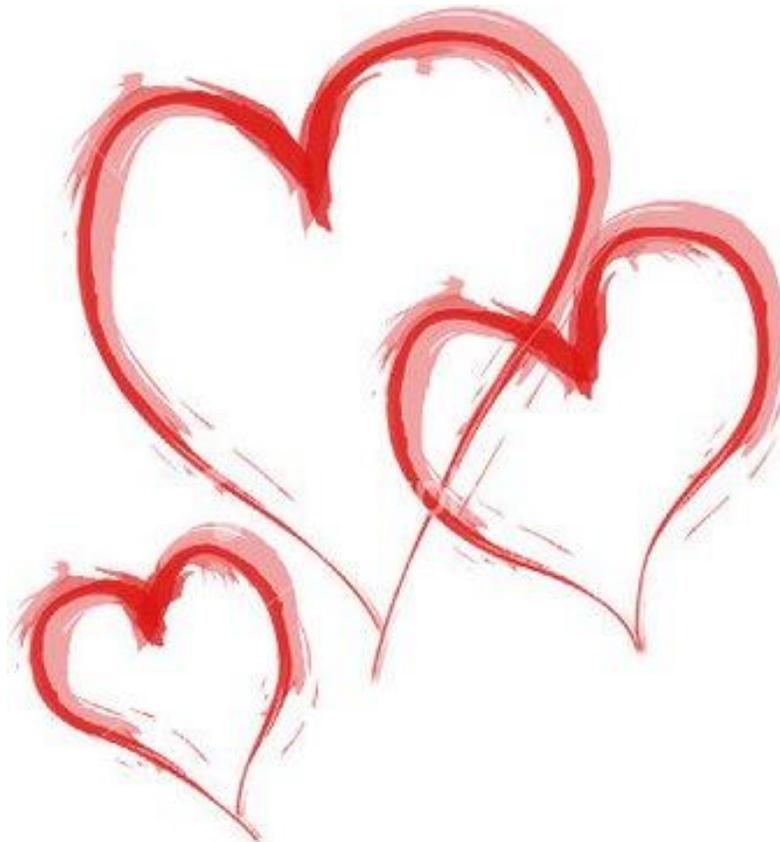




**11<sup>th</sup> Annual NEORTC  
Foster Parent Conference**

**Thursday, Friday and Saturday  
May 3, 4, and 5, 2018**



# Schedule at a Glance

## Thursday, May 3

Registration begins at 8:30am

- 9:00am – 4:00pm #990-25** Born Addicted: Promoting Best Care for Substance Exposed Infants Ronna Johnson
- 9:00am – 12:00am #950-3** An Overview of Legal Issues for Foster Caregivers Christina Rosebrough-Zody
- 1:00pm – 4:00 pm #950-4** Your Day in Court Christina Rosebrough-Zody
- Concurrent Sessions** Choose **ONE** of the following evening sessions
- Registration begins at 5:30pm
- 6:00pm – 9:00pm #989-2** Fostering Physical and Emotional Health in the Caregiver Brian Lowery
- 6:00pm – 9:00pm #TBA** Mentoring Among Foster Caregivers - Strengthening the Team - **NEW** Deanna Prezioso

## Friday, May 4

Registration begins at 8:30am

- 9:00am – 4:00pm #991-48** Trauma Systems Therapy for Foster Caregivers - **NEW** Betsy Smalley
- 9:00am – 12:00pm #923-31** I'm Lovable, and I Like Myself: Twenty Tips for Building Self-Esteem Jody Johnston Pawel
- 1:00pm – 4:00pm #948-5** Preventing and Solving Sibling Conflict Jody Johnston Pawel
- Concurrent Sessions** Choose **ONE** of the following evening sessions
- Registration begins at 5:30pm
- 6:00pm – 9:00pm #947-4** Effectively Dealing with Children's Issues in Visitation Susan Tucker
- 6:00pm – 9:00pm #990-39** Childhood Immunizations and Preventative Health Care: Recommendations, Requirements and Controversy Ronna Johnson

## Saturday, May 5

Registration begins at 8:30am

- 9:00am – 4:00pm #923-82** Developing a Heart of Gratitude - **New** John Ward
- 9:00am – 12:00pm #924-24** Interventions with Reactive Attachment Disorder David Zidar
- 1:00pm – 4:00pm #945-3** Relax! It's Only a Crisis 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](mailto:jhayden@summitkids.org)  
or Debbie Huff at 330-379-1931 or [dhuff@summitkids.org](mailto:dhuff@summitkids.org)  
or Vickie Webb at 330-379-1935 or [webbv@summitkids.org](mailto: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 3

## **9:00am – 4:00pm**      **Born Addicted: Promoting Best Care for Substance Exposed Infants**

Presenter: Ronna Johnson

E-Track Learning Code: 990-25

The most tragic and vulnerable victim of the drug culture is the infant who is forced prenatally to share in his mother's drug habit. This course will provide an overview of commonly used and abused drugs, with a focus on how this prenatal exposure impacts the developing child, both before and after birth.

Promoting best care through gaining an understanding of the complex medical and developmental needs of these infants will be discussed. Strategies to minimize the potential negative effects of drug withdrawal, prematurity, sensory processing disorders, and nutritional and health risks will be shared.

## **9:00am – 12:00pm**      **An Overview of Legal Issues for Foster Caregivers**

Presenter: Christina Rosebrough-Zody

E-Track Learning Code: 950-3

Foster caregivers will identify and learn different court and administrative procedures in order to help them with their basic responsibilities and obligations for the children in their care. This workshop will help foster caregivers identify the roles and responsibilities of the legal team, become familiar with the phases of a court hearing, and identify the procedure of public access of information. Participants will gain a working knowledge of their rights and responsibilities in the courtroom and of court procedures pursuant to Ohio law. Participants will also be able to recognize areas of potential liability in regards to their actions, as well as the actions of the children in their care.

## **1:00pm – 4:00pm**      **Your Day in Court**

Presenter: Christina Rosebrough-Zody

E-Track Learning Code: 950-4

Foster parents will learn to identify the methodology used in the stages of a court hearing and trial. Participants will become familiar with the process of preparing for testimony, both in and out of the courtroom. Foster parents and caregivers will learn and demonstrate techniques for testifying in an administrative hearing or courtroom. Participants will also be able to recognize areas of potential liability in regards to their actions while testifying.

It is recommended that participants take the workshop, An Overview of Legal Issues for Foster Parents, prior to attending this session; however, this is not mandatory.

**Two Concurrent Sessions – Please Choose One to Attend**

## **6:00pm – 9:00pm**      **Fostering Physical and Emotional Health in the Caregiver**

Presenter: Brian Lowery

E-Track Learning Code: 989-2

"You're in time-out!" This workshop explores the value of foster parents taking care of themselves. Trainees will experience a mini-retreat that is chock-filled with ideas and experiences that include approaches to the physical, spiritual, and mental wellbeing of the caretaker. Participants will walk away with a recipe for establishing daily self-nurturing practices and routines.

## Thursday, May 3

6:00pm – 9:00pm

### Mentoring Among Foster Caregivers – Strengthening the Team - New

Presenter: Deanna Prezioso

E-Track Learning Code: **TBA**

This class will give participants an understanding of the adult principals of learning and how they apply to mentoring. We will examine the role and purpose of a mentor for foster and adoptive caregivers and common characteristic of effective mentors and mentees. Foster/adoptive caregivers will understand the similarities and differences between informal and formal mentoring and how the mentoring process can be used to build stronger foster families with better outcomes for the placements in their homes.

## Friday, May 4

9:00am – 4:00pm

### Trauma Systems Therapy for Foster Caregivers - NEW

Presenter: Betsy Smalley

E-Track Learning Code: 991-48

This training reviews the impact of trauma on children and caregivers, and provides knowledge and strategies for understanding and responding to the needs of children and teens in care. Specific strategies are provided to assist caregivers with managing their emotions as well as the emotional and behavioral responses of the children in their homes.

9:00am – 12:00pm

### I'm Lovable, and I Like Myself: Twenty Tips for Building Self-Esteem

Presenter: Jody Johnston Pawel

E-Track Learning Code: 923-31

This informative workshop uses fun games and activities to teach foster parents at least twenty practical language and action skills for building children's self-esteem. Parents learn the difference between praise and encouragement, and how to build self-esteem without creating "praise junkies" or egotistical, self-centered children. These techniques also increase children's confidence and resistance to peer pressure, and can prevent and diffuse sibling rivalry and competition.

1:00pm – 4:00pm

### Preventing and Solving Sibling Conflict

Presenter: Jody Johnston Pawel

E-Track Learning Code: 948-5

This informative workshop offers tips for introducing new children into the foster family, preventing sibling rivalry, and resolving sibling/peer conflicts in ways that teach children how to resolve conflict independently and peacefully. These techniques result in LESS competing, comparing, complaining, arguing, fighting, and tattling, and MORE sharing, cooperating, listening, communicating, respect, peace, and independent conflict resolution.

## Friday, May 4

Two Concurrent Sessions – Please Choose One to Attend

**6:00pm – 9:00pm**      **Effectively Dealing with Children's Issues in Visitation**

Presenter: Susan Tucker

E-Track Learning Code: 947-4

This workshop is designed to help caregivers develop the understanding and skills needed to help children manage their emotions and behavior before, during, and after visitation with their primary family. Caregivers will also gain insight into the purposes of visitation for children with their parents and learn to use visitation to help children and parents heal relationships and maintain healthy connections.

**6:00pm – 9:00pm**      **Childhood Immunizations and Preventative Health Care: Recommendations, Requirements, and Controversy**

Presenter: Ronna Johnson

E-Track Learning Code: 990-39

Foster families must assure that children in care receive optimal preventative health care, including immunizations and health screenings, to overcome any past disadvantages and promote health for the children in their care. This course explores current immunization guidelines, controversies surrounding immunization, and recommended health screenings for children of all ages.

## Saturday, May 5

**9:00am – 4:00pm**      **Developing a Heart of Gratitude - NEW**

Presenter: John Ward

E-Track Learning Code: 923-82

"But everyone else has it!"

"If you loved me, you'd get it for me!"

When we hear these comments from our kids, it can be tough not to give in. We love our children and want them to be happy and fit in. In fact, when we fail to set and maintain reasonable limits, it puts our kids at long-term risk and sets them up for failure as adults. When foster/adoptive parents set reasonable limits, they can rid the effects of the "child-centered home" and raise confident, resilient, and successful children. Whether starting from scratch with a young toddler or navigating the teenage years, foster/adoptive parents can learn strategies for effectively teaching their foster children how to develop a heart of gratitude.

**9:00am – 12:00pm**      **Interventions with Reactive Attachment Disorder**

Presenter: David Zidar

E-Track Learning Code: 924-24

Many children suffer from a pathology classified by the American Pediatric Association as Reactive Attachment Disorder (RAD). This disorder is rooted in disrupted attachment in childhood - between the

ages of 0 and 5. This three-hour workshop will provide to students an understanding of the origins of the pathology, family reactions, signs, symptoms, and interventions.

## Saturday, May 5

1:00pm – 4:00pm

### Relax! It's Only a Crisis

Presenter: David Zidar

E-Track Learning Code: 945-3

Foster parents will learn the stages and patterns of a crisis. Participants will learn ways to manage their own behavior to improve outcomes. They will also learn professional use of their own patterns of crisis, as well as those of their families.

## Facilitators

### **Ronna Johnson**

Mrs. Johnson received her Bachelor's of Science Degree in Nursing from Kent State University in 1980, and completed training for her Pediatric Nurse Practitioner National Certification through Metro Heath Medical Center in 1983. She has spent her entire career working with children with medical and developmental special needs. Since 1986 she has provided; training, support, consultation and case management services for program staff and Caregivers to promote best care for children with complex health and development needs who are being served through the Child Welfare System. Mrs. Johnson has been a foster and adoptive parent since 1994. Mrs. Johnson received the OCWTP 2011 Rising Star Award and the OCWTP 2013 Linda Pope Award.

### **Jody Johnston Pawel**

Jody Johnston Pawel, BSW, LSW, CFLE  
Ms. Pawel received her Bachelor of Social Work from Wright State University, specializing in child abuse research. She is a Certified Family Life Educator. Ms. Pawel has been involved in the child protective service field since 1981. As a caseworker, she was in the Sexual Abuse unit and on a multi-disciplinary community-based planning team. Since 1983, she has been training caseworkers, foster parents and birth parents.

### **Brian Lowery**

Brian Lowery, MPA, LSW Mr. Lowery 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.

## **Deanna Prezioso**

Over 10 years of experience at Trumbull County Children services. Currently Supervisor of Foster Care and Adoption. Also worked as a Visitation Coordinator and Foster Care Resource Caseworker and at Homes for Kids in treatment foster care. Graduate of Trumbull County CSB Leadership Academy. Over 15 years of experience working directly with caregivers and has trained Preservice (before curriculum was updated). Created and currently runs Foster Caregiver Mentoring Program, Sibling Placement and Connection Protocol, and an Ethics Committee.

## **Christina Rosebrough-Zody**

Christina Zody is currently an attorney and professional trainer. Among the companies and institutions that she trains with are the Ohio Supreme Court Judicial College; the Ohio Child Welfare Program; Girl Scouts of America; Jackson-Hewitt Tax Service; and the Parks and Recreation Department in various Ohio counties. She focuses her trainings on legal curriculums and taxes for audiences including judges, magistrates, attorneys, guardian ad litem, child welfare workers, law enforcement, U.S. marshals, foster parents and politicians. Simultaneously, she is working as a tax fraud investigator.

## **Betsy Smalley**

(BSW) - Ms. Smalley has forty years of experience in the field of child welfare, specializing in the areas of adoption, kinship, and foster care. Prior to joining Institute for Human Services in 1995, Ms. Smalley was the first Executive Director of the Ohio CASA/GAL (Court Appointed Special Advocates/Guardians ad Litem) Association, where she provided technical assistance to directors of county CASA programs, and served on several statewide planning groups and legislative committees. She has also served as Coordinator of one of the first post-finalization

adoption programs in the United States. She has authored several books and training curricula.

## **Susan Tucker**

Susan Tucker 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. Currently she is Community Outreach Director at Summit County Domestic Relations Court. She has developed a variety of community education initiatives in parenting, visitation and bullying.

## **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, L.I.S.W.-S., is an independent trainer and therapist, 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.