The Department of Children and Families and the New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect invite you to be a part of the 2015 Kinship Care and Family Connections biennial conference, scheduled for September 9th, at the Hyatt Regency, New Brunswick. We are very excited for this year’s statewide maltreatment prevention conference, and are happy to be able to offer attendees a full day of programming for only $60!

The 2013 conference was very well received, with approximately 500 attendees! If you were unable to participate in the last conference, we hope you will join us this year in central New Jersey where we anticipate an even larger turnout. As an exhibitor, you will have a chance to network with other volunteers and professionals in an effort to better meet the challenges currently at play around the state. There is no better place to do so than at the Kinship conference this year! Space is limited, and will only be available on a first-come, first served basis -- so don’t miss out on this exclusive opportunity to put yourself in front of such a large, targeted audience.

As in past years, the 2015 Biennial Conference will focus on expanding professional knowledge and skills on the role of kinship care in child welfare throughout the State of New Jersey, and why family connections matter. The conference theme encompasses a desire to encourage working relationships among volunteers and professionals in prevention, protective services, health, behavioral health, law enforcement and juvenile justice to create children and family focused systems. In keeping with this vision, this year’s theme, "Kinship Care and Family Connections," will provide a forum to discuss and learn about current trends in serving children, adolescents and at-risk families in a changing society. This is a unique opportunity for practitioners to network and understand the roles of the various disciplines in child maltreatment protection and prevention systems. The conference is organized to include plenary sessions, and close to 30 workshops to enhance professional development. This is a unique opportunity for practitioners to network and understand the roles of the various disciplines in child maltreatment prevention and protection systems.

Dr. Joseph Crumbley, family therapist, trainer, and consultant will be serving as our keynote speaker. His clinical experience includes adoption, foster care, chemical dependency, couple’s therapy, physical and sexual abuse. His most recent areas of specialization have been kinship care and transracial adoptions. He has provided training and consultation nationally and internationally. Nationally, Dr. Crumbley has consulted with Spaulding for Children, Casey Family Programs, Casey Family Services, Brookdale Foundation, the Child Welfare League of America and the Department of Health and Human Services. Internationally, he has worked with Renmin (the People’s) University of China in Beijing China, the New Zealand Ministry of Children and Family Services, the Ministry of Children and Youth in Ontario Canada, the British Association for Adoption and Fostering, and the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect in Durban, South Africa. He has been a guest on the BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation), PBS, Geraldo, Montel Williams Show and Nickelodeon. He has consulted with 60 Minutes, The New York Times and The Oprah Winfrey Show on the topics of transracial adoptions and kinship care.

On behalf of the New Jersey Department of Children and Families and the New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect, we hope that we can count on you to be a part of this exciting event. Please take a few moments to visit the website at www.cpe.rutgers.edu/NJDCF2015. Workshops and other details will be updated in the coming weeks. An exhibitor registration form is also available for your convenience.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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