

## ABOUT TAC

Training for Adoption Competency (TAC) is an accredited post-Master's curriculum designed by C.A.S.E. with the assistance of a National Advisory Board of adoption experts. C.A.S.E. received accreditation of its Training for Adoption Competency from the Institute of Credentialing Excellence (ICE) in November 2020. This makes TAC part of an elite group of certificate programs dedicated to public protection and excellence in practice.



### AT A GLANCE

Wayfinder Family partners with The Center for Adoption Support and Education (C.A.S.E.) and is the only TAC-certified site in California. TAC is a comprehensive, evidence-based training designed exclusively for licensed mental health professionals, providing clinical knowledge and skills needed to effectively serve the adoption and kinship network to:

- adopted children and youth
- adults with an adoption history
- children preparing for adoption
- birth parents and extended family members
- prospective adoptive parents
- adoptive families

### PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

- Master's degree (or higher) in social work, a counseling field or other related discipline
- Current professional license **or** registered as an associate, applicants under clinical supervision in preparation for professional licensing will also be accepted
- Experience or genuine interest in working with adopted persons, prospective adoptive parents, birth parents and birth family members, adoptive families and kinship families in clinical settings

### BENEFITS TO PARTICIPANTS

- TAC builds the clinical skills therapists need to address the issues of grief and loss, disrupted attachments, multiple moves, experienced by children with foster care/adoption/guardianship experiences, including the additional challenges of isolation, broken attachments, loss of visitation and connections created by COVID
- Specific training on trauma and brain neurobiology, treatment strategies to help children, birth and adopted parents cope with grief and loss, treatment modalities and interventions to support birth parents and extended family members and much more
- Rated by California Evidence-based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare
- Integrated 6 months of case consultation with national experts
- Graduates of TAC receive a certificate of completion and national recognition through posting on the C.A.S.E. website and directory of Adoption Competent Professionals
- Option to take accreditation exam valued at \$40 to be **listed as an accredited clinician**.

### REFUND POLICY:

If unable to attend, registered participants must cancel at least 30 days in advance of cohort start date in order to receive a full refund. No refunds will be given for non-attendance of a particular module or modules.

### TRAINING COST

- **\$3300 Early sign ups by June 30, 2023**
- **\$3450 Final Sign Ups by August 15, 2023**
- **\$3550 Late Sign ups by September 1, 2023**

### Trainers:

#### Sasha McGowan, LCSW

Sasha McGowan is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, who has worked supporting youth and families in crisis for 15 years. She specializes in adoption, foster care, youth advocacy, and training new clinicians and child welfare social workers entering the field. Sasha is a therapist serving adopted youth and their parents. She has completed Training for Adoption Competency therapy and is a Certified Nurtured Heart Approach® Trainer. Sasha is also an adoptive mom of five children, two of whom are now young adults in college.

#### Debbie McJimsey, LMFT

Debra has gained extensive experience in working with foster/adoptive and kinship families through her work with Lilliput and her private practice as a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. She has provided focused training to families and to other clinicians in the areas of parent education, trauma informed care, family and conjoint therapy models, and self-empowerment techniques such as those presented in the WISE-up program.

#### Arlicia Lorentty, LCSW

Arlicia Lorentty is a licensed clinical social worker currently supervising a team who support various aspects of the continuum of care with Wayfinder Family Services. She has worked with kinship families for over nine years through family finding, navigation services and resource family approval. In addition to supporting kinship families, Arlicia has previously worked with CSEC youth and in the field of medical social work. She also develops and provides training to resource families and child/family treatment professionals. When she is not working, she enjoys cooking new dishes and sharing dinner with her friends and family.

# TAC

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Develop clinical skills in working with adopted children and youth and adoptive families on issues of loss, grief, separation, identity formation and attachment
- Develop clinical skills in working with adopted children and youth and adoptive families on issues related to the impact of genetics and past experiences on adjustment and the psychological well-being of adopted children
- Understand how trauma impacts adopted children and tools and techniques to support recovery from adverse beginnings
- Understand the issues that impact identity formation for adopted youth and young adults
- Develop assessment and intervention skills with diverse types of adoptive families and with birth families
- Learn the developmental stages of adoptive families and the process of adoptive family formation and integration
- Develop skills in working with adopted children, youth and adults, adoptive families, and birth families on issues of adoption openness and ongoing connections
- Develop an understanding of the racial, ethnic, and cultural issues in adoption and how to work with transracial and transcultural families
- Identify and utilize evidence-based and evidence-informed practices and interventions with individuals affected by adoption
- Learn how to work effectively with service systems and the community on behalf of adoptive families
- Reinforce and strengthen the learning process through the case consultation process, resulting in strong transfer of learning to practice

## CEUs:

This training series qualifies for up to **66 hours** of continuing education units (CEU) for Marriage and Family Therapists and Licensed Clinical Social Workers in California as required by the Board of Behavioral Sciences (CAMFT Provider #66256)

## APPLICATION PROCESS:

Step 1: Complete online application via the link below

[2023 TAC Enrollment \(wayfinderfamily.org\)](https://www.wayfinderfamily.org/2023-tac-enrollment)

Step 2: Receive confirmation and admission to the training cohort.  
Submit Payment

Step 3: Begin enrollment process.

### For more information and questions:

Contact: [LFTacTraining@wayfinderfamily.org](mailto:LFTacTraining@wayfinderfamily.org)

## Virtual Training Dates (live, via zoom)

Phone: 916-923-5444

Visit us at:

[Wayfinder Trainings for Professionals](https://www.wayfinderfamily.org/trainings-for-professionals)



September 2023 – August 2024

**Module 1 self-study completed in September**  
Adoption History, Law & Process

**Module 2 – October 19, 2023**  
Adoption Competency  
Theory and Philosophy

**Module 3 – November 09, 2023**  
Mental Health Needs

**Module 4 – December 14, 2023**  
Separation, Loss, and Grief

**Module 5 – January 18, 2024**  
Trauma & Brain Neurobiology

**Module 6 – February 15, 2024**  
Attachment

**Module 7 – March 21, 2024**  
Identity Formation/Adolescence

**Module 8 – April 18, 2024**  
Adoption Preparation

**Module 9 – May 23, 2024**  
Clinical Issues with Birth  
and Kinship Families

**Module 10 – June 27, 2024**  
Openness in Adoption

**Module 11 – July 25, 2024**  
Race and Ethnicity in Adoption

**Module 12 – August 22, 2024**  
Therapeutic Parenting