



Adoption IS an Option

LUTHERAN FAMILY SERVICES ROCKY MOUNTAINS
RENEE TEAGUE

Recommendations of CDC and the U.S. Office of Population Affairs

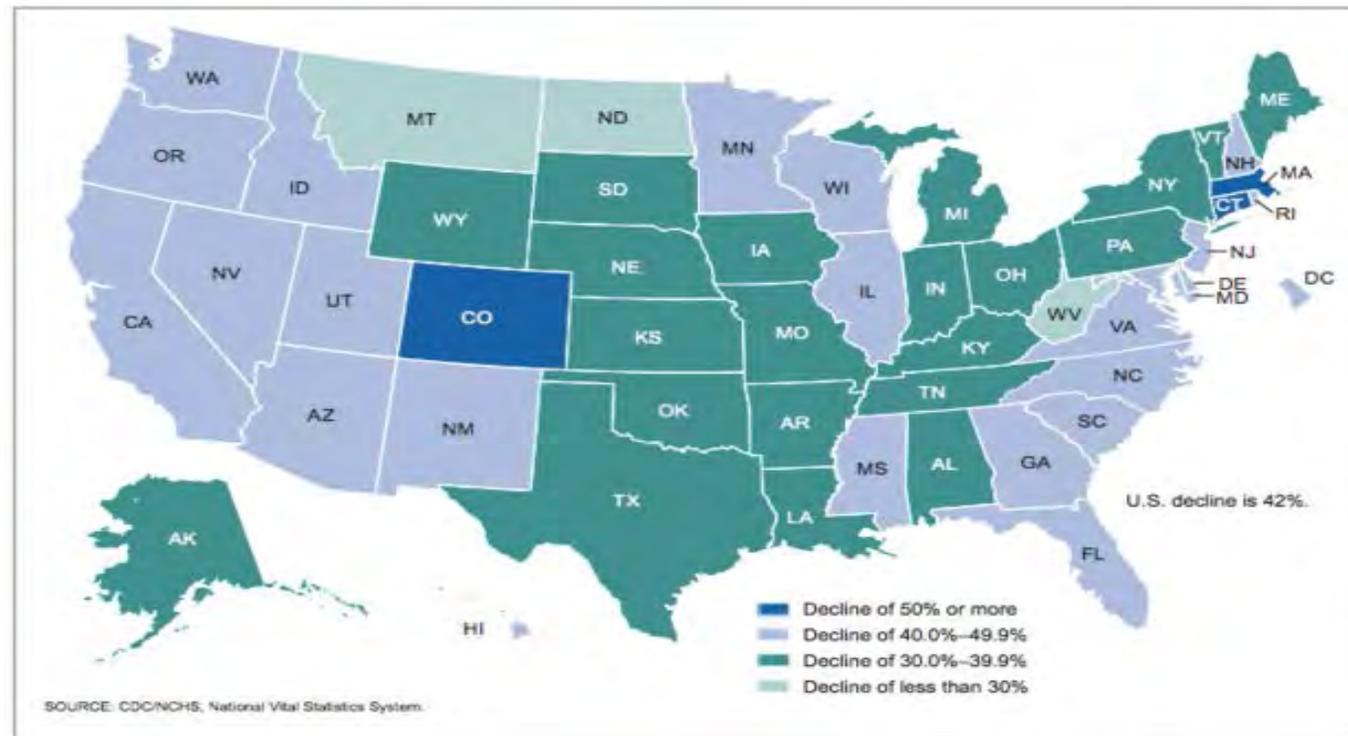
- ▶ Providing Quality Family Planning Services

Counseling following a positive pregnancy test must include:

- ▶ Prenatal care and delivery
- ▶ Infant care , foster care or adoption
- ▶ Pregnancy termination

Decline in Unplanned Pregnancies

- ▶ Great news!! Teen Pregnancies are down
- ▶ Long Acting Reversible Contraceptive LARC
- ▶ Education and resources



What Keeps Us From Bringing It Up?

- ▶ Lack of knowledge about adoption
- ▶ Afraid of offending the patient
- ▶ Make it part of your paperwork or interview process

Personal Experience

- ▶ My personal adoption experience is...
- ▶ How does this personal experience affect the way I think about adoption?
- ▶ How might my experiences affect my ability to bring up the adoption option with my patients/clients?

Professional Responsibilities

- ▶ Knowing the choices available
- ▶ Having basic implications of each choice
- ▶ Providing information on each choice
- ▶ Making referrals so clients can get the information needed to make an informed decision
- ▶ Give unbiased information
- ▶ Empower the expectant parent to her best decision.

Barriers

- ▶ The father of the baby wouldn't agree
- ▶ My parents wouldn't agree
- ▶ I haven't decided yet
- ▶ I would never know where she is
- ▶ I don't want to see a therapist or I can't afford it.

Laws

- ▶ Options counseling and placing for adoption has no age limit
- ▶ Fathers have the same rights as the expectant mother
Safe Haven law
- ▶ Relinquishment counseling is required
- ▶ Expedited vs. Traditional relinquishment
- ▶ Agency state

What About Dad?

- ▶ Fathers have same rights as mothers, but can't be a part-time dad
- ▶ All potential fathers need to be notified
- ▶ Options include:
 - ▶ Relinquishment counseling
 - ▶ Consenting to the adoption
 - ▶ Parenting
 - ▶ Doing nothing at all

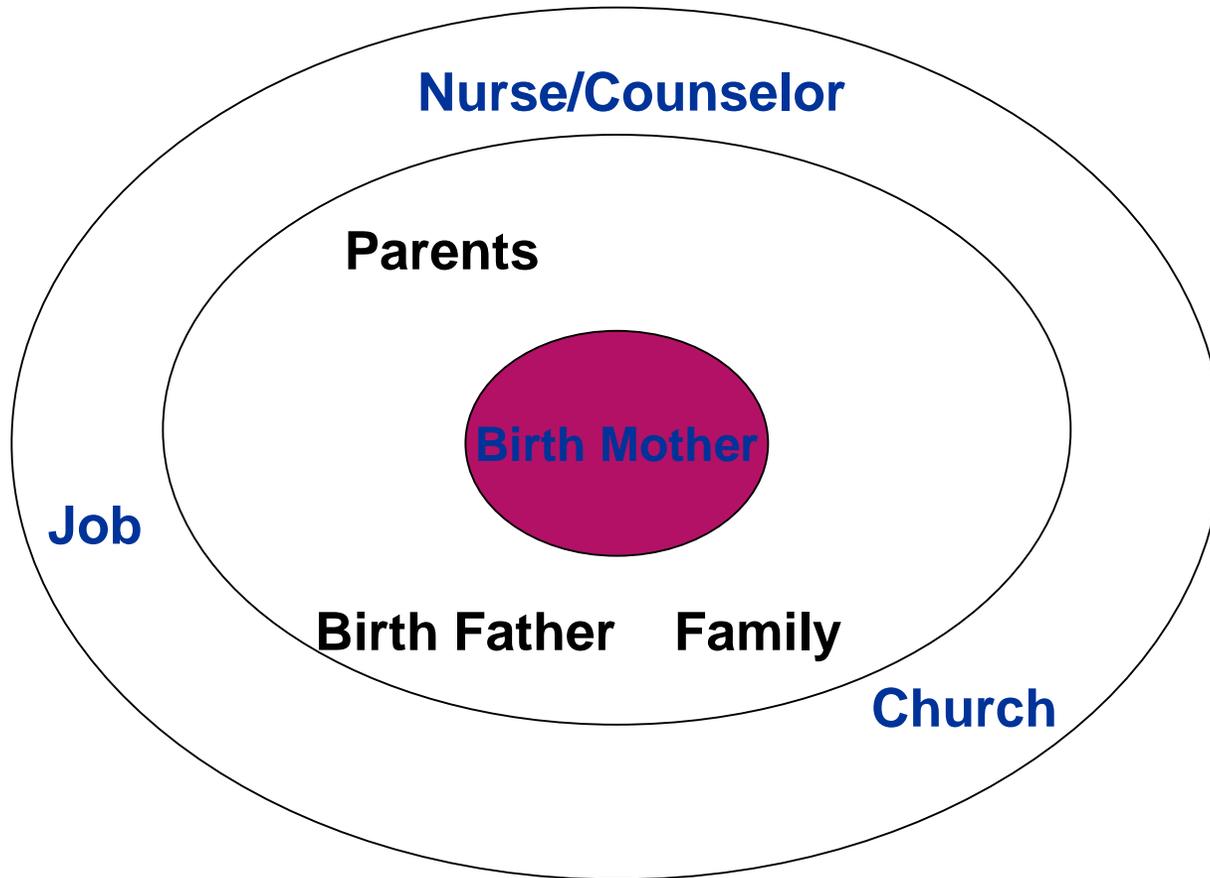
Open Adoption

- ▶ 85% of Birth Moms want an ongoing relationship with their child
- ▶ Openness is on a continuum
- ▶ Does not mean co -parenting
- ▶ Extended family can have a relationship
- ▶ Expectant parents can select a family

Role of the Pregnancy Counselor

- ▶ Meet expectant mother's basic needs- Expectant Parent Fund
- ▶ Lower the anxiety-You have time
- ▶ Evaluate pros and cons of each option
- ▶ Work with the father
- ▶ Support expectant mother through the birth
- ▶ File the legal paperwork for relinquishment
- ▶ Be in her corner – Change of Heart
- ▶ Help her to turn her fear and anxiety into the hope

Influences



Age, especially Adolescence

- ▶ Emotional maturity and brain development of teens
- ▶ Lack of a world view
- ▶ The effect of “influences” at different ages

Culture

- ▶ Cultural Humility and Cultural Competency
 - ▶ Be aware of your own cultural stance
 - ▶ Ask when you don't understand
 - ▶ No assumptions

Referrals

- ▶ Vetting agencies Licensed through the State of Colorado
- ▶ Questions to ask
 - ▶ What happens if mom changes her mind at the hospital?
 - ▶ How do you handle inquiries about abortion?
 - ▶ Are you open to same sex couples, no religion affiliation etc. ?
- ▶ Meet with pregnancy workers

LFS Pregnancy Services

- ▶ Trainings are available at your clinic statewide
- ▶ Call about questions
- ▶ Referral for support groups and other birth moms
- ▶ Set an appointment to meet at next appointment
- ▶ **CALL at 303-217-5840 or**
- ▶ **24/7 at 720-838-5689**



Questions?