

# PACT WEBINARS

## Spring 2019–Summer 2020

Learn more about every aspect of adoption and its intersection with race and family from proven leaders in the field as part of **Pact's child-centered, race-conscious, honesty-based Webinar series**. Pact hosts 90- and 120-minute webinars on the topics of adoption, parenting and race specifically designed for adoptive families along with additional programming for pre-adopters, professionals, adoptees, and first/birth parents every month. Unless otherwise noted, webinars are led by a Pact staff member.

*Webinars can be used to fulfill Foster Care and Adoption educational requirements, and are appropriate for both domestic and international placements. Additionally, all registrants will receive a recording of the webinar along with handouts to keep. CEU Eligible webinars<sup>1</sup> meet the qualifications for 2 hours of continuing education credits.*

**Become a Pact member** for \$75/year to receive a 25% discount on the cost (\$36/general webinar) allowing you to participate for only \$27 per webinar or a 15% discount (\$38.25) for CEU Eligible webinars (\$45/CEU-eligible webinar). **To register: [www.pactadopt.org/events](http://www.pactadopt.org/events)**

**May 15, 2019**

### **What Adopted Children (and their Parents) Need to Know at Various Ages and Stages:**

**Ages 13-18 years old** • We will explore some of the underlying issues that adoption and racial identity formation add to the mix of the issues teens and their parents are navigating. Discussion topics will include general identity formation, adoption identity and racial identity. How can parents be firm, deliberately laying out their needs, requests and requirements, while maintaining a positive connection to their child? A parent's most difficult task is to create a delicate balance of "to love and let go" as their children work toward creating their own individual identity. *Appropriate for pre-adoptive and adoptive parents and professionals.*

**June 5, 2019**

### **A Developmental Approach to Transracial Adoption**

• Are you planning a transracial adoption, or are you already parenting across racial lines? At Pact, we believe that white parents must educate themselves about both race and racism as well as understanding white privilege and interrogating their own whiteness. We will explore how these issues play out in families where children and parents do not share the same racial identity. *Appropriate for transracial adoptive parents as well as professionals working with these families.*

**June 26, 2019**

### **What to Expect at the Hospital in Domestic Adoption**

• Hear practical and ethical advice about what to expect when pre-adoptive parents have been matched with expectant parents in an adoption plan, with a particular focus on what to expect at the hospital when a child is being placed for adoption. We will focus on how to manage the complex time when a child is born and the first/birth parent(s) are making the legal and emotional decision about whether to move forward with placing that child for adoption. *Appropriate for pre-adoptive parents and professionals.*

**July 10, 2019**

### **The Art of Attachment: Using Sensory Strategies as a Key to Connection**

• *Featuring Guest Speaker: Dr. Laura Anderson, PsyD* • Attachment is the cornerstone of connection, healing, and harmony in an adoptive family. This workshop provides some understanding of the way that children with trauma histories and/or attachment disruptions can have differing brain and body chemistry, including differently developed sensory integration systems. *Appropriate for all parents and professionals.*

**July 31, 2019**

### **Living Open Adoption: Practical Guidance for Making It Work**

• *Featuring Guest Speaker: Lori Holden* • Open adoption was created as an alternative to the challenges of closed adoption. But many adoptive and birth parents find new challenges inherent to an open relationship with new family. With three simple shifts, you will be able to develop a new mindset and strategy to guide you in your open adoption parenting. Practical tips and examples for managing open relationships will be offered. *Appropriate for all parents and professionals.*

**August 21, 2019**

### **For Adoptive Parents of Color: Talking About Adoption within Our Own Communities**

• Although people of color have a long history of informal and formal care of community, the national discussion of adoption often leaves out conversations about the experiences of adoptive families headed by people of color. This webinar will be an honest conversation about the strengths and challenges of talking about adoption in communities of color. Participants will learn strategies for talking with their children, community, and extended network about parenting through adoption and foster care. *Appropriate for adoptive and foster parents of color (pre- and post-adoption).*

**September 11, 2019**

### **Adoption... It's Complicated! Raising Awareness for Service Providers (CEUs)**

• Does your organization provide counseling to women facing unplanned pregnancies? Do you feel confident about how to support women and families considering an adoption plan? Or those whose children have already been placed into adoption or foster care? The only program of its kind, "Adoption...It's Complicated!" draws on both first-hand personal experiences of birth parents, and the latest research, to help service providers discuss adoption with honesty, balance, and compassion. *Appropriate for professionals working with pregnant people and birth parents.*

**October 2, 2019**

**Introducing the Adoption Conversation** • Learn how to start conversations and introduce concepts without going over your child's head. Topics will include: understanding how children understand and experience adoption, why the words we use matter, why beginning with a child's birth makes sense, how to talk about first/birth parents, and answering and anticipating children's questions, whether they ask them or not. *Appropriate for all triad members and professionals.*

**October 23, 2019**

### **Transracial Adoption for Professionals (CEUs)**

• This webinar will orient professionals to better evaluate and support pre-adoptive and adoptive families in transracial adoption, so as to provide effective and sensitive adoption and race-competent services in private practice and agency settings. Specific approaches about how to talk about race and how the race of the trainer impacts those discussions will be explored. *Appropriate for professionals.*

November 13, 2019

**Adult Adoptees of Color Panel** • Hear from adopted adults of color — born both domestically and internationally, adopted transracially, and in same race placements — about their adoption journey including the role their first/birth parents/families have had in their lives and understanding of their own identity. Too often, the adoptee perspective is subordinated to that of the adoptive parent. Pact believes that adults with first-hand experience are the truest experts on that experience. *Appropriate for all triad members and professionals.*

December 4, 2019

**Challenging Class Privilege in Adoption** • An uncomfortable truth in adoption is the privileges that are extended [or denied] based on class in all forms of adoption, including foster care, private domestic, and international. For many families of color who built their families through adoption, or the foster care system, the class dynamics at play butt up against intersections of oppression. This seldom discussed reality is a vital conversation to building connection and challenging dynamics. *Appropriate for all triad members and professionals.*

January 8, 2020

**First/Birth Parent Voices** • Nationwide, the adoption discussion is too often missing the perspective of first/birth parent voices and is instead dominated by the voices of adoptive parents. These biases mask the fact that every adoptee has two sets of parents: birth and adoptive. Hear from first parents to gain insight and understanding of their piece of the adoption experience. *Appropriate for all triad members and professionals.*

January 29, 2020

**Adoptive Parent Learning: Been There Done That—What We Learned That Could Help You** • Beth Hall and a panel of child welfare professionals, who are also parents of teen and/or adult adoptees, will talk about the things they have learned along the way for parents in the earlier stages of their parenting journey. Experiences include same-race and transracial adoption, kinship adoption, foster adoption, infant adoption, closed adoption, and open adoption. *Appropriate for pre-adoptive and adoptive parents and professionals.*

February 19, 2020

**Transracial Adoption for Adoptive Parents of Color** • Transracial adoption for parents of color is becoming more common in the adoption community. Learn about adoptive parents of color parenting across race:

the experience of parenting children not only as babies but as they grow older, the steps parents took to prepare themselves for transracial adoption, and the continued work they do to support their child's race and cultural heritage in conjunction with their own. *Appropriate for pre-adoptive and adoptive parents of color parenting across race and professionals.*

March 11, 2020

**Black Adoptee Voices** • Hear from Black adopted adults — born both domestically and internationally — about their adoption journey including the role their first/birth parents/families have had in their lives and understanding of their own identity. Too often, the adoptee perspective is subordinated to that of the adoptive parent. Pact believes that adults with first-hand experience are the truest experts on that experience. *Appropriate for all triad members and professionals.*

April 1, 2020

**Latinx Adoptee Voices** • Hear from Latinx (Hispanic) adopted adults — born both domestically and internationally — about their adoption journey, including the role their first/birth parents/families have had in their lives and understanding of their own identity. Too often, the adoptee perspective is subordinated to that of the adoptive parent. Pact believes that adults with first-hand experience are the truest experts on that experience. *Appropriate for all triad members and professionals.*

April 22, 2020

**Asian Adoptee Voices** • Hear from Asian adopted adults — born both domestically and internationally — about their adoption journey including the role their first/birth parents/families have had in their lives and understanding of their own identity. Too often, the adoptee perspective is subordinated to that of the adoptive parent. Pact believes that adults with first-hand experience are the truest experts on that experience. *Appropriate for all triad members and professionals.*

May 13, 2020

**Racially Ambiguous, Biracial, and Multiracial Voices** • Racial identity for adopted and fostered people of color, especially when they are transracially adopted, is complex, as they navigate the multiple intersections of race in a racialized world. For those who look racially ambiguous and/or embody multiple racial identities, this complexity

is further magnified. This workshop will give adoptive parents of all races tools to support the racially ambiguous, biracial, and multiracial identities of their adopted children of color. *Appropriate for all triad members and professionals.*

June 3, 2020

**Schools and Adoption** • Children spend half of their lives in school. One way that children are taught about the world and people around them is through assignments that focus on family. When these assignments are broadened purposefully to be inclusive and respectful of many diverse family models, children growing up in “non-standard” families can relax and learn. As we wind down the school year and anticipate a new year we will reflect on ways that schools can support children who joined their family through adoption. *Appropriate for all triad members and professionals and teachers.*

June 24, 2020

**Newborns, Money, Competition, and Desperation: Promoting Ethics in Adoption (CEUs)** • As the landscape of adoption providers continues to be heavily dominated by for-profit entities and “do-it-yourself” online matching services, solid ethics in voluntary infant placement and adoption become all the more critical. This workshop will raise questions about current practices in voluntary placements. *Appropriate for professionals, expectant parents, and pre-adoptive families.*

July 15, 2020

**Integrating the Shadow: Inner Work for Adult Adoptees** • *Guest Speaker Jemma Elliott* • The composition of the self is multifaceted and holistic. Using a depth psychological approach to working with the inner shadow, the adult adoptee can learn to integrate and reclaim those pieces of self which have been carefully hidden away. Through shared material and collective dialogue, we will discuss common shadow aspects for the adult adoptee. *Appropriate for the adult adoptee, for loved ones who wish to better understand their experiences, and professionals.*

August 12, 2020

**Working with Pre- and Post-Adoptive/Foster Parents of Color: Insights for Professionals (CEUs)** • This webinar will be an honest conversation about the strengths and challenges of talking about adoption and foster care in communities of color. Participants will learn strategies for supporting adoptive and foster parents of color throughout the adoption journey. *Appropriate for professionals working with communities of color.*

