

2023



16th ANNUAL

GEORGIA SCHOOL OF ADDICTION STUDIES

PROGRAM BROCHURE

Celebrating the Diversity

of Prevention,
Treatment,
and Recovery



August 27 - 31, 2023

Hyatt Regency, Savannah, GA

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PLEASE REMEMBER TO...

- Keep name badges accessible for scanners.
- Arrive to sessions at the scheduled times.
- Silence cell phones during all sessions.

Welcome to Savannah



Welcome Letter

Dear Georgia School Attendees,

I would like to welcome you to the 16th Annual Georgia School of Addiction Studies and the beautiful city of Savannah. Our theme this year Influencing Celebrating the Diversity of Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery illustrates our commitment to promoting and celebrating diversity in the fields of prevention, treatment and recovery.

Over the next four days, you will experience a wide variety of workshops, plenaries, and keynote presentations that will highlight innovative ideas, best and emerging practices, and personal journeys. We have worked hard this year to pull together a program that offers both workshops you will find interesting and workshops you need in order to meet licensing and certification needs.

We are very excited to have a well known television and movie star as our featured keynote this year. Mr. Tom Arnold, known for his roles on television (Roseanne, FUBAR) and movies (True Lies, Nine Months, Madea's Witness Protection), will be speaking on his journey through childhood, adolescence, addiction, and sobriety. Mr. Arnold shares his life experience with the hope that by speaking out, he will help others.

While there seemed to be some initial hesitancy to our new conference app last year, after the first day it was a hit with attendees. We will continue to use the app this year. By downloading the app you will be able to view the entire conference agenda and your personal schedule, scan in and out of workshops, access workshop handouts, network with other attendees, view maps of the hotel, and much more.

For many attendees, the Georgia School has become a yearly tradition that has led to many fond memories and fond friendships. We would like to welcome back and thank those people who have attended over the past 15 years and we would also like to welcome the new attendees to the Georgia School tradition. We encourage you to take advantage of the amazing networking opportunities that this conference affords and develop those relationships that will last for years. Please make sure to take time to visit our exhibitor tables and learn about the different prevention, treatment, and recovery resources available in Georgia. We would also encourage you to participate in one or all of the scheduled events and even take some time to enjoy one of the most charming cities in the nation.

I would personally like to thank the members of the Georgia School Board, whose support and guidance made this event possible. I hope that you find this year's School full of new ideas and new opportunities for partnership. Please enjoy the conference, take time to celebrate our successes, and embrace the important work ahead.

Sincerely,



Christopher Wood, ICPS
President, Georgia School of Addiction Studies



Georgia School Board

Alcohol and Drug Abuse Certification Board of GA

Crystal Smalldon, CADC II

Athens Technical College– Social Work Assistant Program

Betty Watts, LMSW

Council of Accountability Court Judges

Tara Zellous, LPC, NCC, CADC II, CPCS

Erica Acebo-Johnston, LCSW, CAADC

Sherna Tolbert, MSW

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

Jay Neal

Kristen Lee

DeKalb County Accountability Courts

Lasheika Kassa, CADC II, GSAS Parliamentarian

Georgia Addiction Counselors Association

Donna Ritter, ND, CMAC, BT, CCS, CMATS

Kelly Moselle, MA, MS, CAC II, CMAC, CCS, CMATS, CAMS II

Georgia Association of Community Service Boards

Gina Hutto, LPC, MAC, ICGC-I, CCJP, CPCS, CAADC, [GSAS Secretary](#)

Georgia Association of Recovery Residences

Todd A. Wilson, CADC II, MAT

Georgia Council on Recovery

Laurisa Guerrero, MPH, CARES

Emily Ribblett, MBA, CARES

Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities

Cassandra Price, GCADC-II, MBA

Kristal Davidson, LPC, NCC

Scott Dunbar, D. Min., MAC, ICCDPD

Yomi Makanjoula

Prince Malcolm Moorman, NCAC-I, CAC-II, CCS

Von Wrighten, M.Div., MAC, CACII, CCS

Jill Mays, MS, LPC

Donna Dent, MISM, MS, ICPS

Theodore Carter, Jr., MPA

Christopher Wood, ICPS, [GSAS President](#)

Jeff Breedlove

Georgia Department of Corrections

Antonio M. Johnson, MS, LPC, NCC, CADC, CCDP-D

Chris Austin, MPA, CADC-II, MATS

Georgia Department of Human Services - Division of

Family and Children Services

Natalie R. Green, LMSW

Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice

John Izzo, LPC

Tania Appling, Ph.D.

Georgia Department of Public Health

Kimberly Wilson, MA, ICPS

GUIDE, Inc. (Gwinnett United in Drug Education)

Michael W. Davis, Ph.D., ICPS

Heritage Foundation

Nicole Gatlin, LPC, CPCS, CRC, RPT-S, NCACII, MAC, SAP, CCS

Licensed Professional Counselors Association of Georgia

Gale Macke, LPC

Mercy Care

Steve Roux, BA, CADCII

National Association of Social Workers- GA

Cheryl Bonneau, JD, MSW

Dr. Lucy R. Cannon, LCSW, LICSW, CAADC, MATS

Dr. Davine S. Ricks, LCSW, MAC, E-CADC

Penfield Addiction Ministries

Donnie Plummer

Prevention Credentialing Consortium of Georgia

Jessica Andrews-Wilson, MS, ICPS, [GSAS Vice President](#)

Recovery Place

Leslie Backus, [GSAS Treasurer](#)

Southeast Addiction Technology Transfer Center

Dawn Tyus, Ph.D., LPC, MAC, NCC

Voices for Prevention (V4P)

Ester Lopez, MPS, ICPS

Student Representative

Iman Pew, LMSW

Thank you to all our Board Members for their dedication and service to the Georgia School.



Overview

The 16th Annual Georgia School offers a unique opportunity for professional development, information exchange, and networking. It is designed to address the need for knowledge and skill development through advanced training and will begin on Sunday, August 27th, at 2:00 p.m. and end on Thursday, August 31st, at 12:30 pm. The Georgia School grew from many years of experience with and support of the Southeastern School of Alcohol and Drug Studies, which was among the oldest existing regional training events of its kind. The Georgia School will continue to faithfully listen to the needs of participants and diligently work to create a positive learning environment that has been an important part of the training of thousands of substance abuse prevention and treatment professionals.

Registration

Please register early—space is limited! You can view the full announcement and register at www.thegeorgiaschool.org. Below are the conference registration fees and registration dates.

- **Registration: June 19th - August 20th** **\$575**
- **Late Registration: August 21st - August 25th** **\$600**
- **On-Site Registration:** **\$600**

Partial week registrations are also available; Sunday - \$75, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday - \$200 each day, and Thursday - \$100.

When registering please make sure you review the workshops carefully so that your workshops do not overlap one another. There are a variety of 6 hour and 3 hour workshops being offered—all workshops must be taken in full in order to receive CEU credit. If you register for a 6 hour workshop you may not take a 3 hour workshop on the same day. You may make changes to your workshop selections after completing the registration process—deadline for making changes is Friday, **August 11, 2023.**

For inquiries related to registration, please e-mail info@thegeorgiaschool.org

Continuing Education Hours

Application has been made for CE hours through the Alcohol and Drug Certification Board of GA (ADACB-GA); Georgia Addiction Counselors Association (GACA); Licensed Professional Counselors Association of GA; Georgia Society for Clinical Social Workers. Specific participant attendance records will be executed at the end of each workshop segment to support the award of individual CE hours certificates.

Application will also be made for credit hours through the Prevention Credentialing Consortium of Georgia (PCCG).

Overview

Food Service

Registered participants will have continental breakfast each day, assorted snacks and refreshments throughout the day and lunch on Monday and Wednesday. Be sure to look for our hot breakfast on Thursday morning. For those with special dietary needs please indicate this on your registration.

Lodging

Please make your reservations as soon as possible. A limited number of rooms are being held for the Georgia School at the Hyatt Regency (2 West Bay Street, Savannah, GA) at the rate of \$156 plus tax for single or double occupancy. **August 4, 2023 is the deadline for reserving your lodging at this rate.**

For reservations you may use the Georgia School website, www.thegeorgiaschool.org Click on the Hotel Reservations link on the home page.

Please Note: Parking is included in your room rate if you are staying at the Hyatt Regency. Also be aware that there is no self-parking, only valet service. If you are not staying at the Hyatt Regency you will need to find parking elsewhere. To find other parking options you may visit this City of Savannah link [HERE](#)



Keynote Speakers



Tom Arnold

Actor, Comedian, and Writer

As one of Hollywood's most entertaining funny men, you would think Tom Arnold has a lot to laugh about. But life has never been easy for this writer, producer and actor. He has struggled with addiction and multiple health scares for decades. And yet, he continues to not only get back up when life knocks him down but also thrives. Sober for nearly 20 years, Tom relapsed after a motorcycle wreck led to an addiction to painkillers in 2007. He relapsed again several years ago and sought treatment once again. This summer, he celebrated five years of sobriety and the loss of 75 pounds after a mini-stroke. Tom began his career in comedy at the University of Iowa before moving to Minneapolis, where he won the Minneapolis Comedy Competition in 1988. He then moved to Los Angeles to write for the highly successful television series, *Roseanne*, before eventually serving as executive producer for the sitcom. Tom's film credits include James Cameron's *True Lies* with Arnold Schwarzenegger; *Nine Months* with Hugh Grant, Julianne Moore and Robin Williams; *Hero* with Dustin Hoffman; *Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery* with Mike Myers; and *Madea's Witness Protection* with Tyler Perry. He is currently starring with Arnold Schwarzenegger in the Netflix series *FUBAR*. Born in Iowa, he has established a writing scholarship and runs an acting workshop for students at the Indian Hills Community College in Iowa. He is also very active with the San Diego Center for Children, which cares for abused and neglected children, as well as The Race to Erase MS, The Kayne-Eras Center and Hollygrove children's home.



Mansfield (Pete) Key III

Author, Speaker, and Humanitarian

Mansfield (Pete) Key III is the leading Growth Development Strategist and an International Motivational Speaker. He is a Life coach, mentor, consultant, speechwriter, and certified HIV/AIDS Instructor. He holds multiple certifications in grief counseling and 21st Century Leadership. He is certified in Relationship Smarts, Fatherhood Initiative, Together We Can, and Basic Training for Relationships from the Human Development Department at Auburn University. He has provided technical assistance to the Federal Government's Health and Human Services for all 50 states and has worked directly with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control. Mr. Key has consulted for the Departments of Education and Public Health in several states. Pete is the founder and creator of the Lunch with The Keys Program. He teaches character education to kindergarten through twelfth-grade students in several school systems. The outstanding youth services program, Lunch with The Keys, won the School of Distinction recognition for Florence High School and was awarded the 2019 CLAS Banner School for Alabama School District 7. He was also named Humanitarian of the Year for the Quad Cities from the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and Auburn University's Hero Award recipient. He has authored three books and released multiple DVDs, CDs, and curriculums. Besides his relationship with God, Key is proud of his family; his devoted wife, Sharlene, and two beautiful daughters, Erin Ruth and Joi Da'Nae Key. His passion for sharing his story and purposeful strategies have impacted millions through presentations, programs, and products. Key believes everyone has something special, but sometimes people need others to help them discover it.

Plenary & Lunch Sessions

Monday Morning Plenary

Harm Reduction is All Very Well, But What About the Babies?

Joelle Puccio



Monday Lunch- Welcome to the Georgia School

Improv Growth Mindset- Show That You Care

Front Porch Improv Theatre

Tuesday Morning Showcase

My Road to Recovery: How I Finally Stood Up to Addiction

Tom Arnold



I Need a Boost!

Mansfield (Pete) Key III

Wednesday Morning Plenary

InnerG Vibrations Sound Bath Experience

Taranda R. Wilson



Wednesday Lunch- Awards Luncheons

Prevention Awards Luncheon:

Presentation of the Ray Avant Excellence in Prevention Award and the Prevention Rising Star Award



Treatment/Recovery Awards Luncheon:

Presentation of the Paula Crane Excellence in Treatment Award, the Buddy Horton Organizational Excellence in Treatment Award, and the Neil Campbell Recovery Champion Award

Thursday Morning Closing Plenary

2023 Georgia School Knowledge Challenge - Win Prizes!



Special Events

All Week

3rd Annual Georgia School Scavenger Hunt

Use your smart phone to complete tasks or challenges. There are trivia questions, photo challenges, GPS check-ins, and QR codes to scan. Complete the most and you would win a \$300 Amazon gift card!

Monday

Silent Auction

The Silent Auction begins on Monday. Please place a bid on one or more of the wonderful items and help support the Georgia School. All funds raised go to scholarships.



Prevention Credentialing Consortium of Georgia (PCCG) Board Meeting - 5:15pm

Tuesday

DBHDD Presents "Crisis of Substance" - 7:00pm

This documentary takes a deep look at the health disparities present in Opioid Use Disorder recovery and treatment within the State of Georgia. Snacks, refreshments, and door prizes will be provided!

Wednesday

Savannah Comedy on Wheels Tour - 7:00pm

A witty, outrageous history lesson, this trolley tour features outrageously entertaining comedy skits, musical numbers, costume changes, a few absurd appearances, and loads of Savannah history. Hosted by the infamous twins, Dannie and Danny, this mad romp around Savannah will give you all the inside gossip on practically every important moment that has transpired throughout Savannah's deep, complex, and interesting past and present, from the founding of the colony of Georgia to the Civil War and from little known Paula Deen trivia to why every tourist must take a selfie on the Forrest Gump bench. The Savannah Comedy Trolley is a high-energy, whirlwind comedy trip through some of the zaniest, wildest, and most hilarious history that Savannah has to offer. Admission \$40 per person (must be pre-paid via registration system). Guests will be picked up at and returned to the Hyatt via the trolley. Tickets are very limited.



All Week

12 Step Meeting - 9:00pm to 10:00pm



Program Agenda

Sunday, August 27th

1:00 - 6:00pm: Conference Check-In

Feel free to beat the Monday morning crowds and check-in on Sunday evening.

2:00 - 5:00pm: Pre-Conference Workshop

Self-Care: Taking Your Practice Even Further

Mary Kate Chapman

The world keeps changing, and you might find yourself feeling more overwhelmed and underwater than ever before. Work demands, program updates, staffing shortages - it may feel like it's just a little too much! Unfortunately, the chaos doesn't stop when we're in over our heads. In order for us to truly thrive, we **MUST** take care of ourselves. Join us for this interactive session to explore in-depth ways to fully take care of ourselves - mentally, physically and emotionally. You don't want to miss this session!

Monday, August 28th

7:00am: Conference Check-In

8:00-9:00am: Morning Plenary

MONDAY 6 HOUR WORKSHOPS (9:30am-5:00pm) Sessions– A/B

Seeing What Others Miss

Jennifer Finch

Have you ever felt someone else's mood? How can you explain this? Have you ever been told you were being too sensitive? Or downright crazy for feeling something you knew to be sincerely verifiable, but it couldn't be understood? Not rationally anyway. Do certain individuals make you feel "icky?" Or do you ever walk away from an encounter with someone who you thought gave off positive "vibes?" How do we explain this? Influenced by the work of William James, and looking to the field of quantum mechanics, in this program, Jennifer asks us to leap over logic and investigate the invisible forces that entangle and bond us together. This is a full participation (experience over education) workshop that takes us on a fascinating somatic journey that aims to pique more interest in making sense of and understanding what we cannot see. Attuning to the magic of the space between us is what separates the average therapists from those achieving clinical excellence.



MONDAY AM 6 HOUR WORKSHOPS continued (9:30am-5:00pm) Sessions– A/B**Resilience - Turning Your Nervous System into an Ally****Douglas Jackson**

We are all born with a nervous system that is designed to be resilient. Every day has challenges. Our nervous systems are designed to rally the body to meet challenges and then recover after the challenge is over. Sometimes we find ourselves (and our nervous system) overwhelmed and our ability to recover from stressful/traumatic events becomes degraded. Fortunately, we can rebuild our resilience using some easy to learn skills that can help reset the nervous system. Join us for a program that will introduce yourself to a critical part of your nervous system, teach you tools you can use to strengthen this part of the nervous system and, most importantly, give you lots of opportunities to practice using these tools.

Telebehavioral Health Competencies and Ethical Implications; Post COVID Pandemic Recommendations for Healthcare Organizations**Lucy Cannon**

It is imperative that healthcare providers develop and implement TBH competencies to effectively meet the needs of individuals receiving treatment with the use of technology. The post COVID HIPAA laws must guide our organizations and clinical work in protecting confidential information while meeting the needs of the clients and communities we serve. Ethically speaking, these vulnerable populations do not have equal access to and culturally sensitive treatment. Healthcare professionals have an ethical responsibility to provide services to all individuals from a cultural awareness and sensitive manner while providing services to all people equally.

MONDAY AM 3 HOUR WORKSHOPS (9:30am-12:30pm) Sessions– A**Ethics and Culture****Pierluigi Mancini**

As the population of the United States becomes increasingly diverse, considerable attention is being directed to a critical examination of the quality of services received by ethnic minority groups, immigrants, refugees and marginalized communities especially in substance use disorder and mental health services. This workshop will discuss aspects of the current behavioral health status of these communities and present some ethical problems that may arise when providers fail to take into consideration the role of ethnicity, language, race, culture, immigration history and socioeconomic factors in counseling this underserved population. It will address the following questions about professional/ethical responsibilities of behavioral health providers with regards to immigrants; ethical and cultural dilemmas that may arise in the failure to provide adequate services to these groups and what steps can clinicians take to provide services that are culturally, linguistically, professionally and ethically appropriate.

Applying Addiction Counseling Ethics to Accountability Courts**Heather Herrington**

This course is designed to examine how ethical codes are applied in accountability court settings. Attendees will review various ethical codes and discuss how to navigate challenging ethical dilemmas, such as sanctions and limits of confidentiality in team staff meetings and court sessions. This course is intended to be educational and interactive.

MONDAY AM 3 HOUR WORKSHOPS continued (9:30am-12:30pm) Sessions– A

Hiatus for Healers- Taking Breaks for Self- Care

Jenn Popovich

This workshop will discuss how our care for ourselves allows us to be present with clients, as well as models appropriate care for self to clients. This will include discussion on combating work and societal culture/ expectations of our field. It will also explore how vital examples of self- care are to newcomers to the field, and clients seeking long term recovery.

The "I" in TEAM: The Importance of Effective Leadership in Teambuilding

Monaletto Irby

What is your team's motivation? How well is communication within your team? Leadership is a strong component in teambuilding. Effective leadership is the foundation of assuring a well-functioning and cooperative team. Leaders understanding how their team function is pivotal in its success. We have long been taught there is no "i" in team. We have learned over the years we must all be a part of the solution. Participants will explore why the "I" in team is important to recognizing our resources for the success of the team. Participants will look in the mirror at their own personality and its effectiveness or lack thereof within the team building process. Your "I" requires a level of courage, discipline, emotional energy, and TRUST. Teamwork must be habit forming and something that all members work hard to develop and maintain on a consistent basis. Participants will participate in a teambuilding activity with a debrief at the end.

Media Matter: Driving Behavior Change

Linda Glasgow, Katie Cooper, and Misti Childers

Prevention, treatment, and recovery strive to make behavior change for the betterment of the individual, community, and society. Using media strategically is an important instrument for driving behavior change on scale. This workshop will discuss the theory and strategy of using media to make behavioral change through lens of the Transtheoretical Model of Behavior Change and the Stages of change framework. We will discuss the challenges that come with spurring behavior change and ways to measure behavior change in media. We will also dive into ways to specifically target your audience and matching your media to your audience. We will use case studies and research to support.

Young Women and Substance Use Course: A Tool for Prevention

Hailey Hazard

This workshop will explore a prevention course that aims to increase awareness around prenatal substance use, reduce preventable maternal and infant health issues, and encourage women to plan for their futures. This course was created for young women aged 18-25 and was developed by the Center for Maternal Substance Abuse and Child Development in Emory University School of Medicine, in partnership with Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities. This workshop will allow participants to explore the course content, which includes sections on alcohol, nicotine/vaping, marijuana, and opioids. It will also allow providers and educators to consider how they might be able to incorporate this course in their own work with individuals who may one day become pregnant.



MONDAY AM 3 HOUR WORKSHOPS continued (9:30am-12:30pm) Sessions– A**Microdosing: What's it All About?****Michael Nerney**

Rising interest in microdosing has been driven largely by the publication of several books on the topic as well as videos on YouTube, Tik Tok, and other social media sites. As a result of increased interest, online sales of psychedelics (legal or otherwise) are skyrocketing, accompanied by breathtaking claims of bounteous levels of serenity, energy, and emotional wellbeing. In this presentation, participants will learn the definition of microdosing, discover which drugs are involved, recognize several of the dangers of microdosing, and explore strategies for discussing this emerging trend with adolescents and young adults.

MONDAY PM 3 HOUR WORKSHOPS (2:00pm-5:00pm) Sessions– B

Note: Please review your workshop choices carefully. If you plan on attending a 6 hour workshop on this day then you will not be able to attend a 3 hour workshop.

Perinatal Substance Use: The Science**Joelle Puccio and Erika Goyer**

When it comes to pregnancy and drug use, it can be difficult to differentiate fact from myth. Substance use misinformation is such a foundational part of our culture that it permeates law, policy, and research. When we add pregnancy to the mix, strong desires to protect children combined with lack of accurate information can result in ineffective or harmful interventions. To promote better outcomes for babies, families, and communities, we must understand what substances are, what they do, and what they do not do. During this session, we will discuss how scientific information is produced, including concepts such as case-control matching, statistical significance, and the difference between association and causation. These concepts will guide our discussion of the scientific evidence around 8 kinds of commonly used substances: alcohol, benzodiazepines, cannabinoids, kratom, opioids, phencyclidine (PCP), stimulants, and tobacco/nicotine.

The Story of Us in Clinical Supervision**Jenn Popovich**

This workshop will discuss the interplay of supervisor's life experiences and narrative, with that of their supervisees'. This will include how personal narrative impacts the supervision dynamic. It will also explore how story/ narrative impacts how we interpret, interact with and treat clients. Supervision interventions for increasing insight and extinguishing behaviors will be presented.

Treatment Plans That Guide Treatment**Jewana Lowe**

The treatment plan is the vehicle that drives treatment. In order for treatment to be effective and meaningful, creation of an individualized treatment plan is necessary. Counselors often find themselves stretched to find time to complete all duties assigned and formulate accurate treatment plans. In this workshop the participants will learn how to create treatment plans that capture client needs, encompass best practice standards in the field, and help the client to work through barriers life may present. Participants will learn how to plan, write and implement treatment plans that actually facilitate client-centered recovery.

MONDAY PM 3 HOUR WORKSHOPS continued (2:00pm-5:00pm) Sessions– B

Progressing Forward in Relapse Prevention: Dealing with Stigma

Samson Teklemariam

Substance use disorder (SUD) is most often defined as a chronic disease involving a common repeating cycle of abstinence and relapse. 'Relapse' refers to a return to a previous level of substance use after a period of considerable reduction or abstinence from substance use. It is common practice to communicate with patients that even when a person with SUD is in remission and no longer using substances, a relapse is always a possibility. Just as it is with every patient struggling with a chronic medical condition, the goal during an exacerbation is to restore the patient to stability and keep them motivated and connected to treatment. However, when helping professionals who are both providing care and in recovery themselves experience relapse, reactions vary. These reactions are often driven by negative stigma and impact treatment decisions for both professionals and patients in recovery.

Bridging the Gap with Connection

Anastasia Frimpong and Mary Kate Chapman

Over the past few years, young people have felt more helpless, sad and prone to suicidal ideations. More youths in marginalized groups have attempted suicide than those in non-marginalized groups. It is now harder than ever to be a young person in this day and age. With the rise of social media and its challenges and the global pandemic that changed what we see as normal, young people are more vulnerable than ever. To combat Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), it takes one trusted adult. But, when youth are asked if they feel comfortable disclosing mental health struggles with adults, the answer is overwhelmingly- no. So, with the problem of youth dying by suicide at higher rates and younger ages and the solution being trusted adults, how can we bridge that gap with youth and adults who work with them? The answer is connection, genuine connections. In this workshop, we will address the factors that affect youth in their day-to-day lives, reasons why youth feel uncomfortable talking to adults in their life and ways to build genuine connections with youth to be that trusted adult who can change the trajectory of a young person's life for the better.

Defusing Conflict- Strategies That Work!

Michael Nerney

Current social conditions can make conflict a risky proposition. It seems like the twenty-four-hour news cycle brings us story after story of incidents that have turned violent or even deadly. For those working in the treatment and prevention fields, it is imperative to recognize the early indicators of conflict, understand the stages of escalation, and respond with effective verbal and physical behaviors to defuse the situation and keep staff, clients, and others safe. In this presentation participants will learn how physical posture, facial expression, tone of voice, and the use of a particular language structure can help manage these potentially problematic situations.

Building a Resilient Teens Program

Kimberly Vess

Resilience is important for several reasons; it enables us to develop mechanisms for protection against experiences which could be overwhelming, it helps us to maintain balance in our lives during difficult or stressful periods, and can also protect us from the development of some mental health difficulties and issues. The mission of Resilient Teens is to prepare Augusta and the surrounding communities to address Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), resilience, and trauma informed care in teens 13-19 in the 14-county area of the Central Savannah River Area (CSRA) of Georgia. This workshop will discuss the steps in building a successful resilient teens program with information learned from first-hand experience.



MONDAY PM 3 HOUR WORKSHOPS continued (2:00pm-5:00pm) Sessions– B**Shifting the Conversation: EI & SEL An Emotional and Innovative Approach 2 Prevention & Learning!****Jennifer Kramer and John Bringuel**

This workshop aims to shift conversations that traditionally and naturally focused on "what needs to stop to what needs to start or improve" for people we serve. The philosophy and approach is embedded in creating an environment that is conducive to change and growth through the use of EI and SEL. This workshop will be guided and informed by the experiential learning model where everyone is invited to play. The workshop will focus on building personal capacity regarding "interpersonal skills" that better equip a provider at any point on the service delivery continuum to be other centered, effective and efficient, culturally responsive, and an example of emotional intelligence. This workshop aims to provide functional, practical, and useful attitudes, skills, and tools to utilize in both your professional and personal life. This focus is foundational to all three levels of prevention.

Tuesday, August 29th**7:00-9:00am: Conference Check-In****TUESDAY AM SHOWCASE (9:00am-12:30pm) Sessions– C****Tom Arnold - Comedian, Actor, and Writer****Mansfield (Pete) Key III - Author, Speaker, and Humanitarian****TUESDAY PM 3 HOUR WORKSHOPS (2:00pm-5:00pm) Sessions– D****44 Tools to Accomplish an Intervention****Scott Dunbar**

This workshop will be an interactive class involving didactic instruction and role-playing, so that each participant will further develop their skills in doing interventions. The presentation introduces dozens of examples of tailor-made interventions beyond the standard Johnson Institute Model that is seen on TV. A new model will be introduced based on Motivational Interviewing concepts that does not have the built-in problems of the Johnson Institute Model, namely that the interventionist has to assume that they already know what the problem is and what the best treatment modality is before they meet the client. The new model can be characterized as "a horse whisperer" approach. Dozens of other intervention options will be presented so that you will have many ways to affect an intervention.

TUESDAY PM 3 HOUR WORKSHOPS continued (2:00pm-5:00pm) Sessions– D

Perinatal Substance Use: Practical Solutions

Joelle Puccio and Erika Goyer

Risks faced by pregnant people who use drugs come from a variety of sources. Risk can be related to substance effect, family or community actions, systems of care, systems of surveillance and punishment, the environment, and more. In this session, we will frame our discussion in the historical context in which our current systems developed, with particular focus on the experiences of women and people of color. Values such as beneficence, autonomy, and any positive change will be linked to practical interventions, client interaction strategies, harm reduction tips for 8 classes of substances, and strategies to affect change in individuals, environments, and systems.

Domestic Violence: What Do I Need to Know?

Davine Ricks

This presentation focuses on the key components of domestic violence in hopes of participants sharing this knowledge and increasing opportunities for prevention. Emphasis is placed on becoming more aware of the facts and eradicating pervasive myths of domestic violence. Participants will learn the definition of domestic violence, along with the prevalence of domestic violence in the United States. Participants will be able to identify different types of domestic violence, common warning signs, and a host of available resources to assist persons seeking assistance. It is important to remember that silence hides violence. Be aware! Speak up! Stop domestic violence!

Oh No! I Can't Talk About "THAT"

Diane Diver

For most people who have substance use and co-occurring disorders, "Healthy Sexuality" is a foreign concept. Many individuals who relapse disclose that relationships and sex proceed a return to use. This 3-hour course provides the information for treatment professional about how to nurture and appropriately direct the development of healthy sexuality in all recovering people.

Gambling and Gaming and Sport Betting, Oh My!

Gina Hutto

Treating clients with substance use disorders can involve more than just substances. Many clients may also be gambling and/or gaming. Lots of clients are gamers, but how do you tell if gaming has crossed a line from fun to a clinical issue? Sports betting is surging throughout the country. Even though it is not yet legal in Georgia, that does not mean that your clients are not doing it in one form or another. This class will cover the current trends for gambling, gaming, and sports betting. Participants will learn how to tell if their clients are struggling in any of these areas and resources for treatment.

Positivity-Focused & Strengths-Based Techniques to Flourish in Long-Term Recovery

Garret Biss

The presentation will investigate various interventions offered through positive psychology's multiple pathways to high-level wellness. Participants will experience how addressing needs and opportunities across the full illness-wellness spectrum helps lay the foundation for flourishing in recovery. In this experiential-based workshop, participants will not only learn to see recovery from a new perspective, but they will also have a first-hand experience in the benefits of a positivity-focused and strengths-based approach.



TUESDAY PM 3 HOUR WORKSHOPS continued (2:00pm-5:00pm) Sessions– D**Engaging Your Audience Through Data Storytelling****Brian Simmons and Erik Thompson**

Data storytelling is a methodology for communicating data in a compelling manner, driving insights and change. This presentation will describe the utility of data storytelling and review the basic components to a data story. Using a case study format, the presenters will incrementally develop a data story, emphasizing the core elements of an effective data story. Participants will learn how to craft a basic data story. Participants will also learn how to create easily understood graphs using Excel.

THRIVE: Living Life Well**Corey Trevena**

Well-being, as defined by Merriam-Webster, the World Health Organization, and the American Psychological Association, is the state of being happy, content, and healthy. Well-being is associated with our quality of life and ability to contribute to the world with a sense of meaning and purpose. It requires overall good physical and mental health and an optimistic outlook. Human-serving professionals may experience elevated levels of stress through their work, challenging their well-being. THRIVE addresses these challenges using experiential, kinesthetic, and didactic techniques throughout the session. Participants will increase awareness of the barriers that interfere with well-being, introduce strategies to support overall health and well-being, strengthen connections with participants' support systems, and reinforce self-care as a priority.

Working with Youth: Recruitment, Retention & Rapport, Oh My!**Cassandra Daniels and Mary Kate Chapman**

Are you struggling to recruit youth in your community to support local prevention efforts? Moreso, do they show up to more than one meeting or event? Join us for this dynamic session, full of hands-on activities and opportunities to connect, to learn how to engage youth in meaningful ways in your programming. You'll walk away with ideas on how to recruit youth, keep them connected AND how it all relates to the rapport you build with them. Youth Voice and Choice are imperative to youth-serving programs, and you'll learn how to incorporate these things in easy, practical steps. If you work with youth, don't miss this one!

Trauma and At-Risk Juveniles : Understanding the Impact of Trauma on At-Risk Juveniles and Coping with its Secondary Effects on Juvenile Justice Practitioners**Preston Gaaney**

During this session, participants will gain an understanding of the impact of trauma and withdrawal syndrome on at-risk juveniles and gain an understanding of ways to overcome the traumatic secondary stress experienced by criminal justice practitioners.

Wednesday, August 30th

7:30-9:00am: Conference Check-In

8:00-9:00am: Morning Plenary

WEDNESDAY 6 HOUR WORKSHOPS (9:30am-5:00pm) Sessions– E/F

Ethics in Treating the LGBTQ Community in Addiction and Mental Health: A Comprehensive Examination

Ian Rabb

This workshop facilitated by internationally known speaker, Ian Rabb, will provide an overview of the LGBTQ community and the importance of ethical considerations in addiction and mental health treatment when it comes to this group. Discussions around understanding and defining the LGBTQ community will take place, as well as historical context and societal challenges and the prevalence of addiction and mental health issues in the LGBTQ community. Participants will learn to recognize the diversity within the LGBTQ community, ethical frameworks for treating the LGBTQ community, and the role of professional boundaries. Other topics to be discussed include challenges and disparities in LGBTQ addiction and mental health treatment, promoting ethical practice: strategies and best practices, and chemsex.

Trauma and Recovery: Understanding the Impact of Trauma and its Affects on Sustained Recovery

Sandy Queen

The impact of unhealed trauma can be a major deterrent in recovery from substance abuse, creating a co-occurrence of problems due to the combination of addiction and history of trauma. Often relapse is connected to unhealed, often unrevealed, trauma. This session looks at the effects of trauma on the individual and offers suggestions for developing approaches that will incorporate using the twelve steps for more effective and sustaining recovery.

WEDNESDAY AM 3 HOUR WORKSHOPS (9:30am-12:30pm) Sessions– E

Note: Please review your workshop choices carefully. If you plan on attending a 6 hour workshop on this day then you will not be able to attend a 3 hour workshop.

The Neuroscience of Mood Disorders, Shame, Trauma, and Substance Use Disorders

Merrill Norton

This a new series of presentations on the latest neuroscientific discoveries of Anxiety, Depression, Fear, Shame, Trauma, and Substance Use Disorders (SUDS) developed for behavioral health practitioners. Individuals seeking certification as a Certified Addiction Counselor will gain the basic pharmacology of substance use disorders and experienced counselors will develop an understanding of the neuroscience about the “moods” of substance use disorders. Discussions of the latest neuroscience along with patient case studies will give the practitioner a “roadmap” for educating their patient to various emotional states of substance use disorders. Practical applications of therapeutic approaches will be an important part of this workshop.



WEDNESDAY AM 3 HOUR WORKSHOPS continued (9:30am-12:30pm) Sessions– E

Note: Please review your workshop choices carefully. If you plan on attending a 6 hour workshop on this day then you will not be able to attend a 3 hour workshop.

Adapting Evidenced Based EBP's**Karen Kelly**

The field of substance abuse and mental health care service delivery was forced to change as a result of the COVID Pandemic. Providers struggled and continue to struggle in how to make their programs fit the current climate. Today it is ever so important to understand the need to tailor care, programs, and services to the cultural, social, gender, and other socio-demographic of individuals served for positive outcomes. Communities and individuals benefit when they receive behavioral health services that are clinically proven effective, equitable, and culturally appropriate.

'¿Cómo se dice eso?' (How do you say that?)**Pierluigi Mancini**

(Please note, this workshop will be conducted in Spanish)

En el mundo de la salud, podemos decir que la capacidad de respuesta lingüística es la capacidad de una organización y su personal para comunicarse de manera efectiva y transmitir información de una manera que sea fácilmente comprensible para diversas audiencias, incluidas personas con LEP, aquellas que tienen pocas habilidades de alfabetización o no saben leer y escribir, personas con discapacidades y personas sordas o con dificultades auditivas. Este taller ayudará a capacitadores y otras personas interesadas a comprender algunos de los matices involucrados al entregar información creada originalmente en inglés para una audiencia de habla inglesa a otro idioma para ser entregada a personas de diferentes culturas y diferentes interpretaciones de los trastornos por uso de sustancias, el tratamiento y recuperación.

[English translation of workshop description: In the healthcare world we can say that Linguistic Responsiveness is the capacity of an organization and its personnel to communicate effectively and convey information in a manner that is easily understood by diverse audiences including persons of LEP, those who have low literacy skills or are not literate, individuals with disabilities, and those who are deaf or hard of hearing. This workshop will help trainers and other interested parties understand some of the nuances involved when delivering information originally created in English for an English-speaking audience into another language to be delivered to individuals from different cultures and different understandings of substance use disorders, treatment and recovery.]

Diversity/Equity/Inclusion and Health Disparities Among Black Gay Men**Lawrence Bryant**

This interactive workshop will examine factors that influence the etiology, prevention and treatment of substance use disorder among Black gay men. Topical areas include: Substance use and health disparities, the need for specialized training for healthcare professionals in working with this population, the impact of racial and ethnic intersectionality on self-perception, and promoting culturally responsive person centered care. Moreover, participants will have an opportunity to assess their own cultural biases when working with people who are different by exploring Pamela Hays ADDRESSING Model. The notion of cultural competence and cultural humility will also be introduced.

WEDNESDAY AM 3 HOUR WORKSHOPS continued (9:30am-12:30pm) Sessions– E

Note: Please review your workshop choices carefully. If you plan on attending a 6 hour workshop on this day then you will not be able to attend a 3 hour workshop.

Taking Care of Ourselves as Prevention Professionals

Michael Davis

Prevention professionals face the daunting task of doing our prevention work and maybe not seeing our health outcomes data change for years. So how do we continue to do it? We must incorporate our own healthy habits and practices into our lives to ensure that we thrive so we can do the best work possible. This session will explore the aspects of wellness, develop a self-care plan, and learn how to incorporate wellness into our prevention programs and agencies.

Responding to Suspect Opioid Overdose Clusters in Georgia

Caroline Baer, Dario Bilakovic, Katie Kassa, and Katy Freund

Opioid overdose clusters are an increasingly frequent occurrence throughout Georgia. Responding to suspect overdose clusters requires deft action and strong partnerships locally and state-wide to validate overdose clusters, alert local communities, and prevent further overdoses. These events are often the center of local and statewide news and conversation, yet little is explored publicly about the response to these clusters and what happens behind the scenes. Team members of the Georgia Department of Public Health's Opioid and Substance Misuse Response Program and Drug Surveillance Unit invite you to join this session to lift the curtain on overdose cluster response and what happens after the response to reflect the ever-changing landscape of overdoses and substance use in Georgia. This engaging and interactive presentation is geared towards those who want to learn more about suspect cluster identification and response as well as contribute to local and state prevention efforts.

How to Transform Your Impact by Becoming an Agent of Change-Step by Step

Kristin Kidd

Do you want to make a difference in your organization and in the larger community? In this interactive training, we will learn how to become a change agent by generating new approaches, pushing the boundaries, and mobilizing others to do the same. This training will introduce some of the skills, confidence, and collaborative community-centered approach needed to promote policies, systems, and environmental-level change. Participants will unpack and explore our 10-step policy framework to transform their approach, broaden their reach and strengthen their impact. This session will encourage participants to think more broadly about the benefits of changing the social context and the opportunities that policy and system-level change can provide to impact alcohol, tobacco, and other drug (ATOD) issues at the community level.

V.O.I.C.E. - Violent Offender Intervention Counseling & Education

Sherrie Gilbert and Giri Peterson

Participants in this workshop will learn how to use communication to reduce stress and tension that escalates into anger, how to use tone, pitch, volume and clarity to express different emotions, learn how to use your voice to effectively de-escalate conflict and potential violence, how to anticipate potential conflict by recognizing verbal and non-verbal cues, and become an emotionally intelligent negotiator through emotional perception and emotion and anger management.



WEDNESDAY PM 3 HOUR WORKSHOPS (2:00pm-5:00pm) Sessions– F

Note: Please review your workshop choices carefully. If you plan on attending a 6 hour workshop on this day then you will not be able to attend a 3 hour workshop.

New Discoveries on Vaping and the Adolescent Brain**Merrill Norton**

This presentation is for professionals who work with adolescents challenged with vaping kratom, nicotine, and marijuana. An explanation of the effects of vaping kratom, marijuana, and tobacco products on the developing adolescent brain from recent neuroscientific research and the serious aspects of e-cigarette and vaping use associated lung injury (EVALI) will also be a part of our discussions. An overview of the newest vaping products available will also be given.

Mental Health Disparities Within Underserved Populations**Taneika Williams**

This presentation will explore mental health disparities among populations that are underserved within communities. What are disparities? Why do they exist? We will answer these questions and uncover some of our own biases toward mental health and treatment. During the session, we will discuss contributing factors to these disparities and brainstorm strategies to help reduce the stigma associated with mental illness.

Collaboration and Partnerships with Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Agencies**Charles Rambo**

Delivered as a lecture the participant will gain an in-depth knowledge of the role of law enforcement in collaborating with mental health professionals in accordance to Title 37 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated. The participant will be able to relate to past and current challenges that law enforcement officers encounter with persons who are mentally ill or substance abusers in communities and correctional facilities, cite the types of involuntary commitments law enforcement personnel perform when taking persons into custody and delivering to emergency receiving facilities, and identify de-escalation practices to facilitate cooperation in law enforcement/patient interaction.

"Know Your Liability": Legal Liability in Substance Abuse Treatment**Stephanie Burkes**

The law provides a framework for practice, ensures compliance, and gives practitioners and treatment facilities the authority and duties needed to do the job properly. In substance abuse treatment, providers are responsible for knowing multiple laws and regulations. Lack of legal knowledge can be catastrophic and lead to incarceration and/or harsh financial responsibility. For example, between 2020 and 2022, two legal cases alone amounted to \$199 million in settlement awards in malpractice lawsuits against two addiction treatment centers in Georgia. In this workshop, participants will learn how law is created, governed, and enforced in the US. Participants will engage discussion on relevant case law to better understanding professional risk and responsibilities. Participants will learn valuable skills to consider the likelihood of and minimize legal liability. This workshop will be relevant to all provider types in the substance abuse treatment setting.

Setting the Tone: Creating a Culturally Responsive Space**Marissa Carlson**

How does a behavioral health provider or educator create a safe space for their participants, students, or other stakeholders to be themselves? While large gestures, decorations, and statements can be important, what are some of those smaller steps that can be woven through from day to day, in structured programming and services, as well as during more informal interaction points? This workshop will explore ways to make our work settings more welcoming and inclusive, and is appropriate for attendees with various levels of experience of having put these ideals into action.

WEDNESDAY PM 3 HOUR WORKSHOPS continued (2:00pm-5:00pm) Sessions– F

Note: Please review your workshop choices carefully. If you plan on attending a 6 hour workshop on this day then you will not be able to attend a 3 hour workshop.

Preach the WORD: Strategies for Effectively Reaching the African American Faith Sector for Increasing Prevention Efforts

Albert Gay and Tracy Johnson

This workshop is intended to equip prevention focused coalitions and professionals with effective tools to work with African American churches. Why would this be of importance? Churches have been a cornerstone for movements of change within most African American communities. Prevention efforts that want to have an impact of lowering substance misuse and influencing causal factors within these communities should understand this history and work to partner with these long existing stalwarts. We see prevention science and faith as natural partnerships waiting to be strengthened for the sake of creating more effective strategies in impacting substance misuse problems and consequences. This workshop will focus on identifying the unique substance use challenges confronting African American communities, examining the role of faith-based organizations in substance use prevention, and devising effective outreach, engagement, and prevention strategies.

Training of Paraprofessionals to Prevent Non-Prescribed Substance Use Among Marginalized Youth in Rural and/or Economically Disadvantaged Communities

Irene McClatchey, Monica Nandan, Seneca Vaught, and Kandice Porter

In this workshop, participants will learn how an innovative curriculum supported by a federal grant is being used to train undergraduate students from diverse backgrounds (academic and demographic) to become behavioral health paraprofessionals in order to prevent non-prescribed substance use among marginalized youth in rural and/or economically disadvantaged communities. This innovative curriculum, which uses a heavy interdisciplinary and diverse approach, is described in detail.

You Can Make ADVOCACY Your Superpower!

Ester Lopez, Nicole Densmore, and Brian Miller

Advocacy can be one of the most intimidating aspects of prevention. Concerns range from "I don't know enough", "there are others who are more equipped", or "meeting with legislators is very scary". Margaret Mead said "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." Each one of us has a role to play in bringing about change in the world. No matter what issue in the prevention field you are addressing, no matter what type of funding you receive, and no matter how long you've been in prevention, you can be an advocate. The purpose of this workshop is to guide participants to: Identify, Prepare, and Act in regard to advocacy.



Thursday, August 31st**8:00-9:00am: Closing Plenary****THURSDAY 3 HOUR WORKSHOPS (9:30am-12:30am) Sessions– G****Without a Relationship There is No Supervision: Tending the Supervisory Relationship****Lewis Kola**

The goal of counseling is to increase richness and quality of life, while the goal of supervision is to increase richness and quality of counseling. What determines the richness and quality of both counseling and supervision are the context and the content of the relational matrix. Therefore, this presentation will examine the fundamental elements of supervisory relationships from a psychodynamic perspective.

Strategies to Address the Treatment Needs of the Elder Client**Lindy Lewis**

As the population of the United States continues to age, corresponding increases have been noted among those admitted to substance abuse treatment. Drawing from principles of Cognitive Behavior Theory, Behavioral Activation, and Reminiscence Theory, this presentation will provide some practical strategies to enhance treatment to meet the specific needs of the elder substance abuse client. The presentation will highlight key developmental issues and characteristics of elders followed by specific intervention strategies to address the needs resulting from those aspects of the elder experience. Incorporation of cognitive remediation techniques will also be included.

Serving Military Families Treatment and Resource Needs**Susanah Stone**

This workshop takes a closer look at the culture of the military and its families, issues affecting treatment, and sources of support. Tools will be provided to enhance the professional's effort to provide culturally appropriate therapeutic interventions and resources to the veteran population/families.

Enhancing Relationship Skills and Patterns While Sustaining Recovery**Sharon Grant**

In this interactive workshop, you will learn how to enhance relationship skills and patterns while supporting long-term recovery for your clients. We will explore effective strategies for addressing the impact of addiction on relationships and provide you with the tools you need to help your clients build stronger connections and achieve greater happiness in their relationships. Join us to gain valuable insights and practical techniques that will benefit both you and your clients.

Let the Change Begin: Navigating Life Changes During Recovery**Sandy Queen**

The process of change is scary and confusing for all of us, but most particularly for those who are coming through recovery at a time when they are trying to re-connect to life and make changes that will affect all areas of their lives; physical, mental, social, emotional and spiritual. This session looks at the process of changes and how we can help prepare clients for the scope and depth of changes that will occur during this process.

THURSDAY 3 HOUR WORKSHOPS continued (9:30am-12:30am) Sessions– G

Creating an Inclusive Workplace Environment: Bringing Culture into the Counseling Room

Jaketra Bryant

This workshop will provide evidence based practices and tools for practitioners to utilize when working with clients of color. Research demonstrates that the therapist client relationship is vital in healing and equally important when it comes to being culturally understood. My workshop will introduce clinicians to practical ways to address workplace environments to fit the diverse cultures that represent the clients. In addition, attendees will gain knowledge on how research has shown how the top reasons clients of color select therapist is based on cultural needs. My workshop will aid in providing evidence based practices to enhance practitioners cultural competency through teachings of cultural responsive practices in order to maximize the clients experience in the building of the therapist client relationship.

Truth AND Consequences: Marijuana Legalization in Georgia

Charlotte Spell

"Medical" marijuana is legal in the state of Georgia. Are you curious about what that will look like? In this session, you will learn about how legalization could affect your local community, what types of products could be sold, and potential public health consequences of frequent marijuana use. Most importantly, you will learn what you can do NOW to prevent dispensaries from coming to your community.

The Connection Between Youth Suicide and Electronic Cigarette Use

Amira Abdulhafid

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently released a press release stating that 2.55 million U.S. middle and high school students reported e-cigarette use within the last 30 days in 2022. It has long been known that tobacco products in any form are dangerous for our youth, damaging a brain that is not yet fully developed and also increasing the risk of addiction to other substances. Now new studies have linked e-cigarette use to suicide in adolescents. We know that there is a correlation between substance use and mental health. This workshop aims to dive further into the connection between e-cigarettes and suicide in our youth. We will define mental health and e-cigarettes while reviewing current trends. We will learn about the connection between youth suicides and e-cigarette use while also discussing various strategies to reverse the increasing use of e-cigarettes and improve the mental health of our youth.

Peer Assisted School Transition Project (PAST) Project: Lessons Learned from School-Based Substance Abuse Evidence-Based Practices

Afiya King, Carlos Pavao, NaKia Cross, Hillarie Wise, and Karen Citizen-Wilcox

Substance use is still a prominent issue among adolescents in Georgia with middle and high school students. There is a need for more school-centered prevention programs that are geoculturally tailored to meet the needs of youth. The lack of federal guidance on the effectiveness of evidence-based programs emphasizes this need for innovative school-based programming. This workshop will explore lessons learned from five years of program implementation of the PAST program. This workshop will also explore how the PAST program sought to bridge the gap between evidence-informed practices and local school needs.



THURSDAY 3 HOUR WORKSHOPS continued (9:30am-12:30am) Sessions– G**Partnering with Fire Department to do Prevention Work****Michael Davis and Captain Chad Bird**

In 2019, a partnership between GUIDE and Gwinnett County Fire and Emergency Services (GCFES) started to develop to combat suicide and substance use in our county. GCFES employs more than 1,000 people in various roles in the County. Over the past years, we have trained all employees in QPR, a suicide protocol, and Substance Use Risk Reduction. In this session, we will cover how we built our partnership, details of executing our partnership, and lessons learned from the field. Participants will be learn some of the challenges of this unique partnership, lessons learned from the partnership, and how they can tap into their local first responders for partnerships.



Speaker Bios

Amira Abdulhafid serves as the Program Director for Suicide Prevention. She joined GUIDE in June of 2019. Amira focuses on increasing awareness and resources for suicide prevention, including evidence-based suicide prevention trainings, such as QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) and Youth Mental Health First Aid. Amira received her Bachelor of Arts in Spanish with a Creative Writing minor at Georgia College & State University and earned her Master of Public Health at Georgia State University. After receiving her undergraduate degree, Amira joined the Peace Corps and served as a Youth Development Volunteer in Honduras, where she facilitated education and prevention programs. Amira is passionate about building relationships and sharing knowledge and education to create a healthier community.

Caroline Baer, MPH is the Program Evaluator for the Opioid and Substance Misuse Response Program and the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) since June 2022. Prior to this position, Caroline worked in public health education and program development. She received her B.S. in Public Health from Furman University in 2019 and her MPH in Global Health and Infectious Disease in 2021. Caroline also was an intern at DPH in May 2020 - May 2021.

Dario Bilakovic has been a Project Coordinator for the Opioid and Substance Misuse Response Program at the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) since May 2021. Prior to joining DPH, Dario worked with the International Rescue Committee's Immigration Department and as a Paralegal at an AmLaw 100 firm. Dario received his undergraduate degree in International Studies from Georgia State University in 2012. After graduating, he served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Senegal, West Africa, where he executed grassroots health initiatives to enhance local health programs that address unique local health needs.

Captain Chad Bird has worked in public safety for over 20 years, starting with Grady EMS in 2003. He began with Gwinnett County Fire in 2005, working at multiple stations as a firefighter, paramedic, and officer, and he's worked in their Training Academy for over 10 years. He has served as a critical care flight paramedic for six years and worked at the Shepperd Center for three years. He joined Gwinnett Fire's Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Team in 2008 and assumed the team coordinator role in 2015. As someone struggling with mental health, he is passionate about sharing what he has learned.

Garret Biss is a retired Marine Corps Pilot. Transitioning from a career of military service was a traumatic chapter of Garret's life; one defined by anxiety, panic attacks, and a struggle with substances and alcohol. While surviving this chapter, Garret began a journey of personal discovery and a search for meaning in his life which led to studying the science of human flourishing and emotional wellbeing as it pertains to recovery from addiction. Garret leverages his personal and professional experience as a presenter, certified recovery coach, and as a founder and Executive Director of a recovery residence. His mission is to empower others towards their best life in recovery through curriculum development, providing online programs and recovery mindset coaching.

John Bringuel, MA, RBF, TPNCPC, ICPS has been active in individual and community social change since 1986. He currently works for the Council on Alcohol and Drugs where he is the Prevention/Intervention Program Manager. Over the past twelve years John has been the Project Director for the Georgia Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Initiative and numerous drug prevention initiatives in the state of Georgia. John earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from Georgia State University and a Master of Arts degree in Psychology from The University of West Georgia. He is a Certified Trainer and Trainer of Trainers through City & Guilds National Center for Professional Certification (NCPC) in London, England, and a Qualified Results Based Facilitator (RBF Network). John is an International Certified Prevention

Specialist (ICPS). In Johns 36 years of working in the field of mental health he has worked in an inpatient substance and mental health hospital, conducted hundreds of child protective service investigations, and trained thousands of social service providers and the public at large about everything from the "Truth about Drugs" to "Brains and Behavior" to "How to Keep Your But Out of The Way". John has an intense interest in promoting functional mental health, healthy living, and values and beliefs that create safety and well-being of all in the community and especially the youth.

Jaketra Bryant, is the owner of Jaketra Bryant, Inc. She is a Diversity Strategic Leadership Coach, Consultant and Licensed Professional Counselor, a well-renowned speaker, and advocate for diversity, equity and inclusion issues across the globe. She has been featured in writing columns as the relationship expert on Upscale magazine, and Weightless date.com. With a well rounded background in Biology and Psychology Pre-medicine, Masters in Community Counseling and Doctorate of Leadership (May 2023), she has dedicated over ten years to serving thousands of clients to rebuild and recreate the lives they are destined to live through the focus on mind, body and spirit. Through her work she has helped countless individuals and companies undergo a personal transformation journey leaving them free, and able to serve not only themselves but their families, workplaces, and community better. Jaketra's education and experience far exceeds the average woman. In fact, her teachings encourage you to tap into the authentic highest version of yourself in all spaces. Jaketra's counseling approach uses liberating, social/cultural affirming, mindfulness, and family systems to help clients walk in the abundant life destined for them. Clients often leave feeling heard, empowered, and challenged to break generational cycles, and have fulfilling healthy relationships. May of 2023 Jaketra received her PhD in Leadership

Dr. Lawrence Bryant brings a plethora of experiences and knowledge dealing with substance use disorders (SUD), HIV/AIDS prevention and education, diversity, equity and inclusion training, anti-racism training, and sexual orientation education. He has been successful in developing and implementing a statewide strategic plan for Georgia in response to the opioid and prescription drug overdose epidemic. As a result of this formative work, Dr Bryant received a grant to do a multi-cultural needs assessment among vulnerable populations in support of the Statewide Strategic Plan from the Georgia Department of Public Health. Dr Bryant has published over 20 peer-reviewed articles in the areas of HIV/AIDS, homophobia, racism, and tobacco use prevention, and has been a registered respiratory therapist (RRT) for over 45 years, fighting on the front lines of the Covid-19 pandemic. As a part-time Assistant Professor at Kennesaw State University and Capella, University, Dr Bryant teaches courses in SUD, health and wellness and does research and training in the areas of SUD prevention, treatment, and recovery. Dr Bryant also has over 30 years in long-term recovery.

Stephanie Burkes is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with almost 15 years of experience in the social work profession. She is currently the Director of Residential Services at CaringWorks, Inc. in Atlanta, GA, and she is licensed attorney in the State of Florida. Stephanie's education background consists of a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice with a minor in Political Science; a Masters in Social Work; and a Juris Doctor degree. Stephanie's experience as a social worker range in various settings to include outpatient behavioral health; inpatient psychiatric care; medical social work (hospital setting); policy and administration; medical home health; psychiatric home health; residential treatment; and hospice/end-of-life care. In law school Stephanie focused her studies on family law; healthcare law; criminal law; and research and writing. Stephanie began her legal career with the 20th Circuit State Attorney's Office in Fort Myers, Florida, and she continues to consult with legal professionals in Florida on her areas of expertise and knowledge. Most recently, Stephanie had the honor of conducting workshops on topics to include Essential Connections in Housing and Healthcare (Healthcare Georgia Foundation), A Continuum of Accessible Care through Housing.Help.Hope for the Deaf (American Deafness and Rehabilitation Association), and Structural Ethics (NASW-GA Chapter).



Dr. Lucy R. Cannon, LCSW, LICSW, CAADC, MATS is the CEO/Owner of LEJ Behavioral Health Services, LLC. She is an Adjunct Professor at Clark Atlanta University Graduate School of Social Work and serves on multiple state and healthcare organizations' boards of directors and advisory boards. She is a national trainer and consultant in implementing best practices for human service and healthcare organizations.

Marissa Carlson, MS, CPS, is the Executive Director of the NH Teen Institute, a youth leadership development non-profit. She develops training for TI's youth & adult volunteer staff, and is a trainer for multiple workshops developed through SAMHSA. She is the lead advisor for the Prevention Specialist Credential at the IC&RC and president of the Prevention Certification Board of NH. She sits on the advisory council of the New England Prevention Technology Transfer Center, and graduated with her BA from Pomona College and her MS from Bay Path University.

Mary Kate Chapman serves as GUIDE's Associate Executive Director of Positive Youth Development. Mary Kate is responsible for oversight of the Youth Advisory Board; customized training events for both youth and adults; the coordination of various conferences including the Georgia Afterschool & Youth Development Conference; and other GUIDE events specific to Youth Development. Mary Kate began her journey with GUIDE when she was 17 years old as a Georgia Teen Institute participant. She continued to volunteer and serve as a trainer for GUIDE in various capacities and is now happy to call GUIDE home. Mary Kate is an Internationally Certified Prevention Specialist through the Prevention Credentialing Consortium of Georgia and regularly trains others in the Core Courses required by PCCG. Mary Kate holds a Master of Art in Liberal Studies (English) from Clayton State University and a Bachelor of Science in Communications (Media Studies) from Kennesaw State University. She has presented at local, state and national conferences and is an active member of the National Society of Leadership and Success.

Misti Childers spent six years serving in the US Air Force as an Aerospace Medical Technician where she championed local, state, and federal compliance programs for healthcare delivery teams, worked as a patient advocate and customer service team leader, supervised a team of four medical technicians and was responsible for supply/logistics for a team of eight physicians. Following this, she began her career in Broadcast Media in 2009. To date, she has been recognized as a Regional Digital VIP, New Business Producer of the Year multiple times, Senior Seller in her market for over three years, and founded Red Couch Wednesday.

Dr. Karen Citizen-Wilcox is employed by the Council on Alcohol and Drugs as a Project Manager for the Peer Assisted School Transition Project and an Assistant Project Manager for the Partners in Prevention Program. Prior to working in the field of primary prevention, Karen spent 30 years as a Federal Agent with the US Department of Agriculture, where she was dedicated to ensuring the integrity of public funds. She retired as the Special Agent-in-Charge of the Southeast Region in 2019. Karen is married to Timothy Wilcox and together they have three children and a granddaughter.

Katie Cooper, MPH is a Project Manager with Unified Partnerships where she assists with the planning, implementation, and tracking of government media campaigns. As a former Opioid Prevention Specialist with Georgia's Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, she brings the unique experience of being a partner of Unified Partnerships while managing the Georgia State Opioid Response Campaign.

NaKia S. Cross, MPH, ICPS, currently serves as the Project Manager for the Peer-Assisted School Transition Project (PAST) at the Council on Alcohol and Drugs, Inc., where she works to create resources that transform neighborhoods and combat substance misuse/abuse among children and their families with an age and stage appropriate peer mentoring program by building resiliency with protective factors and reducing risk factors in youth. NaKia earned her Bachelor of Science in Biology, a Chemistry minor, a Maternal and Child Health certificate from Alabama State University, and her Master of Public Health degree from Morehouse School of Medicine. NaKia has over three years of experience

managing a nonprofit and government-sponsored youth-focused program. Still, in this short time, she has increased her expertise in youth development, event planning, and community/stakeholder engagement by staying true to her passion for improving and empowering today's young people through leadership and substance abuse prevention lessons.

Cassandra Daniels serves as the Program Coordinator for Georgia Teen Institute. She joined GUIDE in January 2022. As a member of the Positive Youth Development Team, she is responsible for Youth Action Teams who attend Georgia Teen Institute including providing the teams and their Adult Advisors with support and technical assistance. In addition, she works to recruit new Youth Action Teams, staff Georgia Teen Institute and assist with other related projects. Prior to joining GUIDE, Cassandra worked as a Project Coordinator in substance abuse prevention and served as an Adult Advisor for one of the Youth Action Teams she now supports. The most rewarding facet of her job was watching her students flourish as leaders. Cassandra brings over 20 years of leadership development and training experience with a specialty in financial services. Alongside her experiences, she finds pride in continuous learning and is always eager to acquire more knowledge and new skills. Outside of her work with GUIDE, Cassandra serves on several community boards and volunteers with parents and youth in her community. She especially enjoys spending time with her family, domestic and international travel, playing board games and communing with nature.

Michael W. Davis, Ph.D. serves as GUIDE's Associate Executive Director of Prevention, where he oversees all of GUIDE's prevention strategies, activities and campaigns. Prior to working at GUIDE, Michael's career background was focused mainly on college students. Michael attended the National Conference on Race and Ethnicity (NCORE) and was on the planning committee for the Iowa State Conference on Race and Ethnicity (ISCORE). Michael holds a Ph.D. in Education from Iowa State University, a Master of Science degree in Professional Counseling from Georgia State University and a Bachelor of Science degree in Early Childhood Education from the University of West Georgia. Michael has presented on the local, state, and national levels on leadership, education, prevention and social justice issues.

Nicole Densmore is a native of Lexington, Kentucky, but has resided in the North Georgia area for the last 15 years. She is a graduate of Lee University and holds a Bachelor's degree in Psychology. Nicole is newer to the field of prevention but is excited to learn more about prevention in the fields of substance abuse and suicide prevention. Nicole was the President/CEO of the Chatsworth-Eton-Murray Chamber of Commerce and also worked with the Drug-Free Workplace in Whitfield County's chamber of commerce. She has experience with 4-H and VISTA working with youth and volunteers. Nicole is married to Jimmy Densmore, and together they have an eight-year-old son, Alex. Nicole enjoys spending time with her family and dog, Bailey. She is excited to work alongside and with great community partners and the staff of The Council to grow a healthy community environment in the state of Georgia.

Diane Diver, MBA, CPS-AD, CAC II, LCSW is the Chief Operating Officer and Executive Clinical Director at Recovery Place, Inc. Diane has over thirty years of experience in the medical field. She has held top posts for companies such as Bayer Consumer Care and Mead Johnson Nutritionals. In her capacity as a counselor, Diane has worked at Willingway Hospital in Statesboro, The Recovery House Services in Statesboro, and Coastal Harbor Health System in Savannah before joining the Recovery Place family in 2010. She received her CAC II in 2004 and LCSW in 2015. Ms. Diver is responsible for the day-to-day operations of Recovery Place, Inc. and Recovery Place Community Services. She oversees all clinical services as well as manages the internal evaluation process for all documentation for both the profit and not-for-profit to ensure compliance with external reporting mandates and internal policy. In 2017, she developed Recovery Place's COR-24 Program which is specifically designed to treat individuals and families with opiate use disorders.

Dr. Scott Dunbar, MAC, is a Master Addiction Counselor and is state and nationally certified as an addiction counselor. He has worked in the addiction treatment field for over 50 years. He has a private practice in Dunwoody, GA and is the Director of the DUI Intervention Program for the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health. He has written numer-



ous journal articles and led hundreds of national, regional, and statewide workshops on a variety of counseling and addiction topics. He taught part-time at Georgia State University in the Criminal Justice Department for 25 years. He has 5 children and 9 grandchildren, all geniuses. Scott is a United Methodist clergyman, collects jokes and stories, and may stretch the truth a little sometimes.

Jennifer Finch is a Bowen systems body psycho-therapist and trauma specialist. She is the founder of Be Here Now Mindfulness, LLC, an international nonduality meditation teacher, a teacher trainer, a beguiling writer, an avid non-fiction reader and practitioner of a small private practice dedicated to embodiment and trauma recovery. She has studied under many influential trailblazers in the somatic psychology field including: Dr. Gabor Mate, Dr. Peter Levine, Dr. Bessel van der Kolk and Dr. Stephen Porges. In somatic meditation she is currently working under the mentorship of Dr. Reginald Ray, and Dr. Judith Blackstone. Jennifer's work and research lies at the intersection of spirituality and psychology. When she is not voraciously trying to make sense of what she cannot see, you can find her at a music festival dancing in a field with her fun-loving family.

Katy Freund has been the Public Health Analyst in Georgia with the Atlanta-Carolinas High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (ACHITA)/Overdose Response Strategy (ORS) since May 2020. Before that, she spent over seven years with the Fulton County Board of Health in the Medical and Preventive Services Branch working in HIV/STD/TB testing, prevention, and linkage to care as well as coordinating community outreach, leading a team of Disease Intervention Specialists, and managing quality improvement within the communicable disease clinics. Prior to a career in public health, Katy worked in law enforcement as a patrol officer for seven years between the Athens-Clarke County PD and Peachtree City PD. She had the opportunity to join the specialized Downtown Patrol Unit and conduct operations and surveillance with the Drug & Vice Unit at ACCPD. At PTCPD she was selected twice to serve on the Pursuit Review Committee and conducted in-service trainings within the patrol unit. Katy attended the University of Georgia where she received a BA in Anthropology and completed her MPH in Global Health Practice at the University of South Florida. In her free time, she enjoys making pottery, hiking, and cooking.

Anastasia Frimpong serves as the Program Coordinator for the Youth Advisory Board (YAB) under the Positive Youth Development Team and has been part of the GUIDE team since July 2021. Previously, Anastasia worked in foster care as a Therapeutic Foster Care Clerical Office Worker. While in that role, she maintained records, trainings and applications for over 20 foster families and their children. Anastasia attended elementary, middle and high school in Gwinnett and then attended Armstrong (Atlantic) State University where she obtained a Bachelor's of Science in Health Science with a focus on public and community health. While in college, Anastasia was initiated into Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. via the Iota Tau chapter. Through the organization, Anastasia was able to be heavily involved with the community of Savannah, Georgia and realized her passion for working with youth. Anastasia continues to be passionate about youth development and providing equal access to minorities. Since moving back to Gwinnett County, Anastasia is still very much involved with her sorority through the Sigma Omicron Zeta graduate chapter. Through this chapter she has been able to perfect her leadership, fundraising and social media skills, as well as develop into an overall well-rounded person. Outside of her work with GUIDE, Anastasia enjoys being creative whether it be crocheting, crafting or makeup and hair.

Dr. Preston Gainey is a respected Public Safety Training Instructor for the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice. Being certified as a Senior Training Instructor by the State of Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council, and a Master Resiliency Instructor, he facilitates effective basic and specialized training programs in support of the agency mission, effectively enhancing the safety, security, and skills of his DJJ colleagues, partners, and stakeholders. Not only is Dr. Gainey known for his knowledge of the safety and security of incarcerated juveniles, as made evident by being certified as a Juvenile Correctional Officer, his experience as a Counselor and, as well as a School Administrator, he is also well-versed in the care, treatment, and rehabilitation of at-risk youth before and after they enter the Juvenile Jus-

tice System. Dr. Gainey holds an Associate of Science in Criminal Justice, a Bachelor of Science in Psychology, a Master's in Counseling, and a Doctorate in Education Leadership. He has also been involved in research projects that were related to character education, at-risk youth behavior, prevention, remediation, and implementation of professional learning communities. Being a self-proclaimed Worrier Nerd, Dr. Gainey enjoys reviewing and conducting various research projects relating to social, behavioral, and education improvement. In his spare, he enjoys leading mindfulness and meditation sessions with members of his community and finds it fulfilling serving as an advocate for at-risk youth and their parents in various rural communities.

Albert Gay, M.S. was born and raised in Gary, Indiana. He was ordained into the ministry in 1994 and since that time he has worked with youth and communities in many capacities. Albert has been in full time ministry as a youth pastor, where he counseled urban youth in positive directions and provided them with alternative solutions to the "streets." Albert expanded into the Prevention field in 1997 when he was employed by the Boys & Girls Clubs of Northwest Indiana as a Prevention Coordinator. He has received credentials as a Certified Prevention Professional by the Indiana Association of Prevention Professionals in 1999. While attending ministry school in Florida, Albert worked as a Behavioral Specialist with troubled youth. Albert Gay is currently a Master Trainer for TTJ Group, LLC by providing services to non-profit, faith-based and community organizations and governmental entities in developing and implementing technical assistance and training services in an innovative and practical format. Albert Gay obtained his B.A. in English Arts from the historically distinguished, Hampton University in Virginia, and he obtained his Master of Science in Management from Oakland City University in Indiana. He received ministry training from Christian International's Ministry Training College in Florida.

Sherrie Gilbert, MS, LPC is a seasoned professional with an extensive range of expertise, encompassing significant roles as a Licensed Psychotherapist, Police Lieutenant, Corporate Trainer, Speaker, Educator, Entrepreneur, and Best-Selling Author. With an illustrious career spanning over 25 years, Sherrie has showcased her exceptional skill set across diverse domains, including counseling, crisis management, and education. She holds both a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice and a Master of Science in Community Counseling. As a United States Army Veteran, Sherrie boasts a wealth of experience garnered from her contributions to various sectors, including Public and Private Schools, DFCS, Intensive Family Intervention, CORE agencies, DJJ, Law Enforcement, and Corrections. Her extensive credentials as a Critical Incident Stress Management Professional, Disaster Assistance and Response Team Member, Crisis Intervention Team Instructor, Crisis Prevention Specialist, Anger Management Specialist, Crisis Responder, Georgia POST Instructor, and Hostage Negotiator underscore her adeptness in handling high-pressure situations. However, Sherrie's impact goes beyond her professional accolades. She is deeply committed to the realm of education, evidenced by her establishment of notable ventures such as Georgia Psychotherapy and Wellness Services and The Institute of Personal and Professional Development. These institutions stand as testaments to her dedication to fostering quality education and holistic well-being. With an unyielding commitment and a diverse skill set, Sherrie Gilbert actively empowers individuals, equipping them with the tools necessary for success in both their personal and professional journeys.

Lindi Glasgow specializes in health, education, tourism and campaigns that represent vulnerable and hard to reach communities. Recent campaign work includes multiple Covid-19 Awareness and Vaccine Acceptance projects, GA Department of Behavioral Health and Disabilities, SC Department of Alcohol Other Drug Abuse, MS Tourism, AL Education Summer Food Program, NC Community College Systems, TN Voter Registration, SC Voter Education, Fulton County GA Voter Education, AL 2020 Census, GA 2020 Census and Military Learners Now. Qualifications and Responsibilities: Lindi specializes in overseeing comprehensive data-driven strategies and world class campaign development. Skilled in omni-channel brand development, media relations, and behavior change campaigns, she works all campaign deliverables, relentlessly pushing for the best idea, solution, and outcome.



Sharon Grant is an accomplished entrepreneur, possessing over 30 years of collective expertise in the social service field, counseling, coaching, and leadership development. She has successfully managed a private practice and is the proud proprietor of Oasis of Serenity Counseling & Consulting Services. Sharon is a United States Marine Corps Veteran, breast cancer survivor, wife, and mother, and she brings her unique perspective and unwavering commitment to every client interaction. She earned a master's degree in professional counseling from Argosy University and is a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC), Marriage Coach, and Certified Prepare/Enrich Trainer and Facilitator. With Sharon's wealth of experience in workshop facilitation and training other facilitators, she has become a respected authority in her field. By providing counseling and coaching services, she enables couples to cultivate emotional stability, satisfaction, and longevity in their relationships. Her highly effective relationship strategies have assisted countless couples in forming stronger bonds and achieving greater happiness in their relationships. Sharon's career spans over 10 years in the substance abuse industry. She is a Clinical Evaluator for the DBHDD DUI Intervention Program. Drawing upon her dual expertise as a licensed professional counselor and marriage coach, Sharon conducts comprehensive evaluations of individuals' relationship patterns and overall relationship health, with a particular focus on the impact of addiction. Sharon's approach integrates counseling and education to provide individuals in substance abuse recovery with effective tools and strategies for enhancing their relationships and achieving long-term recovery. In addition to her counseling and coaching services, Sharon is an Independent Certified Coach, Trainer, and Speaker with the Maxwell Leadership Team. She specializes in personal development coaching and workshops that cultivate leadership skills and empower individuals to achieve their maximum potential. Sharon is a published author in a book anthology, *Couples Determined to Making Marriage Great*, and has been a guest contributing writer for *Upscale Magazine*, where she shares her expertise on relationships. When she's not working with clients, Sharon enjoys spending time with her family. With her dedication to helping others live their best lives, Sharon is a respected collaborator for individuals pursuing healthy relationships, accomplishing their goals, and fulfilling their ultimate potential.

Erika Goyer has worked for more than a decade Erika in the nonprofit community providing health education, peer-to-peer support, and community-based services for high-risk and underserved populations. Working under grants from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Maternal Child Health Bureau (MCHB), and Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN) programs Erika has collaborated with community groups, universities, corporations, national organizations, and state agencies to improve outcomes for families of premature infants, babies born with special health care needs, children with special educational and developmental needs, and pregnant and parenting people affected by substance dependence.

Hailey Hazard, MPH, CHES, is the Program Coordinator for MotherToBaby Georgia at the Center for Maternal Substance Abuse and Child Development, which is housed in Emory University School of Medicine. In that role, she provides up-to-date information for individuals of childbearing age regarding exposures during pregnancy and breastfeeding. She attends community events and does outreach efforts for individuals who are or may become pregnant, including young women, and their healthcare providers. Hailey works on social media-based efforts to disseminate health information to these individuals for MotherToBaby and writes fact sheets and blogs as well. She has a background in community development and education during her time with Peace Corps Ukraine where she led health education demonstrations, coordinated day camps for children living with HIV/AIDS, and facilitated trainings for teachers. She holds a public health certificate in complex humanitarian emergencies and is an active member of both the Fulton and DeKalb County Medical Reserve Corps groups. Hailey is passionate about helping people make informed decisions about their health and wellbeing.

Heather Herrington currently serves as the Director of the Northeastern Judicial Circuit Treatment Services agency in Hall and Dawson County, GA. She has worked with the accountability courts since 2006 and started her career as a counselor with the Hall County Drug Court program. Ms. Herrington is a Licensed Professional Counselor, Certified Professional Counselor Supervisor, Certified Master Addiction Counselor and a Certified Clinical Supervisor through the

Georgia Addiction Counselors Association. She serves as the clinical supervisor for all of the staff working within Treatment Services and uses her counseling, supervision, and administrative experience to help train newer counselors in the field.

Gina Hutto, LPC, MAC, CPCS, CAADC, CCJP, ICGC-I, BC-TMH, MATS is the current Director of Court Services (DUI, Drug & Family Treatment Courts) for View Point Health. Gina has been with View Point Health since 1996, working with substance use disorders, mental health, and co-occurring clients. Prior to coming to work for View Point Health, she worked for 5 years as a Counselor Offender Rehabilitator with the Georgia Department of Corrections. Gina currently manages the treatment components of the Accountability Courts (DUI, Drug, & Family Treatment Courts) in Gwinnett and Newton counties. She began her work with Accountability Courts in 2005 and has a passion for this work. Gina has a B.A. in Psychology, as well as an M.A. in Education/Community Counseling from the University of Georgia. Gina specializes in working with substance use disorders, gambling and other addictive diseases, as well as court mandated programs and clients.

Monaletto C. Irby has spent nearly 25 years working in the Youth Service Field in Alabama and Georgia. Mr. Irby has served in several capacities to include Case Manager (Mental Health), Counselor and Program Director (Drug Treatment Center), and Director (Youth Challenge Academy) servicing youth in Alabama; before moving to Georgia in 2007. He is currently employed with Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice for 15 years serving as a Juvenile Probation/Parole Specialist for almost 4 years before moving to the Office of Training, where he has served as a Regional Training Coordinator for the Southern and Northern Regions. Irby also served as the Program Coordinator for the Basic Community Service Training (Probation/Parole Specialist) from 2014-2016. Irby was most recently the Training Program Manager for the Northern Region. In February 2022, Irby was promoted to Deputy Director in the Office of Professional Development, where he has oversight of Field Operations Team. Irby also currently serves on the Office of Professional Development Advisory Team. He also served 6 years on the agency's Policy Committee. Irby earned his Master Training Instructor Certification through the Georgia Peace Officer Standard and Training (P.O.S.T.). Irby also made good on a vision and started his own business in May of 2020. Motivated Intervention Solutions, LLC. Focused on Leadership and Staff Development Training. He is invested in his community and lends a great deal of time speaking to groups on at-risk youth behaviors, facilitating at youth summits and youth conferences on gang activity/violence, and bullying. Irby is often featured as a guest panelist at boy's self-improvement conferences as well as mentorship conferences. Irby is dedicated to encouraging youth to seek their full potential and training youth service workers on the best practices of dealing with at risk youth and their families. Irby believes in encouraging youth and challenging them to face their fears and overcome obstacles. He is often quoted as saying, "I encourage, because I was encouraged". He is the current Ministry Lead for The Circle of Sons a boy's mentoring group at his church. Irby is a member of Georgia Juvenile Services Association, American Probation Parole Association (APPA) and National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice (NABCJ). Irby is the Immediate Past Georgia State Director for Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc (2019-2023). He is married to his beautiful wife Charlisa Irby and has one daughter, Kaelyn.

Dr. Douglas Jackson has over twenty-eight years of social work experience and has conducted social science research, evaluation of practice, quality assurance and written grants. Dr. Jackson facilitated the introduction of Trauma Informed Yoga into DJJ facilities and facilitates DJJ involvement in Dr. Ashli Owen-Smith's NIH funded Trauma Informed, Mindfulness-Based Yoga (TIMBY) evaluation. Dr. Jackson is a certified trainer in the Community Resiliency Model® (CRM) and has participated in CRM trainings across Georgia. Dr. Jackson is also a certified Mindfulness Teacher. Dr. Jackson received his bachelor's degree at Northwestern University and his masters and doctorate at the University of Georgia. His dissertation examined factors that predict which juveniles will become involved in episodes of self-harm and/or fights. Dr. Jackson is married to Laura Leiden and has two grown children, and two grandchildren.



Tracy Johnson has worked closely with nonprofits, small businesses and communities in helping them with community organizing, environmental strategies, strategic planning, Substance Abuse Prevention, Coalition Building, cultural diversity and effective program. He has led projects in working with states and communities on effective substance abuse prevention strategies. Has extensive knowledge of SAMHSA's Strategic Prevention Framework process and Strategic Initiatives. He is the Director of Training and Technical Assistance for SheRay's & Associates, LLC, Los Angeles, CA. He leads and directs the training needs of clients and as well as development and implementation of training plans. He identifies experts needed to fulfill the client's needs. He oversees the 60+ expert Associates and Consultants utilized around the United States. He was the Management Officer at Invitation Health Institute, an affiliate of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota, where was a member of the Management team in guiding the day to day operations as well as developing and implementing the organization's business strategies. He provided leadership in identifying and securing revenue for additional products and services offered by the company via partnerships and collaborations and contractual bidding. He identified and builds business partnerships with local, state and the federal governments to secure additional funding. He enhanced and builds relationships with federal partners (SAMHSA, Justice, U.S. National Guard, White Office of National Drug Control Policy, Administration of Children & Families, and U.S. Department of Education) to identify policy initiatives and potential contractual opportunities. He has received numerous certificates in training in prevention including awards for crime prevention as well as being the lead facilitator for a northern Illinois urban city for its comprehensive crime prevention plan. He was former President and is now lead consultant of Martin Luther King Jr. Community Services of Illinois. He led the implementation of a CSAP "High Risk Youth" grant in reducing substance abuse in high risk communities. He enjoys jogging and spending time with his grandchildren.

Katie Kassa has been the Program Coordinator for the Drug Surveillance Unit (DSU) at the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) since February 2018. The Drug Surveillance Unit monitors overdose trends in Georgia and provides drug surveillance data to the public and to partners working to end the opioid and drug overdose epidemic. Katie received her undergraduate degree in Political Science and Anthropology from St. Olaf College in 2012. After graduating, she served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Senegal, West Africa, where she worked in health education. In 2017, Katie graduated from Emory University with an MPH in Global Health with a concentration in Complex Humanitarian Emergencies. Currently, she is a part-time student at the Georgia State University College of Law.

Dr. Karen Kelly, Ph.D., LPC, NCC, MAC, ACRPS, CCS, CPSIV, CCJS, BCTH, BCC and Founder/CEO Circle of Recovery, Inc. Dr. Kelly's professional experience includes over 40 years working in diverse clinical settings. Dr. Kelly's has held a variety of diverse positions. Her most current position, Military Family Life Counselor She is a past President of The Georgia Addiction Counselor Association. The organization is responsible for the certification of addiction counselors in the state of Ga. She is co-founder, and a past President of S.A.S.S.Y, a non-profit organization that supports the special needs population. In addition, she is the founding president of Circle of Recovery, Inc. Dr. Kelly currently holds certifications as a Licensed Professional Counselor, Nationally Board Certified Counselor, a Nationally Certified Life & Recovery Coach, Certified Psychotherapist, a Master Level Addictions' Counselor, Board Certified Interventionist Level II, Nationally Advanced Certified Relapse Prevention Specialist, Certified Clinical Supervisor, Certified Criminal Justice Specialist, Certified Prevention Specialist Level IV, Certified Anger Management Facilitator, Clinical Supervisor, Certified Tele-a-mental Health Counselor, and a Certified Risk Reduction Instructor and is a Nationally Certified Trainer/Instructor through NAADAC/SAMSHA. Dr. Kelly's is a member of LPCA, NADAAC, a member of NAMA, and a member of the American Counseling Association (ACA).

Kristin Kidd, MA, is the Coordinator for the Southeast Prevention Technology Transfer Center (PTTC) at Wake Forest University School of Medicine where she manages the Center's training and technical assistance for the substance misuse prevention professionals. Her focus area is on environmental strategies, specifically local policy change. She has developed and delivered both synchronous and asynchronous trainings focused on the policy process. Kristin is also the Principle Investigator for the North Carolina Behavioral Health Equity Initiative which partners with nine NC com-

munity agencies to improve health disparities at the local level. Prior to her employment with Wake Forest, Kristin was the Director of the Tobacco Control Training and Technical Assistant Team at the Colorado School of Public Health in Denver. There her team was charged with providing state-wide advocacy and policy guidance to local health agencies to eliminate tobacco disparities. Kristin partnered with multiple Colorado communities to successfully pass local tobacco control policies such as retailer licensing and expanded smoke-free/vape-free ordinances. She holds a Master of Arts in Anthropology from Wake Forest University.

Afiya King, MPH, MCHES, ICPS, serves as the Associate Director of the Prevention/Intervention division at the Council on Alcohol and Drugs. Afiya earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and Chemistry from Georgia State University and her Master of Public Health degree from Morehouse School of Medicine. Afiya came to the Council from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and brought with her energy and enthusiasm for public health and prevention. Afiya has since been with the Council for 15 years and has advanced through numerous Council programs across the state to address substance misuse/abuse, help transform neighborhoods, and uplift both children and their families. As an ambassador for social change, Afiya has several years of experience working with youth and young adults to address substance use prevention and its related risk factors from their perspective. Afiya has dedicated her life to creating resources that transform neighborhoods, combat substance misuse/abuse, and children and their families. Afiya currently leads a team of 14 Council staff members on the Partners in Prevention Project, Peer Assisted School Transition Project, Atlanta Drug Free Communities Support Program, and the SUPER Stop! program. During her tenure, Afiya has been recognized for outstanding achievement. Afiya was the recipient of the 2018 Ray Avant Excellence in Prevention Award for the state of Georgia. In 2020, Afiya was chosen as one of the Top 10 Under 40 by her alma mater, Morehouse School of Medicine. Afiya was also awarded the 2020 Atlanta Black 40 Under 40 Award presented by Everything Atlanta Magazine. Afiya is a kind, but strong force and uses her positive attitude and tireless energy to encourage others to work hard and succeed.

Lewis Kola is passionate about the formation and the development of the person of the clinician and specializes in the care of souls. Lewis is licensed both as a professional counselor and marriage and family therapist. He is an Approved AAMFT Supervisor. Lewis loves learning and teaching about psychology and theology and their intersections with clinical supervision. Lewis believes that teaching and learning are not mutually exclusive.

Jennifer S. Kramer, M.Ed. has been an educator for over 23 years and has served as an Assistant Principal, development officer, athletic director, teacher, coach, and educational lobbyist. Currently, Jennifer is a Co-Founder and serves as the Superintendent of My Life My Power International (MLMPI) Prep Academy. She also serves as COO of My Life My Power (MLMP) non-profit. She has developed multiple Social Emotional Learning (SEL) education and prevention based programs for grades 1-12 in various disciplines. For the past four years, Jennifer has participated in the National Educator Summit & National Mentorship Summit in Washington DC to discuss the importance of SEL Curriculum in the United States. Lastly, Jennifer serves as the Prevention Director for the Atlanta Carolinas-High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (AC-HIDTA) funded by the Office Of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) project in which MLMP is providing their GPS for SUCCESS program and training to educators, military, and law enforcement in over 18 states.

Dr. Lindy Lewis, PhD, LCSW-C received his BASW from Salisbury University, M.S.W. and PhD. at the University of Maryland School of Social Work. He has worked in the field of substance abuse treatment for over 30 years in a variety of settings including outpatient, inpatient and correctional settings with both adolescent and adult populations--serving in many roles from clinician to supervisor and administrator. Currently, I provide substance abuse and mental health consultation, brief therapy, and clinical hypnosis for patients in primary care facility and an outpatient mental health clinic. Additionally, as time permits, he serves as a grant review panelist for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. He is an adjunct faculty member at several institutions primarily teaching courses in substance use and co-occurring disorders and treatment: psychopharmacology and research methods.



Ester Lopez is the Assistant Director of the Prevention / Intervention Division of the Council on Alcohol and Drugs. Ester also serves as the Project Director for Voice for Prevention, Project Director for the Partners in Prevention Project for Banks, Habersham, and Franklin Counties, and the Program Director for the Gordon Prevention Initiative, a Drug-Free Communities grantee. Ester has worked for the Council for 14 years and has worked in the prevention field for over 25 years. In 2022, Ester was awarded the Ray Avant Excellence in Prevention award. Her undergraduate degree is in Applied Behavioral Sciences, and she completed a Master's in Prevention Science in 2020. Ester has two adult children and has been happily married for 23 years. Approximately 25 years ago, Ester began a Christmas Village collection for her children that has now grown to well over 300 pieces with trains, mountains, buildings, and even a baseball field. To relax, Ester enjoys hand-knitting chunky blankets while watching documentaries.

Jewana Lowe has a master's degree in psychology and counseling, obtained from Troy State University. She is a certified clinical supervisor and a certified alcohol and drug counselor and has been working as a program director in an MAT program (Bainbridge Treatment Center) since June 2006. She has been working in the substance abuse/behavioral health field for over 28 years. She works part time for CARF International, which gives her the chance to see the operations of other MAT programs. Since 1999, she has also worked with her church, Second United, as an administrator. Jewana has dedicated her life to helping others find their full potential. In her leisure time, she sells paparazzi jewelry.

Pierluigi Mancini PhD, is one of the most sought after national and international consultants and speakers on the subject of mental health and addiction. His areas of expertise are cultural and linguistic responsiveness, immigrant behavioral health, social and racial justice, health equity and health disparities. Dr. Mancini founded Georgia's only Latino behavioral health program in 1999 to serve the immigrant population by providing appropriate mental health and addiction treatment and prevention services in English, Spanish and Portuguese. Nationally, he has provided expert content to clients at the local, state and federal level. Internationally, he has provided consulting in Mexico, Italy, Colombia, Cuba, Kuwait and Kosovo. He recently led a project to train clinicians in Latin America who are taking care of over 4 million displaced Venezuelans in the region. He serves as the Chair-Elect on the Board of Directors for Mental Health America National, on the Board of Directors for R.I. International and the Advisory Council for The Center for Victims of Torture. www.multiculturaldevelopment.com

Irene Searles McClatchey, Ph.D., LCSW, is a professor emerita and former Director of the Master of Social Work Program in the Wellstar College of Health and Human Services at Kennesaw State University where she taught clinical skills and courses in death, dying & bereavement. Her research centers around youth mental health including childhood traumatic grief and post-traumatic growth. She is the founder of Camp MAGIK, a healing camp for bereaved children and teens; first held in 1995 it serves 200+ children and their families a year.

Brian Keith Miller received a Master's degree in Architecture from Clemson University where he studied abroad at the Daniel Center in Genoa, Italy. Born and raised in Griffin, Georgia, he moved to New York City in 2007 to pursue a career in architecture. On December 2, 2008, Brian was laid off as a result of the economic crisis. The summer of 2009 brought about a milestone for Brian. He published his first book, *Turning Red Lights Green*, which chronicles his journey from tragedy to triumph. In *Turning Red Lights Green*, Brian encourages people to channel their passions when overcoming a life-altering moment. In September 2009, this manifested itself in his own life when he founded Sole Plus, Inc. Sole Plus is a non-profit organization whose aim is to create a unique fusion of artistic expression and social activism for America's youth. Since its inception, Sole Plus has facilitated workshops in various middle schools and high schools in which youth express feelings, thoughts, and emotions on a blank canvas, the Converse All-Star shoe. The shoes are then donated to individuals living in homeless and children's shelters. Sole Plus secured a sponsorship agreement with Converse and successfully expanded to eight Converse markets. In 2011, Brian founded ARTkitect Design Lab, a multidisciplinary design studio with capabilities ranging from architectural design to corporate marketing and

branding. One of his earliest clients was The Council on Alcohol and Drugs for which he created graphic and video assets for many of their alcohol and drug awareness campaigns. After nearly nine years as a contractor, Brian took on the role of Marketing and Communications Manager for The Council in May 2022.

Dr. Monica Nandan began her career in social work over 30 years ago and has taught in BSW and MSW programs. She has also worked for private business and nonprofit organizations. Her research, teaching and practice has been in behavioral health, gerontology, health care, social work, social entrepreneurship, and interprofessional practice and education. Her publications in these fields are in journals such as: *Human Service Organizations: Management, Leadership, & Governance*; *Journal of Interprofessional Care*; *Journal of Allied Health*; *International Journal of Social Entrepreneurship and Innovation*; and, *Journal of Cross-Cultural Gerontology*, to name a few. Presently her service and scholarly activities are in the realm of behavioral health and first responders, and global social entrepreneurship. She has served as a Chair (8 years) and Interim Dean (2 years) and currently serves as a Director for Strategic Partnerships and Social Impact for the Wellstar College of Health and Human Services at Kennesaw State University, Kennesaw, GA.

Michael Nerney is a consultant in substance abuse prevention and education, with over thirty years' experience in the field. As the former Director of the Training Institute of Narcotic and Drug Research, Inc. (NDRI), his responsibilities included the management of a statewide training system which delivered more than 450 training programs to substance abuse treatment and prevention professionals annually. Mike's particular areas of expertise include Psychopharmacology, Adolescent Chemical Dependency, Relapse Prevention, Gender Differences in Communication, and Managing Violent Incidents. He is an internationally known lecturer, and has served as consultant to a number of federal and state agencies. He has been a consultant for two of the major television networks and has appeared on the ABC program "20/20.

Dr. Merrill Norton is a Clinical Associate Professor at the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy with his specialty areas to include psychopharmacology and addiction pharmacy. He has also been a faculty member of the Fairleigh-Dickinson University Postdoctoral Training Program in the Masters of Psychopharmacology, Alliant International University of San Francisco College of Psychology, University of Georgia School of Continuing Education, and Berry College in the areas of Psychopharmacology and Addiction Pharmacy. His area of specialty in addiction pharmacy is the management of chronic pain in the substance use disordered patient. Dr. Norton completed his undergraduate and graduate work at the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy. He accomplished a 3 year addiction medicine fellowship under the direction of Douglas Talbott MD at Ridgeview Institute and has state, national, and international credentials in the treatment of mentally ill/addicted/chronic pain individuals. Recently, Dr. Norton received an Emmy from the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences' Southeastern Chapter for his work on the Spanish language documentary *Prescription Drugs, Legally Dangerous*. The award was presented to a collaboration of experts in the field of addiction pharmacy and medicine for their participation and contributions to the production, which describes the dangers of prescription drug abuse in Latino populations. His new books, *The Pharmacology of Substance Use Disorders* and *The Practitioners' Guide to Opioid Use Disorders* were released in December 2018.

Carlos A. O. Pavão is a Clinical Associate Professor and Assistant Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at Georgia State University School of Public Health. He has more than 25 years of public health practitioner experience at the local and national levels. Throughout his career, he has focused on the nexus between dissemination research and innovative public health programming, specifically for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT), and linguistic minority populations. Dr. Pavão's academic field of interest is in HIV/AIDS, mental health, and substance misuse. His research and scholarship have focused on program evaluation, community based participatory research, community engagement, and health inequities. He earned his doctorate from Texas A&M University Health Science Center's School of Public



Health in health behavior, as well as a master's degree in public administration from Bridgewater State University, and a bachelor's degree in history and anthropology from Brandeis University.

Dr. Giri J. Peterson is a highly experienced professional with a passion for helping underprivileged and low-income individuals and families. With a background in consulting and counseling, he has worked extensively with nonprofits and collaborated with the Department of Family and Children Services (Child Protective Services). Dr. Peterson has made significant contributions to various media platforms, providing professional insights into critical issues, particularly within our school systems. As a contributing author to the Holy Bible (Oracles of God), Dr. Peterson has imparted his wisdom on the subject of "Love" in a publication by Thomas Nelson Publishing. This achievement propelled him into becoming one of the most sought-after seminar speakers along the East Coast. Currently, he serves as one of the founders and CFO of the Institute of Personal and Professional Development, Inc. (IPPD), an accredited school based in Atlanta, GA. Additionally, Dr. Peterson is the CEO of Dismas Group (Dismas Counseling & Training Services). With his extensive pastoral experience and ordination, Dr. Peterson has pastored multiple churches on the East Coast. He has conducted numerous workshops on important topics such as Conflict Resolution and Anger Management, Divorce Recovery, Parenting, Anxiety Depression and Stress Management, Bullying, and Human Sex Trafficking. These workshops have taken place both domestically and internationally. Dr. Peterson has been involved in panel discussions at renowned institutions such as Southwestern Christian College in TX and Pepperdine University in CA, while also leading breakout workshops at the Southeastern Lectureship of various churches. Alongside his professional endeavors, Dr. Peterson actively serves on numerous boards in GA, MN, FL, and OH. His commitment to community service led him to join the brotherhood of Phi Beta Sigma, Inc. during his graduate studies. This organization emphasizes community service, integrity, and upholding strong principles. Having trained individuals, groups, corporations, schools, military, first responders (Police), churches, and businesses for over 20 years, Dr. Peterson possesses a wealth of experience. Some of his areas of expertise include Certification Instruction, Course/Curriculum Creation, Workshop/Seminar Facilitation, Corporate/Leadership Training, Business Bootcamp Training, Business Consulting, Coaching, and Counseling. Dr. Peterson successfully earned a (B.S.), (M.S.), and (PhD) degrees.. Furthermore, he holds numerous certifications and licenses in various specialty areas such as Substance Abuse Evaluation, Domestic Violence Intervention, Anger Management, Conflict Resolution, Trauma Intervention, Depression Counseling, Parenting Coaching, and Bereavement Support, among others. Dr. Peterson's life's work is dedicated to assisting individuals in navigating life-changing situations and circumstances while providing necessary support to communities at large. He firmly believes that the mind, body, and soul are interconnected, working together to help individuals unlock their full potential and live abundantly.

Jenn Popovich is a therapist and yoga teacher based in San Marcos, TX. She advocates for people to take breaks, regulate often and move their bodies for sustainable wellness. She has been in the mental health field since 2006, and worked at all levels of care. Her main focus in every space she facilitates in, is to discover, dismantle, label, and reform our story and narratives about ourselves and the world around us. She has held a supervisor license since 2015, and has held LPC licensure since 2012. She started her career in AL and GA, and now owns a group practice outside Austin, TX.

Kandice Porter is a Professor and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in the Wellstar College of Health and Human Services at Kennesaw State University. Her teaching and research specializations focus on effective pedagogical approaches to school health education. She works with national, state, and local organizations to promote quality school health efforts. In addition, she has been instrumental in developing interprofessional coursework and research opportunities within the Wellstar College.

Joelle Puccio is a registered nurse who has worked in Perinatal and Neonatal Intensive Care since 2004. They worked for 7 years as the Director of Women's Services for the People's Harm Reduction Alliance, a peer run syringe services program in Seattle, WA, and served on the Board of Directors for 4 years. They are a co-founder of the Academy of Per-

inatal Harm Reduction, whose mission is to improve the lives of pregnant and parenting people who use substances. They have been invited to speak at conferences convened by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Academy of Neonatal Nurses (ANN), the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), and more. They currently travel the country in their RV with their partner and 2 cats as a travel nurse, in order to learn about the experience of families affected by perinatal substance use and pregnancy criminalization in varying geographic areas. They became passionate about advocating for people who use drugs after realizing that everything they had been taught about drugs from childhood through nursing school was wrong.

Sandy Queen has been a presenter at Schools for Alcohol and Drug studies for over 30 years. She has worked with youth and adults throughout the United States and abroad for over 45 years and is known for helping clinicians and clients take a different look at the difficult area of substance use and recovery. She is the recipient of the Halbert Dunn Award, presented by the University of Wisconsin to the most outstanding Wellness Practitioner. Sandy is dedicated to or bringing humor and creativity to even the most serious topics. Her motto: You are Good Stuff! Sandy lives in Columbia, Maryland, and is active in her local community in the areas of mental health, addiction, youth enhancement and spiritual growth and joy.

Dr. Ian Rabb has worked tirelessly over the past 20 years in the areas of mental health, addictions and homelessness. He is passionate about helping people live their best life. Ian is often called upon by all levels of government, the media and businesses to provide advice and guidance. He is an interventionist assisting hundreds of people find recovery from multiple forms of addiction, helping people on their sobriety journey. He is highly regarded as an expert and is a leader in understanding and implementing state-of-the-art techniques and processes to help people maintain sobriety. Ian was recently appointed as the Chief Clinics Officer for Universal Ibogaine, a life sciences company with a mission to research and deliver medicalized ibogaine-centered addiction care. In the Fall of 2021, Ian founded Spirit Rising House, a private service provider of foster care with youth stabilization and wrap around treatment and mental health services in the homes. Ian is Founder and Board Chair of Two Ten Recovery and Destiny House – Winnipeg's only sober living housing organization since 2007. Ian was the visionary founding member of Aurora Recovery Centre in Gimli Manitoba, and prior to his appointment at Universal Ibogaine, he held the position of Director of Business Development at Edgewood Health Network, Canada's only national addiction treatment center brand. Prior to his work in addiction treatment, Ian was a practicing Doctor of Optometry in Chicago, Illinois. Ian speaks internationally on addiction issues and is frequently sought as an addictions expert. Ian was born and raised in Winnipeg, attended the University of Waterloo obtaining a Bachelor of Science, then to the Illinois College of Optometry becoming a doctor of optometry and completing his Masters in Visual Science. Ian lives in Winnipeg, Manitoba with his partner, Trevor and their three dogs. Ian tries to stay active, which he says helps maintain his own balance in life. He is an advocate for health and wellness and passionate about his family and friendships. Ian spends time in summer months at his cabin at Winnipeg Beach and is a proud supporter and fan of the Winnipeg Jet and Winnipeg Blue Bombers.

Charles D. Rambo is retired from the Fulton County Sheriff's Office (FCSO). In his 30-year career as a decorated and accomplished Lieutenant Commander, he holds numerous Georgia Peace Officers' Standards and Training Council (Georgia POST) certifications, including basic, intermediate, senior deputy, supervision, and management. Unequivocally, Charles's subject matter expertise in Sheriff's public and political policy has led transformations in law enforcement, corrections, judicial process, executive protection, tactical, intelligence, human resources, and academy operations. In his long-standing commitment to the constitutional authority of the Sheriff, from the county jail to the streets, Charles applied his skills, knowledge, and abilities to fighting crime and managing operations with evidence-based practices. The highlight of his career was implementing Compstat, a Harvard Kennedy School of Government award, into the FCSO. In interacting with persons with mental illness and substance abuse, Charles's most notable work has been taking a person into custody for involuntary treatment; and managing special needs housing pods to ensure humane conditions and treatment. In the classroom, Charles is a Georgia POST-certified Senior Instructor. His Socratic



approach strategizes critical thinking to organizational results. Central to any lecture is constitutional law, where colleagues and students often regard him as "the gold standard of training" or "the professor." He has provided insights to criminal justice majors who earned top grades on college term papers and projects. In addition, Charles has mentored and evaluated hundreds of candidates in Georgia POST certification courses to become Instructors and Field Training Officers. As the Chief Development Officer of Criminal Justice Online, Charles provides cutting-edge training and development consultation. He has pioneered an accredited program on Curriculum and Organizational Policing Strategies. In addition to expert analysis and commentary in media outlets, Charles is a published author of Apple Books on law enforcement management and operations.

Dr. Davine S. Ricks, LCSW, MAC, E-CADC is a dedicated and enthusiastic leader with over 30 years of experience in developing and implementing behavioral healthcare systems in multimillion-dollar complex public and private sectors, and faith-based organizations. Dr. Rick's areas of expertise include providing treatment services to women, men, and children in the areas of mental health, substance use and criminal justice. She has provided direct clinical services and leadership in Outpatient Mental Health Centers, Drug Courts, DUI Courts, Veteran's Court, Re-Entry Services and Community Integration programs and Faith-Based organizations. Dr. Ricks is License Clinical Social Worker (LCSW), Master's Addiction Counselor Certification (MAC), Certified GAIN Assessment Specialist, and Electronic-Certified Addiction Counselor (E-CADC). Dr. Ricks received her Master's in Social Work (MSW) degree and Doctorate Degree in Social Work Planning and Administration from Clark Atlanta University. Dr. Ricks enjoys engaging, educating, and empowering individuals and organizations in her business, Sense of Equity, LLC: Program Development, Training and Accreditation Services, LLC. Sense of Equity, LLC, fills a void in the business community by providing a consistent presentation of exceptional capabilities. Services provided include Grant Writing; Program Development; Evidenced-based leadership training (behavioral health and organizational development workshops), Life Coaching Services, Counseling, Motivational Speaking and Accreditation services. Sense of Equity, LLC offers a unique skillset and credentials that create a perfect fit for providing these services for individuals and businesses. Having conceptualized and built programs which were successfully funded by the State of Georgia, Sense of Equity, LLC has established itself as an exemplary organization. Expertise is offered not only in writing and successfully being awarded grants, but also in successfully developing and implementing programs and ensuring sustainability and national CARF accreditation. Dr. Ricks' background includes over 20 years of experience as a CARF Administrative and Program Surveyor and Consultant effectively interfacing with local, state, and national organizations in helping them to successfully achieve national accreditation. Through Sense of Equity, LLC, Dr. Ricks embraces opportunities to share her knowledge and experiences through consultation and training at national conferences, state, and local organizations, for community leaders, governing boards, civic and professional organizations. She is a Certified John Maxwell Teacher, Mentor, Trainer, and Motivational Speaker. Dr. Ricks has more than 15 years of experience in presenting for various organizations including: Ridgeview Institute, Riverwoods Behavioral Health, Council of Accountability Court Judges, Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), Alcohol & Drug Abuse Certification Board of Georgia; National Association of Social Workers (NASW), Georgia Society of Clinical Social Workers (GSCSW), Clinical Social Work Association (CSWA), Clark Atlanta University School of Social Work, Georgia School of Addiction Studies (GSAS), Morehouse School of Medicine ATTC, Berean Christian Church Leadership Team, View Point Health, and the Dekalb County Board of Education. In addition, she serves as a support Chaplain for the Atlanta Dream WNBA Team.

Dr. Brian Simmons joined the University of Georgia's Carl Vinson Institute of Government Survey Research and Evaluation Support Division in 2013, where currently leads the survey research team. Dr. Simmons works closely with clients to develop instruments and to identify appropriate methodology required to answer client's needs and questions. As a survey and evaluation specialist, he provides training on evaluation design, survey development, data collection, data visualization, and data storytelling. Dr. Simmons previously worked as a clinical social worker providing mental health and substance abuse assessments.

Charlotte Spell served as President of the Board of Directors for three years prior to becoming the Executive Director of Let's Be Clear, GA. She is a Certified Prevention Specialist with over 20 years experience in substance use and suicide prevention work in the state of GA. Ms. Spell earned both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Georgia Southern University and still resides in Statesboro, GA. She is a Master Level Trainer in QPR Suicide Prevention since 2011. Charlotte also serves as Data Director for the GA Alcohol Policy Alliance. She has a passion for advocacy and helping to ignite that passion in others. Ms. Spell enjoys wearing the hat of wife, mother, and chicken "tender" to a dozen happy hens.

Susanah Stone is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with certification as a Certified Clinical Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselor, Certified Co-Occurring Disorder Professional-Diplomat and Certified Trauma Professional. Susanah has experience working in the field of mental health and addiction disorders in the roles of a Therapist, Clinical Director and Program Director in a variety of inpatient and outpatient treatment modalities and school setting with adults and adolescents. Susanah has volunteered at the Georgia Crisis Intervention Team Training Program providing training on mental health, substance abuse, de-escalation techniques and crisis intervention skills to Atlanta peace Officers. Susanah is an educator and served as an Adjunct Professor teaching Psychology courses. Susanah is the CEO of Recovery & Consulting Through A Different Lens, a psychotherapy private practice which provides individual, couples and addiction therapy as well as clinical supervision and program development.

Samson Teklemariam, LPC, CPTM is an industry thought leader with a track record for leading large-scale transformations that generated new thinking, shifted business models, and disrupted the marketplace. As a catalyst for innovation, Samson constructs clinical leadership models designed to navigate change in the healthcare sector and deliver results that improve quality patient care. He was formerly the Director of Training and Professional Development for NAADAC. He is a certified lead trainer for the Cognitive Behavioral Interventions for Substance Abuse (CBISA) and experienced in treating trauma-related disorders using trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy (TFCBT) and Seeking Safety.

Erik Thompson joined the University of Georgia's Institute of Government Survey Research and Evaluation Support Division in 2022 as a research professional. Erik manages and provides research and evaluation support for multimedia survey projects. Prior to joining the Institute of Government, he served as a Communications Officer in the Air Force, specializing in the creation, evaluation and management of operational and administrative systems.

Cory Trevena is currently the senior director of education and advances the mission of Caron's Education Alliance by providing leadership to ensure that world-class prevention and early intervention services are provided to all students, families, and community partners. She is proud of the exceptional services Caron provides to young people and their communities. Her areas of responsibility include student assistance services for K-12 and higher education, as well as regional family education services. "Our work directly impacts the health and well-being of young people and families, helping individuals overcome challenges they face," she says. "Our goal is to help all people thrive despite the obstacles that life presents. Being able to make an impact in our community is incredibly humbling and rewarding." Cory started working for Caron in 2005. Prior to her work at Caron, she supported young children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders. She continues her service to individuals on the spectrum through her role on the Board of Directors of Next Step Berks. She also volunteers with SOS Berks, Berks County's opioid prevention coalition. She is a graduate of the Leadership Berks program. She has a master's degree in psychology and is a certified prevention specialist (CPS) in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.



Seneca Vaught is an associate professor of history and interdisciplinary studies at Kennesaw State University in Georgia. His teaching and research specializations focus on global intersections of race, culture, and policy. His research and teaching agenda in these themes have underscored the use of applied historical methods and engaged interdisciplinary intersections in grassroots policy, organizational development, cultural diplomacy, and anti-racist pedagogy.

Dr. Kimberly Vess currently serves as the Associate Dean for Learner Well-Being and a Professor of Psychiatry & Health Behavior at the Medical College of Georgia, Augusta University. Dr. Loomer is passionate about students, community resilience, and diversity and inclusion as evidenced by her creation and implementation of courses in Cultural Competence and Health Disparities at two institutions. Dr. Loomer currently serves as the Principal Investigator of an \$800k grant for Resilient Communities East Georgia and Resilient Teens. Dr. Loomer has produced an abundance of scholarly activity, resulting in the publication of 5 textbooks, numerous book chapters, and over a dozen peer-reviewed publications. Dr. Loomer co-authored a textbook about Cultural Competence after noticing a shortage of information.

Taneika Williams is a Licensed Associate Professional Counselor (LAPC), Nationally Certified Counselor (NCC), Certified Advanced Alcohol & Drug Counselor, and Board Certified-Telemental Health Provider (BC-TMH). Taneika attended the University of Georgia and obtained a Bachelor of Science in Psychology in May 2012. Taneika continued her education, graduating with a Master of Science in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from Troy University. Throughout her career, she has gained copious amounts of knowledge from various roles. Early in her career, Taneika occupied such roles as Behavioral Health Counselor at Augusta State Medical Prison in Augusta, GA; Substance Abuse Counselor at GA Regional Hospital in Decatur, GA. Currently, she works remotely for the Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities in the Office of Behavioral Health & Federal Grants. Taneika is the Cultural Gatekeepers Prevention Awareness Project Coordinator for the state of GA. In this role, she promotes mental health promotion, suicide prevention and substance abuse prevention by using federal grants and funding to create culturally relevant campaigns for disparage communities.

Taranda Reneé Wilson is Shamanic trained & certified in both sound therapy & meditation. She founded InnerG Vibrations in June of 2020, where it is her vision & mission to help individuals and communities around the globe raise their vibrations to resonate with their I-N-N-E-R-G.....Inner God, Inner Goddess, Inner Good, Inner Guidance, Inner Gratitude, Inner Grace, and Inner Gangsta as a result of mindfulness, meditation, energetic healing and sound therapy. Taranda has guided many beautiful souls on sound journeys at various healing retreats, sister circles, & other sacred events. The sound bath experience will feature crystal singing bowls & pyramid, rain sticks, ocean drum, gong, & chimes, all which give off healing sounds, frequencies, & vibrations. So be prepared to sit back, relax, & enjoy!

Hillarie K. Wise, MPA, ICPS currently serves as the Project Manager with the Council on Alcohol and Drugs, Inc., where she manages the day-to-day responsibilities for the Peer Assisted School Transition Project (PAST), an age and stage appropriate peer helping program that seeks to build resiliency in youth. Hillarie earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Clark Atlanta University and her Master of Public Administration degree with a concentration in Healthcare Management from Keller Graduate School of Management of DeVry University. Hillarie has over 15 years of experience supporting and managing nonprofit and government-sponsored programs focusing on youth. Her expertise includes youth development, community engagement, and event planning. Hillarie is passionate about inspiring and empowering the potential of youth and creating healthier communities.

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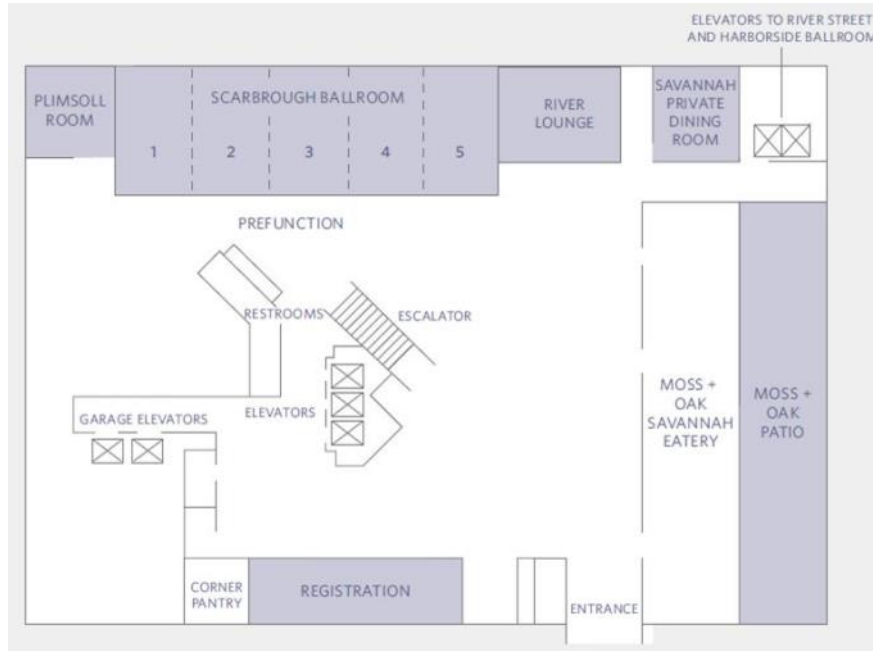


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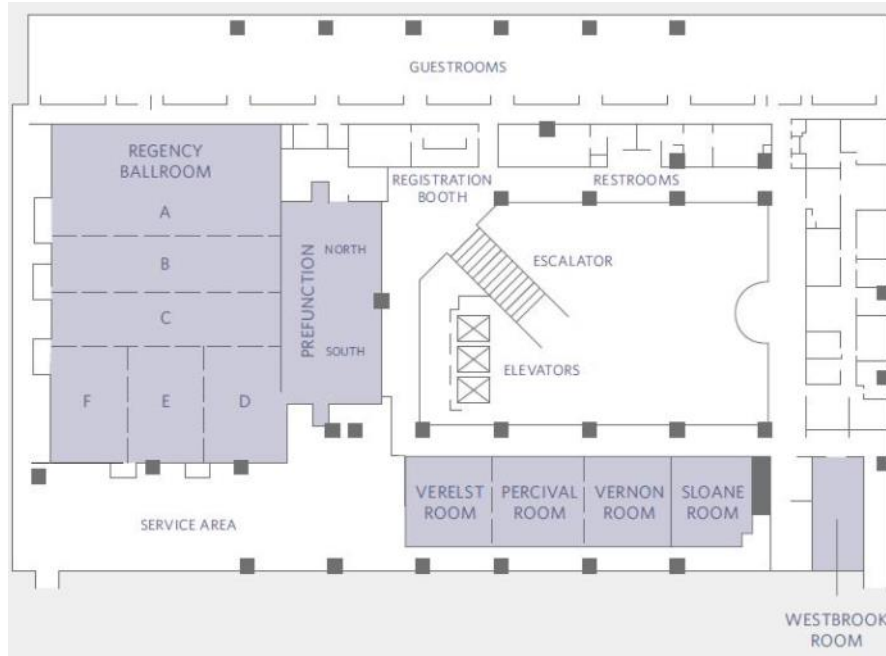


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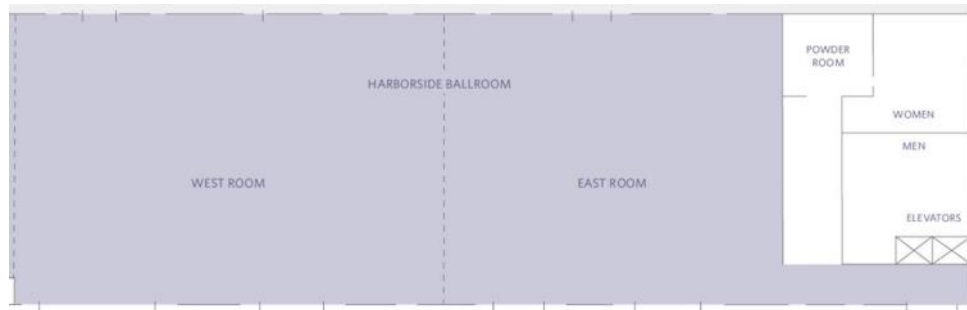
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