

A Post-Master's Certificate Program for Licensed Clinicians

Adoption-Competent Clinicians are In-Demand

Adoptive parents often struggle to find therapists skilled in working with adoptive families. Voce is committed to ensuring that families are supported to help their adopted children thrive.

Training for Adoption Competency™, administered by Voce in collaboration with the Center for Adoption Support and Education (C.A.S.E.), is a competency-based training program for mental health clinicians who provide pre- and post-adoption services.

Keeping Families Intact

Research shows that children with traumatic experiences are at high risk for adjustment problems within their adoptive families. They often have complex emotional issues, which adoptive parents identify as a primary family stressor post-adoption. TAC equips professionals with clinical skills and knowledge to meet these families' needs and achieve positive outcomes.

Program Description

TAC is a 12-session (72 hour), six-month long, training program during which participants master 12 domains critical to adoption-competent mental health services. The program combines information sharing, handouts, resources and experiential learning.

Developed in collaboration with a national advisory board of adoption experts, TAC is nationally endorsed. It is recognized by the California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare for promising research evidence and accredited by the Institute of Credentialing Excellence (ICE).

TAC is instructed by a certified trainer in a cohort of no more than 20 students.

In addition to receiving a certificate, TAC graduates are eligible to earn CEUs and will be listed in C.A.S.E.'s national registry of TAC-trained clinicians.

Program Candidates

- Master's level licensed clinicians in social work, counseling, psychology or related discipline; or Master's level professionals who are preparing for licensure
- Professionals employed in a clinical practice setting with a strong clinical background
- Professionals interested in working with prospective adoptive parents, birth parents and birth families, adopted persons, and adoptive and kinship families

About Voce

Voce (vō-chāy), which means voice, is a change agent. We use our voice, and empower you to use yours, to create positive, lasting change in people's lives. Our agency began in 1999 by pioneering a model that is nationally recognized for expediting adoptions and supporting families. Today, we provide consultation and training to agencies in the areas of trauma and loss, adoption and permanency, diversity and inclusion, and individual and family well-being.

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Learning Objectives

1. Develop an understanding of racial, ethnic and cultural issues in adoption and how to work with transracial and transcultural families
2. Identify and utilize evidence-based and evidence-informed practices and interventions with individuals affected by adoption
3. Learn how to support adoptive parents in developing therapeutic strategies in response to their children’s challenging behaviors
4. Understand how trauma impacts adopted children and tools and techniques to support recovery from adverse beginnings
5. Reinforce and strengthen the learning process through the case consultation process, resulting in strong transfer of learning to practice

Pennsylvania TAC Standard Cohort Schedule

- I. Adoption History, Law, and Process
2. Introduction to Adoption Competent Mental Health Practice
3. Providing Therapeutic Services: Grief, Loss and Separation in Adoption
4. Supporting Children, Youth and Families as They Ready Themselves for Adoption
5. Trauma and Brain Neurobiology
6. Attachment-Based Interventions with Adopted Children and Youth and Their Families
7. Adopted Adolescents and Identity Development
8. Birth and Adoptive Families
9. Clinical Issues in Working with Adoptive Families: Managing Challenging Behaviors
10. Openness in Adoption
- II. Race and Ethnicity in Adoption
12. Integrating Knowledge, Values and Skills

Trainers



Carly King, MSSW, LSW



Nicolee Hiltz, PhD

Fee

\$1,500 (includes all modules, handouts, evaluation materials and participation in six case consultation sessions)

Have questions? Call 717.236.8570 or email programs@vocetogether.org.