



BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2016 YEAR-END REPORT FORM

Focus Group _____ Adoption _____

Chair/Co-Chairs _____ Drs. Rachel Farr & Cheryl Fortner-Wood _____

I. MAJOR ACTIVITIES/ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The major activities of the Adoption Focus Group this year were our meeting at the 2015 NCFR Conference, the 2015 NCFR symposium on adoption that originated from our 2014 meeting, and a collaboration that resulted in two successful proposals for a 2016 NCFR symposium on adoption (live streamed) and poster symposium.

Our 2015 focus group meeting was a smaller group (<10) than in previous years, perhaps in part because of the international travel involved to come to Vancouver. Nonetheless, we had a productive discussion about our research and practice related to adoption and foster care, as well as goals and mission of our focus group. Among other topics of discussion, members specifically brainstormed ideas for the 2016 annual conference and goals for raising awareness (including at/in NCFR) about adoption-related issues, particularly those in the news and in policy realms.

Throughout the year, our group has networked and collaborated via our NCFR listserv and by email. As a result of these communications, our group developed two symposia related to adoption and foster care (as brainstormed at our focus group meeting at the NCFR conference). All listserv members were invited to be involved. The resulting proposals of four papers (each, for a total of 8) were successful; both sessions include seminal researchers in the field of adoption and foster care, and we are thrilled that one of the sessions is scheduled to be live-streamed. We look forward to presenting at the 2016 NCFR conference:

- Live Streaming: Emerging Trends in Adoption Openness and Birth Family Contact (Fri, Nov 4, Noon-1:30pm)
- Poster Symposium: Foster and Adoptive Parent Attitudes, Socialization Practices, and School Intersections (Fri, Nov 4, 2:30-3:15pm)

Generally speaking, our group's communication is intermittent and dependent upon the needs and desires of all members who have attended prior focus group meetings and those who are members of the listserv. Our group's correspondence includes, but is not limited to, adoption-related calls for proposals, conferences, research inquiries, and collaborative opportunities.

We are also looking forward to holding our focus group meeting at the meeting in Minneapolis (Wed, Nov 2, 7-8:30am). We appreciate the program team's efforts to schedule the focus group meeting at a time that does not conflict with other adoption-related programming.

II. WHAT HAS THE FOCUS GROUP DONE DURING THE PAST YEAR TO FURTHER NCFR'S INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY INITIATIVES?

As the research symposia and interests of focus group members indicate, this focus group is working to further understanding regarding the experience of adoption for families of diverse backgrounds. Primary examples include research on international and transracial adoption as well as adoption in families with lesbian, gay, and heterosexual parents.

III. CONCERNS/QUESTIONS/SUGGESTIONS

Question: Adoption focus group members are interested in inviting speakers for/to the NCFR conference (keynote, plenary, etc.) who have research experience related to adoption and foster care. They see the opportunity for cross-cutting with interests of other groups and sections. Since focus groups do not have funding, we would appreciate recommendations for how our focus group could bring in outside experts to complement the significant work of the scholars currently presenting at NCFR.

Reporting Date: October 10, 2016 (Prior to the Annual Conference)

Send to: Jeanne Strand, Director of Governance and Operations at jeannestrand@ncfr.org