



“Transracial Adoption and the Black Lives Matter Movement” - Webinar

[“Click here to view the webinar”](#)

On August 26, 2020 Spaulding for Children presented a webinar: “Transracial Adoption and the Black Lives Matter Movement”

Watch the video as our facilitated panel of three Black transracial adoptees shared their experiences and real-talk about how the increased momentum surrounding Black Lives Matters impacts Black and Brown adoptees raised in White families in America.

The panel highlighted information that professionals working in the child welfare field as well as adoptive parents need to understand related to the intersectionality of adoption and race and its life-long impact.

MEET OUR PANELISTS:



FACILITATOR:

Sharonlyn Harrison, Ph.D.

President/CEO, Public Research and Evaluation Services

Dr. Harrison has a doctorate in education, evaluation, and research, and has over 20 years leading initiatives designed to address racial, ethnic and cultural equity and diversity. She is senior consultant for the National Center for Cultural Competence at Georgetown University and mentor for the Annie E. Casey, Expanding the Bench and LEEAD (Leaders in Equitable Evaluation and Diversity) initiative. She is an integral member of the team that developed and implemented the Minority Adoption Leadership Development Institute (MALDI), now entitled Minority Professional Leadership Development. This pivotal initiative provides opportunities for emerging leaders to learn and conduct action research about important

child welfare topics including disproportionality, transracial adoption, sibling connections and kinship care.



April Dinwoodie

Founder of Adoptment -- a Mentoring Program that Matches Foster Youth with Adopted Adults

April is a Black-Bi-racial/transracially-adopted person, nationally recognized thought leader on non-traditional and multiracial families, and a race and culture competency coach. After years of corporate communications work, April pivoted to non-profit spending several years as the Chief Executive of the Donaldson Adoption Institute, a research, education, and advocacy organization.



Alexis Oberdorfer

President of Children's Home Society of Minnesota

Alexis is a transracial adoptee, a parent of three children, two of whom are adopted. She has worked in child welfare for over 25 years. She joined Children's Home in 2008 and now serves as the President of Children's Home and as an Associate Vice President of Adoption for Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota where she oversees their adoption programs and brings deep leadership experience.



Marcus Schmidt

Mentor for Adoption -- a Mentoring Program that Matches Foster Youth with Adopted Adults

Mr. Schmidt, originally born in Silver Springs, MD, Marcus was adopted by a family in California where he primarily grew up before relocating to the East coast for college. After college, Marcus reconnected with his biological family and found his experience valuable in helping younger adoptees process their experiences.
