



Adoptive and Foster Parent Association of Georgia  
49th Annual Education Conference  
February 25-27, 2022

2022



*Rise to the Challenge*



DIVISION OF FAMILY  
& CHILDREN SERVICES

Jekyll Island Convention Center  
75 North Beach View Drive  
Jekyll Island, GA 31527



**From The President's Desk**

**To those who serve Georgia's children.**

**Welcome to AFPAG'S 49<sup>TH</sup> Conference and to beautiful Jekyll Island. Your AFPAG board of directors is made up of twenty-seven volunteers from throughout the state. It has been a pleasure to serve you and on behalf of my fellow board members, let me again say welcome.**

**These have been challenging times for us all, but we have persevered, and we have never wavered in our commitment to serve Georgia's children. Planning a conference in the mist of the pandemic has been difficult. Last year we made the decision to not hold the conference. We are more than ready to see you all again now.**

**We have an amazing conference lined up for you with some incredible speakers. This is an opportunity to recharge your batteries, resupply your toolbox and make impressive new connections with people who understand you.**

**You deserve it Paul Blough  
AFPAG President 2020-2022**



**From the 2022 AFPAG Conference  
Chairperson**

**Welcome conference attendees.  
It's an honor and privilege to serve as the AFPAG  
Conference Chairperson for the year 2022.**

**Our theme for the 2022 conference is Rise to the Challenge. Oh, such a worthy explanation of how our lives have been for the last years, we have been working diligently throughout the pandemic preparing for this conference. We have been working hard to secure new presenters and to select new workshops.**

**Educating our membership is the first step in keeping our homes open and functioning so that we can better take care of Georgia's children. If there is no knowledge, then there is no power, without power we will not survive. We are glad to have you back attending AFPAG's 49th Annual Education Conference.**

**There will be some rules added because of the pandemic. We are asking everyone to abide by these rules to help keep everyone safe because of the pandemic. The rules will be in the registration materials and posted around the convention center, AFPAG cherishes you and is looking forward to seeing you in February 2022.**

**With sincere regard  
Mrs. Eunice E. Daniels- Conference Chairperson**

*Eunice E Daniels*

**Adoptive and Foster Parent Association of Georgia**

## Hotel information

You will need to make your own hotel reservations. **Tell them you are with the Adoptive and Foster Parent Association of Georgia (AFPAG) Conference, February 25-27, 2022** All hotels, reservations must be made by the cut-off date listed by the hotel below to ensure you get the conference rate.

<b><u>VILLAS BY THE SEA</u></b>	<b><u>PHONE 1-800-841-6262</u></b>	<b><u>CUT OFF DATE</u></b>	<b><u>JAN. 23, 2022</u></b>
Mini-Villa Studio			\$119.00
One Bedroom Villa			\$139.00
Two Bedroom Villa			\$184.00
Three Bedroom Villa			\$204.00
<b><u>HOLIDAY INN &amp; RESORT</u></b>	<b><u>PHONE 1-912-635-2211</u></b>	<b><u>CUT OFF DATE</u></b>	<b><u>JAN. 26, 2022</u></b>
Island View			\$135.00
Ocean View			\$145.00
Oversize Ocean Front			\$155.00
Ocean Front Suites			\$205.00
<b><u>BEACH VIEW HOTEL</u></b>	<b><u>PHONE 1-912-635-2256</u></b>	<b><u>CUT OFF DATE</u></b>	<b><u>JAN. 22, 2022</u></b>
Standard Two Queen Beds			\$155.00
Beach View Club Suites			\$205.00
<b><u>WESTIN HOTEL</u></b>	<b><u>PHONE 1-888-627-8316</u></b>	<b><u>CUT OFF DATE</u></b>	<b><u>FEB. 1, 2022</u></b>
Island View			\$161.00
Ocean View			\$181.00
Premium Ocean Front Rooms			\$201.00
<b><u>HOME 2 HOTEL</u></b>	<b><u>PHONE</u></b>	<b><u>CUT OFF DATE</u></b>	<b><u>JAN.24, 2022</u></b>
Studio Suites			\$159.00
<b><u>SEA FARER INN &amp; SUITES</u></b>	<b><u>PHONE 1-912-635-2202</u></b>	<b><u>CUT OFF DATE</u></b>	<b><u>JAN. 23, 2022</u></b>
Standard King Room			\$129.00
Standard two Queen Beds Room			\$159.00
<b><u>HAMPTON INN &amp; SUITES</u></b>	<b><u>PHONE 1-800-426-7866</u></b>	<b><u>CUT OFF DATE</u></b>	<b><u>JAN.31, 2022</u></b>
Standard Rooms with One King or Two Queen Beds			\$152.00
Suites			\$172.00
<b><u>RESIDENTS INN HOTEL</u></b>	<b><u>PHONE 912-635-2764</u></b>	<b><u>CUT OFF DATE</u></b>	<b><u>JAN. 28, 2022</u></b>
Island Studio			\$186.00
Island View with Balcony			\$196.00
Island View one Bedroom with Balcony			\$236.00
<b><u>COURTYARD</u></b>	<b><u>PHONE 1-912-2416</u></b>	<b><u>CUT OFF DATE</u></b>	<b><u>JAN. 28, 2022</u></b>
Island View with no Balcony			\$156.00
Island View Studio with Balcony			\$166.00
Ocean View with Balcony			\$176.00
<b><u>DAYS INN</u></b>	<b><u>PHONE 1-912-636-9800</u></b>	<b><u>CUT OFF DATE</u></b>	<b><u>JAN. 22, 2022</u></b>
Island Side Room			\$140.00
Ocean Side Rooms			\$150.00
<b><u>JEKYLL ISLAND CLUB RESORT</u></b>	<b><u>PHONE 1-800-535-9547</u></b>	<b><u>CUT OFF DATE</u></b>	<b><u>JAN. 23, 2022</u></b>
Clubhouse or Traditional Rooms			\$139.00
One Bedroom Suite			\$179.00
One Bedroom Suites			



Adoptive and Foster Parent Association of Georgia  
49th Annual Education Conference  
February 25-27, 2022  
Jekyll Island, Georgia

**Thursday February 24, 2022**

09:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	AFPAG Board of Directors Meeting
12:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Early Registration
12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Exhibit Set Up

**Friday February 25, 2022**

7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Registration Open
7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Exhibits Open
8:30 a.m.- 10:30 a.m.	Opening Session
10:30 a.m. -10:45 a.m.	BREAK
10:45 a.m. -12:15 p.m.	Breakout Workshop Session A
12:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	<b>LUNCH ON YOUR OWN</b>
1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	General Session #1
3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.	BREAK
3:15 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.	Breakout Workshop Session B
4:45 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.	Annual Business Meeting

**Saturday February 26, 2022**

7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Registration Open
7:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Exhibits Open
8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	General Session #2
9:30 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.	BREAK
9:45 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.	Breakout Workshop Session C
11:15 a.m.- 11:30 a.m.	BREAK
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Awards Luncheon
1:30 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.	BREAK
1:45 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.	Breakout Workshop Session D
3:15 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.	BREAK
3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	General Session #3

**Sunday February 27, 2022**

8:00 a.m. -- 8:45 a.m.	Non-Denominational Worship Service
9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	Closing Session: Keynote Speaker; AFPAG President Mr. Paul Blough
10:30 a.m.- 11:00 a.m.	Closing Remarks and Grand Prize Drawing

**DUE TO COVID-19 FACE COVERING IS REQUIRED**

Adoptive and Foster Parent Association of Georgia  
2022 Conference Registration  
Jekyll Island, Georgia

**PLEASE USE A SEPARATE FORM FOR EACH PERSON REGISTERING**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Ph. \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_ Region \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE CHECK ONE**

Adoptive Parent  Foster Parent  Kinship Caregiver  DFCS Staff  Private Agency  Other

**Friday Workshop Session (A)**

Workshop- 1<sup>st</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_

**Friday Workshop Session (B)**

Workshop- 1<sup>st</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_

**Saturday Workshop Session (C)**

Workshop- 1<sup>st</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_

**Saturday Workshop Session (D)**

Workshop – 1<sup>st</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_

**TO RECEIVE ALL TRAINING HOURS PARTICIPANTS MUST ATTEND ALL WORKSHOPS, GENERAL SESSIONS, OPENING SESSION, CLOSING SESSION AND AWARD LUNCHEON.**

**Registration Fee: \$125.00 per participant: Only checks and money orders will be accepted**

**Registration cut-off date is February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022**

**On-site registration fee: \$175.00 No personal checks will be accepted.**

**Extra Awards Luncheon tickets are \$35.00**

**All return checks will be charged \$45.00. NO REFUNDS WILL BE GIVEN AFTER FEB. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020.**

**Make check payable to: AFPAG Conference.**

**Mail check to: AFPAG Conference 101 Windsor Road, Savannah, GA 31419**

**Due to Covid-19. Face Covering Is Required. Children will not be allowed in any workshop or conference Sessions.**

## 2022 AFPAG Conference Information

Please choose two selections for each workshop session and record the workshop number in the order you prefer for each workshop selected. Be sure to record your first choice and then your second choice. Remember to register early for the best selections of workshops as classes are size limited.

### **EXAMPLE**

**Workshop: 1<sup>st</sup> Choice: A-1**

**Workshop: 2<sup>nd</sup> Choice A-6**

### **IF YOU ATTEND ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:**

Opening Session, General Session, Awards Luncheon, Closing Session, Business Meeting, and your assigned workshops, you will receive a total of sixteen credit hours of training.

Registration includes Registration Fee, Workshop Materials, Conference Bag, Award Luncheon Ticket, and a One Year Membership to AFPAG.

### **ALL EXTRA TICKETS TO THE AWARDS LUNCHEON ARE \$35.00**

This conference provides a terrific opportunity to gain experience and address issues such as childcare, new policy changes, and working in true partnership with those agencies that support us as we care for the needs of children in DFCS custody. The Adoptive and Foster Parent Association of Georgia will not supply any kind of childcare for any children going with you to this conference. Please contact your local DFCS case manager to help you in arranging suitable respite care for your children.

### **OTHER HELPFUL TIPS**

- Arrive at your workshop early.
- Make sure you sign in to get credit for the workshop.
- Please attend only the workshops that you registered for.
- Complete the workshop evaluation sheet and give it to the class monitor.
- Make sure you receive your workshop stamp at the end of the workshop.

**NO CHILDREN WILL BE ALLOWED IN ANY CONFERENCE GENERAL, OPENING, CLOSING SESSIONS AND WORKSHOPS. THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTION TO THIS RULE. PLEASE ASK YOUR DFCS CASE MANAGER FOR RESPITE CARE OR TAKE ADVANTAGE OF PRUDENT PARENTING.**

**Due to Covid-19 Face covering is required.**

# **2022 AFPAG Conference at-a-Glance**

**Thursday February 24, 2022**

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.  
12:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
12:00 p.m. -4:30 p.m.

AFPAG Board of Directors Meeting  
Early Registration  
Exhibit Set Up

**Friday February 25, 2022**

7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.  
10:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m.

Registration: (Pre-Registration and On-site Registration)  
Exhibits Open  
Opening Session: Keynote Speaker: Erin Patrice Thomas  
BREAK

**10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.**

**Breakout Workshops (A)**

A-1. Nuts and Bolts.

A-2. Navigating Early Childhood Services for Young Children in Foster Care.

A-3. Surviving Diversity (We're All in This Together).

A-4. Encouraging Resilience in The Era of COVID: Strategies for Caregivers of Children in Child Welfare.

A-5. Adding Tools to The Toolbox, Trauma Informed Practices, and Training for Foster Parents.

A-6. The Difference Between You And I, How Youth Translate Your Communication and I How Love Language:

A-7. Let's Talk Adoption.

A-8. Post Adoption Services Through Adoption Assistance/SMI (Where is My Check)?

A-9. Teenagers in 2022; Creating a Positive Foster Experience to Teens and Families.

12:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

General Session #1 Speaker: Daren Jones; The What and Why of Trust Based Relational Intervention

3:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.

BREAK

**3:15 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.**

**Breakout Workshops (B)**

B-1. Transracial Family- WHAT'S WRONG WITH BEING COLOR BLIND?

B-2. To Adoption and Beyond

B-3. Connect Now Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) Awareness and Prevention.

B-4. It Takes Two to Make a Thing Go Right/ Collaboration with Your School.

B-5. Bikers Against Child Abuse/BACA.

B-6. The Effects of Domestic Violence on Children.

B-7. Birth and Foster Parent Partnership: Building a Positive Relationship.

B-8. Georgia's Foster Parent Bill of Rights.

B-9. TBRI with Teens.

4:45 p.m. -5:45 p.m.

1 hour credit will be given

AFPAG Annual Business Meeting



**SATURDAY FEBRUARY 26, 2022**

7:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Registration on Site  
7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Exhibits Open  
8:00a.m.- 9:30 a.m. General Session # 2 Presenters: Marva Reed, Angela Ozment, Jacqueline Clyde, and Nicole McDougald  
What to Expect When You Are Not Expecting a CPS Investigation to Impact Your Home  
9:30 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. BREAK

**9:45 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. Breakout Workshops (C)**

- C-1. Skin and Hair Care for Infant and To Adolescents.
- C-2. Neurofeedback: Showed Based Treatment for Many Issues and Problem Areas Including: Post Traumatic, Stress Disorder, Reactive Attachment Disorder Depression, Anxiety, OCD, Panic Attacks, Autism and Oppositional Defiant Disorder.
- C-3. Adoption Assistance and post adoption services in Ga. SMI/ "Where is My Check"?
- C-4. Interstate Compact on The Placement of Children (ICPC).
- C-5. Helping Parents - PARENT.
- C-6. Understanding Amerigroup 360.
- C-7. Brown's Trip During COVID-19. (Trip to Holland by Emily Pearl Kingsley).
- C-8. Navigating Adoption Search and Reunion Through the Georgia Adoption Reunion Registry.
- C-9. Advocating for Children in Foster Care.

11:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. BREAK  
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. AFPAG's Awards Luncheon Keynote Speaker (TBA).  
1:30 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. BREAK

**1:45 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. Breakout Workshops (D)**

- D-1. Choosing Happiness Following Hurt.
- D-2. Partnering with Parents to Support Reunification.
- D-3. Adding Tools to the Toolbox Trauma Practices and Training for Foster Parents.
- D-4. Bikers Against Child Abuse.
- D-5. Birth and Foster Parent Partnering, Building a Positive Foster Relationship.
- D-6. The Transracial Family What's Wrong with Being Colorblind?
- D-7. The Effect of Childhood Trauma, Trauma on The Brain and How It Causes Serve Emotional Psychological Behavior, and Social Problem and The Use of Neurofeedback Address the Problems
- D-8. The Effaces of Domestic Violence Have on Children.
- D-9. Connect Now; Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) Awareness and Prevention.

3:15 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. BREAK  
3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. General Session #3 Speakers: Dajari Patterson and Ebony Wilmore  
DFCS Policies Update

**Sunday February 27, 2022**

8:00 a.m. - 8:45 a.m. Non-Denominational Service  
9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Closing Session: Keynote Speaker: AFPAG President Mr. Paul Blough  
10:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Closing Remarks and Grand Prize Drawing

**2022 Adoptive Parent of the Year Application**

Name of Nominee \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Region \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Nominator \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Region \_\_\_\_\_

**References for Verification**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

**What makes this adoptive family/parent the best in Georgia? (Use a separate sheet of paper if needed)**

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**Is the nominee a member of any organization or civic club?** \_\_\_\_\_

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**The nominee must be a member in good standing with AFPAG and their local DFCS. All applications must be received by February 1, 2022. The winner must attend the awards luncheon. Please mail your application to: AFPAG CONFERENCE: 101 Windsor Road Savannah, GA 31419**

**Foster Parent of the Year Application**

Name of Nominee \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Region \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Nominator \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Region \_\_\_\_\_

**References for Verification**

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_

What makes this caregiver the best foster parent in the State of Georgia? (Use a separate sheet of paper if needed).

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Is this nominee a member of any civic organization or clubs? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**The nominee must be in good standing with AFPAG and their local agency. All applications must be received by February 1, 2022. The winner will be selected by AFPAG Conference Committee. The winner must be present at the awards luncheon. Please mail your application to:  
AFPAG Conference  
101 Windsor Road  
Savannah, GA 31419**

**2022 Caseworker of the Year Application**

Name of Nominee \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Region \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Nominator \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State - \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Region \_\_\_\_\_

**Reference for Verification**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

**What makes this person the BEST caseworker in Georgia? (Please use a separate sheet of paper if needed.)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Is the nominee a member of any civic organization or club?** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**All applications must be received by February 1, 2022. The winner will be selected by the AFPAG Conference Committee. The winner must attend the awards luncheon. Please mail application to:  
AFPAG Conference  
101 Winder Road  
Savannah, GA 31419**

**2022 Association of Excellence Award Application**

Name of Association \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Region \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Nominator \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Region \_\_\_\_\_

**References for Verification**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

**What makes this local association the best in Georgia? (Use a separate sheet of paper if needed)**

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\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**All applications must be received by February 1, 2022. The winner will be selected by the AFPAG Conference Committee. The winner must have a representative present at the awards luncheon.**

**Please Mail Application to:**

**AFPAG Conference  
101 Windsor Road  
Savannah, GA 31419**

# **Adoptive and Foster Parent Association of Georgia**

## **Winnie Levinson Scholarship Application**

### **THE ADOPTIVE AND FOSTER PARENT ASSOCIATION OF GEORGIA WILL AWARD TWO (2) \$1,000.00 SCHOLARSHIPS**

The Winnie Levinson Scholarship is awarded to deserving students who are Georgia residents and are in foster care. Caregivers must be a member of the Adoptive and Foster Parent Association of Georgia (AFPAG). The Winnie Levinson Scholarship is sent directly to the student to use for any educational purpose the student may meet. It is payable in two payments, one at the start of the fall semester and one at the start of the spring semester. Proof of enrollment is needed before payment can be issued.

The applicant need not attend a traditional school. Enrollment at a Technical School, Business School or a Post-Secondary School would also qualify for the scholarship. We encourage all that qualify to apply. The following is a list of all the information needed to process the application.

- ✓ **Personal Data- name, address, contact information including e-mail address and phone number**
- ✓ **Recommendation from three people who do not live with the applicant and have known applicant for a minimum of one year and one recommendation from the applicant's local DFCS on their letterhead.**
- ✓ **A short (five hundred word) essay on why the applicant should receive this scholarship.**
- ✓ **A copy of the applicant's high school transcript.**
- ✓ **A letter from one of the applicant's caregivers telling why the applicant should receive this scholarship.**

**All applications must be received by February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022  
You can apply by mailing the above information to:**

**AFPAG Conference  
101 Windsor Road  
Savannah, GA 31419**



**Workshops Description Session A**  
**Friday February 25,2022**  
**10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.**

**A-1. Nuts and Bolts:** The federal regulations for IDEIA 2004 includes a section called Procedural Safeguards. These safeguards are designed to protect the rights of parent and their child with a disability and at the same time give families and school systems several mechanisms by which to resolve their disputes. Understanding the IDEIA Procedural Safeguard is especially important to the parent of the student with a disability This Presentation will provide a review in lay terms the meaning pf your parental rights son you may effectively collaborate with your child's school to ensure compliance and increase student academic and behavioral success  
Presenter: Dr. Kimberly Gore-Mobley.

**A-2. Navigating Early Childhood Services for Young Children in Foster Care:** Serving young children in foster care is no small task, Research in the neurosciences has proved that 80 percent of brain development takes place in the by the time a child is five years old, with the first three years seeing the maximum growth. Children in this age group are particularly vulnerable to adverse effects of foster care placement in these early years, quality care and education give children a head start on skill development, school readiness, and future success. This workshop will provide an. overview of the services, support and resources designed to meet the needs of children in foster care under the age of five. The DFCA Early Childhood Collaboration U along with representative from the department of early care and learning (DECAL), will focus on critical areas such as early childhood education options early intervention services and childcare (CAPS). Presenter: Donjae Calhoun.

**A-3. Surviving Diversity, we are All in This Together:** This workshop will provide recommendations and technics for guiding the foster family through unexpected and difficult events. Whether with the foster children, their families as the foster parents themselves and their families, serious problems are sure to arise. This workshop will explore methods derived from actual experience in surviving these issues with a positive outcome.  
Presenters: Jim and Iris Gandy.

**A-4. Encouraging Resilience in The Era of The Covid; Strategies to Caregivers of Children in Child Welfare:** There is a significant research literature that describes the impact of adverse childhood experience (ACE's)and how they affect the developmental trajectory of children. Additionally, we understand the multiplicative impact when a child experience multiple ACE's. What is not known are the impact of (ACE). Covid 19 that impact the whole of a child's life, socially, emotionally, and academically. Researchers predict that the full impact of the Covid pandemic on the psychological adjustment of children will not be fully understood for years as developmental outcome. Children involved in the child welfare system need guidance and support now as do their caregivers foster parent, therapists, and case managers. In this presentation, proven strategies for encouraging positive adjustment or resilience to adversity are found and discussed that promoted positive psychological adjustment. The presentation focuses on the intersection of the various caregiver system school, foster home and therapy that affect the adjustment of foster home and how those system together can promote positive developmental responses to the pandemic. Presenter: Dr. LeRoy Reese.

**A-5. Adding Tools to The Toolbox, Traumas Informed Practices and Training for Foster Parents.** Through the support of funding from Resilient Georgia, whose mission is to develop a trauma informed public and private network, working towards creating a more integrated behavioral health system, Vashti has been able to provide professional learning and training opportunities to youth serving organizations as well as foster parents. Our workshop will discuss briefly (ACE's) Adverse Childhood Experience, the importance of trauma informed care and practices, the training avail to foster parents through our professional learning program, and we will also share data from program participants. Presenters: Elijah Miranda and Alex English.

**A-6. The Difference Between You and I, How Youth in Foster Care Translate Your Communication and Love Language:** This workshop is a trauma Informed presentation focusing on the barriers as well as communication alternatives and reciprocation from caregivers to foster youth. The Presenter will go over Love Language translation after Trauma, 2. Treatment Team communication with youth Centered Communication, 3, Not About Me without me Policy and four. Care centered verbiage. Presenter: Whitney Lam Gilliard

**A-7. Let's Talk Adoption:** Whether you are a prospective adoptive parent, a resource parent, or a partnership parent, you want to attend this workshop if you have children placed in your home who cannot return to their parents. Participants attending this workshop will gain knowledge of the requirements and the process to adopt children from Georgia's child welfare system. The primary focus will be on laws governing adoption policy in Georgia and Georgia's best practice supported by adoption policy. Presenter: Karla Wells.

**A-8. Post Adoption Services Through Adoption Assistance/ SMI- WHERE'S MY CHECK:** Georgia's Department of Family and Children Services looks to provide quality supportive services to adoptive families from the time a child is first placed in the home until the child becomes an adult. These services range from referrals for preventive therapeutic resources to crisis intervention services. This workshop will provide an overview of adoption assistance benefits and describe efforts to improve awareness and access to post adoption services. SMI (System Methods Inc) staff will discuss how foster parents and adoptive parents can look up information regarding their payment using "WHERE" IS MY CHECK." Presenters: Evangel Wicks, Leah Waters-Jamison, Angel Whitman, Becky Jones, and Jennifer Dukes

**A-9. Teenagers in 2022: Creating a Positive Foster Experience to Teens and Families:** This presentation will tackle misconceptions and assumptions about teenagers needing care through the foster and congregate care system in Georgia. Often overlooked and forgotten investing in teenagers and supporting them through foster congregate care can be a valuable and impactful experience that can change the lives of young people. While the adolescent period may be perceived as challenging, these young people have great dreams and plans. With the right care and training foster families and congregate care facilities can form meaningful relationships to support teens to achieve greatness. Presenter: Julie Wade

Workshop Description Session B  
Friday February 25,2022  
3:15p.m.- 4:45p.m.

**B-1. The Transracial Family- "WHAT IS WRONG WITH BEING COLORBLIND"?** This workshop will take the audience through my own journey of understanding how my good intentions and belief in colorblindness were not providing my son with the support and love they needed. This presentation will be a judgement free opportunity for foster parent of a difference color to reflect and examine their own perspective while also receiving practical next steps for education, cultural awareness, and resources to better support their children of color. WHAT IS WRONG WITH BEING COLORBLINB. Presenter: Kate Blair

**B-2. To Adoption and Beyond:** This workshop will explore the juvenile court process from the time a child is taken into care through the adoption stage and learn about Superior Court and how that differs from Juvenile Court. This session will answer questions such as: What are my rights in the Juvenile Court process? How do I effectively advocate for my family and my foster child? Will I be able to adopt my foster child? How long does all this take.? What happens after termination of parental rights? How does the adoption process work? What if I have struggles post adoption? This workshop will provide attendees with an overview of both Juvenile and

Superior Court (Foster Care and Adoption) and will also introduce some helpful post-adoptive resource.  
Presenter: Julie Wilkes Wisotsky

**B-3. Connect Now: Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) Awareness and Prevention:** Participants will be able to describe what Adverse Childhood Experience are. Participants will discover ways to help prevent or mitigate childhood trauma, also they will learn about opportunities to become involved in child abuse prevention, education in their communities. Every day connections are more important than we ever believed. Science tells us that relationships have the power to shape our brains. Relationships helps us learn better, work better, parent better. When we experience tough times. They help us heal. With each connection, we develop a healthier stronger community. This presentation will provide an overview of the Adverse Childhood Experience (ACEs) study including a review of the Georgia data. Participants will learn about Connections Matter. Georgia an in - depth training to engage community members in building caring connections to improve resiliency, prevent childhood trauma, and understand how our interaction can support those who have experience trauma.  
Presenters: Tiffany Sawyer and Deborah Choosewood.

**B-4. IT TAKES TWO TO MAKE A THING GO RIGHT/ COLLABRATION WITH YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL:** Are you eager to go beyond participating in your child's education to engaging in your child's education? If so, then this workshop is for you! Learning strategies to engage positively with your child's school administrative team and special education teacher is exciting and has proven to increase the success of the child, specifically, a child with disability. Come and join me in learning best practice behaviors and academic strategies to help your child achieve success in school and home. We all know IT TAKES TWO TO MAKE A THING GO RIGHT! Presenter:  
Kimberly Gore- Mobley

**B-5. Bikers Against Child Abuse/ BACA:** BACA exist with the intent to create a safe environment for abused children. We exist as a body of bikers. We empower children to not feel afraid of the world in which they live. All attendees will learn how to empower the children in their home, and to keep them safe and from being afraid. Presenters: Bras Hayes, Betty Herring and Stephen Tiller

**B-6. The Effects of Domestic Violence Have on Children:** This presentation focuses on the effect of domestic violence on children and youth. The information is provided on development issues, emotional reactions and behaviors, and ways to help children with their feelings. This presentation is ideal for providers that work with children such as Foster Parents, childcare center, school personnel, afterschool programs, guidance counselors and social service providers. Presenters Daisy Hernandez and Jessica Scott

**B-7. Birth and Foster Parent Partnership: Building a Positive Relationship.** Hear from a representative from the birth and foster parent partnership (BFPP) who will share their experience in building and supporting meaningful partnership. We will discuss how children and youth are more likely to thrive when the important adults in their lives work together and sharer responsibilities and decision-making. Learn about the BFPP tools developed by parents and partners of the BFPP. Together let's build partnership that last. Presenter: S. Collen Puckett

**B-8. Georgia Foster Parent Bill of Rights:** The presenter will go into full detail of the Georgia Foster Parent Bill of Right including why there is a Bill of Rights for Foster Parent. Participants will learn what is grieve-able and what is not grieve-able, how to file a grievance, time limits for a respond at all levels. You do not have to be under an allegation to file a grievance. When to contact a AFPAG advocate. Presenters: Angela Whidby

**B-9. TBRI With Teens:** Caregivers will be coached in ways that TBRI is used most effectively with teens. Video examples and interactive case studies will be used to promote discussion and help caregivers understand the

applicability of TBRI strategies for youth and adults and adaptation that will help them in connecting more effectively with that population. Presenters: Allyson Christianson and Mary Margaret Mauser

Workshop Description C  
Saturday February 26, 2022  
9:45 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.

**C-1. Skin and Hair Care for Infants to Adolescents:** Understanding how to properly care for a child's hair and skin can create a positive self-image in children and youth. In this workshop, participants will learn basic hair care, hair cleansing regimen and styling techniques. This workshop will debunk common skin and hair care myths, provide a cross diagram of hair textures in relation to ethnicity, help caregivers create positive skin and hair care experiences for the child, and increase product knowledge. Presenter: Kimberly Cutter-Williams

**C-2. NEUROFEEDBACK: EVIDENCE BASED TREATMENT FOR MANY ISSUES, AND PROBLEM AREAS INCLUDING, POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER, REACTIVE ATTACHMENT DISORDER, DEPRESSION, ANXIETY, OCVD, PAIN ATTACHS, AUTISM AND OPPOSITIONAL DEFIANT DISORDER.** This presentation will discuss research studies about the use of Neurofeedback with the above referenced problem areas, also, case study data will be presented looking pre-test data before the start of Neurofeedback and post-test data following neurofeedback treatment. Presenters: Drs. Sarah and Jack Farrar

**C-3. Adoption Assistance and Post Adoption Services in Georgia / SMI WHERE IS MY CHECK?** Georgia's Department of Family and Children Services seeks to provide quality supportive services to adoptive and foster families from the time a child is first placed in the home until the child becomes an adult these services range from referrals for Preventive Therapeutic Resources to Crisis Intervention Services. This workshop will provide an overview of adoption assistance benefits and describe efforts to improve awareness and access to Post Adoption Services SMI System and Methods, Inc. staff will discuss how foster parents and adoptive parents can look up information about payment using where is my check. Presenters: Evangel Wicks, Leah Jamison, Angel Wittman, Becky Jones, and Jennifer Duke

**C-4 Interstate Compact on The Placement of Children (ICPC).** ICPC and Caregivers. The Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) governs the process for placing children across state lines to ensure children receive the same protection and services that would be provided if they remained in their home state. ICPC applies when a placement for a child is identified in another state and pertains to adoptions, licensed, or approved foster homes, parents, and relatives when the parent or relative does not have legal authority to place the child, and group homes/residential placement Presenter Niesha Robinson

**C-5. Helping Parents PARENT.** This workshop will focus on three concepts are they are, Parenting- what does it need from me? Children / Teens need parents- WHO-THAT -Will and Developing Resilience that is strong will help: PARENTS to.... and CHILDREN to....., Presenter: Brenda Gillespie

**C-6. Understanding Amerigroup 360:** This workshop will provide participants with information and tools needed to secure health care services for children placed in their care. The Department of Community Health (DCH) showed a need for enhanced care coordination and service integration for children in foster care and receiving adoption assistance, and youth in DJJ custody who live in community residential facilities. This interactive workshop will discuss and provide information on the recent changes to health care services as well as information on improving the health and well-being of children/youth. Presenter: Ronald Dunham

**C-7. The Brown's Trip During Covid-19: TRIP TO HOLLAND BY EMILY PEARL KINGSLEY.** Emily Perl Kingsley's analogy of "WELCOME TO HOLLAND" will show how a perfect plan to parent can end up taking a detour and can become an incredibly challenging trip. But it is not the end or is it the only trip you can take, so buckle up and let us be RESILIENT so we can Parent with Love. True Story.... Presenter: Debra Suzette Brown

**C-8. Navigating Adoption Search and Reunion Through the Georgia Adoption Reunion Registry.** As you and your family think about the complex dynamics of search and reunion, it can seem overwhelming and scary. However, knowing there is a program with subjects' matter experts to support you throughout this journey can provide you with the confidence and resilience needed to engage in a healthy re-connection Presenter: Stacy Meadows

**C-9 Advocating for Children in Foster Care.** This session will explore how caregivers and CASA volunteers can unite around shared goals of looking to improve a child experience in foster care and to ensure his or her well-being. Discussions will center around maintaining familial connections through birth parent. partnership and engagement, ensuring educational stability and advocating for and ensuring age, cultural. And developmentally proper treatment services and supports. Presenters ANGELA TYNER and LORI PUPP

**Workshop Description D  
Saturday February 26, 2022  
1:45 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.**

**D-1 Choosing Happiness Following Hurt.** The goal of this workshop is to help participants unpack residual effects from earlier trauma experiences and learn how to process through the associated emotions and move toward happiness, fulfillment, and positive relationships and/or to help those we love to do the same. Participants will Define trauma, explore some of the immediate and long-term effects of trauma, develop an understanding of the emotions tied to those effect, Understand the benefits of forgiveness, and learn practical ways to effectively manage our emotions instead of simply coping. Presenter Souraya Christine Ballew

**D-2. Partnering with Parents to Support Reunification.** In this session participants will learn the significant role foster parents play in supporting birth parents and their reunification efforts. We will also discuss supporting foster parents through the challenges, complex dynamics, and grief and loss they will encounter through this work. Presenter: Samantha Walker

**D-3. Adding Tools to The Toolbox Trauma Practice and Training Foster Parent.** Through the support of funding from Resilient Georgia who's to develop a trauma informed public and private network working towards creating a move integrated behavioral health system, Vashti has been able to provide professional learning and training opportunities to youth serving organizations as well as foster parents. This workshop will briefly discuss ACE's (adverse Childhood Experience) the importance of trauma – informed care and practices, the trainings available to foster parents through our professional learning program, sand we will also share data from program participants. Presents: Elijah Miranda and Alex English.

**D-4. Bikers against Child Abuse (BACA)** exists with the intent to create a safer environment for abused children. We exist, as a body of Bikers, to empower children to not feel afraid of the world in which they live. All attendees will learn how to empower the children in their home, and to keep them safe and from being afraid. Presenters: Betty Herring, Brad Hayes, and Stephen Tiller

**D-5. Birth and Foster Parent Partnering Build a Positive Foster Relationship.** Hera from a representative from the birth and foster parent partnership (BFPP) who will share their experience in building and supporting meaningful partnerships. We will discuss how children and youth are most likely to thrive when the important adults in their lives work together and share responsibilities and decision-making. Learn about the BFPP tools. Developed by parents of BFPP. Together let's build partnerships that last. Presenter: S Collen Puckett

**D-6. The Transracial Family WHAT'S WRONG WITH BEING COLOBLIND?** This session will take the audience through my own journey of understanding how my good intentions and belief in colorblindness were not proving my sons with the support and love they needed. This workshop will be a judgement free opportunity for foster parents to reflect and examine their own perspectives while also receiving practical next step for education, cultural awareness, and resources to better support their children of color. Presenter Kate Blair

**D-7. The Effects of Childhood Trauma: Trauma on The Brain and How It Causes Server Emotional PSYCHOLOGICAL, BEHAVIORAL, AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS AND THE USE OF NEUROFEEDBACKTP ADDRESS THESE PROBLEM.** When a child is traumatized, their brain often becomes dysregulated resulting in many individuals not having the capability to self-regulate and thus are stuck in a severely damaged state. It can be easier for some to forget certain memories because they are unbearable painful. The repressed memories expose themselves in different form such as oppositional defiance like- action or depressed like- state but there is hope. There is a non- medicinal form of treatment for child or individual experiencing unpleasant psychological symptoms- neurofeedback pairs behaviors. Most children enjoy neurofeedback treatment because it does not at once require talking or investigating past experiences such as repressed memories. Presenter Jack and Sarah Farrar.

**D-8. The Effects Domestic Violence Have lan Children.** This presentation focuses on the effects of domestic violence on children and youth. The information is provided on development issues, emotional reactions and behaviors, and ways to help children with their feelings. This presentation is ideal for providers that work with children such as foster parents, childcare centers, school personnel, afterschool programs, guidance counselors and social service providers. Presenters: Daisy Hernandez and Jessica Scott

**D-9. Connect Now: Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE).** Participants will be able to describe what adverse childhood experience are, they will discover ways to help prevent or mitigate childhood trauma and learn about opportunities to become involved in child abuse prevention education in their communities. Everyday connections are more important than we ever believed. Science tells us that relationships have the power to shape our brains. Relationships helps us learn better, work better, a parent better when we experience tough times, they help us to heal. With each connection er develop a healthier stronger community. Presenters: Deborah Choosewood and Tiffany Sawyer.



## Speaker's Biographies

**Ballew Souraya Christine:** Souraya is an Ordained Pastor, Certified Life Purpose and Happiness Coach, Certificate of Completion in Trauma Conversation Tools, Published Author/ Motivational Speaker, she has a master's degree in Leadership, and she has a Certificate of Completion in John Maxwell's Effective Communication for Leaders.

**Blair Kate:** Kate Blair joined Savannah/Chatham CASA as the Executive Director in 2018. Prior to joining she served as the Director of Development and Communication with Step Up Savannah. In this role, she managed a large grant portfolio, developed community partnership, and advocate for policies that improve the lives of low-wealth families in Chatham County. Her past professional and volunteer experience includes communications, corporate foundations, nonprofit leadership, board development, and fund development. She is deeply embedded in the Savannah Community. Kate has her B S degree in professional communications from Armstrong Atlantic University. She is a graduate of leadership savannah and board member for migrant equity southeast. In her spare time, she and her husband, Andy and their two sons Turk and Franek, enjoy camping, international travel, and community service.

**Blough, Paul:** Mr. Blough is CEO and founder of Blough Tech, a nationally recognized IT Service Company, focused on helping small business solve their problems through technology. M. Blough and his wife Kim, have fostered over 110 children in their 25 years as foster parents. They have also adopted six children. Mr. Blough is the current AFPAG president.

**Brown, Debra Suzette:** Mrs. Brown has an Associate Degree in Business Management and a B.A. in Psychology. She has been employed with Families First- Georgia Center for Resources and Support for over five years. Mrs. Brown is happily married. She along with her husband, Charles, are raising their granddaughter.

**Calhoun Donjae:** The Early Childhood Collaboration Unit within the Well-Being Services Section of the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services. The unite provides comprehensive monitoring, consultation, support, and advocacy for children under the age of five with DFCS involvement. With an emphasis on building and fostering relationships that support overall well-being at an early age. The unit works collaboratively with DFCS state and county offices, other state agencies, and external partners to ensure the need of the most vulnerable are met.

**Christianson Ally:** Ally Christianson is the founder of Hope 1312 Collective and Licensed Clinical Social Worker. Is enthusiastic about offering hope in the hopeless situations and giving voice to the voiceless. Much of her current work surrounds advocating for vulnerable families and children. As a clinician, she specialized in providing therapy for children with trauma histories and enjoys supplying practical approaches to caregivers as a Trust-Based Relational intervention practitioner.

**Choosewood Deborah:** Deborah is the Deputy Director of Prevention and Community Support (PCS) in the state of Georgia's Division of Family and Children Services, the state's child welfare agency, PCS is the state entity charged with administering federal and state funding streams geared toward child abuse and neglect prevention, including the Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention federal grant and the state's Children Trust Fund appropriation. Deborah has worked in the early childhood and prevention field for 20 years. She is a member of numerous statewide task force and committees aimed at the prevention of child abuse and neglect,

human trafficking. Youth and adolescent pregnancy. And related topics she is on the National Children's Trust Fund Alliance Board of Directors.

**Clyde Jacqueline:** Ms. Clyde is the Lead Program Specialist with the CPS Intake Communication Center (CICC) with the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS). She is a graduate of Albany State University where she received her Bachelor of Social Work degree, and a graduate of Valdosta State University where she received her Master of Social Work Degree. Ms. Clyde career in state government expands more than 28 years, while the last 15 years have been in the social services arena. Ms. Clyde began her career in child welfare with DFCS as an intern and has held several positions since that time in her various roles within the agency. She has strived to challenge herself and those around her to always understand the Why? Why we do what we do? Why do we work for DFCS? No matter the route we took that brought us here, we are now at the same destination with the same mission to promote continued safety of all Georgia's children

**Dukes Jennifer:** Ms. Dukes is the Vice President of Government Services at Systems and Methods, inc. (SMI), SMI has supplied software solutions for the Georgia Department of Family and Children Services, for over forty years, in her various roles, Ms. Duke has twenty years' experience and child welfare projects and systems, at SMI and is passionate about helping children and families through technology.

**Dunham Ronald:** Ron is a community relations rep. with Amerigroup. He started on January 6, 2014, after working 10 years with Chatham County Division of Family and Children Services. Mr. Dunham is originally from Hardeeville South Carolina. He is a 1995 graduate from Jasper County High School. Ron is a 1999 Graduate from the University of South Carolina in Columbia S.C. He is married and the father of four children. He is a deacon at the Christ Memorial Baptist Church in Savannah. Ron enjoys reading, investing, and sports, but spending time with his family is what he enjoys the most. Mr. Dunham and his wife appeared on Wheel of Fortune in 2010.

**English Alex:** Alex English graduate from Florida State University in 2015 with a bachelor's in hospitality and Events Management. Since August 2020, she has served as Community Training Manager of the Vashti Center, since joining the team Alex has been trained as a facilitator for three different professional development opportunities that Vashti offers to youth serving organizations and foster parents in the community, these include Connections Matter, Circle of Safety, and Stewards of children. Most recently she has also begun managing all staff training and development at Vashti.

**Farrar Jack and Sarah:** Dr. Farrar is a clinical psychologist who has been involved in Biofeedback and Neurofeedback for over 20 years. He is presently the director of Mind Sync in Jonesboro Georgia. His clinic specializes in the Neurofeedback as a primary modality of treatment for youth who have emotional and behavioral problems. He has previously served as director for a hospital treating emotionally, sexually, and physically abused children.

**Gandy Jim and Iris:** The Gandys are foster parents, they have four biological children and one adopted child, nine grandchildren, currently we have five foster children. Jim is a Minister and Iris is a nurse Mr. and Mrs. Gandy have been married for twenty years.

**Gillespie Joyce Hinson Brenda:** Program Manager for the Georgia Center for Resource and Support. Is a licensed social worker with forty plus years of experience in public and private child welfare services. She retired from the Georgia Division of Family and Children Service in 2004, continuing as an independent contractor until 2009. She has been employed with Families First Inc. Since and is enormously proud of the GACRS team who

provide support, training, and resource for all caregiver families. She has four grandchildren who are quickly growing into young adults, she feels blessed to be a part of their life.

**Gilliard Whitney Lam.**

**Hayes Brad:** Mr. Brad Hayes (DAWG) serves as the Georgia State President, and Little River Chapter Vice President in Valdosta Georgia.

**Herring Betty:** Betty Herring serves as the Georgia State Treasure, and Hooch Chapter Treasure Braselton Georgia.

**Hernandez Daisy:** Ms. Hernandez is a Legal Advocate at SAFE Shelter, Center for Domestic Violence in Savannah, Ga. Where she aids clients with Temporary Protective Orders and ensure their safety and those of their children. Ms. Hernandez graduated from Savannah State University with bachelor's degree in Political Science and Psychology. Shortly after graduating she moved to Savannah, Ga. To pursue a career in social services beginning with the Department of Family and Children Services as a Family Preservation Case Manager, Recovery Place, Inc. as a Case Manager with a focus on Therapeutic Child Care. The Youth Advocate Program (working with at risk youth), and SAFE Shelter as the Child Advocate. She has well over 18 years working with children who have either experienced domestic violence, neglect, substance abuse and numerous traumatic events in their young lives and strive to bring healing to those who have experience trauma and stress due to Domestic Violence.

**Jamison-Water Leah:** Mrs. Jamison has been in DFCS for over 20 years, she currently serves as an Adoption Assistance Consultant to the Social Service Administration Unit (SSAU) where she is responsible for processing IV-E Adoption Assistance applications. In her role, Mrs. Jamison also assist with policy consultation, special need determinations, and approvals of special services adoption assistance requests. Mrs. has a Bachelor of Social Work degree from Georgia State University. She is currently pursuing her Master of Social Work through the University of Georgia and will be graduating in the Spring of 2022

**Jones Beck:** Ms. Jones is the assistant vice president of governmental services at system and methods, inc. SMI and the project manager for smile accounting system for over forty years, smile has supplied a full services financial management solution for DFCS to pay their employees and vendors, and to provide comprehensive reporting for critical budget decisions. In the recent years SMI has developed a secure web portal accessible by foster and adoptive care providers to access detailed payment and tax information.

**Jones Daren:** Is the Associate Director of Training and Consultation Service with the Karyn Purvis Institute of child development (KPICD at (TBRI). Since Daren joined the Purvis Institute in 2014, he has been an integral part of teaching and spreading TBRI across the U.S. and throughout the world. Daren earned his bachelor's degree in Social Work from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. He began his career as a behavior instructor of a therapeutic day treatment program serving children and youth who could no longer function in a regular academic school setting. After serving as a behavior instructor, Daren decided to obtain his Master's in Social Work from Spalding University in Louisville, Kentucky. He spent 12 years serving youth and families within residential and foster care setting as a direct-care worker, residential group home, supervisor, and trainer, before beginning his work with the KPICD. Daren is currently pursuing a PH. D in Counseling and Counselor Education at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, TX. and serves as the liaison between the KPICD and Georgia's TBRI Ambassador Organization, Global Impact International.

**Mauer Mary Margaret:** Mary Margaret PH. D Senior Vice President of foster care services for global impact international, and Co-founder of the Restoration Come Center for foster, adoption, and family services, is an enthusiastic advocate and community organization on behalf of foster children and their birth, foster, and adoptive families. She has served as an officer or board member for multiple local child service organizer, and she is the Co-Founder of the Floyd Faith Coalition for Families. Having studied neurobiology at Emory and Georgia State University and trained as a TBRI Practitioner, Mary Margaret has focused her effort on supplying services for children and caregivers who have experience trauma and leading the TBRI Georgia Collaborative initiative to provide community wide equipping of caregivers and child welfare professionals in trauma informed care.

**McDougald Nicole:** Nicole McDougald is a Program Director with the CPS Intake Communication Center with the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services. Mrs. McDougald manages the Information and Technology in CICC. The Bibb Call Center and supplies oversight and staff to intake involving near serious injuries near fatalities and child death. Mrs. McDougald is a graduate of the University of Georgia, where she received a Bachelor of Science in Psychology, a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and a Master of Social Work. Mrs. McDougald has 21 years of professional experience in social services to include work in a Hospital Emergency Department and at DFCS. Her career at DFCS has spanned over 19 years and includes front line case management and supervision in all child welfare program areas. She also managed the Special Investigation Unit for the State of Georgia, where her team investigates allegations involving children with serious injuries near fatalities allegations on facilities and schools, and allegation of abuse for children in foster care.

**Meadows Stacy:** Stacy Meadows is a Licensed Master Social Worker. She received her master's degree in Social Work from the Florida State University, and in 2013 began working in program development to provide teens and young adults in foster care with educational, career planning, and health and wellness services. Stacy joined Families First and the Georgia Adoption Reunion Registry in 2016 and for the past five years has been privileged to serve adoptees, birth family members and adoptive and foster parents in the State of Georgia and beyond. At the Reunion Registry Stacy works with those affected by adoption in Georgia to navigate the complex dynamics of adoption search and reunion.

**Miranda Elijah:** Since 2017, Elijah Miranda has served as the Executive Director of the Vashi Center, a non-profit in Thomasville, Georgia that has been serving children and families since 1903. He received his Master's in Public Health from Hunter College. He also holds a bachelor's degree in Public Promotion and Behavior from the University of Georgia. Elijah has overseen the growth of Vashti's School -base community mental health program as well as the development of professional learning programs bringing much needed resources and training to rural southwest Georgia. He is a trained facilitator or for Connections Matter and is currently in process of becoming a trust based relational intervention (TBRI) practitioner

**Mobley-Gore Kimberly, Dr:** Dr. Kimberly Mobley is currently employed with the Brighter Day Education Consulting, which provides services that support local school districts to provide general supervision for special education and related services to students with disabilities. As a former Director of Special Education and Special Education Program Specialist for Georgia Department of Education Compliance Unit, she has gained experience.

**Ozment Angela:** Mrs. Angela Ozment is the Program Director of the CPS Intake Communication Center (CICC) with the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services. She is a graduate of Shorter University where she received her Bachelor of Science in Human Services. Mrs. Ozment began her professional journey with the State of Georgia over 15 years ago this journey started with her taking a position, while she was still in college, as a Health Service Technician at Northwest Georgia Regional Mental Hospital. She later transferred to Lookout

Mountain Community Services, to continue her passion for serving people in the role of Social Service Technician, which introduced her to Social Work. Once she received her degree, she began her career with the Division of Family and Children Services in her hometown of Chattooga County she devoted six years to serving her local county as an Investigator and Family Preservation Case Manager. In October 2013, she volunteered with the onboarding of what is now known as CICC. During her volunteer time, she received her proverbial calling to serve the State of Georgia on a larger scale, so she transferred to CICC.

**Puckett Collen S:** Manager of Family Support Services at Good Legal Firm. Owner of Families Anchor, and Podcast host for the “F” Word Foster Care. Collen is the first Parent Navigator in Georgia. Collen’s family’s experience with foster care system allows her to supply a unique support to parent currently walking through the system themselves. Collen presented several times to the Georgia Child Welfare Summit, ABA National Conference Attorneys Conference, ABA Children and the Law Conference, and National Conference for the National Association of Counsel for Children. She also Taught at Youth Law Conference, Region IV Parent Attorney Leadership Summit. Child Welfare Law Specialist Meeting, and DeKalb County Parents’ Attorney Conference.

**Pupp Lori:** Lori Pupp has 20 years of child welfare, and leadership experience. She has served in the social services area both in the public and non-profit setting. After earning her BA at the University of North Georgia, Lori gained broad child welfare as an employee of the Division of Family and Children Services and in a variety of roles within the CASA organization at both the local and state levels. Lori has a passion for and unique understanding of the power of partnership between agencies and families to achieve extraordinary outcome for children.

**Patterson, Dajari:** Ms. Patterson has over 20 years of Child Welfare experience in both the public and private sectors. Ms. Patterson received her bachelor’s and Master’s in Social Work from Clark Atlanta University. She also has a Juris Doctorate degree from Atlanta’s John Marshall Law School. She started her career at a private adoption agency in Atlanta. Ms. Patterson has been with the Division for ten years, having held positions in region fourteen as well as the State Office. Her area of expertise includes Adoption, Foster Care, Kinship Care and Resource Development. She is originally from Chicago and is the proud parent of one adult son.

**Reed Marva:** Marv Reed is the Director of the CPS Intake Communication Center CICC with the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services. Mrs. Reed is a graduate of the University of West Georgia, where she received her Bachelor of Science in Psychology, as well as a graduate of Troy University where she received her Master of Science in Counseling and Human Development. Mrs. Reed has over 28 years of professional experience in social services, child welfare, and human services delivery program, where she has been a part of the agency’s front-line staff and its executive leadership staff, she began as a case manager in her local county, and has held several positions within the agency, including but not limited to being Regional Director, a Class 5 County Director, State Program Administrator, and State Director of Family and Child Well Being. In her role within the agency, Mrs. Reed has constantly proven her ability to lead change within the agency.

**Reese Leroy E:** Dr Reese is an adjunct associate professor at Morehouse School of Medicine (MSM) in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Science and Pediatrics. He is Director of the Smart and Secure Children Parent Leadership program MSM. He is also the Director of Behavioral Health at Akoma Counseling and Consulting Inc. an outpatient behavioral health clinic in Atlanta. A widely published author, he was a member of the American Psychological Association Task Force that published the report Resilience and Strength in African American Children and Adolescents. Previously, Dr. Reese, was a senior scientist section chief at the U.S. Center for Disease Control Prevention. Dr. Reese received his doctorate from the Ohio State University. He did his

internship and fellowship at the University of Illinois Medical School's Institute for Juvenile research in the Department of Psychiatry.

**Robinson Niesha:** Niesha Robinson Interstate Compact Placement Unit Director with the Department of Human Services provides oversight over placement for children statewide Her educational background includes a Bachelor's in Psychology and a master's degree in Counseling. Working within DHS has been a part of her life since 2005. She began her career as a Case Manger working in Investigations and Family Preservations. She was then promoted to the position of supervisor for Child Protective Services, Administrator, Program Director, Field Program Specialist, ICPC Administrator, and now ICPC Unit Director.

**Scott Jessica:** Jessica is a native of Savannah, Ga, mother of one son and graduated from Savannah State University with a bachelor's in Social Work. For the past seven years she has practiced Social Work in variety of settings including non-profits and private practice and serves as the Child Advocate at SAFE Shelter Center for Domestic Violence. Her focus is on childhood trauma and developmental assessments, she is dedicated to being a voice for children who have been exposed to domestic violence and at-risk youth

**Thomas Erin Patrice:** Ms. Thomas has lived experience as a parent with child welfare involvement. Her parental rights were ended and then reinstated after a period of incarceration and rehabilitation. She successfully reunited with her son in 2020. She is currently employed by the Georgia Mental Health Consumer Network where she serves as the Training Coordinator for RSPECT Institute of Georgia. Her role is to help peers in developing their own stories of recovery through a five-day training process. She is a Certified Peer Specialist Mental Health as well as a Certified Peer Specialist- Addictive Diseases, she is formally trained in both Youth and Adult Mental Health First Aid and has Completed Trauma Informed care and Cultural Competency Training. She is a Whole Health Wellness Coach. She is a mentor/advocate for her peers who are experiencing challenges related to mental health and substance use disorder.

**Tiller Stephen:** Mr. Tiller is the Georgia State Secretary, and the TWO River Chapter President in Savannah, Georgia

**Tyner Angela:** Ms. Tyner has served as the Advocacy Director for CASA since 2004, where she supplies legal guidance and technical help to the CASA network and participants in policy and legislative reform efforts. Ms. Tyner also serves on several task forces and committees seeking systemic child welfare improvement. She received her bachelor's degree from the University of Georgia and her JD from Mercer Law. She is a certified Child Welfare Law Specialist.

**Wade Julie:** Julie Wade is a lawyer who serves as the Executive Director of Park Place Outreach, a teen homeless shelter in Savannah. A Georgia native, she attended the University of Georgia for undergraduate and law school. Prior to transitioning to non-profit. Julie clerked for a federal Appellate Judge in Atlanta and practiced law in Hawaii, Boston, and Savannah for 17 years. She also served on the Board of Education for the Savannah Chatham County Public School System for 10 years. Julie currently serves on the Board of Directors for the UGA Alumni Association and Planned Parenthood Southeast. She is a member of the Metropolitan Savannah Rotary and has taken part in Leadership Georgia, Leadership Southeast Georgia, and leadership savannah. Julie married her high school sweetheart and together they have three school -aged children.

**Walker Samantha:** Samantha Walker received a Bachelor of Art degree in English from the University of New Orleans and a Master of Social Work degree from Southern University in New Orleans. After college, she began her career as a CPS Investigator. In 2008, Samantha moved to Georgia and began working for the Division of



Family and Children Services as a foster care case manager. During her thirteen years tenure with the division, she has served in many capacities including foster care case manager, kinship assessor, permanency supervisor, permanency administrator, and permanency program director. She is currently serving as the Division's Reunification Director.

**Wells Karla:** Karla Wells is a program manager with the state adoption unit She has been with Georgia Division of Family and Children Services since 1998. During her career with DFCS Karla has specialized in Foster Care, Adoption and Resource Development. She also worked as a State Trainer with Education and Training, covering all Social Services program training classes. Karla began serving as a Regional Adoption Coordinator in 2008. For the last nine years, Karla has been serving as the Program Manager for the RAC's.

**Wittman, Angel:** Mrs. Wittmann began her career with DFCSs as a Placement Case Manager in 1990 in Laurens County. She then worked in Resource Development and Adoptions in Treutlen, Montgomery, and Wheeler Counties from 1994-1999. For 2 years she worked for Tennessee Department of Children's Service in adoptions. From 2001-2004, Mrs. Wittman worked for Kentucky Department of Community Based Services first in Foster Care, then CPS Investigations including Special Investigations and end with Recruitment and Certification for Foster and Adoptive Families. She returned to Pickens County DFCS in Oct 2004 to Foster Care, Adoptions and Resource Development. Mrs. Wittman began her current position with Social Services Administration Unit as a Post Adoption Program Manager in July 2014

**Whidby Angela:** Angela have been a foster parent for over seven years, she and her husband Steve have sixteen children, eleven grandchildren and five great grandchildren. Angela graduated from West Gwinnett High School, while in high school her first job was with the IRS during tax season. Angela is currently the Adoptive and Foster Parent Association of Georgia's Regional Vice President for Region 2. Committee Member of Hart/Franklin Counties Foster/Adoptive Association, Chair of the Hart County Cupboard, Board of Elections, Governor Appointee for Georgia Mountains Regional Commission, and former Franklin County Commission.

**Wicks, Evangel D:** Evangel has more than 28 years of child welfare experience with the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services. She previously served as a case manager, Foster and Adoptive Parents Trainer and Assessor, a Supervisor and Administrator, Mrs. Wicks currently manages the state's contracts for private adoption agencies. She also manages a team of three dedicated staff who supervise Post Adoption Services.

**Williams Cutter Kimberly:** Kimberly Cutter-Williams has been a fulltime hair stylist for over 20 years and a Licensed Cosmetology instructor for over 15 years. Mrs. Williams holds a Cosmetology License from Savannah Technical College, Teachers License from Poway Beauty College, a bachelor's degree in Psychology from St. Leo University and her Master's in Education from Armstrong State University. She is currently employed as the Department Chair at Savannah Technical College, Mrs. Williams is a State Certified Mediator, she is married and enjoys spending time with her family, husband Richard, children and two granddaughters Khloe and Zoe.

**Wilkes-Wisotsky, Juli:** Attorney Wilkes-Wisotsky is a native of Jefferson, Georgia and has practiced law since 1996. As a graduate of UGA School of Law, her practice solely on adoption in 2010. She has helped complete hundreds of adoptions and is a Fellow of the Georgia Council of Adoption Lawyers. She is particularly interested in the concerns of foster children in Georgia and loves to complete foster care adoptions. She has been a foster parent herself and has served on the Board of Chosen for Life, an adoption ministry found in the Watkinsonville/Athens area.

