

## NTI Partners and National Advisors

The work of the NTI would not be possible without our cooperative agreement with the Children's Bureau, Administration for Children and Families, US Department of Health and Human Services. The Federal Project Officer is [June Dorn](#), Adoption Specialist.

A number of partners comprise the NTI Core Team, responsible for strategic planning, development of the curriculum and web-based training, selection of pilot sites, quality assurance and evaluation:

**Susan Livingston Smith, LCSW**, a Professor Emerita of the School of Social Work at Illinois State University and nationally known expert on child welfare and adoption is collaborating on curricula development. Smith has co-authored four books on adoption, *Promoting Successful Adoptions: Practice with Troubled Families* (1999), *After Adoption: The Needs of Adopted Youth* (2003), *Siblings in Adoption and Foster Care: Traumatic Separations and Honored Connections* (2009), and *Facilitating Adoptions from Care* (2014). She taught a course in the Post-Adoption Certificate program at Portland State University for many years and authored a module in C.A.S.E.'s TAC curriculum. [Email Susan](#)

**Carol J. Bishop, MA, LMFT**, co-founder of Kinship Center, California (<https://Kinshipcenter.org>) is collaborating on curricula development. She has worked in adoption and foster care for more than 40 years. Bishop currently has oversight for Kinship Center's programs in child placement, kinship care, wraparound, children's mental health and the Education Institute. She has participated in development of curricula for parents and professionals, notably ACT – An Adoption and Permanency Curriculum for Child Welfare and Mental Health Professionals, the companion parent training, Pathways to Permanency II, and co-authored a module in C.A.S.E.'s TAC curriculum. Bishop is a recipient of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute's Angels in Adoption Award, 2006. [Email Carol](#)

### **PolicyWorks, Ltd.**

Anne Atkinson, President and founder ([ajatkinson@policyworksLtd.org](mailto:ajatkinson@policyworksLtd.org)) of the Virginia-based program evaluation and policy research firm will conduct scans of adoption competency training programs to inform curriculum development and jurisdictional scans for pilot site selection. She also coordinates quality assurance activities and contributes to the development of informational products. [Visit PolicyWorks, Ltd. website](#)

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## **University of Maryland, School of Social Work, Institute for Innovation and Implementation**

The University's Institute, a major training and implementation center with nationally recognized expertise in child mental health and child welfare, will deliver the web-based curriculum and provide related technical assistance. Key Staff Include:

Marlene Matarese, Director, Training & Technical Assistance Center, Principal Investigator [Email Marlene](#)

### **Web-based Conversion**

Meredith Waudby Gunn, Director, Media & Events [Email Meredith](#)

Goldie Morton, Lead Clinical Research Associate [Email Goldie](#)

### **Evaluation/Research**

Bethany Lee, Associate Dean for Research, Team Lead for Evaluation [Email Bethany](#)

Rochon Steward, Research Associate [Email Rochon](#)

Catherine Moon, Research Associate [Email Catherine](#)

Charlotte Bright, Associate Professor [Email Charlotte](#)

Julia Kobulsky, Postdoctoral Fellow [Email Julia](#)

Visit the [Institute and its On-Line Training Center](#) for more information.

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**NTI has also partnered with the following organizations to enhance curricula development, assure cultural relevance of material, and assist with dissemination of training:**

[Alliance for Strong Families and Communities](#) provides linkages with private child welfare and mental health provider agencies and consults on training development and implementation

[National Association of State Adoption Programs](#) provides linkage with state adoption program managers and consults on training development and implementation

[National Indian Child Welfare Association](#) consults on cultural responsiveness and provides linkages and assistance with implementation within tribal child welfare and mental health providers and training programs

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[Rudd Adoption Research Program](#) provides linkages to adoption researchers, practitioners and policymakers and assistance with disseminating the training

[The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption](#) provides linkages with Wendy's Wonderful Kids state programs and assistance with disseminating the training

**A broad range of nationally recognized experts serve as NTI National Advisors, providing valuable guidance for the development of competencies, curricula development, and dissemination of NTI training:**

**Uma Ahlawalia, MSW**, Director  
Montgomery County (MD) Department of Social Services

**Jodi Hill-Lilly, MSW**, Co-Director,  
Department of Children and Families  
Academy for Family and Workforce Knowledge & Development

**David Brodzinsky**  
Development, clinical, and forensic psychologist  
Family Mental Health Consultants  
Oakland, CA

**Terry Cross, LCSW**, Senior Advisor  
National Indian Child Welfare Association

**Rebecca Jones Gaston**, Deputy Executive Director, Social Services Administration,  
Maryland Department of Human Services

**Joe Crumbley, DSW**  
Family therapist, trainer, and consultant  
Jenkintown, PA

**Cassandra Kiesel**, Ph.D. Research Associate Professor in Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University

**Jan Dick**, Director of Child and Family Permanency, Family & Children's Service  
Nashville, TN

**Traci La Liberte**, Ph.D. Executive Director  
Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare  
University of Minnesota

**Nicole Dobbins**, Child Welfare Partnership  
Casey Family Programs

**Ruth McRoy**, Ph.D.  
Boston College

**Jetaine Hart**, Consultant  
Foster Youth in Action

**Tracey Parker**, Adoption Program Manager,  
Iowa Department of Human Services

**Sarah Gerstenzang**, Clinical Social Worker  
Birth, Foster/Adoptive and Kinship Parent

**Frank Perfinski**, State Adoption Specialist & Manager, Delaware Department of Services for Children; Former NASAP Board

**Darla Henry, Ph.D.**  
Trainer, Consultant, Author of 3-5-7 Model©.

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**Susan Rich, MD, MPH**

Child/Adolescent and Adult Psychiatrist  
Potomac, MD

**Derrick Riggins, Consultant**

Young adult, former foster youth

**Marty Shannon, Program Manager**

Utah Department of Human Services  
NASAP Board

**Nicki Steinhoff**, Director of Training &  
Community Support, Foster and Adoptive Care  
Coalition, St. Louis, Missouri

**Karri Vasquez**, Consultant  
Foster/Adoptive Parent, Virginia

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