

# NTI Raises the Bar!

## Enhancing Mental Health Practice for Improved Family Stability and Well-Being



**National** Adoption Competency  
Mental Health **Training Initiative**

Advancing Practice for Permanency & Well-Being<sup>TM</sup>

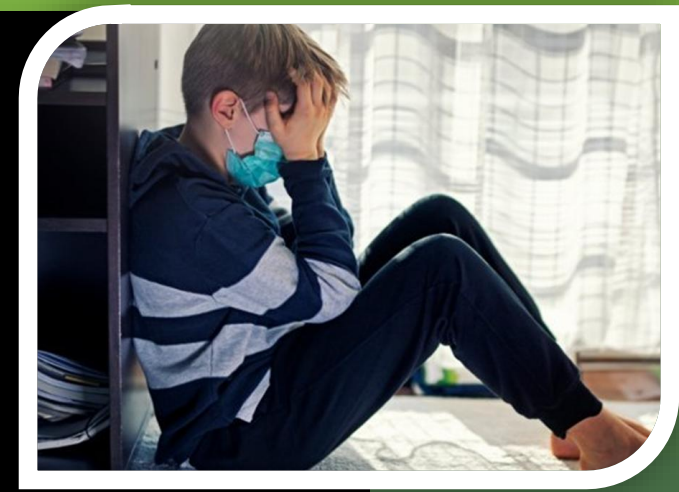


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The American Academy of Pediatrics estimates up to **80% of children** and adolescents enter the system with a significant mental health need compared to approximately 18-22 percent of the general population.



Health Care Issues for Children and Adolescents in Foster Care and Kinship Care; Moira A. Szilagyi, MD, PhD, David S. Rosen, MD, MPH, David Rubin, MD, MSCE, Sarah Zlotnik, MSW, MSPH, the COUNCIL ON FOSTER CARE, ADOPTION, AND KINSHIP CARE, the COMMITTEE ON ADOLESCENCE and the COUNCIL ON EARLY CHILDHOOD, PEDIATRICS  
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# Behavioral Health Issues in Adoption



- ▶ Adopted children are at elevated risk for developmental, health, emotional, and/or behavioral issues
- ▶ The impact of adverse experiences poses challenges at various times in the adoptive family life cycle
- ▶ Adoptive families utilize clinical services at triple the rate reported by families formed by birth.



Mental Health professionals  
have a **critical role** in helping...

Children  
tell/understand  
their stories



Parents understand  
the impact of grief,  
loss, trauma



Parents reframe  
their children's  
needs



Parents honor and  
maintain  
connections

# An Adoption-Competent therapist must be:



- Knowledgeable about the **psychological impact** of adoption on children and families
- Knowledgeable about the **impact of trauma** on the brain and behavior
- **Experienced** working with adopted youth/families
- Knowledgeable about **resources available** for foster and adoptive families
- **Trained** to meet the unique and specific needs of this large population





1. Introduction

1.1 Introduction

1.2 Section 1: Lesson 3 Objectives

2. The Story

2.1 The Story

2.2 Stories: A Bridge to Healing

2.3 The Importance of the Story

2.4 Video: Adopted Children Pt 1

2.5 What is Important?

3. Preparing For Dialogue

3.1 Preparing for Dialogue

3.2 Homework

**Web-Based**  
**Self-Paced**  
**FREE**

- Tools and resources to support clinical practice
- Assessment and therapeutic strategies to address behavioral challenges
- A shared language to foster collaboration between child welfare and mental health professionals



# National Adoption Competency Mental Health Training Initiative

TM

## Child Welfare Training

- 20 hours
- 8 modules
- Casework focused
- CW Professionals across the continuum in public & private settings.

## Child Welfare Supervisor's Training

- 25 hours for supervisors
- 8 modules
- Supervision for casework

## Mental Health Training

- 30 hours
- 10 modules
- Clinically focused on assessment & treatment
- MH Professionals in public or private settings providing clinical services to children, youth and families experiencing foster care, adoption or guardianship.



## School-Based Mental Health Training



- 17.5 hours
- 8 modules
- Focused on more deeply understanding underlying causes of students' behavior
- School-based MH Professionals who want to more deeply understand and address the MH needs of students experiencing adoption, foster care, kinship or guardianship situations.
- In addition, it is relevant for students experiencing other types of trauma such as refugee, immigrant, and homeless situations and/or divorced families.



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**NTI is not just a training...**



**it's practice-changing!**

- ✓ More effective assessment and treatment planning
- ✓ Incorporating a family systems perspective
- ✓ Having difficult conversations, encouraging youth to express their feelings
- ✓ Better engagement of caregivers
- ✓ Incorporating positive adoption language



# Implementation Support



- ✓ Plan for implementation:
  1. How to integrate NTI?
  2. Who will access the training and when?
  3. How will training be messaged?
  4. Will training be mandated?
- ✓ Provide communications tools, encouragement, and support
- ✓ Troubleshoot integration challenges
- ✓ Provide transfer of learning and coaching support for staff and supervisors



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