

EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL MISSISSIPPI CHILD WELFARE INSTITUTE CONFERENCE

**Sponsored by
School of Social Work
College of Health Sciences
Mississippi Child Welfare Institute**

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## **Partners**

### ***Silver***

*Mississippi Department of Mental Health*

### ***Copper***

***Jackson Medical Mall Foundation*** (waiting on follow up)

*Another Chance Enterprises*

## **Contributors**

*Dr. Isiah Marshall Jr.*

*Mrs. Bernice McKenny*

*Ms. Eva Ellis*

## **Waiting on Governor Letter from Mark Roth**



## **Waiting on Provost Letter from Mark Roth**





February 6, 2020

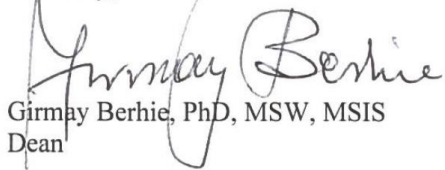
Greetings Conference Attendees:

It is my distinct pleasure to welcome you to Jackson, MS and the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Mississippi Child Welfare Institute Conference, our State's notable conference for policy makers, practitioners, and researchers involved in promoting child safety and well-being. The Mississippi Child Welfare Institute has provided leadership and a steady hand guided by best practices, standards for effectiveness and accountability. Moreover, it has provided the critical research that promotes child welfare and improved outcomes for our nation's children and families – from the prevention of maltreatment, to child protection, to family preservation and support, to adoption and foster care.

The issues involved in protecting children and preventing child maltreatment are complex, and demand solutions that can only be achieved through collaboration, coordination, and shared responsibility. As you reflect on this year's theme, "Relationships Matter: Connecting Systems of Services to Children, Youth, Families and Communities in 2020 and Beyond," please take a moment to celebrate past achievements in child welfare and the continuous efforts to ensure that the best care and nurturing environments are provided for all children.

Finally, I extend my best wishes for an informative and successful conference. Many thanks to the team who dedicated their time and efforts to assure that you receive a meaningful and highly rewarding experience. On behalf of Jackson State University, College of Health Sciences, School of Social Work, thank you for your exemplary commitment and the extraordinary work that you do for children, youth and families.

Sincerely,



Girmay Berhie, PhD, MSW, MSIS  
Dean

350 W. Woodrow Wilson Ave. | Suite 301 | Jackson, MS 39213 | 601.979.6387 | 601.979.1422 | fax jsu.edu



## **MISSISSIPPI CHILD WELFARE INSTITUTE AND CONFERENCE HISTORY**

The Mississippi Child Welfare Institute was established at Jackson State University in 2003 as a part of the School of Social Work. The impetus to begin the Institute emanated from a grant awarded by the Children's Bureau, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services during the 2000 to 2004 period. The proposal was developed by Gwendolyn Spencer Prater, PhD, MSW, who was then Dean of the School of Social Work. The Institute and conference began prior to the organization of the academic colleges at Jackson State University.

The proposal submitted to the Children's Bureau resulted in a funded grant which permitted 26 committee-selected and dedicated students to participate in the education project. All of the social work students were provided tuition, stipends, and special training and educational opportunities both in-state and across the country at national conferences with the goal of preparing them for careers in child welfare. The students graduated and many attained social work positions in the field of child welfare. Mrs. Wanda Gilliam, MSW, Deputy Director of Programs, Mississippi Department of Human Services, was the liaison with the School of Social Work during the grant period and actively and successfully facilitated productive experiential educational opportunities for students with the Division of Family and Children's Services.

During the 2002-2003 academic year, Jackson State University's School of Social Work, in partnership with other state institutions of higher learning, and the Mississippi State Department of Human Services, under the capable leadership of Mrs. Thelma Brittain, MSW, initiated the Title IV-E Program in Child Welfare. The program was readily supported by the Mississippi Legislature, with strong leadership from the late Representative Charlie Capp, Chair of the House Appropriations Committee. Jackson State University's administration also provided strong support for the Institute and the conference. The School of Social Work programmatic and administrative leadership team included Drs. Prater and Ruth M. Williams as the Principal Investigator and Co-Principal Investigator, respectively, and Ms. Velma Hankins, MSW, as the Program Administrator.

The program continued for approximately three and one-half years, with Jackson State University serving as the lead institution for the majority of that period, with the final program year being rotated to one of the other state institutions of higher education. Numerous students at the baccalaureate and master's levels were educated and provided training for child welfare practice with vulnerable populations. In addition, during that three-year period, training was also developed and provided for foster and adoptive parents and public child welfare staff. Since that time, there has not been a consortium of state schools and programs of social work jointly engaged in Title IV-E academic programming with the Mississippi Department of Human Services.

The Mississippi Child Welfare Institute at Jackson State University, however, continues to offer its annual conference for professional development of child welfare practitioners, supervisors, administrators, faculty, and students in Mississippi, other states in the Southeastern Region, and indeed across the United States of America. The Institute partners with public and private

agencies and organizations as it works to improve services to children and families including but not limited to: the Mississippi State Departments of Human Services, Health, and Mental Health, the Children's Defense Fund (Southern Regional Office), Mississippi Children's Home Services and CARES Center, Catholic Charities, and the Casey Family Programs and Marguerite Casey Foundations.

*Conferences (2003-2020):*

*2003: Social Workers' Challenge: Changing the Lives of Mississippi's Children and Families\**

*2004: Mississippi's Challenge: Rebuilding the Village*

*2005: Social Work: Empowering Mississippi's Children and Families through Public Service*

*2006: Working Together for What Matters Most: Children and Families*

*2007: United Voices Committed to Helping Our Children*

*2008: The Many Faces of Child Welfare: A Rainbow of Diversity*

*2009: Child Poverty: Facing the Challenges, Creating Opportunities*

*2010: Child Welfare: Building Community Partnerships for Safe and Healthy Children and Families*

*2011: Building Community Partnerships for Safe and Healthy Children and Families*

*2012: Building Bridges for a New Decade of Transformational Services with Children and Families*

*2013: Community Engagement: A Guiding Light to Successful Children, Youth and Families*

*2014: Child Welfare: Building Multi-Generational Teams to Serve Families and Communities*

*2015: Child Welfare: Using Cross-Cutting Strategies to Empower Families and Communities*

*2016: Supporting and Preserving Children, youth and Families through Community Welfare*

*2017: Rethinking Child Welfare Services: Forging New Direction through Community Based Partnerships*

*2018: Caring People Passing the Torch of Hope for Child Welfare and Child Safety*

*2019: From Issues to Solutions: Advancing Excellence in Health, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Practice with Children, Youth, Families, and Communities*

*2020: Relationships Mattes: Connecting Systems of Services to Children, Youth, Families, & Communities in 2020 & Beyond*

*Note: All conferences have been held in Downtown Jackson;*

*\*Crowne Plaza Hotel (2003-2004)*

*Jackson Marriott Hotel (2005-2020)*

## Youth Empowerment Session



## Parent Academy Session



## PLENARY SPEAKERS



**Taylor Cheeseman** has served as Chief of Staff for Commissioner Jess Dickinson with the Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services since September 2017. Before joining MDCPS, Taylor served as senior law clerk for then Presiding Justice Dickinson with the Mississippi Supreme Court. Taylor is an attorney admitted to practice law in both Mississippi and Florida. He is a graduate of Mississippi College School of Law and Millsaps College, where he received his Bachelor of Arts in public management. In addition to his work with MDCPS and the Mississippi Supreme Court, Taylor worked in Mississippi youth courts on both child maltreatment and juvenile delinquency cases.



**Cassandra Overton Welchlin** is co-director and state organizer of MS Black Women's Roundtable (MS-BWR) an inter-generational statewide network dedicated to increasing civic engagement and voter participation among black women while at the forefront of championing just and equitable public policy on behalf of Black women and girls. MS-BWR is an affiliate of the National Coalition for Black Civic Participation/Black Women's Roundtable. Prior to joining MS BWR, she cofounded and launched the ambitious and progressive MS Women's Economic Security Initiative (MWESI), founded initially as a project of MS Low Income Child Care Initiative. MWESI is rooted at the intersections of race, gender and economic justice. It prioritizes women's rights, equity, economic security; created an intentional and explicit racial and gender framework; and engage women, particularly low-income women of color, with deep connections to grassroots organizing to create a leadership infrastructure setting the stage for long-term movement-building. Cassandra continues to provide leadership and vision to the MS Women's Economic Security Initiative as a project of the Mississippi Black Women's Roundtable.



**Rhea Williams-Bishop** is director of Mississippi and New Orleans Programming at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation in Battle Creek, Michigan. Prior to joining the foundation, Rhea served as the director of the Mississippi Center for Education Innovation (MSCEI). She takes great pride as a child & family advocate and leader and has devoted her career to improving the lives of vulnerable children by enhancing and improving their opportunities. Rhea previously held several positions with the Children's Defense Fund (CDF), including State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) administrator, executive director of Supporting Partnerships to Assure Ready Kids (SPARK), deputy director of the CDF Southern Regional Office, as well as beginning her career with the Internal Revenue Service where she set up Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites at the Jackson Medical Mall.

Rhea holds a Ph.D. in education leadership, a master's degree in public policy and administration and a bachelor's degree in urban affairs, all from "Thee I Love" Jackson State University. She has completed leadership programs with the Rockefeller Foundation Next Generation Leadership Program, Leadership Mississippi, Leadership Madison County, and most recently the Southeastern Council of Foundations - Hull Fellowship Program.

She has been honored with awards from the Mississippi Business Journal as one of the "Top 10 Business Women", "Top 40 under 40" and by the University of Southern Mississippi's School of Social Work with the Friend of the Children Award. She has served on several education boards and councils ranging from the Mississippi Economic Council's Board of Governors to an 8 year gubernatorial appointment to the State Early Childhood Advisory Council. She is a founding member of the 100 Black Women - Central MS Chapter, a charter member of the Madison County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., a member of the LeFleur's Bluff Chapter of the Links, Inc., a life member of the NAACP, as well as a member of the MS Chapter of the International Women's Forum. She is a member of Pilgrim Rest M.B. Church, a loving wife to Bev Bishop II (JSU Alum) - mother of 3 children Trey (JSU Alum), MiMi, and Russell (both current students at JSU).

# **EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL MISSISSIPPI CHILD WELFARE INSTITUTE CONFERENCE**

## **DAILY CONFERENCE SCHEDULE**

**Thursday, February 6, 2020**

### **Evening Workshop Sessions**

|                     |                        |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 3:00 p.m.–5:45 p.m. | Registration           |
| 6:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m. | Youth Talent Showcase  |
| 6:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m. | Parent Academy Session |

**Friday, February 7, 2020**

### **Day-at-a-Glance**

|                       |                         |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 7:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.  | Registration            |
| 8:30 a.m.–9:45 a.m.   | Opening Plenary Session |
| 9:45 a.m.–10:00 a.m.  | Break                   |
| 10:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m. | Concurrent Sessions     |
| 11:00 a.m.–11:10 a.m. | Break                   |
| 11:10 a.m.–12:10 p.m. | Concurrent Sessions     |
| 12:10 p.m.–12:30 p.m. | Break                   |
| 12:30 p.m.–1:45 p.m.  | Conference Luncheon     |
| 1:45 p.m.–2:00 p.m.   | Break                   |
| 2:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.   | Concurrent Sessions     |
| 3:00 p.m.–3:10 p.m.   | Break                   |
| 3:10 p.m.–4:10 p.m.   | Concurrent Sessions     |
| 4:10 p.m.–4:30 p.m.   | Break                   |
| 4:30 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. | Closing Plenary Session |

The 2020 Mississippi Child Welfare Institute Conference offers a maximum of 9 Continuing Education Hours (CEs)

**EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL  
MISSISSIPPI CHILD WELFARE INSTITUTE CONFERENCE**

***“Relationships Matter: Connecting Systems of Services to Children, Youth,  
Families and Communities in 2020 and Beyond”***

**Thursday, February 6, 2020**

**SPECIAL YOUTH EMPOWERMENT SESSION**

**Location: Windsor II, IV, & V  
6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.**

Welcome

Prof. Ahfiya Howard  
Ms. Tina Gustavis  
Jackson State University  
School of Social Work  
Jackson, Mississippi

Ice Breaker/Warm up

**?**  
Jackson, Mississippi

Youth Talent Showcase

Remarks/ Awards

Appointee

**Reception – 8:00 p.m. - 9:15 p.m.**

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***“Relationships Matter: Connecting Systems of Services to Children, Youth,  
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**Thursday, February 6, 2020**

**PARENT ACADEMY  
Location: Churchill I & II  
6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.**

Welcome/Introduction of Speakers

Dr. Theresia Ratliff  
Jackson State University  
School of Social Work  
Jackson, Mississippi

Speakers

CCAPP Intern Student  
Jackson State University  
Jackson, Mississippi

Father's Panel:  
Douglas Edwards  
Minister Tony Nichols  
Cassio Batteast

Moderator

Mr. Melvin Jenkins  
Jackson, Mississippi

Remarks

Appointee

**Reception – 8:00 p.m. - 9:15 p.m.**

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***“Relationships Matter: Connecting Systems of Services to Children, Youth,  
Families and Communities in 2020 and Beyond”***

**Friday, February 7, 2020  
Location: Windsor III**

**Conference Registration**  
7:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Exhibits**  
7:00 a.m. - 5:45 p.m.

**OPENING PLENARY SESSION  
8:30 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.**

Opening/Welcome

Prof. Melody Vaughn  
Assistant Clinical Professor  
School of Social Work  
Jackson State University  
Jackson, Mississippi

Greetings

Dr. Germary Berhi  
Dean  
College of Health Sciences  
Jackson State University  
Jackson, Mississippi

Speaker

Mr. Taylor Cheeseman  
Chief of Staff  
MS Department of Child  
Protective Services  
Jackson, Mississippi

Presentation & Remarks

Dr. Isiah Marshall  
Conference Co-Chair  
School of Social Work  
Jackson State University  
Jackson, MS

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*“Relationships Matter: Connecting Systems of Services to Children, Youth,  
Families and Communities in 2020 and Beyond”*

**Friday, February 7, 2020**

**9:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.**

**BREAK**

**10:00 a.m. – 12:10 p.m.**

**SPECIAL SESSION**

| ROOM               | SPECIAL SESSION                                                                                                                                                                                               | PRESENTER    |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Windsor III</b> | This workshop will explore the supervisor-supervisee ethical boundaries, the importance of competent practice, and the application and understanding of diversity issues as they relate to consumer services. | Lauri Lawson |

\*LCSW Supervisor's hours granted.

**Monitor/Moderator:**  
**Session Type: ETHICS**

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**10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

| Room              | Session Title & Abstract                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Presenter                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Canterbury</b> | <p><b>Challenging Implicit Bias: Child Welfare Practice with African American Families</b></p> <p><b>Type of Presentation:</b> Conceptual Paper</p> <p>Disproportionately, African Americans are overrepresented in out of home care. Child welfare is a field of practice where decisions are routinely made by social workers (Smith, 2006). Decisions are also based upon assessment of family's functionality and parental strength, individual risk factors, needs and resources (Howe, Dolley &amp; Hinings, 2000). Cohen (2003) argues that decision-making is frequently is both subjective and cultural, reflecting the distinctive beliefs and values of the child welfare worker. We argue that it is important that social workers become aware of implicit bias when working with African American families.</p> | <p>Dr. Tiffany Yvette Lane<br/>Norfolk State University,<br/>Norfolk, VA</p> <p><b>Co-Presenter:</b><br/>Dr. Belinda Davis Smith<br/>Jackson State University,<br/>Jackson, MS</p> |

**Monitor/Moderator:**  
**Session Type:**

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

## CONCURRENT SESSIONS

| Room         | Session Title & Abstract                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Presenter                                                                                                                                   |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Churchill II | <p><b>Human Trafficking: Recommendations for practice, policy, and research</b></p> <p><b>Type of Presentation:</b> Practice-Focused Workshop</p> <p>The purpose of this presentation is to increase an understanding of the role of child welfare in relation to the child-trafficking population. The barriers between service providers and the child welfare system will be discussed, mainly focused on the lack of identification of victims and in the areas of collaboration and funding of services. Recommendations for practice, policy, and research include transparency, education between system and community, shared input in case decision making, and future exploration of the experiences of caseworkers.</p> <p>Monitor/Moderator:<br/>Session Type:</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <p>Dr. Breshell Jackson-Nevels</p> <p><b>Co-Presenter:</b><br/>Dawn Salary, MBA<br/>Norfolk State University,<br/>Norfolk, VA</p>           |
| Winston      | <p><b>Disrupting Minority Poverty Mindset through Culturally Appropriate Community-Based Leadership</b></p> <p><b>Type of Presentation:</b> Conceptual Paper</p> <p>Through the traditional lens of the social services field, the term <i>poverty</i> is commonly viewed as a measurement of a person's or family's income to a set poverty threshold of the minimum income needed to cover basic needs (University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2019). From this presentation, each attendee should first understand how the formative years of child development shape the human brain; secondly, how that brain development impacts an individual's perspective of life's possibilities as he or she grows through life; thirdly, how to discuss and propose multi-system partnerships (community leaders, entrepreneurs, business owners, academics, etc.); and finally, how to measure program outcomes in an effort to secure additional funding from traditional funders and non-traditional funders alike.</p> <p>Monitor/Moderator:<br/>Session Type:</p> | <p>Brian A. Street,<br/>MSW, Doctoral<br/>Student &amp; Social<br/>Entrepreneur<br/>Louisiana State<br/>University, Baton<br/>Rouge, LA</p> |

**10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

| <b>Room</b>            | <b>Session Title &amp; Abstract</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>Presenter</b>                                                              |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Churchill I</b>     | <b>The Lived Experiences of Homeless Women Veterans, Their Families and Children</b><br><br><b>Type of Presentation:</b> Empirical Research<br>There is scant research devoted to addressing the issue of homelessness among women veterans. Not much is known about the actions that women veterans take to end homelessness for themselves and their families. This research explores factors that are dominant in the literature regarding female veterans.<br><br>Monitor/Moderator:<br>Session Type:                                                                      | Dr. Bradley E. Thomas<br>VA Hospital<br>Memphis, TN                           |
| <b>Surrey Ballroom</b> | <b>Raising Citizens, Not Consumers: How to Teach Kids to Think and Act Politically</b><br><br><b>Type of Presentation:</b> Practice-Focused Workshop<br>Far too many young Americans have virtually no understanding of fundamental democratic principles, the major structures and processes of American government, or the roles and responsibilities of citizens beyond the practice of sporadic voting. This disturbing deficiency can only be corrected by civic education, provided by caring and civically conscious adults.<br><br>Monitor/Moderator:<br>Session Type: | Dr. Michael Forster<br>University of Southern Mississippi,<br>Hattiesburg, MS |

**11:00am-11:15am/ Break**

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*“Relationships Matter: Connecting Systems of Services to Children, Youth,  
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**11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.**

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

| <b>Room</b>            | <b>Session Title &amp; Abstract</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>Presenter</b>                                                            |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Churchill I</b>     | <p><b>Family Support and First-Generation College Youth Attending an HBCU</b></p> <p><b>Type of Presentation:</b> Practice-Focused Workshop<br/>Despite barriers, millions of low-income, first-generation youth persist; luckily, HBCUs serve with a unique mission that includes robust support and opportunity. Utilizing systems theory as a framework, this presentation will explore factors (based on the literature) affecting first-generation student persistence and the role families can play in their child’s college experience. The goal is to recognize barriers students confront and recommend institutional and family strategies to address the issue of support for first-generation students. This presentation will facilitate a deeper understanding of the potential impact that parents and families can have on student success.</p> <p>Monitor/Moderator:<br/>Session Type:</p> | <p>Jessica S. Marshall, M.Ed.<br/>Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins, TX</p> |
| <b>Surrey Ballroom</b> | <p><b>School to Prison Pipeline: The Taboo Crisis</b><br/>Elizabeth Perkins &amp; Dr. LaTibbie Cavett<br/>Crime Prevention through Education Perkins Consulting, Washington, DC</p> <p><b>Type of Presentation:</b> Practice-Focused Workshop<br/>As presenters, based on the literature, we argue the following: students who do not have basic reading, writing, or math skills have a significantly higher chance of being incarcerated; students and schools who do poorly get treated poorly; and strict standards, regulations, and laws prevent valuable teachers from teaching, students from learning and schools from prospering. How do we help out? What exactly is the issue? Is our education system flawed? Are our students failing? Are we failing our students? These will be some of the questions we use to fuel thought and discussion.</p> <p>Monitor/Moderator:<br/>Session Type:</p> | <p>Patricia Williams, Belhaven University</p>                               |

**11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.**

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

| <b>Room</b>    | <b>Session Title &amp; Abstract</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>Presenter</b>                                                                                                                                                               |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Warwick</b> | <p><b>The Parent Representation Program: Keeping Families Together</b></p> <p><b>Type of Presentation: Practice Focus</b><br/>The Family Defense Team was established to keep families together and to represent and defend parents fighting against the painful and unnecessary removal of their children. The focus is to achieve positive outcomes for children and families through the reduction of the use of foster care and reduced time to permanency for children. The Parent Representation Team is comprised of attorneys and social workers we fight to keep families together by supporting parents at meetings and conferences with Child Protection Services and the Youth Court. We also connect families to proven prevention services, and empowering parents to advocate for themselves and their families.</p> <p>Monitor/Moderator:<br/>Session Type:</p> | <p>Melody Vaughn,<br/>MSW, LSW<br/><b>Co-Presenter:</b><br/>Carolyn Hicks,<br/>Director<br/>Sara Mann,<br/>Attorney<br/>Mission First<br/>Legal Aid Office<br/>Jackson, MS</p> |
| <b>Winston</b> | <p><b>Dehumanization of Black Males by Police</b><br/><b>Type of Presentation:</b> Empirical Research/Conceptual Paper<br/>This conceptual paper will discuss the history of police oppression and contemporary examples of killing of Black males and utilize Critical Race Theory (CRT) that helps explain the social inequality of this population and provide strategies that may hold promise in addressing the problem of police brutality and the killing of Black males. Although Black females also have been killed by police, and their deaths are equally important, many more Black males have succumbed in this manner (Williams, Ritchie, Anspach, &amp; Harris, 2015).</p> <p>Monitor/Moderator:<br/>Session Type:</p>                                                                                                                                          | <p>Dr. Dana K.<br/>Harmon<br/>Capella<br/>University,<br/>Minneapolis, MN</p>                                                                                                  |

11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

## CONCURRENT SESSIONS

| Room         | Session Title & Abstract                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Presenter                                                                                                                                |
|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Churchill II | <p><b>The Status of LGBT Parenting: A Systematic Review</b></p> <p><b>Type of Presentation:</b> Empirical Research/Conceptual Paper</p> <p>Even though more same-sex people pursue parenthood, they face the challenges of how to navigate the interactions of a society that are homophobic, heterocentric, and that does not know how to embrace the idea that there are many nontraditional families. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) endorsed a policy supporting the benefits of both parents in a same-gender couples having legal rights and responsibilities for their children. Currently, no research supports the assumption that the gender of the parents makes a difference in the well-being of the child. Using a systematic review, this presentation will examine past literature pertaining to the status of LGBT parenting.</p> <p>Monitor/Moderator:<br/>Session Type:</p> | <p>Bernice McKenny,<br/>LMSW, Doctoral Student</p> <p><b>Co-Presenter:</b><br/>Jaegoo Lee, PhD,<br/>MSW<br/>Jackson State University</p> |
| Canterbury   | <p><b>Cross Collaboration Perspective of Care in Child Welfare</b></p> <p><b>Type of Presentation:</b> Conceptual Paper (<i>*Student Focused Session</i>)</p> <p>This interactive workshop will provide an overview of approaches to creating a collaborative system of care in child welfare. We will discuss collaborative approaches to prevention and intervention that seek to reduce risk associated with a youth's entry into the child welfare system. We will also explore how developing an appreciation for ethnic and cultural diversity, particularly for African American and other minority groups is key to establishing the therapeutic relationship.</p> <p>Monitor/Moderator:<br/>Session Type:</p>                                                                                                                                                                                   | <p>Roslyn Durham</p> <p><b>Co-Presenter:</b><br/>Dr. Sharon Alston<br/>Norfolk University,<br/>Norfolk, VA</p>                           |

12:30pm-1:45pm/ Conference Luncheon

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Location: Windsor I & II**

**LUNCHEON**

**12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.**

Greetings/Introduction of Speaker

Dr. Patrice Jenkins  
Jackson State University  
School of Social Work  
Jackson, Mississippi

Prayer

Mrs. Sha’nel Butler-Edwards

Speaker

Cassandra Overton- Welchlin  
Co-Director & State Organizer  
MS Black Women’s Roundtable

Presentations & Closing Remarks

Dr. Theresia Ratliff  
Conference Co-Chairs  
Jackson State University  
School of Social Work  
Jackson, MS

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**Friday, February 7, 2020**

**2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**SPECIAL SESSION**

| <b>ROOM</b>           | <b>SPECIAL SESSION</b>                                                                                                         | <b>PRESENTER</b>          |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Windsor<br/>II</b> | <b>Mississippi Board of Examiners – this special session focuses on issues regarding social work licensure in Mississippi.</b> | <b>Billy<br/>Dilworth</b> |

**Monitor/Moderator:**  
**Session Type: ETHICS**

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**2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

| <b>Room</b>            | <b>Session Title &amp; Abstract</b>                                                                                 | <b>Presenter</b>                                                                 |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Churchill<br/>I</b> | <b>Beyond Brokenness: Women in Transformation and Healing: A Critical Perspective to Prevent Child Maltreatment</b> | <b>Dr. Mildred<br/>Delozia<br/>Jackson State<br/>University,<br/>Jackson, MS</b> |

**Type of Presentation:** Empirical Research  
This workshop will focus on the “Women in Transformation and Healing Program (WITH).” Two theoretical perspectives that include trauma-based models and ecological or transactional theories help to explain intergenerational patterns of child maltreatment (CWIG, 2016) and is the primary underpinning for the Women in Transformation and Healing Program. Additionally, from a macro perspective “The Upstream Story” that is used to understand the concept of primary prevention (Merck, 2018) also highlights how the Women in Transformation and Healing (WITH) Program is a primary prevention strategy at the macro-level for child maltreatment.

**Monitor/Moderator:**  
**Session Type:**

**2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

| <b>Room</b>       | <b>Session Title &amp; Abstract</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <b>Presenter</b>                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Canterbury</b> | <p><b>Engaging, Educating, and Empowering: The Importance of Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs in Education</b></p> <p><b>Type of Presentation:</b> Practice-Focused Workshop<br/>Several factors contribute to children becoming disengaged academically. Many studies have shown that adolescents who drop out of school had one common issue: not having their basic, overall needs met. In Mississippi, during the 2018-2019 school year, 13.1% of children were considered chronically absent, 15,015 was referred to youth court of that 5.6% referred by the school system, and 10.1% dropped out of school. This presentation will navigate how social services workers can engage children who are struggling, educate them with the tools they need to overcome challenges, and empower them for success.</p> <p>Monitor/Moderator:<br/>Session Type:</p> | <p>Dr. LaTibbie Cavett,<br/>Madison County Jobs 4 Youth,<br/>Madison, MS<br/><b>Co-Presenter:</b><br/>Samantha Smith<br/>University of Mississippi Medical Center,<br/>Jackson, MS</p> |
| <b>Warwick</b>    | <p><b>Keeping Children Safe and Alive: Strategies to Prevent Bullying and Suicide</b></p> <p><b>Type of Presentation:</b> Empirical Research/Conceptual Paper<br/>Today, there is no clear definition of bullying, however, a comprehensible definition is necessary for education, intervention, and prevention. This workshop will present literature on bullying: Definitions of bullying-including the prevalence of bullying, characteristics of the victim and the bully. This workshop will also address cyberbullying; the role of family; and will highlight the role of the principal from the leadership perspective of Transformational Leadership.</p> <p>Monitor/Moderator:<br/>Session Type:</p>                                                                                                                                               | <p>Dr. Phyllis E. Gillians<br/>Bowie State University,<br/>Bowie, MD</p>                                                                                                               |

**2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

| <b>Room</b>                | <b>Session Title &amp; Abstract</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>Presenter</b>                                                                                                                      |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Surrey<br/>Ballroom</b> | <b>MS Board of Examiner's Update</b><br><br><b>Type of Presentation:</b> Special<br>The presenter will describe changes to Social Work Licensure Rules and Regulation in the State of Mississippi; those participating will increase knowledge of the need for a regulatory board and for public protection; and lastly, participants will understand the importance of continued competency and licensing.<br><br>Monitor/Moderator:<br>Session Type:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Billy Dilworth,<br>Executive<br>Director<br>Mississippi<br>Board of<br>Examiners,<br>Jackson, MS                                      |
| <b>Winston</b>             | <b>Creating Compassionate Environments to Foster Father Involvement and Empowerment</b><br><br><b>Type of Presentation:</b> Conceptual Paper<br>Fathers play an essential role in the development of children and growth of healthy families. Research has shown that involvement of fathers can help improve children's emotional, intellectual, ethical, moral, and social development. This presentation will focus on the tenants developed by the Fathers and Families Coalition of America to educate and train practitioners, fathers, and other professionals to help in (1) Family Support (2) Healthy Growth and Development and (3) Culturally Competent Practices to help create more compassionate environments to help foster healthy father involvement and empowerment.<br><br>Monitor/Moderator:<br>Session Type: | Dr. Ronica<br>Arnold Branson<br>Co- Presenter:<br>Dr. Stephanie<br>Davidson<br>Herndon<br>Jackson State<br>University,<br>Jackson, MS |

**2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

| <b>Room</b>         | <b>Session Title &amp; Abstract</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>Presenter</b>                                                          |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Windsor I</b>    | <p><b>Why “Big Boys Don't Cry or Tell:” The Role of the Family and Society in Shaping the African American Male College Students’ Perception, Attitude and Behavior toward Male Victims of Female Perpetrated Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)</b></p> <p><b>Type of Presentation:</b><br/>Existing research shows that while intimate partner violence (IPV) is a major concern in the United States, most research on IPV has focused on female victimization. To fill this gap in the literature, the present research examines male victims of IPV by conducting focus groups and interviews with 8 African American male college students. The aim was to explore their perception, attitude and behavior toward male victims of female perpetrated intimate partner violence. Ultimately, A 7-item, semi-structured interview guide was developed to elicit information from participants. The purpose of this presentation is to share the findings from the research concerning the role that society and family played in shaping the participants’ perception of male victims of female perpetrated violence.</p> <p>Monitor/Moderator:<br/>Session Type:</p> | <p>Dr. Roenia DeLoach<br/>Savannah State University,<br/>Savannah, GA</p> |
| <b>Churchill II</b> | <p><b>Career Academies: Bridging the Gap between Education and Workforce Preparation</b></p> <p><b>Type of Presentation:</b> Conceptual Paper<br/>A slow and steady shift is occurring in schools across the nation. After generations of preparing students for college or a vocation, a new vision is emerging in American schools—one that aims to prepare students for postsecondary learning and careers. And the reasons for doing so are many, including poor student outcomes and a shift in the job market toward a more educated workforce. Those attending this session will learn and gain insight on the origin of the career academy movement and learn how Mississippi schools that are transitioning to career academies are improving educational outcomes for students and families.</p> <p>Monitor/Moderator:<br/>Session Type:</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <p>Rhonda Dorsey, PhD<br/>Jackson State University,<br/>Jackson, MS</p>   |

**EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL  
MISSISSIPPI CHILD WELFARE INSTITUTE CONFERENCE**  
*“Relationships Matter: Connecting Systems of Services to Children, Youth,  
Families and Communities in 2020 and Beyond”*

**Friday, February 7, 2020**

**3:10 p.m. – 4:10 p.m.**

**BREAK**

**3:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.**

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

| <b>Room</b>                     | <b>Session Title &amp; Abstract</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>Presenter</b>                                                                                                                |
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| <b>Churchill<br/>I &amp; II</b> | <p><b>Effects of Excessive Uses of Social Media on Personal Well-Being and Family Relationships</b></p> <p><b>Type of Presentation:</b> Empirical Research/Conceptual Paper</p> <p>The Internet is one of the latest modes of communication and socialization, which has been a major factor in reducing face-to-face or telephone contact. Possibly, the internet is widening the communication gap among individuals, couples, and families by isolating them, thus reducing the time spent participating in interactive communication and social activities. With further research, it is important to examine this increasing behavior such that we can understand the positives of media use among social groups as well as identifying possible negative effects on the social environment.</p> <p>Monitor/Moderator:<br/>Session Type:</p> | <p>Valerie Carson,<br/>LMSW, Doctoral<br/>Student<br/>Jackson State<br/>University</p>                                          |
| <b>Surrey<br/>I &amp; II</b>    | <p><b>Disparities in Traumatic Experiences, Health, and Mental Health among Children in Mississippi and Four Neighboring States</b></p> <p><b>Type of Presentation:</b> Empirical Research/Conceptual Paper</p> <p>The purpose of this presentation is to examine parent-reported health, mental health, and adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) for children and adolescents in Mississippi and four neighboring states (i.e., Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Tennessee). For this purpose, we use the combined 2016–2017 National Survey of Children’s Health (NSCH) dataset.</p> <p>Monitor/Moderator:<br/>Session Type:</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <p>Dr. Pedro M.<br/>Hernandez<br/><b>Co-Presenter:</b><br/>Dr. Jaegoo Lee<br/>Jackson State<br/>University,<br/>Jackson, MS</p> |

**3:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.**

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

| <b>Room</b>       | <b>Session Title &amp; Abstract</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>Presenter</b>                                                                                                                          |
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| <b>Canterbury</b> | <p><b>The Application of Original Therapeutic Tools for Children</b></p> <p><b>Type of Presentation:</b> Empirical Research/Conceptual Paper</p> <p>Coloring books are therapeutic tools that are also used to allow children to share feelings that they may be experiencing. “Tabani’s Travels: A Self Awareness Coloring Book for Kids”, provides two mediums for children to express their feelings in a manner that is self-directed. This is done through the child writing about specific emotions or drawing them out. This workshop demonstrates how these two original therapeutic tools can be used to engage children in critical dialogue regarding their feelings in response to trauma/loss encountered.</p> <p>Monitor/Moderator:<br/>Session Type:</p> | <p>Dr. Errol S. Bolden<br/>Coppin State University,<br/>Baltimore, MD</p>                                                                 |
| <b>Warwick</b>    | <p><b>E-Cigs, Vapes, Our Teens, OH MY!</b></p> <p><b>Type of Presentation:</b> Empirical Research/Conceptual Paper</p> <p>This presentation introduces attendees to the relationship of Electronic Cigarettes, Vaporizers, and the teen population. It gives an overview of exactly what these devices are, what their original intent was, and how the youth and teen population are being drawn to them, along with health-related risks.</p> <p>Monitor/Moderator:<br/>Session Type:</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <p>Carla Baskin,<br/>MSW, Doctoral Student<br/>Capella University,<br/>Minneapolis, MN</p>                                                |
| <b>Windsor I</b>  | <p><b>A Crisis on the Rise : Suicide Among African American Youth and Young Adults</b></p> <p><b>Type of Presentation: Student (Conceptual)</b></p> <p>Increasingly, there is a body of research that indicates the rate of suicide is rising in the African American community, particularly among youth and young adults; hence, there is a tremendous need to increase awareness to reduce the risk factors associated with this epidemic. The presenter will share her personal experience with losing her son to suicide, along with the work she is doing to prevent suicide and increase mental health awareness.</p> <p>Monitor/Moderator:<br/>Session Type:</p>                                                                                                | <p>Kysia Owens,<br/>MSW Student<br/>Jackson State University,<br/>Jackson, MS</p> <p><b>No CEU’s<br/>awarded for<br/>this session</b></p> |

**3:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.**

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

| <b>Room</b>       | <b>Session Title &amp; Abstract</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>Presenter</b>                                                                                                                                                                                   |
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| <b>Windsor II</b> | <p><b>University-community partnership: Jackson State University School of Social Work and Habitat for Humanity sustaining communities</b></p> <p><b>Type of Presentation: Student (Empirical)</b><br/>Habitat for Humanity has a long-standing commitment to revitalizing blighted communities across the country; however, Habitat, in its work, does not continue their intensive work with communities after they have "opened" the neighborhood, which may cause these new communities to experience issues with instability and deterioration. Through the administration of surveys, this poster reports preliminary data on the needs of the Broadmoor Community in Jackson, MS.</p> <p>Monitor/Moderator:<br/>Session Type:</p>                         | <p>Shenika Montgomery,<br/>MSW Student<br/>Paula Boyd,<br/>MSW Student<br/>Jackson State University,<br/>Jackson, MS</p> <p><i>No CEU's awarded for this session</i></p>                           |
| <b>Winston</b>    | <p><b>Assessing knowledge of protective factors among adults living in Hinds County, MS: Strategies to reduce child abuse</b></p> <p><b>Type of Presentation: Student (Empirical)</b><br/>Although interventions and policies have evolved to address issues of child abuse and neglect, statistics suggest the need to continue and strengthen community-based prevention efforts (Kufeldt, 2011). Using descriptive statistics, this quantitative analysis assessed knowledge of protective factors (child abuse prevention) among adults living in Hinds County, Mississippi. The presenters will discuss specific prevention methods that aims to reduce child abuse and number of children in care overall.</p> <p>Monitor/Moderator:<br/>Session Type:</p> | <p>Keyatta Moses,<br/>MSW Student<br/>Sonji Pace, MSW Student<br/>Ludia Jackson,<br/>MSW Student<br/>Jackson State University,<br/>Jackson, MS</p> <p><i>No CEU's awarded for this session</i></p> |

**3:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.**

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

| <b>Room</b>                    | <b>Session Title &amp; Abstract</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>Presenter</b>                                                                                                                                          |
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| <b>?used<br/>all<br/>rooms</b> | <p><b>Weapons of Mass Construction in a Systematically Destructive System: Exploring Educational Strategies to Combat the Four American Catastrophes</b></p> <p><b>Type of Presentation:</b> Conceptual Paper<br/>In an effort to combat the internal destruction caused by catastrophes such as materialism, racism, and poverty, initiatives throughout the educational spectra have emerged and in many cases, been validated through extensive research. This research explores the praxis and predicted successes of constructive strategies developed specifically to deconstruct young minds and reconstruct them with an understanding that is antithetical to these catastrophes. With a strict focus on curriculum, discipline, and racial identity development; we will engage the fabric of necessary campaigns to deconstruct the pillars of catastrophe through praxis and policy.</p> <p>Monitor/Moderator:<br/>Session Type:</p> | <p>Veronica Wylie,<br/>Doctoral Student<br/>Jackson State<br/>University,<br/>Jackson, MS</p>                                                             |
| <b>Windsor<br/>III</b>         | <p><b>The Impact of Opioid Addiction on Early Childhood Development</b></p> <p><b>Type of Presentation:</b> Empirical Research/Conceptual Paper<br/>This workshop will shed light on the impact of the opioid epidemic on children and families. It must be acknowledged that exposure to traumatic events does not mean a child is destined to suffer the ill effects of toxic stress all their lives. Ultimately, with the assistance of healthcare professionals, such as social workers, early recognition and proper intervention has the potential to reverse trauma's damaging effects.</p> <p>Monitor/Moderator:<br/>Session Type:</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <p>Jessica Campbell,<br/>BSW Student<br/>Jackson State<br/>University,<br/>Jackson, MS</p> <p><i><b>No CEU's<br/>awarded for<br/>this session</b></i></p> |

**4:30pm-5:45pm/ Closing Plenary**

**5:45pm- Conference Ends**

**EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL  
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*“Relationships Matter: Connecting Systems of Services to Children, Youth,  
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**Friday, February 7, 2020**

**CLOSING SESSION**

Location: **Windsor III**

**4:30 p.m.-5:45pm**

Greetings/Introduction of Guest Speaker

LaShannon Morgan  
Admin Asst. to Assoc. Dean  
School of Social Work  
Jackson State University  
Jackson, Mississippi

Speaker

Rhea Williams-Bishop  
Director of Mississippi &  
New Orleans Programming  
W.K. Kellogg Foundation  
Battle Creek, Michigan

Presentation & Closing Remarks

Ms. Bernice McKenny

## ***Presenter Biographies***

**Dr. Tiffany Lane** is an Associate Professor and Program Director at Norfolk State University in the Ethelyn R. Strong School of Social Work. Her area of research and practice are older foster care youths' post-secondary education endeavors, youth empowerment and diversity, and inclusion in social work education.

**Dr. Belinda Davis Smith** is an Associate Professor in the Masters of Social Work Program in the College of Health Sciences, School of Social Work at Jackson State University. She spent more than 20 years in urban social practice in Washington, DC on behalf of children, youth, and families. Her research interest has focused on child welfare decision-making, older youth aging out of foster care attending Historically Black Colleges, and Universities, and social work education with underserved populations and communities.

**Dr. B. Dewayne Thomas** is a social work clinician and researcher. For more than 20 years, he has provided crisis intervention counseling to adults and children. A passionate advocate of domestic violence prevention, he focuses his clinical practice on individual and family therapy with persons experiencing difficulties in relationships at home, work and school. Dr. Thomas' research interest is dedicated to veterans. He is currently conducting research on homeless women veterans in order to ensure that policies and programs are in place to help lead them out of homelessness. Thomas holds degrees in Sociology and Social Work. He completed the Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Social Work at Jackson State University. He is married to a fellow social work practitioner and is the proud father of two children.

**Michael Forster, PhD, LCSW** is professor of social work and dean emeritus of the College of Health at the University of Southern Mississippi. Before joining the USM faculty in 1994, Dr. Forster served for fourteen years as a direct service social worker, supervisor and administrator in Chicago child welfare organizations. He currently holds positions on several non-profit boards or leadership councils, including NASW Mississippi Chapter, the Mississippi Public Health Institute, Forward365MS, and USA Dance, Hattiesburg chapter. The author or co-author of more than 50 academic publications, Dr. Forster is an advocate for the physical, mental, and community health benefits of both civic engagement and social dancing.

**Laurie Smith Lawson** received a Bachelor of Science Degree from Mississippi College, Master of Social Work from the University of Southern Mississippi, and PhD in Social Work from Tulane University, New Orleans, LA.

She served as the Executive Director at the Clinton Community Christian Corporation and assistant professor and Director of the Social Work Program at Mississippi College.

Dr. Lawson has been instrumental in her community, in civic and Christian organizations. She has presented workshops on various topics at conferences and also been a motivational speaker on empowerment for youth and women. She has also served and currently serves on various boards, and has been honored throughout her years of professional and service matriculation, including being named Distinguished Professor Award for the Department of Sociology/Social Work, 2012, as well as the N. W. Carpenter Lecturer, 2012. She has more than 10 years of clinical supervision in the state of Mississippi.

**Brian A. Street, MSW** is a Social Entrepreneur and doctoral student of Social Work at Louisiana State University with a dissertation focus *of using social entrepreneurship as a funding mechanism for developing and sustaining transitional-aged adolescent mentoring programs*. Upon observing some gaps in the child welfare system while working in Miami, FL, Brian grew a desire to merge his entrepreneurial self-education with his social work and psychology formal education to create a better way of providing necessary services for transitional-aged adolescents. Since presenting at the MCWIC in 2017, Brian has co-developed an educational program in partnership with The University of Southern Mississippi where he created the curriculum for the mentorship component of the program and served as the leadership consultant for the program coordinator. This program was implemented in three different counties across the Mississippi Delta and included partnerships with the Fannie Lou Hamer Cancer Foundation, Mississippi Valley State University male basketball team and the Men in Black and Blue Against Prostate Cancer (an all-black male senior community organization). January 2018 Brian started his own company, *Your Legacy Begins Now, LLC* from which he renders most of his international coaching, training, speaking and consulting services. More recently Brian became co-developer and International Director of The RichWay #401RichYouth Mentoring Program that has launched in two different states and is preparing to launch in Niamey, Niger, Africa. Currently Brian is preparing to finish his PhD while also partnering with organizations across the globe to serve at one capacity or another to target the underserved adolescents and young adults in economically disadvantaged minority communities primarily who are growing up without proper leadership and mentors in their lives which are vital in exposing them to their true potential.

**Dr. Breshell Jackson-Nevels** currently serves as MSW Program Director in the Ethelyn R. Strong School of Social Work at Norfolk State University. Prior to joining the faculty at NSU, Dr. Jackson-Nevels has been employed as a School Social Worker, Medical Social Worker (at the Veteran's Administration Hospital), and as a mental health therapist. She has been employed in the field of social work for over 25 years. Dr. Jackson-Nevels has had the opportunity to work with Veterans as well as with military families, Hospice, incarcerated persons, facilitated various parenting programs and groups. Dr. Nevels has coordinated and provided training in various areas to include sexual assault, domestic violence, mental health best practices, and various prevention programs.

**Melody Vaughn** (missing bio)

**Carolyn Hicks** (missing bio)

**Sara Mann** (missing bio)

**Jessica S. Marshall, M.Ed.**, currently serves as Assistant Professor in the Division of Education at Jarvis Christian College (Hawkins, TX). Prior to, she served as Director for Student Success Services, as well as an Academic Advisor for first-time freshman students at Jarvis Christian College. She assists students in their growth and development throughout their academic year, by constructing meaningful educational plans, which are compatible with real life goals. She received her Bachelor's of Science in Nutrition, Dietetics, and Hospitality Administration from Lamar University (Beaumont, TX) in 2012 and her Master's of Education in Curriculum and Instruction-Early Childhood from Texas Southern University (Houston, TX) in 2016. She plans to enter the Executive Ph.D. Program (EPHD) in Urban Higher Education (Jackson, MS) in year 2020. Prior to joining Jarvis Christian College in 2017, she worked as an

educator for the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston.

**Elizabeth Perkins** born and raised in Los Angeles, California and spent some time growing up in Sacramento, California. Living in the state's capital developed Elizabeth's passion for law and justice. Although her main career aspiration was to become a lawyer, after attending graduate school in England and receiving her Master's Degree in Criminology with Law, she realized that she wanted to pursue a career in, crime prevention. After some time living in Tokyo, Japan where she worked in Education she began to realize that Japan had such low crime because of the level of education. After three years and lots of research, she then moved to Mississippi to work with those incarcerated in order to better understand the justice system in the US. When realizing that lack of basic education was a big contributing factor to their incarceration she began working in the world of Adult Education in Mississippi to help to with recidivism. She also works with Madison Jobs 4 Youth as an instructor to provide education, knowledge and to help the negatively labeled youth of Madison County from becoming incarcerated adults.

**Dr. LaTibbie Cavett** is a passionate social services worker, who earned her Bachelors in Social Work and a Master of Science Degree in Rehabilitation Counseling, from Jackson State University located in Jackson, MS. She has also earned an Education Specialization and Doctorate Degree in Counseling with a Specialization in Trauma from Mississippi College, in Clinton, MS. Her education and career have always focused on her passion for working with children and families. Dr. Cavett has worked with individuals of various ages, backgrounds, and characteristic behaviors, proving herself to be versatile in various arenas of the social services field. She has over 10 years of experience in mental health, resources for the homeless, crisis intervention, and at-risk children and families. She has hundreds of community service hours throughout the Jackson metropolitan area.

**Dr. Dana K. Harmon** is an Assistant Professor of Social Work at Auburn University at Montgomery in Montgomery, AL. Her research interests include Black males and family functioning, marriage quality and commitment, spirituality and religiosity among Black Americans, and parental loss. She has published peer-reviewed journal articles and/or presented at local and national conferences about the factors associated with fathers' involvement with their children, impact of that involvement on mothers' parenting stress and children's behavior, African American men's perspective on the intersection of marriage and fatherhood, and police brutality against Black boys and men. Dr. Harmon has 21 years of direct service experience with couples, families, adults and children, in which she was co-led various court-ordered programs that focused on domestic violence intervention for male perpetrators, juvenile substance abuse prevention (co-developer), anger management and divorce education for parents seeking a divorce. She earned her Ph.D. in 2005 from the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, her MSW from Loyola University Chicago, and BA in sociology from the University of Alabama. She is a member of Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society and an SREB Graduate Scholar.

**Bernice McKenny**, LMSW, Doctoral Student and a professor that teaches at Jackson State University in the Bachelor of Social Work Program. Her research area is same-sex adoption, same-sex parenting, and mental health stigma.

**Jaegoo Lee, PhD**, MSW is an Associate Professor, and is teaching at Jackson State University in the School of Social Work. Her research area is child welfare, transracial adoption, adverse

childhood experiences, health and mental health, and health disparities.

**Mrs. Roslyn L. Durham** is the Child Welfare Stipend Coordinator in the Ethelyn R. Strong School of Social Work at Norfolk State University (NSU). Mrs. Durham has over 20 years of experience in Child Welfare. Areas of interest include child welfare, organizational leadership, and preparing MSW students for the aging population. Her current interest is growing and enhancing Virginia's IV-E Stipend program to meet workforce demands.

**Dr. Sharon Alston**, is an Assistant Professor of Social Work in the Ethelyn R. Strong School of Social Work at Norfolk State University. Dr. Alston has over 25 years of experience in the human services field providing direct services to individuals, children and families. She has focused her scholarship and research interest in child welfare with a focus on positive youth development for African-American youth. She is currently engaged in a violence prevention research project based in Washington, DC and currently a Research Fellow of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Interdisciplinary Research Leaders (IRL).

**Dr. Mildred Delozia** is creator the of the WITH (Women in Transformation and Healing) Program and the concept of BACEs (Broader Adverse Community Experiences). Dr. Delozia serves as the Chair of the Social Work Department at Talladega College and an adjunct professor in the MSW Program at Jackson State University. She has over 35 years of experience in community-based social work practice, program management in higher education, management in city government, and non-profit agency management.

**Dr. LaTibbie Cavett** is the Director of Madison County Jobs4Youth and CEO of Second Chance Outreach Services. She is a fierce advocate and passionate social services worker, who earned her bachelor's in social work and a Master of Science Degree in Rehabilitation Counseling, from Jackson State University. She has also earned an Education Specialization and Doctorate in Professional Counseling with a focus in trauma from Mississippi College, in Clinton, MS. She has over 10 years of experience in the social service field. Her area of expertise includes mental health, substance abuse, juvenile justice, resources for the homeless, crisis intervention, and at-risk children and families. She currently holds a P-LPC from the State of MS. She's certified in both Adult and Youth Mental Health First Aid, Certified Peer Support Specialist Supervisor, Certified in Crisis Intervention, Certified Pre-Evaluation Screener, and a Certified Victim Advocate. She provides a nurturing environment of compassion and support to help individuals and families overcome obstacles to move forward and thrive. She encourages individuals not to give up or give in but give it their all!

**Samantha Smith** is a Licensed Master's Social Worker in the State of Mississippi. She earned her bachelor's and Master's degree from Jackson State University. She has gained experience working with children and families during her many years as a Child Protection Specialist at Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services. She enjoys fulfilling her passion with providing services to individuals that will bring about change. Ms. Smith is currently employed at the University of Mississippi Medical Center where she assists patients with referral resources, provides families of ill patients with support, and coordinates with assessments and discharge summaries. She is currently working on obtaining her Clinical Social Work License, so she is able to provide Clinical services to the youth population. Ms. Smith also enjoys speaking on topics that engage the youth population.

**Dr. Phyllis E. Gillians** has been a professional social worker since 1990. Currently, she is an Assistant Professor of Social Work-Tenure Track at Bowie State University. Her primary areas of focus are: Child Welfare, Bullying, and Adolescent Therapy. Dr. Gillians received a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from Saint Augustine's College in Raleigh, N.C and a Master of Social Work degree with a Specialization in Children and Their Families from Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service. She also received a Post-Masters Certificate in Child and Adolescent Therapy from Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service. Dr. Gillians completed her Doctor of Education Degree in Administration and Supervision at Fordham University Graduate School of Education. Her Dissertation is titled: Principals' Understanding of Bullying: How Four Administrators Set Policies In Their Schools". Raised in Orange, New Jersey, Dr. Gillians now lives in Bowie, Maryland. She is a member of Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society and a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

**Billy Dilworth** (missing bio)

**Dr. Ronica Arnold Branson** (missing bio)

**Dr. Stephanie Davidson Herndon** (missing bio)

**Dr. Roenia DeLoach** is a native of Vicksburg, Mississippi. She received her BSW degree from Jackson State University (Jackson, Mississippi) and completed a practicum in a community mental health center. She received her MSW degree with a Concentration in Mental Health from The Ohio State University (Columbus, Ohio). She also received her Ph.D. in Social Work and a Graduate Interdisciplinary Specialization in Aging from The Ohio State University. Dr. Roenia DeLoach has been a faculty in the Department of Social Work at Savannah State University since 2002. She has held several administrative roles at Savannah State University; Chair of the Department of Social, Coordinator of Bachelor of Social Work Program, and Coordinator of the Master of Social Work Program. She has over fifteen years of clinical experience to include work in community mental health and medical (hospital, dialysis center and hospice) settings. She serves as a community program research evaluator for several community agencies in Georgia. Dr. DeLoach has been involved with international social work since 2000. She has extensive knowledge in the coordination of study abroad programs. As a student at The Ohio State University, she participated in the study abroad program in Denmark (2000) and Ghana (2001) which spiked her interest in study abroad. She has been a faculty coordinator for study abroad in Ghana (2005, 2014-2019), Brazil (2007), Egypt (2008), Trinidad/Tobago (2009-2018), Nigeria (2013) and Liberia (2014, 2016 and 2017).

**Rhonda Dorsey** (missing bio)

**Valerie Carson** is an LMSW currently working at John Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, MA. She is a doctoral candidate in the Jackson State University School of Social Work Doctoral Program. She is a 1990 graduate of Alcorn State University with a B.S. degree in Biological Sciences and a 1997 graduate of the premier class of the Jackson State University Master Social Work program. Her primary practice focus is medical/psychiatric social work and social work education. Research interest include family and children well-being; mental health interventions and practice implications for social work; child abuse prevention and advocacy; and criminal justice awareness and sentencing reform.

**Pedro M. Hernandez, Ph.D., MSW**, is an Associate Professor and is teaching at Jackson State University in the School of Social Work. His research interests are child welfare, disproportionate minority content, and statistical analysis.

**Dr. Errol S. Bolden, PhD, MSW, MPH** is a full professor in the Department of Social Work at Coppin State University, Baltimore, MD. He obtained his PhD in Social Work and MPH at the University of Pittsburgh; and his M.S.W. degree at Howard University. He is the former chair of the social work undergraduate program and VP of the Faculty Senate at Coppin.

**Carla Baskin** is no stranger to advocacy, team collaboration, and being an enforcer for social change. Working in the field of social services for over 17 years, she is currently a Certified Mental Health Therapist working as a Primary Service Coordinator (PSC) at Youth Villages in the Central Mississippi area, where she was recently named the Central Mississippi PSC of the Year by her leadership team. Carla has worked in numerous behavioral health agencies around the Jackson Metro area working with both youth and adults, she has run a social services department for an elderly and disabled apartment community, and currently works with children, youth, and families in her present role. She has a passion for children and young adults and believe everyone deserves a chance. Although this merely covers a brief synopsis of her extensive work background, Carla is most excited about her continued collaboration with like-minded professionals locally and nationally, to lobby for cultural and social change across the country. Carla is one of the 41 individuals selected across the US to serve as a 2019-2020 Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Minority Fellow in which she was given the opportunity, to lobby on Capitol Hill for more funding in the mental health education arena.

**Veronica Wylie** (missing bio)

**Jessica Campbell** is a senior social work major from Starkville, Mississippi. Jessica's college experience consisted of being a dedicated student worker and consistent involvement with the social work student association. After graduation, Jessica plans on attending Kennesaw State University Master's of Social Work program.

**Shenika Montgomery** (missing bio)

**Paula Boyd** (missing bio)

**Keyatta Moses** (missing bio)

**Sonji Pace** (missing bio)

**Luida Jackson** (missing bio)

**Kysia Owens** (missing bio)

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*February 6-7, 2020*

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*NASW, MS Chapter*

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*Jackson State University  
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*Jackson State University  
School of Life-long Learning*

*Jackson State University  
Department of Urban and Regional Planning*

**Jackson State University  
Department of Public Policy and Administration (?)**

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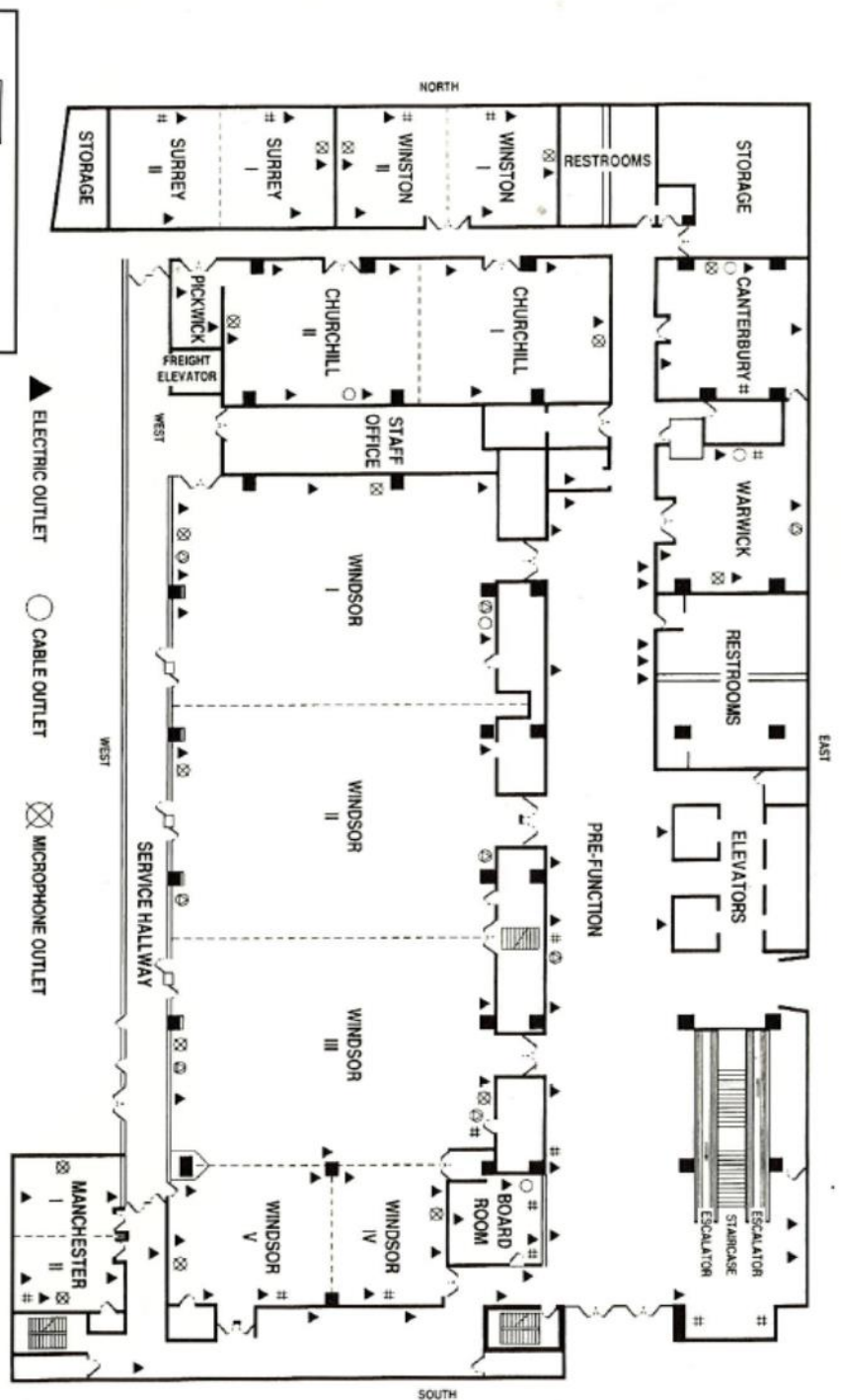
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