

# Beyond the Diagnosis:

Parenting Foster & Adopted  
Children with Unique Needs



Virtual Conference  
March 7-8, 2025 | Zoom

*March 7th from 6:00-9:15 pm (Break from 7:30-7:45 pm)*

## Understanding Autism and Related Behaviors

**Presented by Alicia Hines, BA, RBT and Gabrielle Thomas, RBT**

Join us for an in-depth look at autism. We'll explore key topics, including diagnosis, common signs and symptoms, myths vs. realities, effective treatment interventions, and available supports. Learn practical strategies for structure, routines, visuals, communication systems, reinforcement, and choices to support success. Participants will gain valuable tools and tips to support their children.

## Parenting from the Trenches

**Presented by Denise Goodman, PhD**

This energizing virtual training will provide key tips for parenting foster and adopted children and teens. We'll explore strategies for parents to better understand our kids and ourselves! Building positive relationships will be highlighted as well as techniques for maintaining your cool in stressful situations. Participants will learn ways to parent children with trauma with added connection and confidence.

*March 8th from 9:00-11:00 am*

## A Deeper Dive into Diagnoses

**Presented by Dr. Stephanie Riolo, MD, MPH**

Youth mental health challenges are increasingly common, especially among foster and adopted children. This session covers key statistics, common diagnoses like ADHD, ODD, and PTSD, frequently prescribed psychiatric medications, and the impact of parenting children with these diagnoses. Participants will leave with practical parenting tips to support children with these challenges.



**FREE  
Registration**

<https://bit.ly/mare-conference>

## Questions

1-800-589-6273

*Hosted by*



The presenting partners are programs of Judson Center and funded by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.



# Conference Presenters



## *Alicia Hines, BA, RBT*

Alicia has been in human services for 15 years and in the field of applied behavior analysis (ABA) for 6 years. She has worked with Judson Center's Autism Connections program for almost 4 years and is currently getting her master's in ABA. Through her experience providing ABA to clients in schools, clinics, homes, and the community, she has developed a compassionate, humble approach to working with the autistic population.



## *Gabrielle "Gabby" Thomas, RBT*

Gabby has worked in ABA for 7 years in clinics, homes, and schools. She has been with Judson Center's Autism Connections program for a year and dedicates herself to advocating for and empowering her clients. She is pursuing her bachelor's degree in psychology with an emphasis on applied behavioral analysis (ABA). Her experience in the field has fueled her passion for sharing about autism treatment approaches.



## *Denise Goodman, PhD*

Denise has been a child welfare professional for over 45 years, and she has been a foster parent to teens. As an independent consultant, she conducts workshops and program consultations on foster care, adoption, and kinship care throughout the US and Canada. She also works with local and state jurisdictions to build their programs in these topic areas.

Denise earned a Master of Science in Social Administration from Case Western University and a Ph.D. in social work from The Ohio State University. She has written many curricula for staff and resource parents, co-authored a section of *The Field Guide to Child Welfare*, and published numerous articles and tools on foster care/adoption issues, including the [Icebreaker Toolkit](#), [Resource Family Guide](#), [Child Specific Recruitment Tool](#), [Recruiting 4 Free](#), and [Step by Step Guide for Targeted Recruitment](#).

She has been recognized and won numerous awards for her training from the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program. Denise was also inducted into The Ohio State University College of Social Work's Hall of Fame as a Distinguished Alumni and named the North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC) Child Advocate of the Year for 2015. Denise served 8 years on the Board of Families Rising (formerly NACAC), including being president for 6 years. Currently, she serves on the Board of the Ohio Family Care Association.



## *Dr. Stephanie Riolo, MD, MPH*

Stephanie is a Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist who has been in practice for 30 years, and she is Judson Center's Medical Director. She graduated from Brown University and is triple board certified in Pediatrics, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, and Adult Psychiatry. She has also trained in infant psychiatry and has a master's in Epidemiology from the University of Michigan School of Public Health.

Dr. Riolo has worked with many patients with autism, developmental disabilities, genetic disorders, and comorbid medical problems. After completing residency, she worked in the Indian Health Service for 3 years. Subsequently, she was on the University of Michigan and Wright State University faculty for 5 years each. During her career, Dr. Riolo has worked for several orphanages and has treated hundreds of children in foster care. She is passionate about working with underserved youth.