

LOUISIANA ADOPTION ADVISORY BOARD, INC

A COALITION OF ADOPTION ADVOCATES SERVING LOUISIANA CHILDREN

PANEL PRESENTATION: CHANGES THROUGH THE EYES OF TRIAD MEMBERS

The mission of the Louisiana Adoption Advisory Board (LAAB) is to bring various members of the adoption community together to share different perspectives, seek common understanding, and promote initiatives that pertain to adoption. The board represents all parties to adoption.

Today's panel presentation will explore adoption as experienced in the past and contemplate changes today and for the future.

Della Pressler is an adoptee, wife, and grandmother, retired from driving school busses after 30 years. She is a music leader for her church and facilitates both Adoptees Birthrights Committee and Facts about Fibromyalgia support groups. Della was adopted through the State of Louisiana Foster Care.

Jeanette Livingston is a reunited birth mother, her son is 40 years old and they have enjoyed a close relationship since 2009. She has two sons she raised and has been married for 39 years and has 5 grandsons. Jeanette surrendered her son to state foster care.

Lori Arceneaux North, LCSW is a foster and adoptive parent. She is also the program manager with the adoption program at Volunteers of America of Greater New Orleans. In this role Lori creates and implements annual program financial budgets, providing case management services to pregnant women exploring adoption, individual counseling to clients in caseload, conducts home studies and home study updates with adoptive families, maintains case progress notes and other relevant documentation, assists clients in accessing all available community resources, assists in community outreach efforts and education, certification as an Infant Adoption Awareness Training Program Trainer, conducts Infant Adoption Awareness trainings at various locations.

Patrick Morris, LMSW is one of four adopted in his family, and is a trans-racially adopted person. He grew up in St. Louis, Missouri. He and his wife moved to Baton Rouge in 2002. Patrick's career goal is to facilitate increased communication and relationship building around adoption themes within adoptive families and among adults who were adopted. Patrick is the Domestic Adoption Social Worker for Catholic Charities in Baton Rouge. In this position he also provides ongoing counseling for adoptive families who are on the lifelong journey (typically meaning after the adoption has finalized). Patrick has facilitated Preparing For Permanency groups with children in Louisiana DCFS care, helping young people gain perspective on where they've been and prepare for where they want to go. Prior to holding this position, Patrick served as Director of Teen Programs with the Big Buddy Program. His experience with young people also includes three years teaching at Desire Street Academy as well as a year at Valley Park Alternative School. Patrick holds an MSW from Louisiana State University. He holds a post-graduate certificate in Foster Care and Adoption Competency from the NASW and the Hunter College School of Social Work.

The Louisiana Adoption Advisory Board, Inc. (LAAB) is a 501c3 non-profit and was formed in April, 1992 by a federal grant for post-adoption services.

**THE LIFELONG JOURNEY OF ADOPTION:
LAAB's 20th Anniversary Conference
FRIDAY, JUNE 8, 2012
8:15 AM - 4:45 PM
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