<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>TUESDAY, 9/13</strong></th>
<th><strong>WEDNESDAY, 9/14</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 - 9:00 AM</td>
<td>7:00 - 8:00 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 - 10:00 AM</td>
<td>7:15 - 8:00 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Welcome &amp; State Updates</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 - 10:15 AM</td>
<td>8:00 - 9:30 AM / Session 1b</td>
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<tr>
<td>Break</td>
<td>“Help! He Won’t Stop Eating!”: Healing from Hoarding, Sneaking and Food Preoccupation <em>Katja Rowell</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>10:15 - 12:15 PM</td>
<td>Wisconsin’s Adoption Record Search Program <em>Jacy Allen-Boldebuck</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>KEYNOTE: “CLOSURE”, ANGELA TUCKER</td>
<td>DCF Updates: Changes to Administrative Codes, Prudent Parenting, Like-Kin Subsidized <em>Lindsay Wood</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>12:15 - 1:15 PM</td>
<td>What Could We Be Missing? <em>Pat Ann St Germain</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>9:30 - 9:45 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:15 - 2:45 PM / Session 1a</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>- The Adopted Life Episode Series <em>Angela Tucker</em></td>
<td>9:45 - 11:15 AM / Session 2b</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Sex Trafficking 101 <em>Eric Underly &amp; Meghan Sluga</em></td>
<td>- Beyond Picky Eating: End the Power Struggles and Support Nutrition and Healthy Growing <em>Katja Rowell</em></td>
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<td>- How to Comply with the Indian Child Welfare Act <em>Tania Cornelius &amp; Stephanie Lozano</em></td>
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<td>- Parent-Child Interaction Therapy: An Evidence-Based Intervention for Enhancing Pre and Post Adoptive Relationships <em>Katelyn Blair &amp; Kate Bennett</em></td>
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<td>2:45 - 3:00 PM</td>
<td>11:30 - 12:30 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Break</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:00 - 4:30 PM / Session 2a</td>
<td>12:30 - 4:30 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Clinical Considerations for Youth Adopted during School Age and Beyond <em>Samantha Wilson</em></td>
<td>Ethics and Boundaries in a Changing World <em>Gail Trimberger</em></td>
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<td>- Secondary Trauma: What is it and How can it be Prevented <em>Dimitri Topitzes</em></td>
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<td>- Adoption and Guardianship Enhanced Support (AGES) Post-Adoption Resource Grant <em>Katie Sepnieski &amp; Jonelle Brom</em></td>
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**Keynote**

**Tuesday, 9/13, 10:15 - 12:15 PM**

**“Closure”, Angela Tucker**

Following the national success of Closure, Angela has been approached by thousands of adoptees who have felt marginalized and left out of conversations about adoption. In November 2014, Angela participated in a social media campaign entitled; Flip The Script (#FlipTheScript). The campaign aimed to give adoptee voices a platform to engage in adoption policy discussions, adoption agency programming and internet fodder. The goal was to combat the damaging and pervasive cultural narrative that centers on “angry adoptees” or those with shiny, happy adoption experiences. Angela will expand upon her “Closure” journey, and emphasize the importance and validity of the adoptee voice no matter where they fall on the spectrum. To borrow from the disability rights movement, adoptees are beginning to shout; “Nothing about us, without us!”

**About the Speaker:** Angela Tucker is a nationally-recognized thought leader on transracial adoption. In 2013, at the age of 26, Angela’s own story of adoption and search for her birth parents was featured in the groundbreaking documentary, Closure, which is available on Netflix, iTunes & Kweli TV. Angela has traveled the nation as an advocate for open relationships within adoption, transparency for adoptee stories and education for adoptive parents about the impacts of transracial adoption particularly in regards to African-American children adopted by White parents. Elements of her story have also been featured on CNN’s Anderson Cooper 360, HuffPost Live, Huffington Post Black Voices, New York Times and the Washington Post.

**Ethics and Boundaries Workshop**

**Wednesday, 9/14, 12:30 - 4:30 PM**

**“Ethics and Boundaries in a Changing World”, Gail Trimberger**

This interactive workshop focuses on ethics and boundaries as they relate to special needs adoptions. Participants will review Wisconsin law and the NASW code of ethics including: professional obligations, boundaries, recent and proposed changes, and cultural competence. Participants will identify situations that are unique to professionals in this specialized area of care and will apply one or more decision-making models to scenario-based discussions.
The Adopted Life Episode Series, *Angela Tucker*
The Adopted Life episodes (www.theadoptedlife.com), a new video series, hosted by Angela Tucker, features transracially adopted youth conversing on topics relating to their racial identity formation, conversations about birth family relationships, the impacts of adoption in school settings, and general banter and comraderie that can be found uniquely when adoptees speak with other adoptees. This interactive, adoptee-centric discussion based workshop will delve into comments made by the adopted youth via guided, facilitated discussion after viewing the episodes together.

Sex Trafficking 101, *Eric Underly & Meghan Sluga*
Sex Trafficking is a hidden crime with traffickers often recruiting young girls that are living in foster care, group homes, assessment centers and residential treatment centers across Wisconsin. As social workers we must be aware of the signs of sex trafficking and the difficulty the children have removing themselves from this crime. We will speak about our experiences in the field, placements and the treatment that we are currently using.

Pre-Adoption and Post-Adoption Clinical Services, *Kimara Gustafson*
Global trends in international adoptions over the past 10 years; Changing demographics in international adoptions; Special needs adoptions—China, Korea, Colombia; Need for initial and long term followup with adoption experienced medical providers—our clinic and services; Case studies.

Relational Trauma: Definition, Consequences, and Treatment, *Dimitri Topitzes*
This presentation will explore various definitions of trauma; in addition, the workshop will cover several different approaches to understanding the consequences of trauma-exposure. Whether trauma takes place during childhood or adulthood, a number of common symptoms, developmental insults, and/or functional impairments can emerge, and the workshop will discuss a way in which these various manifestations of post-traumatic stress can be interpreted within a unifying framework. Finally, the presentation will examine various ways in which the effects of psychological trauma can be effectively treated. A distinction will be drawn between trauma-sensitive, trauma-informed, and trauma-focused work. Principles of effective trauma service and treatment will be discussed, and efficacious trauma-focused treatment models will be introduced.

WI Youth Advisory Council Round Robin
- Children and Youth's Perspective on Permanency
- The Importance of and the Challenge of Birth Family (including Siblings) in the Lives of Youth
- Foster Parent Role in Preparing a Youth for Independence
- Ways Workers can/should Encourage and Incorporate Youth Voices regarding Adopting Matching
Clinical Considerations for Youth Adopted during School Age and Beyond, Samantha Wilson
Creating a positive transition into a new family can set the stage (positively or negatively) for later family patterns. This workshop will explore ways parents can support the initial family integration of a child, adopted between ages 6 and 10 years of age. Some consideration to developmental tensions (and clinical concerns) that emerge during the teen years will be considered, time permitted. Case examples, audience discussion, and resources will be included to support clinical work with families.

Secondary Trauma: What it is and How it can be Prevented, Dimitri Topitzes
This workshop will focus on the negative personal impacts that helping professionals sometimes endure as a result of working with trauma-affected clients. The cumulative effects of secondary trauma exposure can result in a phenomenon referred to as secondary or vicarious traumatization (VT). VT can mimic post-traumatic stress disorder or other stress-related presentations, culminating in compromised work performance, job satisfaction, and overall well-being. Some experts believe that VT is inevitable among those who work closely with trauma survivors. Fortunately, recent research also suggests that social service and mental health providers can do much to prevent, resolve or transcend VT. Many even argue that VT can stimulate personal and professional growth. Therefore, not only will this workshop explore the phenomenon of VT, but it will also discuss the ways in which practitioners can apply insights from this field to enhance life balance and professional efficacy.

When “Why She Loved You” is No Longer Enough, Bea Evans
As adoptees progress through the life experience of adoption, they often need or want more information. An adoptive parent recently called and said, “Our daughter wants to travel to her birth country to find her birth mom. We know that is not possible, but….” In actuality, there are very few countries where that the case anymore. Becoming familiar with what information and resources are “out there” for international adoptees, and how to become an ally in the search for information is what this workshop is all about. Together, we will discuss these topics and others: What your kids would like you to know about the information they would like to have; The impact of social media; How to talk about information in a way that is helpful; The pros and cons of knowing more; What are the challenges when no information can be found?

Adoption and Guardianship Enhanced Support (AGES) Post-Adoption Resource Grant, Katie Sepnieski & Jonelle Brom
In order to enhance the continuum of services to adoptive and guardianship families, the Wisconsin Department of Children & Families (DCF) is developing a new model of post permanency services, referred to as Adoption & Guardianship Enhanced Support (AGES). AGES is based on similar programs serving post-adoption and guardianship families in Pennsylvania (Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network Case Assessment and Case Advocacy) and North Carolina (Success Coach Services). AGES is also informed by adoptive and guardianship families in Wisconsin who expressed that they would welcome help with the challenges they face parenting children who may have histories of significant trauma and abuse. The AGES program recognizes that families formed through adoption and guardianship have unique challenges and needs that require a family-specific individualized approach. The presentation will provide an overview of DCF implementation plan of AGES and details of the specific interventions within the program.

WI Youth Advisory Council Round Robin
- Children and Youth's Perspective on Permanency
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- Foster Parent Role in Preparing a Youth for Independence
- Ways Workers can/should Encourage and Incorporate Youth Voices regarding Adopting Matching
“Help! He Won’t Stop Eating!”: Healing from Hoarding, Sneaking and food Preoccupation, Katja Rowell
When children have been fed unreliably, not enough, or had to fend for themselves (food insecurity), this can have a long-lasting impact on how they relate to food. Children may hoard, gobble food, sneak, eat large amounts and never seem to know when they are full. Trauma, chaos and food insecurity can also impact weight in unhealthy ways. A lock on the fridge is not the answer. This workshop will explore why trying to get children to eat less, or different foods often backfires and what to do instead. Through relationship-building strategies parents can implement right away, Rowell reviews how Responsive Feeding can help a child heal anxiety and learn to trust that she will be fed, learn to tune in to cues of hunger and fullness, be free from constant worry about food, and grow in a healthy way. Note, there will be some overlap of content with the Beyond Picky Eating workshop.

Wisconsin's Adoption Record Search Program, Jacy Allen-Boldebuck
Wisconsin’s Adoption Record Search Program—a brief history of our 34 year old program, information on recent updates to Wisconsin law and how those impact program services along with some reunion stories and answers to your questions.

DCF Updates: Changes to Administrative Codes, Prudent Parenting, Like-Kin Subsidized, Lindsay Wood
During this presentation, participants will be provided updates on the recent changes to Ch. DCF 56, 37, and 12 Admin. Codes. Updates will also be provided for the latest release for the Geographic Placement Resource System (GPRS), as well as updates related to the Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard, Like-Kin Subsidized Guardianship, SAFE home study assessment, and Change of Placement updates.

What Could We Be Missing?, Pat Ann St Germain
Often adoptive families seek counseling believing talking in therapy is the best option to help the child and family heal. Sometimes counseling is not effective and other treatment options may have a bigger impact. We will discuss why and when counseling can be effective, why it is important to for parents and providers to understand the neurology of the adoptee, and promising treatment options.
Beyond Picky Eating: End the Power Struggles and Support Nutrition and Healthy Growth, Katja Rowell
Roughly one in ten American children eat so little variety or amount that it interferes with physical, social or emotional development (“extreme” picky eating). With labels including “failure to thrive,” selective eating, ARFID (avoidant restrictive food intake disorder), sensory disorders and just plain picky eating—families are struggling. Children who come from hard places often face additional challenges. This workshop will explore why children struggle and importantly, share relationship-building strategies to support the child’s appetite and intake. In addition: Learn why pressuring, bribing, and power struggles make picky eating worse and what to do instead. Learn tips and phrases to neutralize power struggles. Explore and respond to the child’s sensory preferences and support nutrition while waiting for picky eating to improve. Note, there will be some overlap of content with the “Help! He Won't Stop Eating!” workshop.

How to Comply with the Indian Child Welfare Act, Tania Cornelius & Stephanie Lozano
During this presentation, learn or refresh your memory on the requirements of the federal and state Indian Child Welfare Acts (ICWA). This presentation will cover identifying and determining ICWA applicability as well as requirements for adoption proceedings such as notice requirements and placement preferences. Bring any case specific question you have and be prepared for an engaging conversation!

Using Mindfulness to Enhance Well-Being, Jenell Loreck
This program will introduce mindfulness, some of the research surrounding it, and specific techniques that can be used by kids and adults to enhance well-being. At the core of mindfulness practice is cultivating a sense of safety, satisfaction, and connection to others. The practices work at both psychological and physical levels to positively affect our sense of well-being as well as our brain structure, biochemistry, and genetic expression. A basic and practical introduction to mindfulness techniques and they way they affect our minds and bodies will be provided.

Parent-Child Interaction Therapy: An Evidence-Based Intervention for Enhancing Pre and Post Adoptive Relationships, Katelyn Blair & Kate Bennett
Parent-Child Interaction Therapy is an evidence-based intervention that has been successfully implemented with a variety of populations, including families who have adopted, or are in the process of adopting, young children. Specifically, PCIT works directly with caregivers and their children ages 2-7 to support relationship enhancement and the use of positive discipline skills. An important goal of the intervention is to increase placement stability. PCIT is a trauma-informed intervention that reduces child externalizing and internalizing behavior while reducing caregiver stress. This presentation will include experiential learning of the key components of PCIT. Adaptations of the model will also be discussed, such as the use of in-home coaching and brief interventions.
Presenters

Jacy Allen-Boldebuck
Program Coordinator / Wisconsin Department of Children and Families, Adoption Record Search Program
Jacy Allen-Boldebuck is a LCSW who has worked with the Adoption Records Search Program since 1994. She estimates she has facilitated over 4,000 reunions in her 22 years with the program. She enjoys working with adult adoptees and birth parents and shares her unique perspective and experience and stories with us. She also works part time as a psychotherapist at the Madison VA hospital. Is happily married and has an adult son who lives and works in Madison.

Kate Bennett
PCIT Practitioner / Children's Hospital of Wisconsin; Institute for Child and Family Well-Being
Kate Bennett is a practitioner of Parent Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) with the well-being team at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin. Kate has been with Children's since 2009 when she entered the organization as a family case manager. Kate frequently gives presentations on the Strong Families Thriving Children framework, well-being, and the effects of trauma. She has also presented at national conferences. Kate received her bachelor's degree in criminal justice from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh in 2008. She received her master's degree in social work from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 2013. Kate became a certified practitioner of PCIT while working toward her MSW. She is a certified advanced-practice social worker and will complete a Wisconsin State certification in Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) for substance use disorders in 2016. Kate is also married and a mother of two. She enjoys promoting personal health and well-being through play and physical activity with her family.

Katelyn Blair
PCIT & TF-CBT Practitioner; Ph.D. Candidate / Children's Hospital of Wisconsin; Institute for Child and Family Well-Being
Katelyn Blair is a Parent Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) practitioner with Children's well-being team. She also serves as a University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee doctoral research assistant for the Institute for Child and Family Well-Being. Katelyn's research with ICFW focuses on the adaptation and implementation of PCIT for families involved with child welfare. Her research and practice interests include the treatment of early childhood trauma and the facilitation of child resilience via evidence-based interventions. Katelyn holds a master's degree in social work from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She is currently pursuing her doctorate in social work with a concentration in child welfare.

Jonelle Brom
Out-of-Home Care Section Chief / Wisconsin Department of Children and Families
Jonelle is the Out-of-Home Care Section Chief for the State of Wisconsin-Department of Children and Families. She received her MSW and a BA in Psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She has practiced social work in public child welfare in the areas of child protection and juvenile justice for the past 17 years. In her position with the State of Wisconsin, Jonelle Brom is responsible for the oversight of the foster care program, permanency consultation, the foster care medical home Care4kids, subsidized guardianship and rate regulation.

Tania Cornelius
Tribal and Legislative Affairs Specialist / Wisconsin Department of Children and Families
Tania joined the Department of Children and Families in 2014 as their Tribal and Legislative Affairs Specialist where she supports the implementation of the Wisconsin Indian Child Welfare Act through technical assistance and consultation. She has 20 years of social work experience covering areas such as early childhood, AODA, domestic violence, sexual assault as well as tribal and county child welfare. Tania earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan-Flint and her Master's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh.
Presenters

Bea Evans  
*Co-Director / Adoptive Family Travel by The Ties Program*

Bea Evans received her Bachelor of Science in Education from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and has been involved with The Ties Program, Adoptive Family Homeland Journeys, in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin since 1995. In her years working with The Ties Program, she has organized and led heritage journeys and service programs to Korea, China, Cambodia, the Philippines, India, several Latin American countries, Russia, Bulgaria, and Romania. Ties Programs involve a broad spectrum of ages and Bea sees each age group and each child as special. Her appreciation for the importance of this journey in the lives of the participants enriches the experience for those involved. Prior to working with The Ties Program, Ms. Evans served as a special education teacher, diagnostician, and substitute teacher.

Kimara Gustafson  
*Clinician / Adoption Medicine Clinic, University of Minnesota*

Kimara Gustafson is an Associate Professor of Pediatrics in the Division of Global Pediatrics and Pediatric Emergency Medicine at the University of Minnesota. Dr. Gustafson sees domestic and internationally adopted children in the Adoption Medicine Program and Clinic as well as the Fetal Substances Exposures Clinic. She completed medical school, public health school, and pediatric residency at University of Minnesota. Dr. Gustafson is active in clinical assessments in the Adoption Medical Clinic, teaches residents in the Adoption Medicine and Pediatric Emergency Medicine Program, and mentors medical students and residents.

Jenell Loreck  
*Associate Director / Children's Hospital of Wisconsin, Institute for Child and Family Well-Being*

Jenell Loreck is a child well-being manager with Children’s well-being team and is a co-founder of the Institute for Child and Family Well-Being. In her role with the ICFW, Loreck acts as a leader integrating the child and family well-being model into practice. Jenell has more than 14 years of experience in child welfare. Before joining Children’s community services leadership team, she worked on the front lines of child welfare as a case manager and mentor where she influenced changes in practices in child welfare services throughout Milwaukee. In her time with Children’s, she helped conceptualize and implement the Family Support Program – a program that builds upon prevention models and promotes the use of evidence-based interventions. Jenell’s interests lie particularly in staff development and finding innovative solutions to the problems challenging the well-being of the community. Jenell is a certified advanced practice social worker. She holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse in psychology and child development as well as a master’s degree in social work from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Stephanie Lozano  
*Tribal Liaison / Wisconsin Department of Children and Families*

Stephanie Lozano, MSW, CSW, is the Tribal Liaison for the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF). Prior to working for DCF, Stephanie spent 10 years working with the Ho-Chunk Nation Child and Family Services Division as an ongoing social worker and eventually their Indian Child Welfare Program Supervisor overseeing cases involving the Indian Child Welfare Act both within the State of Wisconsin and across the country. She has provided Qualified Expert Witness testimony and recommendations on behalf of Ho-Chunk children. Stephanie continues to work collaboratively with state, county, tribes, and private agencies in regard to the provision of services for Indian children and their families. Stephanie’s educational background includes a Bachelor's of Science in Sociology from UW-La Crosse and a Master's of Social Work from UW-Madison.

Katja Rowell  
*Founder / The Feeding Doctor*

Described as “academic, but warm and down to earth,” Katja Rowell, M.D. is a family doctor and childhood feeding specialist. Her mission is to bring peace and joy back to the family table while supporting parents with feeding and weight worries. She believes that helping children feel good about food and their bodies is preventive medicine. Her first book, Love Me, Feed Me: The Adoptive Parent’s Guide to Ending the Worry About Weight, Picky Eating, Power Struggles and More addresses common challenges for adoptive and foster families. Her second book, Helping Your Child with Extreme Picky Eating shares more relationship-building strategies specific to picky eating.
Presenters

**Pat Ann St Germain**  
*Clinical Director / Healing Hearts Family Counseling Center, LLC*  
Pat Ann St. Germain is the clinic owner and Clinical Director of Healing Hearts Family Counseling Center. Pat Ann is a Certified Attachment-Focused Family Therapist and has trained under Dr. Arthur Becker-Weidman and Arleta James. Pat Ann has specialized training in sensory processing and regulation, Brainspotting, EMDR, Interactive Metronome®, EEG Neurofeedback and HEG Neurofeedback, Integrated Listening Systems®, Interactive Metronome®, Heart Math®, and Pediatric OCD. Pat Ann was on the Board for the Association for Treatment and Training in the Attachment of Children (ATTACH) from 2009-2011. She was a contributing author in “Hope for Healing: A Parent’s Guide to Trauma and Attachment.”

**Katie Sepnieski**  
*Adoption and Interstate Services Section Chief / Wisconsin Department of Children and Families*  
Katie is the Adoption and Interstate Services Section Chief at the Department of Children and Families. Katie has worked for the Department for six years in multiple roles focusing on policies and programs related to permanency. She is responsible for the oversight of the Special Needs Adoption Program; including adoption assistance and amendments, the Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children (ICPC), Adoption Search and the Kinship program. Prior to her current position, she worked in the Out-of-Home Care Section and was responsible for the implementation of the Permanency Roundtables, and Family Find and Engagement initiative as well as supervising the State Permanency Consultants in Region 2.

**Meghan Sluga**  
*Family Case Manager Training Specialist / Children's Hospital of Wisconsin*  
Meghan is a recent graduate of the part-time MSW program at UW-Madison. She has worked in the Child Welfare field for six years. Her experience includes ongoing case management for families involved in the CHIPS system and training new case management staff in safety concepts and case management responsibilities. Over the past few years, Meghan has worked with youth who have been involved in sex trafficking. This has allowed her the opportunity to network and collaborate with law enforcement, child welfare, and other professionals who specialize in working with this population.

**Dimitri Topitzes**  
*Associate Professor / University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee*  
James “Dimitri” Topitzes, Ph.D., LCSW was a clinical social worker for Waukesha County’s Department of Health and Human Services for a number of years before assuming a full time faculty position at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee’s Helen Bader School of Social Welfare, where he currently serves as an Associate Professor of Social Work. Over the course of his academic career, Dimitri has conducted research on the long-term effects of child maltreatment trauma and interventions aimed at preventing or treating early trauma. In his role as educator, he teaches courses on trauma counseling to master’s level students and directs the Trauma-Informed Care Graduate Certificate at UW-Milwaukee. Recently, he helped co-found the Institute of Child and Family Well-being for which he serves as the director of clinical services.

**Gail Trimberger**  
*Associate Professor; MSW Program Chair / University of Wisconsin-Green Bay*  
Gail Trimberger, MSSW, PhD, LCSW is an Associate Professor and MSW Program Chair with the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay Professional Social Work Programs. She has over twenty years of direct experience in various medical social work settings; including public health, long term care, acute care crisis intervention, and hospice. Gail's background includes direct practice, administration, and supervision in each of those settings. Gail has expertise in older adults, end-of-life, grief and loss, ethics and boundaries, and social work leadership. Her research interests focus on professional boundary development, leadership, end-of-life, and children's bereavement.
Presenters

Angela Tucker
Transracial Adoptee; Adoption Educator / The Adopted Life LLC
Angela Tucker is the founder of The Adopted Life episode series. She and her husband, filmmaker Bryan Tucker, launched a successful Kickstarter campaign during National Adoption Month in November of 2015 which provided the funds for three episodes to be filmed and edited in New York City, Washington D.C., and Los Angeles. The Adopted Life began as a personal blog that allowed Angela to process publicly her emotions and experience as a transracial adoptee; a means by which she hoped to build a community of other adoptees growing up in closed adoptions. Angela has now expanded the blog into a video series platform for transracial adoptee voices via her episode series of the same title; The Adopted Life.

Eric Underly
Family Case Manager Supervisor / Children's Hospital of Wisconsin
Eric has been working in the child welfare field for 20 years from Treatment Foster Care, Residential Care and Child Protective Services. For the past 3 years he has focused on sex trafficking cases that involve minors who have CHIPS orders. Eric has worked closely with the Sensitive Crimes and the FBI in an effort to locate these children and to find placements and treatment.

Samantha Wilson
Associate Professor; Clinical Psychologist / Medical College of Wisconsin; Children's Hospital of Wisconsin
Samantha Wilson, Ph.D. is Associate Professor of Pediatrics in the division of Child Development at the Medical College of Wisconsin. She is the staff psychologist within the International Adoption Clinic at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin. In this role, she provides support to families at all stages of their adoption journeys, including pre-adoption education, initial consultation following a child's immigration, school-age assessment, and child/family therapy. She has published numerous scholarly articles on adoption, institutional care, attachment, and early child development and is a contributing author to the book Supporting Development in Internationally Adopted Children. She is an adjunct staff to the Wisconsin-based TIES program, a heritage travel experience for children and families. Dr. Wilson has clinical training/education to support the unique social-emotional development of infants/toddlers. She serves as a clinical consultant and reflective mentor to home visitors and early childhood clinicians within Waukesha, West Bend, Manitowoc, and Door County.

Lindsay Wood
Out-of-Home Care Specialist / Wisconsin Department of Children and Families
Lindsay Wood is the Out-of-Home Care Specialist for the Department of Children and Families in the Out-of-Home Care Section. Lindsay is a Program and Policy Analyst for the Department answering and providing guidance on Ch. DCF 56 Admin. Code requirements. Additionally, Lindsay provides guidance on a variety of other programs and policies, such as the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) Tool, the Geographic Placement Resource System, Levels of Care, Uniform Foster Care Rate Setting, licensing exceptions, and foster parent training.

Wisconsin Youth Advisory Council
The Wisconsin Youth Advisory Council, made up of former foster youth, has the mission of inspiring change by providing education, advocacy, support, training, and awareness to better the image of youth by addressing foster care issues on behalf of current and former foster youth in Wisconsin. The council seeks to help reform the system; educate and inform various aspects of the system (foster parents, CW administrators, etc.); break stereotypes; advocate for and support youth voice; help youth develop leadership and advocacy skills; provide a forum for youth to communicate their thoughts and ideas; and enhance partnerships between youth and adults.