

## CONTENT AREAS INCLUDE:

- ◆ *Adoption Overview – Adoption Practice Today* psycho-educational approach, family centered – child focused philosophy and values permanency planning policies, systems and service collaboration
- ◆ *Psychology of Adoption – Theoretical Framework for Understanding Attachment in Adoption* - 7 core issues of adoption; impact of trauma and loss; adoptive family relationships and life cycle; effects of adoption on “normal” child development; the circle of adoption; open adoption, search and reunion.
- ◆ *Impact of Trauma; Neurobiological Processes* – effects of trauma; impact of maltreatment; implications for child behavior and parental response; impact of sexual abuse and violence; PTSD, ADD/ADHD; drug and alcohol effects.
- ◆ *Clinical Practice with Diverse Adoptive Families* – variations of family structure, composition, racial make-up; dynamics of relative adoption; challenges related to gay, lesbian and trans-racial adoptive families.
- ◆ *Treatment Interventions – Parenting Challenges* – creative therapeutic interventions with children; treatment techniques with teens; strengths-based family centered approaches.
- ◆ *Therapeutic Strategies* – consulting and coaching techniques; family based strategies.
- ◆ *School Advocacy* – collaborative approaches for working with teachers and school administration around adoption issues.

The Certificate Program is a collaboration between the UConn School of Social Work (UConn), Southern CT State University (Southern), CT Department of Children & Families, Casey Family Services and the Adoption Assistance Program at the UConn Health Center. Class sessions are monthly and alternate between the two universities. Enrollment is limited. *There are 9 sessions and all classes are held on either Mondays or Fridays, from 9 – 3:30 p.m.*

### 2011 – 2012 DATES

Monday, October 17, 2011 at UConn  
Monday, November 14, 2011 at UConn  
Friday, December 2, 2011 at Southern  
Friday, January 20, 2012 at Southern  
Friday, February 17, 2012 at Southern  
Monday, March 12, 2012 at UConn  
Monday, April 9, 2012 at UConn  
Monday, May 14, 2012 at UConn  
Friday, June 8, 2011 at Southern

Make-Up Dates (if needed)  
March 2; April 2; April 30; and June 11, 2012

### Guest Trainers include:

- ◆ **Dr. Joyce Pavao**, author of *The Family of Adoption*, Center for Family Connections, Boston, MA
- ◆ **Dr. James Greer** and **Robert Hagberg**, *The Brain Train*, Providence Center and Casey Family Services, R.I.
- ◆ **Debbie Riley, M.A.**, author of *Beneath the Mask*, Center for Adoption Support and Education, Maryland

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# CLINICAL ISSUES IN ADOPTION: A POST MASTER'S CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

2011 – 2012

FUNDED BY



IN COLLABORATION WITH



&



SUPPORT & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:

*CASEY FAMILY SERVICES*

*ADOPTION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM,  
UConn Health Center*

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## CLINICAL ISSUES IN ADOPTION: A POST-MASTER'S CERTIFICATE

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 clinical work with diverse adoptive families. *The goal of the program is to train child welfare professionals, community mental health and adoption services providers and private practitioners to establish a cadre of adoption competent professionals in the community who can then offer post adoption services with clinical expertise to children and families, particularly those who have adopted through the Department of Children & Families.*

All students must have regular access to a computer with high-speed internet capability. Participants will utilize HuskyCT, the UConn internet-based course delivery system to access 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.

### Testimonial from Past Participant

*"The participants and the presenters' stories were poignant and enlightening. I shall use much of what we learned in my practice."*

## FEE

The Post Master's Certificate Program in Adoption is funded primarily through a grant from the CT Department of Children & Families. All non-DCF employees must pay a \$750 registration fee. This fee covers expenses not included in the grant. The fee is payable upon acceptance by check only. Refund of the \$750 registration fee will be processed if written notice of withdrawal is received at the UConn School of Social Work on or before September 30, 2011. No refunds will be issued after this date.

**This program is approved for 45 Social Work Continuing Education Credits.**

## ADMISSION CRITERIA

Applicants must submit a completed application form, a current resume, and a 1 - 2 page typewritten statement of interest. Decisions on acceptance or refusal are made by the Review Committee after evaluating each applicant's resume, written statement, and application form. Participants must hold a Master's degree in Social Work or a related discipline and have a professional interest and/or experience in the adoption field. **Application Deadline: 9/1/11.**

### Testimonial from Past Participant

*"This certificate program provided me with very useful information. The speakers were wonderful and our discussions focused on how to incorporate the practical use of what we learned."*

## FACULTY COORDINATOR: CATHY GENTILE-DOYLE, LCSW

Cathy is the primary faculty responsible for curriculum development and instruction for the post-master's certificate program *Clinical Issues in Adoption*. She also teaches as an adjunct faculty member at Central Connecticut State University Social Work Program.

Most of Cathy's professional career has been dedicated to advocating for the needs of children and adolescents in out of home care with an emphasis upon Latino children and families. Her professional practice experience includes working in child protection services, specialized foster care and adoption and clinical mental health treatment settings. She was the Coordinator of the Multi-disciplinary Evaluation Program at the CT Children's Medical Center for 15 years; a DCF mandated screening required for all children entering foster care for the first time.

Some of her most recent community activities include serving on the Advisory Board of the DCF Training Academy, CCSU Social Work Program, and Helping Achieve Permanent Placements for Youth (HAPPY) at the Village for Families and Children. She is Secretary of the Board of Directors of the CT Association of Foster and Adoptive Parents, and a member of the CT Adoption Community Network and the Annual *Escuchenos* Conference Planning Committee.

Cathy earned an MSW in 1983 from the UConn School of Social Work, her LCSW in 1987 and recently completed her coursework and comprehensive exams toward her Ph.D. in Social Work at UConn.