

Northern Region Child Welfare Institute
Permanency, a Cure for the Blues

February 14, 2007

Presenter Information



Susan Badeau has been a child welfare professional for twenty-six years. Currently a policy consultant, from 2002 – 2005 Ms. Badeau served as the Deputy Director of the Pew Commission on Children in Foster Care. She has also worked in direct services at both the casework and supervisory levels in adoption and foster care in both public and private agencies. She has developed curricula on many topics used to prepare professional child welfare staff, adoptive and foster parents, judges, attorneys and youth. She also writes extensively on topics related to children, particularly those with special needs. A lifelong child advocate, she completed a one-year

Kennedy Public Policy Fellow in the office of Senator John D (Jay) Rockefeller IV in Washington DC where she had the opportunity to work on policies that impact on the lives of children and families. Sue is also a frequent speaker at state, regional and national conferences.

Active in community efforts on behalf of children and families with special needs at many levels, Sue currently serves as the Chairperson of the Pennsylvania Statewide Adoption Network Advisory Council, and has previously served as the Project Director for New York's Longest Waiting Children Project, New York State Permanence for Adolescence Workgroup, the Region III Coordinator for Family Voices and as a member of the Philadelphia Health Department's Special Needs Work Group. She has served on the faculty of three Breakthrough Series Collaboratives – Improving Health Care for Children in Foster Care; Recruitment and Retention of Resource Families and Trauma-Focused Cognitive Based Therapy for Children who have experienced trauma. She frequently consults for public and private child welfare agencies and foundations.

Sue has particular passion and expertise around a number of adoption-related topic areas, including achieving permanence for older adolescents, the importance of the sibling bond, the impact of adoption and foster care on children's development, the lifelong value of birth family connections for adopted children, and spiritual development for children in adoption and foster care. In addition, she has a strong belief that the multiple systems in which children and families become involved – child welfare, courts, education, mental health, physical health, developmental disabilities, etc – must learn to better communicate and collaborate to best serve children and families. She frequently consults with states and organizations to help them develop strategies to bring about meaningful and ongoing collaboration between multiple systems.

Sue and her husband, Hector, are the lifetime parents of twenty-two children, two by birth and twenty adopted. They have also served as foster parents for more than 50 children in three states, and as a host family for refugee youth from Sudan, Kosovo and Guatemala. They have won numerous awards for their work, including being recognized by President Clinton with an "Adoption Excellence" award for their work on behalf of adoption and children in foster care in 1997.