



FOCUS GROUP WORK PLAN FOR 2017

A. Name of Focus Group: Adoption Focus Group

B. Chairs: Rachel Farr & Cheryl Fortner-Wood E-mail rachel.farr@uky.edu; fortnerc@winthrop.edu

C. Meeting at Annual Conference: Do you wish to have a time allocated for your focus group during the next NCFR Annual Conference? Yes X No _____

If yes, list the tentative agenda below:

- Returning and new attendees introduce themselves, share adoption and related interests and current endeavors
- Discuss areas for scholarly collaboration with particular focus on developing ideas for 2018 NCFR symposia
- Share updates regarding upcoming conferences, research, and current events

D. 2017 Focus Group Goals/Projects/Aspirations

1. We will continue to collaborate to create at least one (or perhaps two) symposium sessions at the 2018 NCFR conference
2. We wish to keep adoption-related issues on the forefront for NCFR and its members
3. We will continue to increase membership in this Focus Group, maintaining active participants and engaging new ones
4. We will work with NCFR to maintain current adoption-related events and issues on the Focus Group website, listserv, etc.

E. Please identify any opportunities, suggestions or concerns regarding the role of this Focus Group in furthering NCFR's inclusion and diversity initiatives.

As mentioned in our Focus Group meeting notes, we are considering a change in our focus group name to be more inclusive of diverse family forms that overlap with adoption and foster care. Furthermore, we discussed ways that we could maximize the potential of networking, sharing resources, and celebrating successes through the use of our listserv in 2017.

F. NCFR Assistance: Please list areas where you would like assistance from NCFR staff.

The Adoption Focus Group members please ask that NCFR not schedule this Focus Group meeting at the same time as other adoption-related events (poster sessions, etc.), and not schedule the session during policy-related keynotes or workshops, because our group is sponsored by the FP Section. We greatly appreciate your support!!! Given our broader interests in diverse family forms, if our focus group meeting could be scheduled at a time that does not overlap with programming regarding parental sexual orientation, alternative reproduction, or other child welfare events, this would be fantastic (yet we understand this is a great challenge)!

G. Other issues: What concerns or questions have come from the Focus Group Annual Meeting?
We appreciate the Adoption Focus Group presence on the NCFR website and send updates as they happen to keep the information current.

FG meeting attendees expressed appreciation for the complexity of scheduling our meeting and all of the sessions. They noted that we often have conflicts with relevant sessions (such as the foster care research presentations) and that this FG meeting often conflicts with the The Feminism Section meeting. The group wondered if we might be able to schedule at the same time as the technology group, an area where there might be less conflicts with this meeting.

Attach your annual meeting minutes to this form and return them no later than December 1, 2016.
Send to: Jeanne Strand, Director of Governance and Operations to: jeannestrand@ncfr.org.
Thank you.

Meeting minutes:

Adoption Focus Group Meeting Minutes
NCFR 2016 Conference, Minneapolis, MN
7:00 – 8:15 am Wednesday, November 2, 2016

Rachel H. Farr & Cheryl Fortner-Wood, Co-Chairs

In attendance, $n = 6$:

Started with introductions of name, affiliation, and any personal/professional connections to the topic of adoption:

Introductions – a nice intersection of research and practice experiences are reflected

- Rachel Farr
- Cheryl Fortner-Wood
- Bethany Willis Hepp– international – not a clinician but finds herself in service parent ed – questions from parents like – can we talk about alternatives to corporal punishment
 - There's not a lot of trust post-adoption; being able to commiserate; parent ed
 - Attachment-based and trauma-informed care
 - Trust-based relationship building
- Katie Hrapczynski
 - Risk and resilience – how parents navigate tough situations. Transracial adoptive families – what neighborhood characteristics influence identity –
 - Blue start families – started by military
- Yolanda Fredickson (new attendee)
 - Weaver state going for Bachelors,
- Andrea Floyd (new attendee)
 - In OK foster care and families – with transracial adoption Is serving as a para professional, with military experience

- See announcements from Hal and Diana below (not here) – has a lot of parent ed going on. Has 300 folks registered for an event this Saturday (PS MAPP, PRIDE) – Diana’s facebook link – we’ll send it out

Announcements

From Diana Baltimore (who could not attend)

My research with adoptive parents, adult adoptees, and children who were adopted elicited recommendations by most all participants that "the public be better educated about adoption." Thus, I founded a non-profit organization (The National Center for Adoption). We have a website (that desperately needs to be updated) and I work with a small group of people from our communities (mainly organizations that staff practitioners, but some adoptive parents) to organize and host an annual adoption run/walk. We hosted our 4th event in Ames this October. We had more than 300 people present. It was so heart-warming to see SO many people celebrating adoption. We are hosting our second annual event in the Des Moines-Metro area on Saturday, November 5. As of right now, we have more than 300 people registered to attend that event. We perform a lot of publicity about adoption (all members of the triad) and concurrently promote our event while sharing stories and educational opportunities across the state. We hope to start another run/walk in an additional community next year. We promote the need for additional foster parents/homes and foster-to-adopt homes. And we advocate for youth whose parental rights have been terminated to be adopted from foster care. We have a new teen/parent adoption discussion group that just started and we are working with others on legislation regarding adoption fraud and foster parent education (Iowa uses PS-MAPP, but we are attempting to get PRIDE into Iowa as a more user-friendly educational alternative). We are also working toward hosting the adoption walk/run with an adoption conference.

The money raised is used for small grants for those who are finalizing adoptions, to pay for all registrations/shirts for youth who are in foster who attend one of the events, educational materials about adoption, the run/walk, etc.

<https://www.facebook.com/Gingerbread-Run-677531359049204/>

From Hal Grotevant (who could not attend)

If you talk to anyone inquiring about opportunities at Rudd, feel free to mention two things and refer them to me.

a) postdoc - The postdoc position is still open. I have several folks who are interested for Sept 2017, but I'm very open to filling it sooner. Am looking for someone with strong quantitative skills who will work with data, publish, coordinate the lab etc., and develop a strong portfolio for their own future.

b) We will be offering an Adoption Research Summer Institute next May, targeting graduate students, postdocs, and new professionals who are committed to a career in adoption research and want to enhance their research skills. We will announce fairly soon, but will accept 7 - 10 students for a week-long institute, probably may 21-26. Still firming up the faculty and topics, but I'm happy to discuss it with folks.

3) UMass also has two TT faculty openings this fall, with the due date Nov 7 -- developmental science and clinical neuroscience.

Others

- Adoption and foster care sessions including the one Friday afternoon GrandBallroom Salon G – live streaming – focused on adoption policy in openness, across generations and different samples
- Chairs agree to send announcements to the listserv.
- Cheryl shares news -- "Brave Love" Birth Mom dinners -- celebrate adoption -- events in multiple cities
 - Bethany -- Trust-based relational intervention at TCU (bethany does work with them) -- David Cross and Karen Purvis
 - Noted Gail Ferber - intl adoption pediatrician - recently retired
- Adoption research and practice conference coming up (in NJ)
- IARC in Montreal 2018
- NCFR 2016 - We discuss this year's conference, the timing of this meeting, and conflicts with other sessions we would like to attend. We also discuss this year's conference app, we discuss the pros and cons and wonder if it will encourage poor conference behavior by drawing people's attention to their phones during sessions.

We discussed areas of interest to those in attendance, particularly focusing on what attendees would like to see with regard to topics of adoption at next conference.

Our theme for next year is shaping neurons and considering neighborhoods

- Katie's intro has some data that could be useful as Rachel mentions some neighborhood data we could have (neighborhood influences, TRA sample; zip codes -- racial composition)
- What would you like to see next year – How neighborhoods support adoption
 - Adoption respite – Yolanda, evaluation of program
- Rachel mentions some neighborhood data we could have and racial/ethnic socialization
 - Bethany's needs – what do families do when they lose community resources, interested in better understanding adoptive/foster parents' perceptions (Bethany is thinking Bronfenbrenner model)
 - Bethany Christian Services – interested in learning more about post-adoption services

Co-chairs agreed to follow up with the listserv to encourage collaborations for next year's conference.

Closed with opportunities for individual discussion and networking and encouraged participation in the adoption and foster-care symposia and sessions throughout the conference

Co-chairs will email listserv announcements related to organizing symposia and other presentations for the 2018 conference; we emphasized that Focus groups can meet the versatile needs of members – great to have open discussion in our focus group meetings; this meaningful exchange can be extended to our listserv as well; sharing news stories and encouraging dialogue on our listserv; announcing publications, celebrating accomplishments; announcing adoption-related programming on NCFR before the conference happens. Cheryl staffed the Focus Group table at the session for new conference attendees and shared about focus groups in general and used the Adoption Focus Group as an example.