



**UConn School of Social Work
&
Southern CT State University**
are pleased to co-sponsor



Clinical Issues in Adoption: A Post Master's Certificate Program
in cooperation with
CT Department of Children & Families

In Connecticut there are over 4500 families who have adopted children through the public child welfare system. There are many more families who have adopted privately, domestically, and internationally. This 45-hour certificate program will explore the challenges and complexities of working with diverse adoptive families. The goal of the program is to develop a community of therapists and private providers who will have the clinical expertise to competently support adoptive families, particularly those who have adopted through the Department of Children & Families. Upon completion, participants will receive a certificate and can elect to earn 45 social work CECs, based on attendance.

The Certificate Program will include two cohorts and will be held in two locations: Southern CT State University in New Haven and UConn School of Social Work in West Hartford. Enrollment is limited to 30 participants; 15 students at each school. Periodically, all students will come together at one location to hear local, regional, and national guest faculty. In addition to the in-class sessions, participants will utilize WebCT Vista, the UConn internet-based course delivery system. The instructor will use WebCT to post reading materials and announcements and facilitate discussion between sessions. Participants will be expected to periodically submit written assignments. At the end of the program, a final case analysis integrating the knowledge, skills, and values gained through the presentations will be required.

Content areas include:

- ◆ *Adoption Overview – Adoption Practice Today:* family-centered, child-focused philosophy, values, and practice; psycho-educational approach rather than a medical therapeutic model; diversity within families
- ◆ *Psychology of Adoption:* normal child development; stages of development of adoptive families; loss and grief; attachment, bonding, and neurological and medical perspective
- ◆ *Assessment, Diagnosis and Interventions with Diverse Adoptive Families:* impact of early/past trauma; trans-racial issues; parenting challenging children; enhanced clinical approaches; individual, family, group work; and behavioral management
- ◆ *Clinical Practice with Diverse Adoptive Families:* infants and older children; international, domestic, public/private; special needs and disabilities
- ◆ *Birth Family Issues – Circle of Adoption*
- ◆ *School Advocacy Needs and Strategies*

Faculty Coordinator: Cathy Gentile-Doyle, LCSW, is an adjunct faculty member at Central CT State University and Smith College School for Social Work. Cathy's professional experience working with children and families includes child protection services, specialized foster care and adoption and clinical practice in mental health treatment settings. Her professional career has been dedicated to

advocating for the needs of children in DCF care through effective supports and quality resources for foster and adoptive parents. For the past 15 years, she coordinated a DCF grant funded collaborative multi-disciplinary evaluation program for children in foster care. Her many community activities include serving on the board of the CT Association of Foster and Adoptive Parents and on the DCF Training Academy Advisory Board. Cathy earned her MSW in 1983 from the UConn School of Social Work and has completed her coursework and comprehensive exams toward her Ph.D. in Social Work at UConn.

Local, regional, and national guest faculty will be featured at various points in the program.

Admission Criteria: Applicants must submit a completed application form, a current resume, and a one page typewritten statement of interest. Participants must hold a Master's degree in Social Work or a related discipline and have an interest and/or experience in the adoption field. Other criteria that will be considered are capacity to take referrals of DCF adoptive families/families making the transition from foster care to adoption and the ability to accept HUSKY insurance reimbursement.

Planned Dates & Times

Southern CT State University
Fridays, 9 – 3:30 p.m.

October 6, 2006
October 20, 2006
November 3, 2006
December 1, 2006
January 5, 2007 (*all students together*)
*February 9, 2007
March 2, 2007
April 13, 2007 (*all students together*)
*April 20, 2007
May 4, 2007

University of Connecticut
Mondays, 9 – 3:30 p.m.

October 23, 2006
October 30, 2006
November 20, 2006
December 11, 2006
February 5, 2007 (*all students together*)
*February 26, 2007
March 19, 2007
*April 23, 2007
May 14, 2007

**Designated as make-up dates if necessary. Participants must hold these dates.*

Fee: \$350 – The Post Master's Certificate Program in Adoption is funded primarily through a grant from the CT Department of Children & Families. The \$350 registration fee covers expenses not included in the grant. The fee is payable upon acceptance. Refund of the registration fee will be processed if written notice of withdrawal is received two weeks prior to the first session. No refunds will be issued after this date.

For Further Information Contact Cathy Gentile-Doyle:

UConn - catherine.gentile-doyle@uconn.edu
SCSU - 203.392.6915

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Application Form

Application materials must be received by September 14, 2006*

*Applications may be submitted after the deadline and will be considered depending upon available seats.

Name _____

Agency Name _____

Home Address _____

_____ (include zip code)

Work Ph. _____ Home Ph. _____

Fax _____ Email _____

Highest Degree Held _____ Years of adoption experience _____

Preferred Location: *Check all that apply*

Southern CT State University UConn School of Social Work

Please attach a 1 page typewritten statement describing your interest in the Adoption Certificate Program and how you would benefit from completing the program. In addition, please provide information on the types of clients you or your agency serve, including the number of foster care/adoptive clients. This information will help the review committee understand your commitment to serve and support adoptive families.

If you are employed in an agency, please have your supervisor complete and sign the following:

I understand that the applicant will be requesting release time to participate in this forty-five (45) hour certificate program.

Supervisor's Name (print)

Signature

Title

Mail application and resume to:

Dr. Valerie Dripchak
Southern CT State University
Department of Social Work
101 Farnham Avenue
New Haven, CT 06515