

**ROBERT G. LEWIS**  
**M.ED., M.S.W., L.I.C.S.W.**

*www.RGLewis.com*

*Belonging, safely & securely is the promise we make to every child.*

**QUALIFICATIONS  
SUMMARY**

***International consultant, author and a strategic thinker providing training and technical assistance to child welfare organizations. Focus: Development of social work practices, policy, planning and organizational development in support of the urgent need of permanent families for every child & youth.***

**PROFESSIONAL  
EXPERIENCE**

**CONSULTANT, TRAINER, SPEAKER AND AUTHOR** *in independent practice since June 1997.*

***Clients: Child welfare agencies, public and private, including resource centers, national, state, provincial, county and local agencies.*** Policy & practice development, program and case review, permanency training developed and tailored to request delivered in person and via the Web. His clients have included public and private agencies more than 30 states as well as national and international organizations and tribes in AB & BC, Canada and Japan.

**SPECIAL ADOPTION FAMILY SERVICES, INC. (SAFS)**

*Executive Director, October 1978 to June 1997*

***Provided leadership in shaping the organization*** from its start as a 2-year-old project in 1976 (Project IMPACT) to an agency widely recognized as a leading advocate for special needs adoption issues in the country.

***Created a mission driven vision for the agency*** and the Board of Directors evolving with changing needs of clients, professionals and sources of revenue.

***Established SAFS as the recognized leader*** of a national network of special needs adoption agencies. Recognized in Massachusetts as the leading agency for innovative approaches in addressing difficult special needs adoption cases.

***Successfully competed Federal & State grants worth over \$10 million.*** Grants included Corporate Initiatives, Collaboration for Families (with Children's Hospital and the Departments of Health, Social Services and Retardation); Parent Groups as Partners, Post Adoption Crisis Intervention, House of the Heart (with Catholic Charities), Post Adoption (with the Department of Mental Health), Time to Decide (with Children's Hospital and the Family Builders Network), and others.

***Developed specialized client services*** now followed by other agencies nationwide, including a post adoption parent support weekend, post adoption crisis intervention services and others.

***Developed a Pilot Federal Hispanic Recruitment Project*** to increase the number of Latino families who adopt.

***Completed a \$360,000 Federal Grant,*** -- Mass Effort for Teens -- to prepare teens in group care for family living.

***Raised tens of thousands of dollars annually*** from national, regional and local corporations, foundations and individuals.

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE, GROUP CARE UNIT**  
*Assistant Director and Director, February 1974 to October 1978*

**Managed a multi-million dollar annual budget** for purchasing and developing residential treatment for children in the custody of Massachusetts Welfare Dept.

**Established the Unit's first mission statement** and evaluation guidelines for residential programs.

**RELATED  
EXPERIENCES**

**NATIONAL AND STATE CONFERENCES**

*Numerous workshops & presentations across the country*

**GRADUATE AND UNDERGRADUATE SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION**

*Guest or regular lecturer 1990s and 2000s*

**NATIONAL TAIWAN UNIVERSITY, LANGUAGE TESTING AND TRAINING CENTER,  
Taipei, Taiwan, R.O.C.**

**NANCHONG EDUCATION INSTITUTE, Nanchong, Sichuan, P.R.C.**

*Taught English as a Foreign Language Lectured on American Culture*

**APPOINTMENTS**

*Commissioner Advisory Board (ACS NYC) 2003-2010*

*Essex County Com. Found. Youth At Risk Project November 2000 to 2006*

*Board of Directors, Adoptive Families Together, September 1998 to 2004*

*Member-at-Large, Family Builders Network, July 1998 to present*

*Treasurer, Family Builders Network, January 1993 to July 1998*

*Founding Board of Directors, Adoptive Families Together, 1994-1997*

*Steering Committee, Massachusetts Families For Kids, 1992 to 1998*

*President, Special Needs Adoption Network, September 1991 to June 1996*

*Chairman, Family Builders Network, 1986-1988*

*Founding Board of Directors, Gloucester School Connection, 1987-1989*

**PUBLICATIONS**

***Seeing the Voices of Children & Youth: Setting the Record Straight, The Video Project***, <https://rglewis.blogspot.com>

***Families for Teens: A Toolkit for Focusing, Educating and Motivating Staff***, with Maureen S. Heffernan, High Popples Press, November 2004.

***Engaging Youth & Those Around Them in the Process of Permanence*** with Sue Badeau, re-edited for New York, Colorado and California 2003

***The Family Bound Program: A Toolkit for Preparing Teens for Permanent Family Connections***, edited and developed with Communities For People, High Popples Press, September 2002.

***Adolescents & Families For Life: A Toolkit for Supervisors***, with Maureen S. Heffernan, High Popples Press, April 2000.

***What Do You Think?***

An electronic idea/newsletter circulating since 1999.

“There is a Path to Family Permanence for Adolescents”, *Permanency Planning Today*, Vol. 4. No. 1, 1999.

“Keeping the Promise of Adoption and Safe Families Act” *The Roundtable*, Vol. 12, No. 1, 1998.

“Give China’s ‘Xiao Mei Meis’ a Future” *Christian Science Monitor* March 1996

“Adoption and Mental Retardation” *Pediatric Annals*, October 1989.

“Adoptive Families and Professionals: When the Experts Make Things Worse” *American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry*, 33:5 June 1994.

Other curricula and teaching tools, some available at [www.rglewis.com](http://www.rglewis.com)

**EDUCATION**

University of Connecticut School of Social Work, West Hartford, Connecticut  
*Master of Social Work, 1973, Casework and Group Work*  
Fitchburg State College, Fitchburg, Massachusetts  
*Master of Education, 1971, Special Education*  
Our Lady of Providence College, Warwick Neck, Rhode Island  
*Bachelor of Arts, 1967, Scholastic Philosophy*  
*Lowell Institute School (math, electronics & computer networking)*  
*Boston Language Institute, Guo Yu Re Bao, Taipei, Nanchong Ed. Inst. (Mandarin)*

**PERSONAL**

Spoken Mandarin  
Culturally fluent in Chinese  
Traveled extensively in China, Taiwan and other Southeast Asian Nations.  
Skilled in various spreadsheet, word processing, presentation, database software programs

**PROFESSIONAL  
REFERENCES**

Available on request.