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# Foster, Adoptive, Kinship, and Birth Parent Training 2024-2025



In an exciting venture with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, the MSU School of Social Work is pleased to present opportunities for training specific to all caregivers engaged with the Michigan child welfare system.

If you are a foster parent, adoptive parent, kinship/relative parent, or birth parent, these **FREE trainings** are customized to help support your needs in raising the children in your home, understanding some of the unique and sometimes challenging needs that children and their families often face in the child welfare system.

Following licensure, caregivers are required to earn six hours of training annually. These trainings can count toward those hours.

Find all program details on our website: [socialwork.msu.edu/ce](https://socialwork.msu.edu/ce).

## How to register for trainings

**Webinar training:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/msu-school-of-social-work-44929438833>

**If questions, contact:** Gina Tremonti Gembel, MSW, at the MSU School of Social Work Continuing Education office  
[swkce@msu.edu](mailto:swkce@msu.edu), 517-353-3060

DELIVERED BY



School of Social Work



## Foster, Adoptive, Kinship, and Birth Parent Training

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This training is intended for adults. Some content is not appropriate for children.

### Culturally Fluent Parents and Professionals: Navigating Race, Culture, and Adoption



**Date/time:** Wednesday, October 9, 2024

Program 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM (ET)

**Location:** TWO-HOUR WEBINAR

**Presenter:** Valarie A. Chavis, MS, Ed

Founder/Director Culturally Fluent Families

Beginner or intermediate skill level

Target audience:

- ✓ Foster Parents
- ✓ Adoptive Parents

**Training objectives:** As a result of this training, you will be prepared to:

- Understand the importance of embracing and valuing your child's racial and cultural identity.
- Identify and challenge personal biases to create an inclusive and equitable environment for your child.
- Develop a plan of action to connect your child to their cultural heritage and community.

**Description:** If you are adopting or are already parenting a child of a different race or culture, this webinar was created specifically for you. You will learn to create a family that supports your child's cultural heritage and positive racial identity. You will learn how to identify and deal with racism, manage privilege, and, most importantly, navigate confidently between your culture of origin and your child to make community connections. We will focus on self-awareness and examine the internal and external challenges, create a plan to address challenges and discuss the importance of racial and ethnic identity. The webinar will give you specific tools and lead you through the development of a parenting blueprint that will give you solid direction and more confidence on your journey. This webinar will utilize exercises, large group discussion, and visual displays.

### Triple Threat: Teenagers, Talking, and Trauma



**Date/time:** Tuesday, October 22, 2024

Program 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM (ET)

**Location:** TWO-HOUR WEBINAR

**Presenter:** Stacey Goodson, MS

Foster Parent, Trainer, Consultant

Beginner or intermediate skill level

Target audience:

- ✓ Foster Parents
- ✓ Adoptive Parents
- ✓ Kinship/Relative Parents
- ✓ Birth Parents

**Training objectives:** As a result of this training, you will be prepared to:

- Identify the four different types of trauma.
- Identify the differences in "normal" teenage behaviors vs. "trauma" teenage behaviors.
- Understand the importance of, and how to, build relationships before providing correction and discipline.

**Description:** Working with a population such as teenagers who have experienced trauma provides unique challenges. This webinar will be delivered in an engaging way and will help participants understand the differences in behaviors that teenagers exhibit as well as provide behavior management methods that work! This webinar will utilize small and large group discussion.

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## Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders

**Date/time:** Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Program 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM (ET)

**Location:** TWO-HOUR WEBINAR

**Presenter:** Barb Clark

Director of Training, BIS Youth Studies, Sociology, and English



**Training objectives:** As a result of this training, you will be prepared to:

- Explore risk factors when illicit drugs, tobacco, and alcohol are used during pregnancy.
- Describe FASD and the connection between brain impairment and behaviors.

**Beginner skill level**

**Target audience:**

- ✓ Foster Parents
- ✓ Adoptive Parents
- ✓ Kinship/Relative Parents
- ✓ Birth Parents

**Description:** We are seeing high rates of children who have been prenatally exposed to alcohol, drugs, and high levels of in-utero stress, which can have a significant impact on the individual's brain development. Although Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) are twice as common as autism, this disorder often goes undiagnosed or misdiagnosed. Children, adolescents, and adults with an FASD have invisible brain injuries, and typical parenting, teaching, and therapeutic strategies are often ineffective. It is vital for anyone parenting, teaching, or working with these individuals to understand the reasons behind the learning and behavioral challenges and to understand the strategies that are more effective with these neuro-behavioral differences. This webinar will utilize small group discussion.

## The Big 3: Raging, Lying, and Stealing

**Date/time:** Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Program 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM (ET)

**Location:** TWO-HOUR WEBINAR

**Presenter:** Barb Clark

Director of Training, BIS Youth Studies, Sociology, and English



**Training objectives:** As a result of this training, you will be prepared to:

- Understand the neurobehavioral aspect of challenging behaviors.
- Learn concrete ideas for responding to challenging behaviors.

**Beginner skill level**

**Target audience:**

- ✓ Foster Parents
- ✓ Adoptive Parents
- ✓ Kinship/Relative Parents
- ✓ Birth Parents

**Description:** Children and adolescents who have experienced trauma have unique brain wiring and are often at a mixture of developmental ages. Typical consequence-based behavioral strategies are often not effective and can lead to further trauma and impact the relationship between the adults and children/adolescents. Participants will learn new approaches to use with children and adolescents who have trauma histories, which will help you to understand them better and improve communication and relationships. The strategies we will cover are recommended for in-utero trauma such as FASD and also for trauma they may have experienced after birth. This webinar will utilize exercises and small group discussion.

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## Technology Safety

**Date/time:** Monday, January 13, 2025

Program 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM (ET)

**Location:** ONE-HOUR WEBINAR

**Presenter:** Barb Clark

Director of Training, BIS Youth Studies, Sociology, and English



**Training objectives:** As a result of this training, you will be prepared to:

- Understand why technology is even more challenging for children who have experienced trauma.
- Describe various strategies to help children be safer on technology.

**Beginner skill level**

**Target audience:**

- ✓ Foster Parents
- ✓ Adoptive Parents
- ✓ Kinship/Relative Parents
- ✓ Birth Parents

**Description:** Who wishes we were still in the dark ages when it comes to our kids and technology? Technology safety is a challenge for all parents, but when we are parenting kids with trauma histories and neuro-diversity, the challenge is exponentially magnified. In this webinar, we will talk about why this is more of a challenge for our kids and some strategies to try to keep them safe. This webinar will utilize small group discussion.

## Big Behaviors and Trauma: Similarities, Differences, and Strategies for Working with Traumatized Youth

**Date/time:** Friday, February 14, 2025

Program 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM (ET)

**Location:** ONE-HOUR WEBINAR

**Presenter:** Kelley Blanck, LMSW

Instructor/Faculty at MSU School of Social Work



**Training objectives:** As a result of this training, you will be prepared to:

- Define the different types of trauma.
- List the similarities and differences between typical developmental behavior and trauma symptoms.
- Describe strategies for supporting parents of children with big behavior.
- Identify tips and resources for children with trauma exposure.

**Beginner skill level**

**Target audience:**

- ✓ Foster Parents
- ✓ Adoptive Parents
- ✓ Kinship/Relative Parents

**Description:** Trauma affects how children view and cope with life. These children often behave in ways that seem random, unpredictable, withdrawn and extreme, struggling with impulse control and being able to think through consequences (NCTSN, 2017). Many of these children come from underserved/underrepresented populations and communities (AFCARS 2022). Research and practice are now opening our eyes to the significant relationship between behavior and trauma exposure. In this webinar, you will learn about common similarities and differences between typical developmental behaviors and trauma behavior as well as the interrelatedness of each. You will learn about strategies for working with youth who are exhibiting big behavior due to trauma exposure. In addition, you will receive tips and resources for further education and tools available to families. This webinar will utilize exercises and visual displays.