary family.

6:00pm – 9:00pm

Difficult Conversations: "Why Do I Have to Live with You and Not My Mom?"

Presenter: Gene Smiley

E-Track Learning Code: 924-6

All children are impacted by the loss of their birth parents and family when removal and foster care placement are facilitated. Reasons for foster care placement are often complicated, difficult to explain, and confusing to the child or adolescent placed in care. Children of all ages enter care with many questions, concerns, and anxiety. The child may ask direct questions, clam up, or use non-verbal, negative behaviors and attitudes when they have no words to express what they are feeling. This workshop will help foster parents become more effective in initiating and negotiating difficult conversations with children placed in their care. They will develop better listening skills and gain expertise in implementing practical, age-appropriate approaches to opening conversation between themselves and their foster children. More ease and effectiveness in negotiating difficult conversations will lessen the incidents of disruptions in foster care placement.

Friday, May 3

9:00am – 4:00pm

Cultural Issues: Dealing with the Dynamics of Difference

Presenter: CeCe Norwood

E-Track Learning Code: 927-FF11-S

This workshop will explore the importance of culture in a foster family. Participants will learn to differentiate culture from race, ethnicity, or gender. Common cultural misconceptions and conflicts, particularly those involving foster families, will be addressed. Participants will learn about ethnocentrism, stereotyping, prejudice, and discrimination. The formation of racial identity for children will be presented. Finally, participants will develop parenting strategies to assist children in the development of strong, healthy identity formation and self-esteem.

9:00am – 12:00pm

Discipline: Thinking Outside the Box - NEW

Presenter: Marlin Cheyney

E-Track Learning Code: 925-10

In this workshop caregivers will take a close look at the critical components in the "discipline box" and how understanding the cycle of attachment assists caregivers in choosing the most appropriate method for dealing effectively with problematic behavioral situations in their home.

1:00pm – 4:00pm

Day In and Day Out: Battle of the Wills - NEW

Presenter: Marlin Cheyney

E-Track Learning Code: 925-8

Children learn that arguing, fussing, temper tantrums, and constant begging will eventually get an emotional response from adults. This workshop will assist caregivers in developing effective strategies for dealing with the give-and-take of strong emotions associated with willful battles.

Friday, May 3

Two Concurrent Sessions – Please Choose One to Attend

6:00pm – 9:00pm

Understanding and Surviving Grief and Loss While Fostering: The Emotional Roller Coaster

Presenter: Deanna Prezioso

E-Track Learning Code: 989-67

This class will give participants an understanding of the reactions to grief and loss and explain ambiguous loss theory. Participants will gain an understanding of the similarities and differences between the emotions they experience, the emotions children in care experience, and the emotions experienced during a final loss such as death. Participants will examine how the emotions experienced during grief and loss are related to their role of foster caregiver and how they can effectively care for themselves and manage their emotions.

Friday, May 3

Two Concurrent Sessions – Please Choose One to Attend

6:00pm – 9:00pm Working with Malfunctioning Families

Presenter: Susan Tucker

E-Track Learning Code: 949-16

This workshop will help caregivers form a greater understanding of primary families to assist them in understanding the children's feelings and behaviors surrounding their birth family. Caregivers will gain insight into parent behaviors and develop skills to work effectively with birth parents in visitation and other settings.

Saturday, May 4

9:00am – 4:00pm The Lost Art of Empathy - NEW

Presenter: John Ward

E-Track Learning Code: 941-53

Empathy is the ability to identify with what others are feeling. It is a crucial element of developing positive and successful relationships and can help prevent bullying and social isolation. Unfortunately, in our "hi-tech" society empathy is a social skill which has become de-emphasized. This class will focus on teaching children the importance of empathy, developing emotional sensitivity, and helping them connect and communicate with others in a meaningful way. By "leading through example", caregivers can model kind behaviors and emotional awareness to provide children with the foundation to connect and relate to others.

9:00am – 12:00pm Professional Boundaries

Presenter: David Zidar

E-Track Learning Code: 950-6

This workshop provides caregivers the skills to improve communication with all stakeholders. It provides the caregiver with an understanding of the limits that they must put upon themselves in their helping relationships. This training provides actual case examples and poses ethical relationship situations. Both new and more experienced parents can benefit from this core skill of all professional "helpers."

1:00pm – 4:00pm Interventions with Lying and Stealing

Presenter: David Zidar

E-Track Learning Code: 925-40

This course helps foster parents and staff develop interventions with children who lie or steal. The central goal of this course is to provide a better understanding of the "function" of why foster children exhibit these behaviors. The types of interventions that work best and development of empathy for these children is central to the discussion.

Facilitators

Marlin Cheyney

Marlin Cheyney has a Bachelor's degree in Social Work from the Ohio State University. She is an independent trainer for foster and adoptive families for over 20 years. Prior to that she was a caseworker at Franklin County Children Services for ten years.

Brian Lowery

Brian Lowery, MPA, LSW received his Masters of Public Administration from Cleveland State University. He is the Educational Coordinator of Lowery & Associates. He has served as the Director of In-Service Training for the largest private child caring agency in Ohio and as Director of Child Care at a Northeast Ohio residential treatment center. He currently serves as a consultant to contract agencies of the Cuyahoga County Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities. He is the 2008 recipient of the "Rising Star Award" as the OCWTP New Trainer of the Year.

CeCe Norwood

CeCe Norwood has a Master of Arts in Rehabilitation Counseling and a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from the University of Cincinnati. As a member of the African American community, she experienced cultural incompetence in the child protection system via her adoptive experience. CeCe has facilitated a variety of culture and diversity trainings, founded and operated a case management business for 14 years, and is a member of the Ohio LGBTQ Task Force. She has been an Adjunct Instructor at Southern Ohio Technical and Community College and Cincinnati State Technical and Community College in sociology. She is the author of the book: *There IS Happiness After Incest and Child Sexual Abuse*. She is the founder of Nirvana Now, an organization which facilitates survivor support groups and a founding member of the Sexual Abuse Prevention Awareness Treatment Healing Coalition of Northwest Ohio. She is an active Guardian ad Litem and adoptive mother.

Anthony President

Anthony President is President of Presidential Consultants, LLC a consortium of training professionals serving both the private and public sector on foster parent and staff development issues. He is a Certified Trainer of the OCWTP and a Staff Instructor at Lakeland Community College and ATS Institute of Technology. He holds a BA in Sociology from John Carroll University. He has served with distinction as a Senior Training Officer and Social Service Worker for Cuyahoga County, Anthony has over 11 years training experience in the fields of Child Welfare, Education and Business.

Deanna Prezioso

Deanna Prezioso has over 10 years of experience at Trumbull County Children services. She is currently Supervisor of Foster Care and Adoption. She has also worked as a Visitation Coordinator and Foster Care Resource Caseworker and at Homes for Kids in treatment foster care. She is a graduate of Trumbull County CSB Leadership Academy and has over 15 years of experience working directly with caregivers. She created and currently runs a Foster Caregiver Mentoring Program. She has a Master's Degree in Social Work from Youngstown State University.

Dr. Gene Smiley

Dr. Gene Smiley, PCC, LSW holds graduate degrees in education, psychology and counseling from Ashland University. He is a Professional Clinical Counselor, social worker, family mediator, adoption assessor, parent educator, foster parent/adoption trainer, and a practicing mental health clinician. He has provided counseling and educational services to families and individuals in child protective, court and foster care/adoption venues for more than twenty years.

Susan Tucker

Susan Tucker, LISW has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Social Work from the University of Akron and a Masters in Clinical Social Work from the Ohio State University. She is a Licensed Independent Social Worker. Ms. Tucker worked within the Child Welfare system for many years, with Summit County

Children Services, both as an employee and as a volunteer. She retired as Community Outreach Director at Summit County Domestic Relations Court in 2018. She has developed a variety of community education initiatives in parenting, visitation and bullying. She is currently employed by the Summit Educational Service Center as a consultant and training in the areas of crisis management, trauma and working with aggressive youth and parents.

John Ward

John Ward holds a Master's Degree in Counseling from Logos University and Bachelor's Degree in Theology from Christian Life School of Theology and specializes in the area of Reactive Attachment Disorder, ADD and trauma related issues. John was a foster child, adopted child and a foster parent. He received the Rising Star Award for the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program in 2009, and the NEORTC 2015 Trainer of the Year. He is a master trainer for the Center for Adoption and Education. He has worked in the field of child welfare for over 20 years.

David Zidar

David Zidar, LISW-S, is an independent trainer and therapist, and has been working in child welfare since 1982 in a variety of capacities, including as a front line child and youth care professional, an administrator, trainer and therapist. He is the 1992 recipient of the Timothy E. Kuster Memorial Award for Excellence in Child Care, recognizing him as one of Ohio's top front line child and youth care professionals. Dave Zidar has a Bachelor of Social Work degree from Capital University, an MSSA from Case Western Reserve University, and a certification in Juvenile Sex Offender Treatment from the University of Louisville. He is the recipient of the 2009 "Linda Pope Award" as the OCWTP Trainer of the Year.