



Center For Family Connections (CFFC) is a leading provider of support services to adoption, foster care, and complex blended families* to provide consultation on permanency planning for children.

At a fundamental level, CFFC's mission is to help children feel safe, seen, and valued, and to help them adjust to the challenges of being, or having been, moved from one family to another.

Critical to the CFFC philosophy is an understanding that adoption, foster placement, guardianship and other life-altering family changes are not isolated events, but part of a life-long process. Through decades of experience working in the adoption field, CFFC has developed an array of services to address the many stages in the continuum of care of foster care, guardianship, kinship care, as well as adoption.

** What do we mean by "complex blended families?"*

- *Root families are families where the mother and father who gave birth to the child are also parenting the child together...*
- *Complex families are every other type of family structure...*
- *Complex blended families are a blending of many families by adoption, fostering, kinship care, remarriage, or alternative reproductive technologies.*
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Friends of Center For Family Connections (CFFC).

1995 to 2012

For exactly 17 years, Center For Family Connections (CFFC) has been here as a nonprofit, serving the people in the world of adoption and complex blended families.

We have done it well, and we have been small but mighty in our accomplishments.

For the past year, and especially since the summer, we have struggled to make ends meet due to changes in the way we are funded.

This threw us off in a way that did not allow us to regain our footing.

When you receive this letter, CFFC will be ceasing to operate. Ending.

You have no idea how this breaks my heart.

My life has gone into making CFFC exist for the children and families, and for the professionals that serve them.

It is a very sad way to end a wonderful time

- Visioning the way that professionals and parents look at the world of the adopted child and adults attached to that child.
- Revisioning the training of professionals in adoption.

- Creating and recreating post adoption services as a pioneer.

I have trained many excellent therapists and parents. I am so sorry -first and foremost -that our clients will lose this amazing resource.

- We have held reunions for many -openings of closed adoptions,
- We have done clinically supervised visits for many kids and birthparents, or kids and siblings,
- We have assessed the challenges of children, adolescents, and adults.
- We have trained and guided parents,
- We have provided groups for birthparents, adoptive parents, foster parents, parents by ART and kids, teens, and adults.
- We have trained judges, lawyers, doctors, psychologists, social workers, family therapists, art and expressive therapists.

I am sad for the discontinuity for the kids, particularly, but for all of our clients.

I am sorry for the people who benefitted from our trainings and will no longer have them to look forward to.

My heart is broken to see our staff go through this. It is an amazing hard working staff. Melissa St. John is the best Clinical Director one could have and Lynette Ingram Cassel is an amazing clinical manager and supervisor. They are both happily pregnant and will both be gone for three months from April stretching through to July, and it was their intention to come back to CFFC. They are both splendid clinicians.

Our Fee For Service Consultants, who are specifically trained by us to understand the world of adoption, will be gone. Jennifer Eckert, Julie Casella, Holly Bishop, KC Craig, Laura Ewing, Sue Muldoon and Mary Gallaudet are all excellent clinicians and have served our clients well.

Our wonderful interns will move on. Nate Bae Kupel, Erica Perry, Jen Malloy, and Shaun Glaze.

Finally we have a great operations team under Mary Limerick .

Our Finance team has been incredible. Alex Uccifferi is there for us day and night and Svetlana has been with us for almost ten years as bookkeeper. She is loyal and incredibly skilled.

Dave Wisholek Of Streamline has made our billing as swift and practical as is humanly possible. His sidekick, Chad has been a jewel.

Mantra is a great IT place for Mac users, and Garrett Brown is the best and the kindest.

The last client will be seen at CFFC on February 29th.

Please call and schedule times prior to that date to get some closure, and to work with your therapist for a transition plan.

The staff will all leave after clearing things up on March 2.

Some Board members and I will be left to pack and clean up and get out of the building sometime in March. Here I must say that the best landlord anyone could ever have is Manny Rogers. He has been kind and caring through thick and thin, high and low. Special thanks to Manny and I will miss this cozy building.

Tears are being shed, and will continue to be shed, as we end this very important team, this very important work, this very important and pioneering place in the world of adoption.

CFFC was built as a nonprofit, branching from Pre/Post Adoption Consulting Team and Adoption ReSource Center – my private work. It was the first ever pre and POST adoption clinical and training center in the country that did not have anything to do with the placement of children for adoption.

Now it is going and – sadly- there are only two or three other places resembling it in the country.

Now for the better news –

I am not leaving this work.

I am simply taking it with me to another level.

I will go back to private work, and people can call or email me for referrals, resources, or to see me and some of my colleagues who will be in their own private practices.

I will continue to do consultations (live and on phone), training, teaching, supervision, and some coaching and clinical work.

I will continue this work and will take back **Pre/Post Adoption Consulting and Therapy (PACT)** – years ago Pact: An Adoption Alliance in Bay Area asked if they could use it and said that it wouldn't confuse people...It sort of did, so I named the non profit Center For Family Connections, but now I will go back to my roots and work as PACT and I will also have **Pavao Consulting and Coaching**, which will reach a broader audience.

You can reach me anytime at joycemaguirepavao@gmail.com , phone is 617-682-0749 and I will help you with referrals, resources etc.

I encourage, invite, and ask agencies and other professionals to contact me if there are consulting jobs that I could be helpful with.

I encourage families and individuals to call for phone consultations or live consultations if you live nearby.

My business phone number since 1978 when I had an office on Hammond Street in Cambridge was **617 547 0909** and I loaned it to CFFC for these 17 years, but I will take that back **in March, 2012**, so that people can find help with adoption and post adoption issues – (response time may lag as I will have no support staff in the private office).

Now for more good news-

I have agreed to do part-time work at Riverside Community Care (www.riversidecc.org), to help them build their skills in post adoption clinical work. I will provide training, supervision, co-therapy and technical assistance to clinical folks throughout their organization, and develop a delivery system of post adoption services to each community.

Some of our clinical team, interns, Fee For Service clinicians and operations staff will be hired individually by Riverside. I am so eager that all of our clients, staff and interns land safely after our fall.

In some cases, our clients will, therefore, have the option of moving to a new site with their present therapist.

- We are still collecting donations for Center For Family Connections and will be able to through end of fiscal year, June 30, 2012, as it is our hope that we can pay back our loans – especially since some of them are to people we care greatly about .
- You can also hire me as a consultant to build models at your site, to work with your families and staff, to coach and supervise your management and middle management and you can continue to refer clients and agencies to me at either kinnect@gmail.com or to joycemaguirepavao@gmail.com
- Ultimately I will be reached at 617 547 0909, but my google number is 617-682-0749. I am searching for a new office, and will inform you when I find one that is inexpensive and right for the kind of work I will be doing. (let me know if you know of a space in Cambridge that has 2 offices and a waiting area and some storage for archives etc. – must be inexpensive as my savings is gone and I am rebuilding!)

And so, it is with great sadness that I send this letter

- In saying goodbye to all of the good work that Center For Family Connections has done.
- In saying goodbye to the 26 years of summer conferences in Provincetown.
- In saying goodbye to our international conferences every two years in Dublin, Cambridge, and the Cape.
- In saying goodbye to our old FaCT Trainings monthly at CFFC.
- In saying goodbye to our constellation of groups, that met the needs of all parties and especially the children.

You have done great work, have helped many children and families, have created grounded and well-trained clinicians, and have started many interns on great careers.

Goodbye Center For Family Connections (CFFC)

Dr. Joyce Maguire Pavao

Founder and CEO

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