


# 2022



*15th ANNUAL*

# GEORGIA SCHOOL OF ADDICTION STUDIES

## PROGRAM BROCHURE



Influencing Policy,  
Impacting Outcomes,  
NOW and BEYOND:

Prevention,  
Treatment,  
and Recovery

August 28 - September 1, 2022

Hyatt Regency, Savannah, GA

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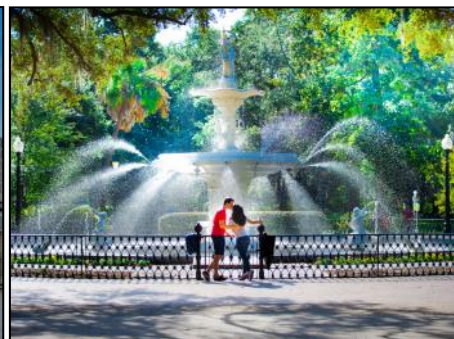
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## **PLEASE REMEMBER TO...**

- 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 15th Annual Georgia School of Addiction Studies and the beautiful city of Savannah. Our theme this year Influencing Policy, Impacting Outcomes, Now and Beyond illustrates our commitment to prompting and sustaining positive change 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 two movie and television stars for our featured keynotes this year. For the first time we have an Academy Award winner with us, Louis Gossett, Jr. Mr. Gossett won the Oscar for Best Supporting Actor for his portrayal of Gunnery Sergeant Emil Foley in the movie, An Officer and a Gentleman. He has also starred in numerous other film and television productions in an acting career that spans over five decades. April Hernandez Castillo is best known for her riveting performance as “Eva” in the hit movie, Freedom Writers, starring Hilary Swank, and she has also appeared on multiple television series.

Another first for us this year will be the new conference app. 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 14 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 Certification Board of GA**

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**Athens Technical College– Social Work Assistant Program**

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**Council of Accountability Court Judges**

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**Criminal Justice Coordinating Council**

Jay Neal

**DeKalb County Accountability Courts**

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**Georgia Association of Recovery Residences**

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**Georgia Council on Substance Abuse**

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Theodore Carter, Jr., MPA

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**Georgia Department of Corrections**

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**Heritage Foundation**

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**Licensed Professional Counselors Association of Georgia**

Jo Abney, LPC

Gale Macke, LPC

Kelly Michael Moselle, MS, MA, CAMS II

**Mercy Care**

Steve Roux, BA, CADCII

**National Association of Social Workers- GA**

Cheryl Bonneau, JD, MSW

Dr. Lucy R. Cannon, LCSW, LICSW, MATS, GSAS Vice President

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

**Penfield Addiction Ministries**

Robby Wallace, BA, CADC-II

**Prevention Credentialing Consortium of Georgia**

Jessica Andrews-Wilson, MS, ICPS, GSAS Parliamentarian

**Recovery Place**

Leslie Backus, GSAS Treasurer

**Southeast Addiction Technology Transfer Center**

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

**Student Representative**

Iman Pew, LMSW

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



# Overview

The 15th 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 28th, at 2:00 p.m. and end on Thursday, September 1st, 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](http://www.thegeorgiaschool.org). Below are the conference registration fees and registration dates.

- **Registration: June 20th - August 21st**                      \$550
- **Late Registration: August 22nd - August 27th**            \$575
- **On-Site Registration:**    \$575

Partial week registrations are also available; 2-day/\$375, and 1-day/\$225.

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 12, 2022**.

For inquiries related to registration, please e-mail [info@thegeorgiaschool.org](mailto: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

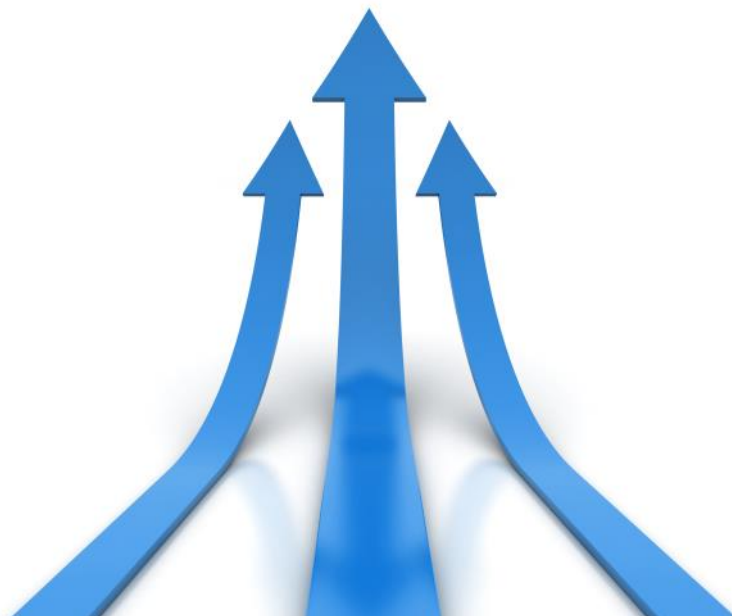
Registered participants will have continental breakfast each day, assorted snacks and refreshments throughout the day and lunch on Monday and Wednesday. Be sure to look for our hot breakfast on Thursday morning. For those with special dietary needs please indicate this on your registration.

## Lodging

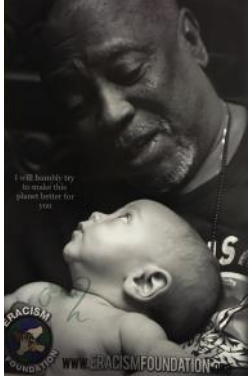
Please make your reservations as soon as possible. A limited number of rooms are being held for the Georgia School at the Hyatt Regency (2 West Bay Street, Savannah, GA) at the rate of \$156 plus tax for single or double occupancy. **August 5, 2022 is the deadline for reserving your lodging at this rate.**

For reservations you may use the Georgia School website, [www.thegeorgiaschool.org](http://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



## Louis Gossett Jr.

Academy Award Winning Actor, Author, and Activist

Louis Gossett Jr. is one of the most respected and beloved actors on stage, screen and television and is also an accomplished writer, producer and director. Off-screen he is a social activist, educator and author dedicated to enriching the lives of others. Gossett was the first African-American to win the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor for his unforgettable performance as drill Sergeant Emil Foley in "An Officer and a Gentleman." Among his other awards are an Emmy for Outstanding Lead Actor for his portrayal of Fiddler in the groundbreaking ABC series "Roots," a Golden Globe for Best Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role for "The Josephine Baker Story" and a Golden Globe for "An Officer and a Gentleman." He has been nominated for seven Primetime Emmy Awards, three Golden Globes, one Academy Award, five Images Awards, two Daytime Emmy Awards and in 1992 received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Gossett is the author of the bestselling autobiography "An Actor and a Gentleman," in which he chronicles the challenges and triumphs of his 50+ year career. Gossett is recognized as much for his humanitarian efforts as he is for his accomplishments as an actor. In 2006, Gossett founded The Eracism Foundation which is a nonprofit organization dedicated to eradicating racism. The foundation provides young adults with tools to live a racially diverse and culturally inclusive life.



## April Hernandez Castillo

Actress, Author

Best known for her riveting performance as "Eva" in the hit movie, Freedom Writers, starring Hilary Swank, April Hernandez Castillo was living the Hollywood dream. She starred on TV shows such as; Person of Interest, Law & Order: SVU, Dexter, and New Amsterdam to name a few. However, behind the glitz and glamor was a woman dealing secretly with a traumatic past. April's inspirational story of resilience, overcoming adversity, and choosing to move forward no matter what happens in life is a message that resonates with audiences across the globe. In her keynote entitled, Moving Forward, April intimately describes how she was able to take all her tragedies and turn them into triumphs by choosing to never give up. From growing up in the tough streets of the Bronx during the Crack Epidemic Era, to being in an abusive relationship as a teenager, to almost taking her own life, April truly understands what it feels like when the odds are up against you. In order to move forward in life, we must first make a choice to do so. "My life dramatically changed when I made two critical decisions during my abuse. I made a choice to leave, and I made a choice to live." Understanding her platform as an actor and speaker has allowed April to grace an array of audiences all the way from juvenile detention facilities to one of the most prestigious stages to date, TEDx. Her message has reached thousands of students and conferences nationwide and internationally. April is also an author who has released her highly anticipated work, her memoir, Embracing Me. One of her favorite quotes is from the movie "Rocky Balboa". "It's not how hard you hit. It's how hard you can get hit and keep moving forward, how much you can take and keep moving forward that's how winning is done."

# Plenary & Lunch Sessions

## Monday Morning Plenary

Finding and Sharing Power Together  
Robert Schwebel



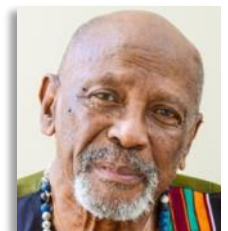
## Monday Lunch- Welcome to the Georgia School

Percussion Discussion  
Tom Harris

## Tuesday Morning Showcase

A Conversation with Louis Gossett, Jr.

Louis Gossett Jr. and Felicia Suttle



Their Addiction, My Prevention and Recovery

April Hernandez Castillo

## Wednesday Morning Plenary

Prevention and Addressing Health Disparities

Jill Mays



## 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

2022 Georgia School Knowledge Challenge - Win Prizes!





# Special Events

## All Week

### 2nd 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 student scholarships.



### Let's Be Clear Georgia Collaborative Meeting - 5:15pm - 6:00pm

Let's Be Clear Georgia (LBCG), a non-profit 501 c 3 preventing marijuana abuse and dependence, will hold a Collaborative Meeting for its members as well as those who may be interested in becoming a member. Also let us know what your needs are and hear how LBCG may be of help to your community and what our Board of Directors and Staff have been doing around the state.

## Tuesday

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

### Internship and Career Fair - 6:00pm-7:00pm

Students, plan to attend a professional networking event just for you. Learn about internships and career opportunities in areas of prevention, addictions, treatment, and recovery. Refreshments will be served.

## Wednesday

### Escape Room Challenge - 7:15pm

Ready for a challenge? Game on! Or should we say countdown clock on? You will have a challenging and fun experience that focuses on working together to solve puzzles and escape the room. Your wits and skills will be put to the test! You and your team will be locked in one of their five themed experiences and will have 60 minutes to complete the objective (please note, the Savannah Speakeasy room does contain alcohol related material and could be triggering. If requested, an attendee would have the option to participate in a different room). Admission \$30 per person (must be pre-paid via registration system). Spots are limited, so don't wait to get your ticket. Attendees would need to arrange transportation to the venue, if you prefer not to walk. Walking to the venue takes approximately 10 minutes from the Hyatt.



## All Week

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

# Program Agenda

## Sunday, August 28th

### 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

### Wedding of the Century: Prevention, Treatment and Recovery

#### Jerria Martin

Break out that old bridesmaid dress or your out of style cummerbund, you are cordially invited to the wedding of the century! You're in for a treat as this rousing wedding themed presentation will feature fun-filled engaging material from a national Opioid Response Network Prevention Specialist. Opioids have created an unprecedented health crisis. While leaders work tirelessly with sector representatives, bridging social divides in our nation's communities, it's important for leaders in prevention, treatment, and recovery to create unprecedented responses and strategies to deal with the opioid epidemic and it's aftereffects by regularly reaching out to and collaborating with each other. It is imperative that we nurture and build these relationships by understanding the plethora of ways we help each other fulfill our aspirations. Attendees will determine ways to successfully collaborate with prevention, recovery, and treatment partners in their communities, develop and strengthen community strategies within their opioid action plan, and identify and articulate the roles prevention, recovery, and treatment professionals play in combatting the opioid epidemic locally. Formal attire and gifts are not required to attend this celebration.

## Monday, August 29th

### 7:00am: Conference Check-In

### 8:00-9:00am: Morning Plenary

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

### Telehealth During COVID 19; Benefits, Barriers, Legal, and Ethical Dilemmas, and Solutions

#### Lucy Cannon

This training will focus on helping licensed practitioners' gain a comprehensive understanding of telehealth laws and COVID HIPAA-rules that must be implemented in order to meet the needs of individuals in need of mental health and addiction services. The benefits, barriers and opportunities, and legal problems will be addressed along with recommendations to assist healthcare practitioners with managing their organizations while meeting the needs of their clients. Participants will also become aware of key telehealth ethical dilemmas that commonly occur in the workplace and ways to resolve them.



**MONDAY AM 3 HOUR WORKSHOPS (9:30am-12:30pm) Sessions– A****Clinical Pearls of the Pharmacotherapy of Alcohol Use Disorders: Detoxification, Anti-Craving, and Deterrence****Merrill Norton**

Alcohol use disorder (AUD), commonly called alcoholism, affected 6.2% of people in the United States age 18 and older in 2015 and is the third leading preventable cause of death in the United States (National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism [NIAAA], 2018). Despite the psychological and social trauma AUD causes, early symptoms are often ignored when treatment is most effective. The medications used to manage the different modalities of the treatment of Alcohol Use Disorder include detoxification, deterrence, and anti-craving. This presentation is a summary of a systematic review evaluating the evidence regarding the efficacy, comparative effectiveness, and adverse effects of these medications in adults with alcohol use disorder (AUD). Participants will demonstrate current medication applications of the detoxification of alcohol use disorder (AUD), comprehend the rationale for the use of deterrence medications in the treatment of alcohol use disorder (AUD), and learn the explanation and application for the use of anti-craving medications for alcohol use disorder (AUD).

**Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Legislative Update and Advocacy Discussion****Yvonne Harvey Williams, Jeff Breedlove, and Gregg Raduka**

An update on legislation impacting substance abuse and addiction and mental health from Atlanta and Washington D.C.. A look at recently passed legislation and legislation in progress which impacts all aspects of substance abuse, addiction and mental health from prevention to treatment to recovery. A highlight will be HB 1013 – The Mental Health Parity Act and its transformational impact on our communities in Georgia. This session will highlight Who We Are, Why This Matters, and How We Communicate Our Message. Participants will learn how to organize in a professional way in order to work with others to build consensus around their issues. We will discuss the importance of relationship building and showing up in a consistent way, being positive rather than negative, but also being ready to define your “opponent” when we need to, being realistic, not idealistic, and how to live our prevention and recovery values and have our values be consistent with our various causes. Non-profit agencies will learn how they too can advocate even though they may not be able to lobby.

**Abstinence or Nothing****Robert Schwebel**

This workshop about behavioral solutions to substance use disorders, including problems that reach the level of addiction. It discusses four behavioral options (abstinence is one) for changing drug use behavior and strategies to monitor and help clients achieve success in their choice of how to change.

**Self Care - The Overlooked Ethical Responsibility of Caregivers****Dawn Allred**

Go, go, go, do, do, do, more, more, more... this seems to be a "normal" message in our society today. However, it leads to burnout, stress, poor health, and an abundance of other problems. We hear about self care, we teach our clients about self care, yet counselors, care givers, and helpers are the last to take their own advice! This presentation will provide an understanding of the ethical principal of self care. Using a holistic approach, creative, innovative ideas will be explored to provide the participant many ways to improve self care, their professional work, and their lives. Along with open discussion, experiential activities will be used to demonstrate the power of using holistic integrative approaches to self care.

**MONDAY AM 3 HOUR WORKSHOPS continued (9:30am-12:30pm) Sessions– A****The Impact of Family - Family Systems Therapy and Substance Use Disorders****Diane Diver**

Families are a complex unit made up of individuals that interact with each other. The family functions as a system and individuals assume their own roles within the family system. Each member does this naturally and subconsciously. Even though every family is different, the behaviors of individuals and the roles they assume are similar. This is evident in television shows like 'All in the Family', 'Cosby', 'Fresh Prince of Bel-Air' and its remake 'Bel-Air'. This presentation will review family systems theory, how to use the genogram, assess a client's family subsystems, identify survival mechanisms, and the interventions to use in order to effectively work with clients whether the family is involved in treatment or not.

**Infusing Equity into Your Prevention Work****Albert Gay**

This course will introduce concepts of equity, diversity and inclusion and their importance in the field of prevention. In this session, we will define terms that are essential to the discussion, as well as discuss the roots of how inequities are formed. We will explore what populations are most impacted by health inequities and discuss the process of conducting a needs assessment to identify health inequities. Finally, we will explore the role that prevention professionals can play to assess inequities and help lower disparities while promoting a more equitable environment.

**"Do it for the Culture": Understanding the Sensitive Needs of Today.****Monaletto Irby**

"Do it for the Culture" is usually a statement requesting that someone carry out a specific action for benefit of their shared culture. Case Managers have a unique job of creating a trust and building a bond with their clientele (parents and youth) of different cultures. This often involves the worker engaging with different value systems and beliefs, which can present unforeseen obstacles. Participants will engage in open discussion and practical exercises to gain a better knowledge of culture diversity in 2022 and how it plays a role in relationship building and how stereotypes can have a negative impact on potential progress. Let's Do it for the Culture.

**That was AWESOME: The Neuroscience of Effective Praise****Michael Nerney**

Recent studies tell us that false praise or ineffective praise not only does not build self-esteem, but may also create negative outcomes in self-perception in adolescents. Participants will learn effective language structures, appropriate phrases, and the best techniques for using praise as a tool for enhancing adolescent self-esteem and providing motivation for better work.

**Don't Fight the Faith, Prime the Power: Working Together Works****Taneika Williams & Andrea Renee Jacobs**

This presentation will be focused on the benefits of community providers working in tandem with the faith community to provide culturally relevant deliverables and ongoing support for those dealing with behavioral health concerns.



**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.**

**Mastery Counseling and Clinical Humility****Robert Schwebel**

This workshop teaches a way to organize and structure counseling to help people take power over their alcohol and other drug use, and the rest of their lives. It will offer guidance, and teach practical skills that can be applied regardless of your own theoretical orientation to providing services. Participants will have an opportunity to observe and practice this respectful and empowering approach to counseling.

**A Percussion Discussion - Theory and Practice of Therapeutic Drumming****Tom Harris & Tatiana Rolles**

Group drumming has been used to promote community and healing for millennia. This workshop will explore the use of traditional West African drumming with challenging youth, with some connection with addiction and recovery. Information will be shared about research documenting the therapeutic benefits of drumming. Traditional use of rites of passage will be discussed as well as their relevance in working with children and adolescents in Western cultures. Participants will learn how to use simple warm-up activities with drums and found percussion items to work with groups. A traditional West African rhythm will be taught and played.

**To CBD or Not to CBD: That is the Question? The Updated Neuroscience of CBD Oils****Merrill Norton**

With the legalization of cannabis products (THC and CBD) for medical and recreational purposes in many states and with a majority of US citizens advocating for the legal right to consume these products, the use of THC and CBD products will increase and may impact the human brain in many ways. The human brain can experience multiple complications with regular use of cannabis products and the long-term effects of these complications are unknown. Are CBD oils beneficial or do they cause long term dysfunctions of the central nervous system? Now we know CBD as cannabidiol, an organic compound derived from the hemp and cannabis plants. We find it in health food stores and other shops. In pills and tinctures. Salves and creams. Chocolate bars, honey sticks, energy bars, sleeping masks and coffee, among many other things. And as the CBD boom continues to crest, we will encounter the substance in increasingly more products and outlets. This presentation will introduce the audience to the neuroscience of CBD oils, their benefits, and adverse drug effects.

**Just When We Got Comfortable - More Change - The 2022 Update to the DSM-5****Diane Diver**

It has been 9 years since the 2013 edition of the DSM-5 was released. Scheduled for March 2022, the DSM-5-TR will be released with updates and clarifications to more than 70 disorders. The updates include revisions to the following diagnoses: Autism spectrum disorder, Bipolar I and Bipolar II Disorder, Cyclothymic disorder, Major Depressive Disorder, Manic Episode, Substance/Medication induced mental disorders, and the introduction of Prolonged Grief Disorder. This open discussion and training will define for you the DSM-5-TR changes as well as the proposed changes coming to the ASAM Levels of Care.



**MONDAY PM 3 HOUR WORKSHOPS continued (2:00pm-5:00pm) Sessions– B****Leveraging Resources for Identifying, Accessing, and Mining Local Data for Prevention and Evaluation in Georgia****Darigg Brown & Jenna Gabrio**

RTI International has collaborated with Georgia's Office of Behavioral Health Prevention and Federal Grants and the State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup on several prevention and data gathering efforts in recent years, including: 1) an evaluation of the Alcohol and Substance Abuse Prevention Project (ASAPP); 2) a county-level Social Indicator Study (SIS); and 3) an update and relaunch of the Georgia Strategic Prevention System Data Warehouse. During this workshop we will present results of the ASAPP evaluation, including ways in which local data were important to the implementation of selected prevention strategies. We will also discuss the SIS study and how we incorporated unique data sources and emerging substance use issues to produce epidemiological profiles for each of Georgia's 159 counties. Attendees will participate in an interactive exercise to examine risk and protective factors of substance use. Finally, we will introduce the Data Warehouse and discuss its utility in identifying, accessing, and mining relevant community-level data.

**Community Resiliency Training: Using Your Nervous System to Build (and maintain) Resilience****Linda Grabbe & Doug Jackson**

The Community Resiliency Model™ (CRM) of the Trauma Resource Institute trains community members to not only help themselves but to help others within their wider social network. The primary focus of this skills-based, stabilization program is to re-set the natural balance of the nervous system. CRM skills help individuals understand their nervous system and learn to read sensations connected to their own well-being, which CRM calls the "Resilient Zone".

**A Matter of Trust: How Language and Behaviors Create Trust****Michael Nerney**

A major finding in research regarding effective prevention, intervention, and treatment identifies social/emotional connections or a therapeutic alliance as a critical element of good outcomes. For adolescents, this often comes down to whether or not they trust the adults in their lives. In this session, participants will learn the three components of trust, and the language and demonstrated behaviors that create and maintain a trusting relationship with adolescents.

**Transforming U: An Innovative Approach to Improving Workplace Wellness****Christine Richardson & Kareem Pollard**

Learn how the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice made employee wellness a priority. This workshop will discuss creating a workplace culture that values employee health and wellness.

**Understanding the Connections of Bullying and Suicide****Michael Carpenter**

This workshop will clarify the complicated issues surrounding bullying and suicide among youth. Is bullying, cyberbullying, and hazing a risk factor for suicide? Join us as we debate how the latest research addresses how we should intervene to decrease bullying and suicidal behavior.



**Tuesday, August 30th**

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

**TUESDAY AM SHOWCASE (9:00am-12:30pm) Sessions– C****Louis Gossett, Jr. - Academy Award Winning Actor, Author, Activist****April Hernandez-Castillo - Actor, Author****TUESDAY PM 3 HOUR WORKSHOPS (2:00pm-5:00pm) Sessions– D****Internet Pornography and Its Impact on Adolescent Beliefs and Behaviors****Mindy Ackerman & Jerald Armstrong**

The increase of internet enabled technology has significantly changed the way adolescents encounter and consume sexually explicit material. With the growth of the internet and social media has come easier and more access to pornography. This workshop will explore the effects of internet pornography on adolescents' sexual attitudes, beliefs, behaviors, and sexual aggression. Sexually abusive youth and youth with problem sexualized behaviors have been found to disclose more frequent and earlier exposures to pornography compared to delinquent youth. Additional topics will include the lasting effects into adulthood.

**Rethinking Stress and Mental Health - Manage Your Stress Before It Manages You****Earl Suttle**

In this interactive dynamic seminar, participants will learn strategies to manage stressors before they manifest into toxic stress and negatively impact their mental health. Attendees will learn to identify the early warning signs of stress, strategies to increase productivity despite uncertain times, how to increase your vitality at work and improve your physical and mental health, the T.A.P. Stress Response Model to beat your stress back into submission, how stress can benefit YOU to help manage your mental health, and what leaders can do to reduce and improve the mental health within their organizations.

**Our Words Really Do Matter: The Connection Between Language Stigma and Overdose****Ed Johnson**

Substance Use Disorders (SUD) are stigmatized. That stigma causes individuals with SUD to not seek or delay treatment. With Opioid Use Disorder (OUD), this increases those folks odds of overdose and death. The language used in reference to SUD is more appropriate for willful bad behavior, not a medical condition. This presentation will explore the use of more medically appropriate terms and phrases that addiction professionals can use to help reduce stigma.

**TUESDAY PM 3 HOUR WORKSHOPS continued (2:00pm-5:00pm) Sessions– D****Shattering Stigma in Communities: Breaking Down Barriers to Effective Recovery Support Services****Emily Ribblett**

Participants will hear personal stories from Certified Addiction Recovery Empowerment Specialist (CARES) trained peer coaches about the work being done in communities across the state. Facilitators will review brain science related to addiction and recovery in order to dispel the myth that addiction is just “bad behavior”. Participants will use discussion and activities to learn how to use non-stigmatizing, person centered language to better communicate with the community they serve. Evidence based, motivational interviewing tools and techniques will be reviewed so that compassionate conversations can be had between professionals providing services and peers seeking support for their substance use challenges. The presenters will demonstrate how peer recovery support services are part of a continuum of care designed to help individuals find self-directed pathways to wellness.

**Innovative Interventions: How to do an Alcohol and Drug Evaluation and get Someone into Treatment****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 assessments and interventions. This will be based on a new model for counselors that moves beyond the industry standard Johnson Institute (JI) Model. The new model does not have the built in problems of the JI 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. This new model can be characterized as the "horse whisperer" approach and is compatible with Motivational Interviewing.

**Promising New Environmental Approaches to Alcohol and Other Drug Problems****Carlton Hall**

This training provides an overview of the principles of the environmental approach to preventing alcohol and other drug problems. Through presentations and interactive activities, participants explore evidence-based strategies shown effective in preventing AOD problems. The training also presents promising new environmental strategies focusing on preventing illicit drug problems. Participants examine strategies that may have relevance to their local communities through exploration of their unique local conditions that serve as contributing factors to AOD problems. Special emphasis will be placed on exploring strategies that impact community systems as well as those that impact problems at the neighborhood level.

**Everything You Need To Know To Achieve Recovery Residence Success****Todd Wilson**

This is a Recovery Residence intensive providing you with everything you will need to plan, develop and implement policies & procedures, staff rolls, client care services, business planning and marketing strategies which means you will have the tools to improve your current program or have a clear path on how to start your own successful recovery residence program.



**TUESDAY PM 3 HOUR WORKSHOPS continued (2:00pm-5:00pm)****Youth Mental Health and Substance Abuse: The World They are in Today****Amira Abdulhafid & Michael Davis**

In December 2021, the U.S. Surgeon General issued an advisory on the youth mental health crisis that has been further exposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Mental health challenges in our youth have existed long before the pandemic, however, the isolation and complete reversal of the world as they knew it has further increased rates of helplessness, depression and thoughts of suicide. There is a direct correlation between youth mental health and substance abuse. While youth may turn to substance use to escape from overwhelming emotions, substance use is a major risk factor for suicide. This workshop aims to define mental health and review the current trends. We will learn about the connection between mental health and substance use disorder as well as learn about various strategies to decrease substance abuse and improve mental wellness in their communities.

**Community Friendly Evaluation Alternatives: Learning the Basics to Build Capacity for Sustainable Impact****Moya Alfonso**

With varying prioritization on comprehensive public health funding, state and local organizations have the task of doing more with less. Private, foundation, state, and federal funders are all becoming more interested in return on investment at multiple levels of intervention. Some funders, such as United Way, are demanding evaluation frameworks that align with Collective Impact approaches to community development and health intervention. Nonprofits, public education systems, and community-based organizations nationally lack the evaluation capacity required to meet funders' demands for feasible yet rigorous program evaluation efforts. Thus, community readiness for sustainable collective impact remains specifically elusive. Traditional models of evaluation focus on fundraising for an organization, treating symptoms, and counting individuals served instead of measurable outcomes directly related to community needs. The RE-AIM evaluation framework embedded into a collective impact model can produce sustainable results for communities with limited evaluation capacity. The RE-AIM framework is one of the most community-friendly yet comprehensive evaluation frameworks available. It enables evaluators to remain flexible and responsive to communities' needs while balancing internal and external validity. This workshop will provide attendees with an overview of community-friendly evaluation alternatives with an emphasis on building attendee's knowledge and skills required to meet the current demand for evaluation designs appropriate for Collective Impact efforts nationwide.

**Tailoring Motivational Interviewing and Cognitive Behavioral Treatment to the Elder Client****Lindy Lewis**

Cognitive Behavioral Treatment has been recognized as an effective approach for treating substance use disorders and in treating a variety of conditions among the elderly. Effective treatment, however, is based on recognizing developmental characteristics and need of the population. This presentation will focus on the adaptation of effective MI and CBT strategies in working with the elderly.

**Wednesday, August 31st**

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

8:00-9:00am: Morning Plenary

**WEDNESDAY 6 HOUR WORKSHOPS (9:30am-5:00pm) Sessions– E/F****Trauma in African American Families****Gary Byrd**

Racial disparities still pervade American life, as seen with the disproportionate rates of incarceration and often lethal violence directed at African Americans by both law enforcement officers and civilians. For African American children and families, traumatic events are born out of a vicious cycle of poverty, lack of access to resources, poor educational opportunities, and histories of abuse. There is increasing evidence that the direct experience of racism and race-based stressors is a strong predictor of emotional distress, psychiatric symptoms, and the development of PTSD. African American children and youth, who are among the most likely members of our society to be exposed to trauma, are also among the least likely to receive the services that could prevent the development of trauma-related emotional and behavioral difficulties.

**Clinical Supervision: Enhancing Skills to Develop Competent Clinicians****Karen Kelly**

Effective supervision of counselors enhances a substance use treatment program's ability to provide quality services. Treatment services improve when providers can practice new skills with support and mentoring from knowledgeable, competent, and empathetic clinical supervisors.

**The Ethics of Moving Beyond Cultural Competence to Cultural Humility, Sensitivity, and Consideration in MH and SA Treatment****Sandra Phillips**

This workshop will focus on the commonalities of professional codes of ethics such as the ACA, Georgia Composite Board and NAADAC as it pertains to standard of care, client's welfare, and cultural competence. Participants will gain insight on the limitations of only obtaining knowledge in clinician's quest to culturally become competence. This workshop through definitions for clarity along with explanation of cultural humility, sensitivity and consideration and discussion will conclude being competent is not enough. We, as clinician must make application of learned information regarding competence to assist in providing more effective treatment and positive outcomes as we see and treat the whole client.

**Cultural Considerations for Increasing Positive Outcomes for LGBTQ Individuals Across the Continuum****Marissa Carlson & Maura McGowan**

Learn more about the unique needs and programming considerations that your LGBTQ participants, students, or clients may have based on historical and current healthcare disparities. Explore and share ways that your organization can become more welcoming and responsive to the LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer) population and provide more affirming and effective services across the continuum of care.





## 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 Islamic Approach To Recovery

Nadim Ali

The workshop will identify how Islam has addressed addiction nearly 1400 years ago, and how the Qur'an emphasizes abstinence from all mood altering substances. The workshop will address the following: Historical references that support recovery, How some Muslims don't respond to traditional support groups, and present information on Muslim self help groups that address the Muslim addict from a culturally specific point of view.

### How to Increase Your Personal Power

Felicia Suttle

In this personal development session, participants will gain greater insight about themselves and how to gain greater influence with others in their work and social environments. Participants will learn about working with different personalities, keys to increasing their personal power for greater profitability, the nine-judgment points people assess about you that can make or break you, importance of assessing non-verbal communication for better work relationships, some unique differences between work habits of men and women that can propel your success, strategies to stand out on the job and in social settings, and understanding the traits of people you work with and your family.

### How to Move Your Prevention Upstream With Environmental Strategies

Kristin Kidd

This interactive session will introduce and discuss environmental strategies and their ability to expand the reach of prevention services. By using environmental strategies such as local policy change, prevention professionals and their collaborators can move the work upstream and begin to address the social determinants of health. After a discussion of the social determinants of health and their impact on health inequities, participants will have the opportunity to explore the 10-Policy Adoption Model that could guide future policy efforts.

### Adolescent Substance Use Trends

Amen Kush

Slang terms, drug popularity, and methods and concealment of substance use change regularly. Anyone who spends a significant amount of time with young people should keep on top of these trends so that they can better identify and refer students who may require help. In this program, participants will be updated on the latest significant substance use trends (such as vaping, marijuana and opiates) as well as prevention messaging, signs and symptoms of use, and where to go with concerns about a young person.

### Prevention Leadership Through a Culturally Humble Lens

Carlton Hall

This interactive course will provide a foundational conversation placing the idea of prevention leadership in the context of cultural humility, inequity, and social justice. Participants will be able to define cultural humility, understand the difference between cultural humility vs cultural competence, discuss the importance of these topics within the context of current SUD prevention priorities and prevention leadership, and discuss potential resources for prevention leaders.

## 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.

### Let's Talk About Opioids: Confronting and Overcoming a Rx Abuse Epidemic/Pandemic

Lewis Ponzo & Pilar Jackson

Americans throughout this great country are battling with an opioid overdose crisis. A lot of the crisis stems from a lack of education, and awareness into opioids and opioid antagonists. This training will provide education around opioids by discussing their origin, types, and effects on the human mind, and body. We will also discuss COVID 19's impact on the opioid crisis. In addition to highlighting evidence-based strategies for preventing opioid overdose.

## 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.

### "We Do Recover" - Connecting with Peers Receiving Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)

Beverly Ragland

The presenter will use lecture, participant query, discussion and activities to expound on the various benefits of recovery initiatives that support peers receiving Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT). We will also examine Medication Assisted Recovery (MAR) Assertive Telephone Outreach which is a program with the goal of reducing stigma and promoting inclusion of the MAT community.

### The Spirit of Recovery

Sandy Queen

Our attempts to define spirituality is a paradox since in spite of formalized religion no one can define spirituality for others. Because of this, spiritual boundaries are extremely vulnerable to violation. They are, as AA says, "the first thing to go and the last to return.". Yet, they contain essential elements through which we build confidence about ourselves, our purpose and our relationship to the Higher Power within each of us. We often avoid sessions on spirituality because of the fragility of the borders that surround the individual's personal viewpoint. Not only must recovery address the physical mental, emotional and social elements but it needs to help each of us understand the meaning and purpose of our individual life, apart from everyone else's. This session will examine the elements of healthy spirituality. We will address the intertwining of spirituality with all the other components of recovery. We will look at the impact that spiritual growth has taken in our own lives.

### Prevention and Social Justice: Understanding Yourself, Society, and our Work

Michael Davis & Karen Citizen-Wilcox

Cultural Competency is an essential part of the SPF process, but have we stopped and thought about why? In this workshop, participants will explore social identity and systems that affect our prevention work in the communities. We will take a deep dive into our own identity and set a foundation for engaging in our work. We will also explore what is happening in society around social justice and how it might affect our prevention work.



**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.

**Strength-Based Approaches to Engaging Families****Amen Kush**

Parents and caregivers have the most influence on a child's success. As youth serving professionals our efforts to support young people and achieve our organizational goals are enhanced when we involve parents in our work and engage with them. However, we often are met with barriers when trying to accomplish this. In this presentation, we provide strategies to eliminate barriers and explore strengths-based approaches when engaging with and assisting parents/caregivers in raising healthy children.

**Building Resiliency: An Applied Approach****Amy Hunnewell**

Using the groundbreaking work of the Harvard Center for the Developing Child and the work of trailblazers like Dr. Nadine Burke Harris, this workshop examines the resilience of the human body, brain, and biology in response to trauma. Participants will gain a deep understanding of resilience science and how to apply this science in their professional and personal relationships. Participants will then explore concrete strategies to harness the power of resilience in their interactions with clients, including how to create trauma-informed spaces, how to foster safety and mutuality, build meaningful relationships in a trauma-informed way, and understand the long-term physiological and psychological effects of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) on the body and brain.

**How to Build a Strong Community Coalition****Ann Price**

This interactive and participative workshop will provide coalition and collaborative leaders information to help them: 1) understand coalition dynamics; 2) develop strategies to be more effective; 3) apply a participative, equitable, and community empowered approach; and 4) gain a working knowledge of available measures and tools for evaluation of collaboratives. The presenter will use a combination of large and small group discussions and exercises; individual reflection opportunities; think-pair-share activities, and use minimal lecture.

**Thursday, September 1st****8:00-9:00am: Closing Plenary****THURSDAY 3 HOUR WORKSHOPS (9:30am-12:30am) Sessions– G****What is a Military Family Life Counselor? How do I Become One?****Karen Kelly**

Military service is characterized by stressors and danger that are not simply forgotten by the service member or his or her family upon receiving discharge papers. These realities accompany military families during reintegration back into local communities and sometimes long after. Many communities remain steadfast and committed to assisting military members, veterans and their families. Military and Family Life Counselors can assist with integrating their services into the community and are available to work on and off military installations. Come learn about and how to become a Military Family Life Counselor.

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

### Mindfulness for Addiction. The Why and How

**Charity Collier**

Mindfulness for Addiction, The Why and How are a workshop that explores why mindfulness should be a part of addiction treatment for a recovery tool. The workshop will explore what mindfulness is. The presenter will present research on different styles of mindfulness for addiction treatment. There will be a discussion on trauma-informed implementation and modifications. Lastly, participants will learn different ways to utilize meditation and mindfulness for clients.

### Evidence Based Interventions to Facilitate and Sustain Recovery with Gender Diverse Clients

**Lucia Caltabiano**

Recovery is a highly subjective term and means a wide variety of things for different people. This hold true in the transgender community as well. This session will look at substance use with transgender individuals and cover coping skills education interventions based on DBT. Harm reduction will also be looked at in tandem with mindful self compassion interventions as it pertains to lessening internalized stigma related to substance use, mental health, and internalized transphobia.

### Anger and Recovery: The Impact, Effects, and Redirection of Anger During Recovery

**Sandy Queen**

Anger is a normal, healthy emotion, but the process of expressing it is difficult for those who have experienced dependence on alcohol and other drugs, which were used to control their anger! This session looks at anger, its affects and impacts on the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual health of the individual. This session will also address the process of forgiveness - self forgiveness and forgiveness of other for the issues that impacted the anger felt and expressed.

### Self-Care and Mental Wellness (Learn to Dance in the Rain)

**Ryan Wells**

When deep breathing, exercising, and reading doesn't work, then what. This class will teach the importance of practical and consistent self-care in a chaotic and often unpredictable world. Learning the art of avoiding BURN-out and RUST-out. We all know the importance of self-care and the importance of mental wellness, but knowing we need something and actually doing something about it are radically different things.

### Selfcare in Times of Extreme Stress

**Zenobia Bass**

Self-Care is the key to living a peaceful, joyful, and purposeful life. Participants will enter a calm, relaxing environment. This workshop will teach participants about the importance of Selfcare, especially during the current backdrop of COVID/Omicron/grief/extreme stress. Burnout is avoidable - Selfcare is attainable. Self-Care is a first step towards treating Vicarious Trauma. Self-Care is not selfishness. Self-Care is about focusing on you first and identifying what you need to be successful in 5-7 key areas of your life: physical, mental, emotional, spiritual, financial, professional, and social. Self-Care is about giving yourself what you so freely give to others, such as self-compassion. Self-Care is a practice and takes discipline. It is an individual journey that impacts every aspect of one's life - it only requires an adaptable plan and commitment. Participants will create an individual Self-Care plan during the session based on self-evaluation, self-awareness, and reflection. Participants will leave this workshop with applicable tools to immediately apply to daily life and begin a Self-Care journey.



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

### Prevention in Education: Mindfulness and Preventions Strategies for Schools to Impact Student Wellbeing

**Ashley Baer & Lindsey Simpson**

Prevention is essential when it comes to student wellbeing. Prevention programming for students improves social-emotional skills including self-control, emotional awareness, social skills, and self-regulation addressing risk factors for suicide and substance use. SEL gives students lifelong skills that help them make healthier choices beyond their K-12 journey. Mindfulness impacts mental health and social & emotional skill building in students. Creating a mindful breathing culture improves the school climate and creates a sense of community and belonging. Sharing this practice with students regulates their nervous system as well as creates connections while focusing their brains through mindful breathing. Mindfulness is free and available to all humans. Mindfulness is a life skill that transcends all parts of life: communication, self-esteem, decision-making, empowerment, and resilience. Mindfulness is a tool to handle mental health issues such as difficult emotions, grief, anxiety, school stress, depression, and suicidal ideation. If a student does not want to live or be here, the academics won't matter. What is more important than the emotional well-being of our most precious resource-our youth? We believe we can change education and increase mental well-being in our youth through these prevention practices. Participants who attend this session will leave with a detailed understanding of current prevention strategies being implemented to address mental health and substance use issues in our school district. Programs to be addressed: Sources of Strength, Signs of Suicide, School-Based Mentoring, Mindfulness, and Mental Health First Aid.

### Shifting the Conversation: SEL A Wholistic and Innovative Approach 2 Prevention!

**Jennifer Kramer, John Bringuel, and Michael Carpenter**

In this workshop the conversation will shift from one that traditionally and naturally focused on "what we DON'T WANT; with the provider saying, "let me explain what drugs look like and how they can hurt you", which is centered on deficit learning. To one that focuses on "what we DO WANT for people we serve; a life with vision, mission, purpose, meaning, belonging, and significance centered on SEL - Social and Emotional Learning". This workshop will be guided and informed by the experiential learning model where everyone is invited but not forced to play. With participants learning at their own pace and comfort. 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 culturally responsive. This workshop aims to provide you with useful attitudes, skills, and tools to utilize in both your professional and personal life.

### Fostering Behavioral Change through Marketing

**Lindi Glasgow, Drew Kondylas, Misti Hardy Childers, & Katie Cooper**

In this workshop we will discuss the value that using media can bring to public service campaigns. There will be an introduction to the various types of media and how it can be used to produce behavior change in communities. A core focus of the discussion will be on convergence of behavioral health data and marketing insights to produce a comprehensive strategy. After discussing the value of using media in the production of behavioral change, we will cover key aspects of media to better equip participants when they do work directly with media agencies. Participants will be educated on the Marketing Model used through out the media industry. There will also be a discussion on the Consumer/Community Journey on how individual experience media. To support these key learnings, there will be a Brainstorming activity and participants will be provided with the tools and resources to develop a marketing brief to provide to media companies. To wrap up the workshop, there will be a panel discussion with members for the Unified Partnerships Team to answer questions and to provide key insights on way to work with media agencies. The panel will be moderated by a local iHeart Talent/ Influencer.



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

### Finding your Sweet Spot in Prevention Advocacy

**Michael Mumper**

We are often encouraged to "advocate" on behalf of prevention. But we may not have a clear idea what that is, or how to do it well. On top of that, we are cautioned strongly not to step into lobbying, as there are legal prohibitions to lobby if you work for a federally-funded organization. And yet our communities and our state could benefit from our prevention expertise, to encourage adoption of policies and laws that might tread into lobbying. This is a course for beginning and intermediate advocacy champions.



# 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.

**Mindy Ackerman** is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and has specialized in the evaluation and treatment of juvenile and adult sex offenders for the last 25 years. She started her career working with victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse and then transitioned into working with the sexual offenders shortly afterwards. She has worked with this specialized population in several states including residential placements, correctional facilities, out-patient facilities, and private practice. She has performed numerous psychosexual evaluations and established the arousal management unit at the Florida Civil Commitment Center. She has presented trainings and workshops at various conferences around the country focusing on juvenile sex offenders' treatment. She holds the position of Sex Offender Treatment Services Administrator at the Department of Juvenile Justice and is responsible for the clinical supervision of the Sexually Harmful Behavior Program. She also serves of the Georgia Sex Offender Review Registry Board.

**Moya L. Alfonso, PhD, MSPH** is the Program Director for the D.H.Sc. and Ph.D programs in Health Sciences and an Associate Professor of Health Sciences. Dr. Alfonso has an interdisciplinary background that bridges public health and educational research and measurement. She comes to NSU from the Children's Home Society of Florida, where she obtained experience in child welfare and trauma informed care. She is a former Associate Professor at the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health (JPH COPH) at Georgia Southern University. Her combined skills in prevention research and program evaluation led to her serving as Lead Evaluator for over 15 years for the School Board of Sarasota County, Florida's prevention work with adolescents. Prior to arriving at JPH COPH, Dr. Alfonso served as Co-Director of the Methods and Evaluation for the Florida Prevention Research Center at the University of South Florida. She has a strong record of grant-funded research and related scholarship. While at Georgia Southern, Dr. Alfonso gained considerable expertise in using service learning to assist local nonprofits in conducting program evaluations with emphasis on community health assessments. She received advanced training in Academic Leadership while at Georgia Southern. Further, she has leadership experience in nonprofits, including We Care Manatee, a nonprofit dedicated to ensuring health care access among the underserved in south Florida. Her research interests include community-driven translational research, participatory research and evaluation, adolescent health, addiction and recovery, and program evaluation.

**Nadim Ali, LPC, MAC** is originally from Chester, Pa. and has resided in Atlanta, GA, since 1979. He is married, and he and his wife have five adult children. He is active in the Atlanta Community in areas of violence prevention, re-entry of the formerly incarcerated, and offering transitional assistance to those in need. Nadim is a therapist and consultant in Stress Management, Violence Prevention, and Tai Chi. He has been actively involved in educating individuals about the dangers of drugs, HIV and Hepatitis prevention, and has counsels both adolescents and adult patients. He also conducts pre-marital and marital therapy. Nadim has presented to conferences in the U.S. and in the Middle East on the topics of Substance Abuse, domestic violence, conflict resolution, healthy marriages, and spirituality. He has also used alternative methods such as Tai Chi, the ancient Chinese slow motion exercise, as an intervention for the treatment of

addiction and stress, and anger management. Nadim has a Bachelors degree in Communications from Shippensburg State. University, and a Master's degree in counseling psychology from the Argosy University. He is also a Licensed Professional Counselor and Master Addiction Counselor.

**Dawn Allred, LPC, MAC** is the owner of Sunrise Consulting of Georgia which provides behavioral health program development, training, and clinical services. She is currently working as the co-responder counselor for Carroll County Crisis Response Team. Dawn worked in community mental health for 30 years, specializing in co-occurring mental illness and addiction/recovery treatment. Her work has focused on complex issues faced by individuals with homelessness, poverty, legal issues, and chronic health problems. Over the past 13 years, she has presented more than 20 times at professional state and nationals conferences. Furthermore, Dawn is a behavioral health program surveyor for CARF (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities). Over her professional career, Dawn has served as a board member for several community nonprofit organizations and she was the Ethics Chairperson for the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Certification Board of Georgia for 2 years.

**Jerald Armstrong** currently works as the regional sex offender treatment coordinator responsible for the treatment of juvenile sex offenders at the 7 long-term juvenile facilities around the state of Georgia. Jerald also serves on the sexually harmful behavior review panel responsible for coordinating the transition of youth from secure facilities to community-based supervision. Prior to coming to DJJ Jerald spent 3 years as a substance abuse counselor for the RSAT program at Coastal State Prison (DOC) in Savannah GA. Jerald has over 18 years experiences working in secure facilities and other residential placements.

**Ashley Baer** has been in education for almost twenty years and is a fierce advocate for all children and believes Mindfulness is the foundation to all learning and well-being. With a Master's in Special Education, a Bachelor's in Sociology, a certification in Yoga, as well as Mindfulness and Meditation, she uses her unique history of loss, trauma, and being in the foster care system to touch, heal, and connect with students, teachers and admin through Mindfulness. She created a two-year pilot under the supervision of the Superintendent, and GA State University which focused on implementing mindful breathing, and movement strategies into the classroom to build focus and attention, while emotionally regulating students. She believes a culture of mindful breathing needs to be in every district, school and classroom across this country and practiced by every leader, teacher, and student. As one of the founding members of Georgia's first state chapter of COSEM (Coalition of Schools Educating Mindfully), Ashley brings a passion and belief that Mindfulness is key to all students feeling mentally healthy, safe, welcomed, and live their happiest life. In her free times, she volunteers for Persevere, a non-profit, teaching women in prison this foundational life skill of mindfulness. Ashley teaches meditation on the app Insight Timer: <https://insighttimer.com/ashleybaer>  
To learn more: visit [mindfulnesswithashley.com](http://mindfulnesswithashley.com) and <https://www.forsyth.k12.ga.us/Page/52787>

**Dr. Zenobia Bass** has been motivating, inspiring, educating, and counseling individuals and groups for more than 20 years; providing her services abroad and domestically, with 10 years' experience specifically dedicated to providing alcohol and drug abuse/dependence counseling and education. Her clients include non-profit and faith-based organizations, universities, foundations, financial institutions, corporations, and infinity groups. Conference attendees repeatedly share that they love her energy, humor and how she speaks as if she is speaking directly to them. Dr. Bass is a Self-Care Coach and Certified Addiction Counselor Level II. She earned her Ph.D. in Clinical Christian Counseling, Cornerstone University and is a Licensed Clinical Pastoral Counselor. She is a member of National Christian Counselor Association. She served as president of Toastmasters United and adjunct professor at Georgia State University. Dr. Zenobia Bass is married to Dr. James W. Bass. They are the proud parents of four children, four grandchildren and one great grandson. She enjoys spending time with her family, putting together puzzles, bowling and fishing. Dr. Zenobia Bass's life message: "Embrace Your Greatness!" and "Self-Care is not selfishness".



**Jeff Breedlove** serves as Chief of Communications and Policy for the Georgia Council on Substance Abuse. Jeff is an Assistant Scout Master for the Boy Scouts of America, and serves on the Board of Directors of MARR Addiction Treatment Center and the Georgia School of Addiction Studies. In 2018, Jeff was awarded the “God Send Award” from the Boy Scouts of America for dedication and service to the Boy Scouts. In the recent past, Jeff Breedlove served as Chief of Staff for DeKalb County Commissioner Nancy Jester. Jeff served as a senior staff member to Congressman Bob Barr in the historic 104th Congress and again in the 105th Congress. Jeff served as the Deputy Director for the Governor’s Office of Workforce Development for Governor Nathan Deal and as a policy analyst for the Georgia State Senate. In 2004, Jeff was selected to serve as a volunteer for the G-8 Summit on Sea Island, Georgia. He has served as a staff vice-chair for The National Conference of State Legislatures on the Transportation Committee and as a member of The Council of State Governments Southern Legislative Conference Committee on Economic Development, Transportation and Cultural Affairs. Jeff also served as the Georgia state director for The American Council of Young Political Leaders and was the former Georgia state director Sister Cities International and a member of the City of Atlanta Sister City Commission. Jeff is married to Kathryn Ballou; they reside in the Grant Park neighborhood in Atlanta. They have a son, Lawrence Foster “Jack” Breedlove, who was born in Gansu, The People’s Republic of China. He is a person in long-term recovery with a passion to share his story so others know Recovery is real.

**John Bringuel** has been active in individual and community social change since 1986. He currently works for the Council on Alcohol and Drugs and is the Project Director for the Georgia Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Initiative and provides training and technical assistance on three additional drug prevention Initiatives. 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 also holds a unique certification as he is an International Certified Prevention Specialist (ICPS). Early in John's social services career he worked for seven years in prevention and treatment of drug addiction and child maltreatment. John has invested the last twenty five years building competency in social service providers and the public at large about everything from the "Truth about Drugs" to "Making Meetings Work" to "How to Keep Your Butt 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.

**Dr. Darigg Brown** is a behavioral scientist and manager in RTI International's Substance Use Prevention, Evaluation, and Research Program. He has over 15 years of diverse experience in community, state, federal, and international health settings, conducting research and programmatic activities. These activities include evaluating and disseminating findings from community-based initiatives, evaluating grantee programs to reduce substance abuse and related consequences such as HIV and STIs among adults and youth, and providing technical assistance to identify best practices and implement health programs. Dr. Brown has led and co-led several federally and state-funded evaluations, including the evaluation of the Minority AIDS Initiative under the Program Evaluation for Prevention Contract, which was a national cross-site evaluation of SAMHSA-funded community-based programs focused on reducing HIV/AIDS and alcohol use. He helped lead the evaluation of the Georgia Alcohol and Substance Abuse Prevention Project and currently leads the evaluation of the Georgia Partners in Prevention Project. He currently serves on Georgia's State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup (SEOW). In collaboration with the SEOW and the Georgia Office of Behavioral Health Prevention and Federal Grants, he directed a comprehensive county-level Social Indicator Study to assess substance use and related consequences and led the relaunch of the GASPS Data Warehouse. Dr. Brown is a frequent presenter at state and national conferences.

**Dr. Gary K. Byrd** is President and CEO of the Anger Management Institute and High Impact Training and Counseling. Dr. Byrd received his undergraduate degree from the University of South Carolina and his Master of Education in Guidance and Counseling from West Georgia State University. Dr. Byrd received his Ph.D. from The American Graduate

School of Positive Psychology. Dr. Byrd is a Certified Master Addiction Counselor, a Certified Clinical Supervisor, a Certified Grief Specialist, a Certified Anger Management Specialist, a Certified Happiness Coach, and is trained in E-Therapy. Dr. Byrd is the author of several participant manuals: Choice-based anger control manual for adults. A Teen Anger Management Facilitators Guide titled ACT Right; Family Violence Intervention Participant Workbooks for men and women; Dr. Byrd authored Treating and counseling pathological gamblers participant workbook and facilitator manual for the State of Georgia; and Dr. Byrd's latest book that will be released in December 2018 titled Choice-Based Positive Recovery for people suffering from substance use disorders.

**Luca Rock Valentine aka Lucia Caltabiano, LMSW, CMFT** (they/them) is a white, neurodivergent, non-binary transmasculine therapist practicing in Metro Atlanta. Luca's clinical experience centers the experiences marginalized gender, sexual and romantic identities with a specialization in substance use and misuse, eating disorders, and complex trauma. Luca has been working in the behavioral health field for 11 years using DBT in a variety of settings including urgent/emergent, inpatient, residential and outpatient levels of care. When Luca isn't working as a social worker they foster and rehabilitate animals, paint, and rock climb.

**Dr. Lucy R. Cannon** is the CEO/Owner of LEJ Behavioral Health Services, LLC, a training and consulting company in Metropolitan Atlanta. She is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in the states of Georgia and Alabama. She has the following licenses and certifications; LCSW, LICSW, CCDP-D, and MATS. Dr. Cannon has been a clinician, supervisor, director, and consultant of mental health and co-occurring disorders programs in inpatient and outpatient healthcare organizations and psychiatric hospitals in various states in the United States and Camp Zama, Japan. She is an Adjunct Professor at Clark Atlanta University School of Social Work. She is also a Facilitator/Speaker for the United States Navy Reserve Command. She is a trainer for various local and national healthcare organizations. She also serves on various healthcare organizations boards of directors and advisory boards.

**Marissa Carlson** is the Executive Director of the NH Teen Institute, a leadership development nonprofit working with middle & high school students from around NH & New England in a variety of areas including substance misuse prevention, peer mentoring, and creating positive school & community climate. As part of her role at TI, she oversees and facilitates training for both the youth participants and TI's youth & adult volunteer program staff. She is a trainer for multiple workshops for behavioral health professionals developed through SAMHSA systems, including the Substance Abuse Prevention Skills Training (SAPST) curriculum. In addition, she is the President of the Prevention Certification Board of NH, the NH Prevention delegate to the IC&RC, and serves as the lead advisor of the Prevention Specialist credentialing committee. She serves as co-chair of the NH Governor's Commission Prevention Task Force, and sits on the advisory council of the New England Prevention Technology Transfer Center (PTTC). Outside of her work with TI, Marissa is the Associate Artistic Director of Mill City Productions, a theatre company in Western Massachusetts. She graduated from Pomona College with a BA in Psychology, received an MS in Nonprofit Management from Bay Path University, and is a Certified Prevention Specialist.

**Michael R. Carpenter, PhD**, author of *Bullying Solution: Learn to Overcome from Real Case Studies*, 2014; *Setting the Tone: A Connected School Approach to Bully-Free Classrooms*, 2012; & *Waging Peace- A Prevention Handbook* 2011, is a violence, drug, bullying and suicide consultant working in the Atlanta, Georgia area. Mike has worked in public and private school education statewide for the Departments of Education and Human Resources, and consulted throughout the United States and internationally. Dr. Carpenter is a National Bullying Prevention and Student Assistance Program Trainer and a Certified QPR and CALM trainer.

**Misti Hardy 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. Misti is an experienced Account Manager with a demonstrated history of working in the broadcast media industry. She is a strong business development professional skilled in Broadcasting, Digital, Events, Customer Service, Advertising, Sales, and Cold Calling.

**Charity Collier** is a mindfulness based addiction and emotional well-being counselor. Charity holds a MA in Mindfulness Studies from Lesley University in Cambridge, MA. In addition, Charity holds a Bachelor's degree in Exercise Physiology, a certificate in Substance Abuse Counseling from the University of Massachusetts, Boston. She also holds the credentials of a Certificate Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CADCI). In Charity's counseling, she provides a threefold approach to living a healthier life. A focus of Charity's work is working with people with addiction. Charity believes that mindfulness and addiction treatment can be a vital way to recovery.

**Katie Cooper** 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.

Qualifications and Responsibilities: Utilizing her Master of Public Health from Emory University, Katie has advised on Public Health media campaigns.

**Michael W. Davis** serves as GUIDE's Associate Executive Director of Prevention. In this role, Michael is responsible for oversight of all GUIDE's prevention strategies, activities and campaigns. As a student at Buford High School, Michael participated in Georgia Teen Institute, GUIDE's summer leadership conference, and has been involved with GUIDE and GTI as a volunteer ever since. In August 2018, Michael was thrilled to join the GUIDE family as a full-time employee in his current role. 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. Michael is thrilled to return to Gwinnett County and the state of Georgia and serve the communities that helped him grow and develop throughout his life.

**Diane Diver, MBA, CAC II, MAC, SAP, 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.

**Dr. Scott Dunbar, MAC**, has worked in the addiction treatment field for over 40 years. He currently teaches at Georgia State University, has a private practice in Atlanta, and is the Director of Georgia's DUI Intervention Program. He has written numerous articles and led national and regional workshops on a variety of topics. Scott is a United Methodist clergyman and collects jokes. He is married and has five children.

**Jenna Gabrio** is a research public health analyst in RTI International's Biostatistics and Epidemiology Division. She manages large-scale and multisite studies and supports community-based public health research. Ms. Gabrio has more than 10 years of experience managing clinical trials in multisite networks, is certified as a clinical research professional, and is trained in good clinical practices. Ms. Gabrio has strong skills in quantitative research, including conducting anal-



yses for and writing technical epidemiological reports, cleaning complex data sets, managing and maintaining large databases, and developing data dashboards. She currently serves as a quantitative analyst for the evaluation of the Georgia Partners in Prevention Project. Previously, she fulfilled a similar role on the evaluation of the Georgia Alcohol and Substance Abuse Prevention Project and the Georgia Social Indicator Study.

**Albert Gay, M.S.** has over twenty years of experience in community work. Albert began as a youth pastor in a local church in Gary, Indiana. Since that time, he has continued to influence communities with prevention services through his various roles at youth servicing agencies, nonprofits, and coalitions. Albert Gay is a consultant with both private and governmental agencies. As a national trainer in substance use prevention, Albert has trained the behavioral health workforce, the United States military, diverse population groups and community coalitions in the public health approach to drug reduction. He recently worked as an Education/Training Specialist and Research Associate with Indiana University's Prevention Insights within the School of Public Health. In this position, he coordinated substance misuse and HIV prevention strategies and trainings. Through his corporation, Albert is currently a Master Trainer for SheRay's and Associates, LLC and 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 innovative and practical ways. Locally, Albert has leadership roles in coalitions that serve the city of Gary and the Northwest Indiana region. Besides prevention, his other areas of interest include faith-based initiatives, mental health promotion, societal and health disparities, cultural competence, historical trauma, and strategic planning. 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.

**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.

**Louis Gossett Jr** was born May 27, 1936, in Brooklyn, NY. Lou has a flair for projecting quiet authority and has scored well personally in a string of diverse and challenging roles. The aspiring actor caught a break at his first Broadway audition for "Take a Giant Step" (1953), where beating out 400 other candidates, the then 16-year-old landed the lead. After attending NYU on a basketball scholarship, Lou was drafted by the New York Knicks but instead continued to nurture his burgeoning acting career. His acting career soon flourished and his work in the stage and film versions of the groundbreaking drama about African-American family life in Lorraine Hansberry's "A Raisin in the Sun" proved a watershed. This led to numerous appearances on network series in the 1960's and 70s culminating in 1977, when he picked up an Emmy for his eloquent portrayal of Fiddler in the landmark ABC miniseries "Roots". Meanwhile, his big screen reputation grew with critically acclaimed work in such comedies as "The Landlord", "The Skin Game" with James Garner, "Travel with my Aunt", and the film adaptation of the Tony Award winning drama "The River Niger". A riveting performance as a drug-dealing cut-throat stalking Nick Nolte and Jacqueline Bisset in "The Deep" catapulted him to wider popularity, but the tough by-the-book drill sergeant in "An Officer and a Gentleman" won him a Best Supporting Oscar that consolidated his place in the Hollywood hierarchy. Following his Oscar, he made numerous big screen and television appearances, being singled out for his work as Egyptian president Anwar Sadat in "Sadat", the sci-fi adventure "Enemy Mine" where his lizard-like makeup won kudos, and in the action-adventure series "Iron Eagle" which introduced him to a whole new generation of moviegoers. Still going strong, Lou's trendsetting bald head and imposing six-foot-four physique served him well in "Diggstown" where he played a down and out boxer, a heroic headmaster in



“Toy Soldiers”. Lou’s well thought out and nuanced performances also managed to give credibility to socially themed projects such as “To Dance with Olivia”, and the critically acclaimed “Jasper, Texas”. Most recently Lou appeared in the highly praised HBO series “Watchmen”. The recipient of every known acting accolade, including multiple Golden Globes, Emmy’s, and People’s Choice Awards, Lou’s performance has connected him with his fans on a global scale. Organizations such as the NAACP, CARE, and the United States Armed Forces have used his likeness to add validity and integrity to their causes. Lou has also developed a nonprofit foundation called Eracism Foundation. Its aimed toward developing and producing entertainment that bring awareness and education to issues such as racism, ignorance, and societal apathy.

**Dr. Linda Grabbe** is a board-certified Family Nurse Practitioner and Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner. Her clinical expertise is in primary care and mental health care for homeless or incarcerated women and youth, providing Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) Skills training and Community Resilience Model (CRM) training in group settings. Her interests include the neurobiology of trauma and resilience, social justice, and social determinants of mental health. Dr. Grabbe is a healthcare provider with Community Advanced Practice Nurses, a small non-profit organization that operates a network of clinics in Atlanta homeless shelters for women, children, and youth. Dr. Grabbe’s research has been with women and youth at risk for mental illness, homelessness, and substance abuse. Her current research includes measuring the impact of Community Resiliency Model training on wellbeing and the emotional state of women in substance abuse treatment, as well as on wellbeing, resiliency, burnout, and effects of secondary traumatic stress in clinical pharmacists, nurses, first responders, medical and nursing staff, and nursing students.

**Carlton Hall** is the President and CEO of Carlton Hall Consulting LLC (CHC) , a multi-faceted, full-service consulting firm designed to provide customized solutions and enable measurable change for communities, organizations, families and individuals. Carlton Hall has been providing intensive substance abuse prevention focused and community problem solving services to the nation for the last 25 years. His responsibilities, unique set of skills and experience have made him one of the most highly sought after instructors and guides for community problem solving in every state and territory in the nation as well as internationally, with successful achievements in South Africa, Ghana, Bermuda, Kenya and others. Carlton spent twelve years with the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) serving in several leadership positions and including most recently, Acting Vice President, Training Operations, and Acting Director for CADCA’s National Coalition Institute. In this role, Carlton provided critical leadership supporting the successful design, and delivery of the community outreach component of the Drug Enforcement Administration’s DEA 360 Strategy in priority cities across the country. Carlton is one of the primary architects of CADCA’s National Coalition Academy. The Academy, a year-long coalition development program, is designed to increase the effectiveness of communities in drug demand reduction producing population level outcomes. Currently, Carlton and the CHC team provide executive training and technical assistance support to the Southeast PTTC (Region 4).

**Tom Harris, M.S.**, has been working with adolescents and families in distress since 1978. Beginning in 1996 he developed a Therapeutic Drumming program based on traditional West African drumming, to be used at a residential treatment center with children and youth with significant mental health and behavioral challenges. Performing groups from his program have performed at Lincoln Center, the Kennedy Center, and for Jimmy and Rosalyn Carter at the Carter Center. He has developed a 12-month certification training for Therapeutic Drumming which he offers at the Joseph M. Brown Therapeutic Drumming Center in Douglasville, Georgia.

**Amy Hunnewell** currently serves as Director of Development for Team Up Mentoring, a case management and mentoring nonprofit working with young people significantly impact by trauma. Amy has been working in substance abuse prevention and youth development since she was a young person living in Walton County. Since then, Amy has been learning, implementing and advocating for the best practices in these fields while also developing knowledge in trauma-informed care as she volunteered and, eventually, began working with with Team Up Mentoring. While fundraising is

a big part of her job these days, talking about (and sometimes even dancing about) trauma informed care and resiliency is a big part of her "why." Amy earned her Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of Georgia. She is an Internationally Certified Prevention Specialist, a graduate of Leadership Walton, and a 2018 Afterschool Champion for the Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network.

**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 serves on the agency's policy committee and the Office of Professional Development Advisory Team. Irby recently 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 boys self-improvement conferences as well as mentorship conferences. Irby is dedicated to encouraging youth to seek their full potential and also 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". Irby is a member of Georgia Juvenile Services Association. Irby currently serves as Georgia State Director for Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. He is married to his beautiful wife Charlisa Irby and has one daughter, Kaelyn.

**Dr. Doug Jackson** is currently the Clinical Program Manager for the Georgia Dept. of Juvenile Justice. During his twenty-eight years of social work, Dr. Jackson 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 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.

**A. Renee Jacobs** is the Faith-Based Partnerships Prevention & Innovation Project Coordinator in the Office of Behavioral Health Prevention & Federal Grants (OBHPFG) at the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD). A Chaplain for the past 13 years, she has 10 years of experience as a Board-Certified Clinical Chaplain with the Association of Professional Chaplains and 4 years as a Chaplain (CPT) with the U.S. Army Reserve. She holds a Master of Divinity and has completed 5 Units of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE). She was co-presenter at the OH Trauma Informed Care Summit, "Addressing the Spiritual Needs of Trauma Survivors in Behavioral Health (May 2019) and named one of Crain's Cleveland Business Magazine's Notable Women Veterans in the Workforce (November 2019). She is passionate about transparency and authenticity with self and others as a pathway to growth.

**Pilar Jackson** serves as the African American and Latin X Health Disparities Project Coordinator for the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities- Office of Behavioral Health Prevention and Federal Grants. Ms. Jackson's current roles are to manage and develop culturally appropriate substance use and suicide prevention, as



well as interventions and campaigns focused on mental health promotion, education, and awareness specifically within Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Latin X Colleges within Georgia. Ms. Jackson obtained his undergraduate degree from Temple University College of Public Health, with a degree in Public Health. Prior to joining the DBHDD-OBHPFG team, Ms. Jackson has held leadership and programmatic positions working directly with the elderly, individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities, and those who suffer from autoimmune conditions, such as Lupus throughout Philadelphia. Pilar is a strong and firm believer in giving back to others and is passionate about prevention and advocacy within the Public Health field.

**Ed Johnson** obtained a bachelor's degree from Auburn University and a master's degree in Clinical Counseling from the Citadel. He has worked at the Southeast Addiction Technology Transfer Center (Southeast ATTC) located at the National Center for Primary Care, Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta since 2010 and is currently the Associate Director for Training and Technical Assistance. He has worked in the field of addiction treatment and recovery for over 30 years, providing direct services to individuals with substance use disorders (SUD) and Co-Occurring Disorders. He has been providing trainings in Addiction Treatment, Prevention and Recovery for over 25 years. For the past 37 years, Ed has been a person in long term recovery. He is currently credentialed / licensed as a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC), Licensed Addiction Counselor (LAC), Licensed Addiction Counselor Supervisor (LACS), Master Addiction Counselor (MAC), a Certified Clinical Supervisor (CCS) and Certified Peer Support Specialist (CPSS).

**Dr. Karen Kelly, Ph.D., LPC, NCC, MAC, ACRPS, CCS, CPSIV, CCJS**, is the founder/CEO of 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 and Supervisor, Certified Tele-a-mental Health Counselor, and a Certified Risk Reduction Instructor and is a Nationally Certified Trainer/Instructor through NAADAC. 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 community 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.

**Drew Kondylas** has 20+ years of experience working with public agencies, private sector companies, political campaigns, and non-profit organizations including multiple statewide campaigns in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. He specializes in data-driven integrated marketing analysis and is an audience development expert with diverse experi-

ence in identifying emerging opportunities to lead growth and customer/donor/voter acquisition. With iHeartMedia since 2016, Drew has overseen planning and buying operations for clients of all sizes and has used iHeartMedia’s advanced audience targeting and data capabilities to build complex outreach, advocacy, and behavior change campaigns. Prior to joining iHeartMedia, he worked on a variety of campaigns that targeted specific audiences including hard-to-reach segments and narrow cohorts for state campaigns in Louisiana, Colorado, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia. Drew is a direct-response expert and has worked on dozens of federal, state, and municipal government campaigns with Unified Partnerships and iHeartMedia. He is responsible for media strategy and planning, and campaign delivery, optimization, analytics, and ROI; Drew is also supported by a team that is dedicated to the seamless execution of government agency campaigns.

**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.

**Amen Kush** has channeled his passion for helping others into a career of service for well over 20 years. Currently, he is a Lead Student Assistant Specialist with Caron Treatment Centers. Amen is a dynamic public speaker and facilitator who specializes in smoking cessation programs. He has helped to exponentially expand Caron's services in the Atlanta area. Amen is a native of Savannah, Georgia and a graduate of Georgia Southern University. Before joining Caron, Amen was a teacher in the Atlanta Public School System, a mentor, and a client manager for a non-profit organization that helped former inmates successfully transition back into society. In each of these positions, Amen helped inspire many at-risk youth and young adults in the Metro Atlanta area to make positive changes in their lives. Amen is also a published author. His debut book is entitled *Flicted*. Amen loves to serve and his passion and genuine concern for others always shines through.

**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, he provides substance abuse and mental health consultation, brief therapy, and clinical hypnosis for patients in primary care facility and an outpatient mental health clinic. He is an adjunct faculty member at several institutions primarily teaching courses in substance use disorders and treatment, psychopharmacology and research methods.

**Jill D. Mays** is a Licensed Professional Counselor with over 30 years of experience in the behavioral health field. Her passion for helping others has led her to dedicate most of her career to developing and operating successful clinical and support service programs in Atlanta and across the country. Mrs. Mays is currently Director of the Office of Behavioral Health Prevention and Federal Grants at the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD), where she provides oversight to substance abuse and suicide prevention, mental health promotion, and cultural & linguistic competency/diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives. Formerly, Mrs. Mays was Assistant Director of the Office of Adult Mental Health where she provided programmatic and contract oversight for crisis services, the PATH homeless services program, Behavioral Health Treatment Court Services, the Forensic Peer Mentor Program, veterans and older adults initiatives, and other special projects, including DBHDD’s collaboration with the Georgia Public Safety Training Center (GPSTC) for the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training Program for law enforcement. Mrs.





Mays is a sought-after nationwide consultant and trainer in the areas of behavioral health services, criminal justice and behavioral health, homeless outreach and housing services, disaster mental health, and marriage enrichment. Her new coaching group, Godly Wives Looking Up (GōWL Up!), is a monthly source of support, practical skills, and girls-night-out fun for women looking to level up in their marriages. Jill's biography has been featured in Who's Who in America, Who's Who in the South & Southwest, Who's Who among Women, and Who's Who in Medicine & Healthcare. Mrs. Mays was honored in 2002 as a recipient of Atlanta Magazine's "Women Making a Mark" Award and was recently featured in the September 2019 inaugural issue of Huami Atlanta Magazine. Among her varied life roles, her favorites are wife, mother, daughter, sister, and friend.

**Maura McGowan, CPS**, is the Program Director of the NH Teen Institute, a non-profit agency whose mission is to empower youth through personal leadership development and community engagement. Maura has worked in the field of prevention since 2002 and became involved with the NH Teen Institute in 2008 when she began volunteering for programs and working on a curriculum updating and development board. In 2017, Maura became Program Director in charge of youth programming and volunteer engagement in addition to being a facilitator for professional development trainings offered by the NH Teen Institute. She is a graduate of the New England ATTC Leadership Development Program and has served as a mentor in the New England PTTC Prevention Mentorship Program during its first two cohorts. In 2021, Maura was appointed as an advisor to the NH Governor's Youth Council, and is on the advisory committee for the NH Prevention Community of Practice.

**Michael Mumper** is President of Georgia Alcohol Policy Alliance. He also serves as Director of Programs for Drug Free Fayette, a prevention coalition in Fayette County, a suburb of Atlanta. He consults with SAMHSA's Opioid Response Network, serves on the American Heart Association's Advocacy Steering Committee, catalyzed a CADCA "2019 Got Outcomes" award, and was Let's Be Clear Georgia's 2020 Prevention Champion for work in marijuana prevention and policy. Michael earned an MBA from Emory University, and led business management teams at GE Capital, Random House and Turner Broadcasting before shifting to prevention and community coalition building.

**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 an EMMY winning Clinical Associate Professor Emeritus of the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy with his specialty areas to include psychopharmacology and addiction pharmacy. He was most recently honored by the Georgia Addiction Counselors Association's Board of Directors and Certification Board with being bestowed the first Certified Master Addiction Counselor (CMAC) credential in the state. His book, *Understanding Substance Use Disorders Pharmacology*, has been used to train thousands of mental health professionals nationally and his latest book, *The Pharmacist's Guide to Opioid Use Disorders* was released in December 2018. Dr. Norton completed his undergraduate and graduate work at the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy. He accomplished a three-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. 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 areas of specialty in ad-



diction pharmacy are the management of chronic pain in the substance use disordered patient and the neuroscience of substance use disorders. Since his recent retirement from UGA, Dr. Norton's primary focus is to provide the latest scientific information to communities, educators, healthcare professionals, prevention specialists, treatment providers, and especially families, on the disease of substance use disorders.

**Sandra Phillips** is a licensed professional counselor in the state of Georgia with over 15 years of experience. She also holds the credentials of Certified Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselor II (CADCII), International Certified Addiction Counselor (ICADC), DOT-Substance Abuse Professional (SAP), Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC), National Certified Counselor (NCC), and Certified Professional Counselor Supervisor (CPCS). She received her undergraduate degree, BA from West Georgia University, where she fell in love with psychology. She later earned two master's degrees, M.Ed. & MS from Troy University. She owns a private practice group, Transformation Behavioral Health, LLC [www.transformation3cs.com](http://www.transformation3cs.com) where counseling services are provided to a diverse population. Ms. Phillips is a trauma specialist with training in PTSD, CPT and EMDR. She also provides mental health critical incident response in the CSRA for several insurance and employment assistance companies. Ms. Phillips is a proud Star Behavioral Provider for our military personnel, veterans and their dependents. She is the founder of a nonprofit organization, Transformation Training Institute, Inc. [www.transformationtraininginc.com](http://www.transformationtraininginc.com) committed to providing low cost and free trainings on multicultural, diversity and behavioral health issues. Ms. Phillips' true transformation comes through the renewing of your mind. Ms. Phillips is an approved educational provider in the area behavioral health for Georgia's professional associations and national certified counselor association for continuing education trainings. She is a children's book author. Ms. Phillips is available for speaking engagement as well as a training facilitator. Best contact method: [sphillips@transformation3cs.com](mailto:sphillips@transformation3cs.com)

**Kareem Jamaal Pollard** was born and raised in Atlanta, Georgia. Throughout his childhood, Kareem participated in various sports such as football, basketball, and ran track. Kareem excelled in track and field where he became an AAU All-American with Mercury Youth Track Team (2001) and was a part of the Frederick Douglass 4x4 relay state Championship team (2003). Upon graduating from high school, Kareem had numerous scholarships in academics and track and field which included a full academic scholarship from the 100 Black Men of Atlanta. Kareem then went on to attend Savannah State University where he received a bachelor's degree in Business Administration (2007). During his tenure at Savannah State University he participated in many organizations while achieving in the classroom. For example, he is a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated and Achievers of Today and Tomorrow, which are both organizations that help strive to uplift the community as well as the institution. Kareem is a Regional Volunteer Coordinator with the Department of Juvenile Justice and has been with the agency for 7 years.

**Lewis Ponzo** serves as the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Regional Prevention Specialist for the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities - Office of Behavioral Health Prevention and Federal Grants. Lewis' current roles are to manage the Partners In Prevention Project throughout metro Atlanta, in addition to the state wide Programmatic Officer for, Drugs Don't Work, Voices for Prevention, The Confess Project and the Senior Coordinator for the State Opioid Response Grant. Lewis obtained his undergraduate degree from Northeastern University in the field of Criminal Justice and Psychology. Lewis later went on to attend Argosy University for a Master's in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. Lewis is currently pursuing an MBA with a concentration on Executive Leadership. Prior to joining the DBHDD-OBHPFG team Lewis has held community, programmatic and executive roles working directly with dual diagnosed children, adolescents and adults throughout Metro Atlanta. Lewis prides himself on being family oriented and is passionate about motivating, inspiring and encouraging others.

**Dr. Ann Price** is President of Community Evaluation Solutions, Inc. an evaluation consulting firm she founded in 2004. Much of Ann's work is with community coalitions and nonprofits with a focus on systems change. Ann and her team conduct evaluations in many areas including mental health, youth substance abuse prevention, youth development,



foster care advocacy, education, and public health Ann is an active member of the American Evaluation Association (AEA) and the Atlanta Affiliate of AEA. She conducts workshops and trainings throughout the country on coalition development coalition evaluation, evaluation use and evaluation capacity. She is a regular presenter at the AEA national conference and the AEA/CDC Summer Institute. Her work is published in several peer-reviewed journals on topics related to coalitions as a mechanism for social change, success stories and public health prevention and evaluation. Her book with co-author Dr. Susan Wolfe, *Community Consulting: A Practical Guide to Collaborating with Communities* is due out in 2023 and will be published by Cambridge Press. She has a podcast called *Community Possibilities* where she speaks to community leaders doing the hard work of systems change.

**Sandy Queen** has been a trainer, speaker, and program developer for the past 35 years throughout the US, Australia, Canada and Europe, and has been part of the faculties for Alcohol and Drug Schools for over 28 of those years, helping clinicians to look at their lives and practices in creative and practical ways. Her topics have included, families in recovery, resilience, youth, COSAs, Protective Factors and Spirituality in Recovery. Her motto of "Lighten Up" permeates even through the most serious of recovery issues, as she challenges all of us to "take our jobs seriously and take ourselves lightly".

**Gregg Raduka, Ph.D., LPC, ICPS**, is the Founder and Executive Director/CEO of Let's Be Clear Georgia, a non-profit 501 c-3 with a statewide membership of over 500. LBCG prevents marijuana abuse and dependence through best practices. Dr. Raduka has worked in the fields of substance abuse prevention and treatment for the length of his career. He helped to design and implement the first Adolescent Chemical Dependency Treatment Program at Ridgeview Institute in Cobb County. Prevention programs he has designed and directed have won 7 national awards and served tens of thousands of Georgia youth and parents. His Ph.D. in Human Development is from the University of Maryland's Institute for Child Study with an MA and BA in Psychology. Dr. Raduka is a Licensed Professional Counselor and an Internationally Certified Prevention Specialist. He is happily married and is the father of two adult children.

**Beverly Ragland, BBA, CCS, CACII, CAMS-II, CARES, CPS-MH, CPS-WH** is the Program Manager for the Georgia Council on Substance Abuse CARES Warm line Since October 2017. She also serves on the Board of Directors of the Georgia Mental Health Consumer Network. She has worked in the field of Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Recovery since 2002. She was certified as a Peer Specialist (CPS-MH) in 2012 a Certified Addiction Recovery Empowerment Specialist (CPS-AD) in 2014 and a Whole Health and Wellness Coach in 2014. Beverly retired from the Atlanta Veterans Administration (VA) Medical Center in 2017 where she served as VA National Point of Contact for VA Peer Specialist in Georgia, Alabama, and South Carolina. Beverly continues to expand her knowledge through certifications and trainings in competencies useful to promote the empowerment of her peers to be successful in their recovery goals. Beverly's additional certifications as a Certified Clinical Supervisor, Certified Addiction Counselor II, Certified Anger Management Therapist (CAMS II), NAMI Certified Recovery Education Mentor, Science of Addiction and Recovery (SOAR) Trainer, Certified Whole Health Action Management (WHAM) Group Facilitator (CPS-WH), Level One- Wellness, Recovery Action Planning (WRAP) Coach and Medication Assisted Treatment Specialist increase her ability to promote long lasting quality recovery. Beverly is passionate about sharing her recovery experience to help others.

**Emily Ribblett** is a person in long term recovery. Her recovery started on March 5, 2015. She came through CARES in 2017 and is part of CARES Cohort 24. Today Emily serves as the Director of Education and Curriculum Development for GCSA. Since being employed with GCSA, Emily has obtained an MBA, CPS-MH, WHAM Facilitator Certification, and a Certificate of Completion in Grants and Fundraising from the Georgia Center for Nonprofits. Emily is proud to be present in the lives of her family today including being a grandmother, mother, sister, daughter, and friend. She also actively volunteers in several community service opportunities including the Atlanta Union Mission, Sunrise Detox Facili-

ty, and The Phoenix Recovery Community Organization. Emily supports multiple pathways to recovery. She is a dog mom, avid hiker and lover of outdoor adventures.

**Christine Richardson** was born in Honolulu, Hawaii and raised in Beachwood, Ohio before moving to Atlanta, Georgia in 1999 to attend college. Christine enjoyed the warmer climate and decided to stay and build her career in Georgia. Christine began her career working in the animal welfare field. In 2014 Christine was recruited to join the Department of Juvenile Justice, initially focusing on developing and expanding their animal programs. Christine's role has expanded to include service-learning projects, book club, offsite educational experiences, and coordinating wellness events, activities, and information through DJJ's Transforming U initiative. Christine holds a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. She is currently a Program Coordinator with the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice and has been with the agency for 7 years.

**Tatiana Rolles** is currently the Lead Therapeutic West African Drumming Instructor at Youth Villages, a residential treatment facility in Douglasville, GA. Tatiana started in the field of helping at risk youth in 2002 at St. Annes Institute in Albany, NY. Throughout the 10 years of her career at St. Annes, she mentored and taught African Dance with the Student Theatre Outreach Program (S.T.O.P) for the Albany NAACP branch for youth in the community. In 2016, she took interest in learning the Djembe to expand her West African knowledge. She now provides therapeutic drumming and African Dance to over 120 children and youth every week and is co-instructor for the Therapeutic Drumming Instructors' Training.

**Robert Schwebel, Ph.D.**, a clinical psychologist, wrote and developed The Seven Challenges Program; holistic life counseling for people with alcohol and other drug problems, now widely used across the United States, with one version for adolescents and another for adults ([www.sevenchallenges.com](http://www.sevenchallenges.com)). He is the author Leap of Power: Take Control of Alcohol, Drugs, and Your Life and other drug-related books including Saying NO is Not Enough and Keep Your Kids Tobacco-Free. He directed a drug treatment agency and maintained a private practice for many years. Dr. Schwebel has been active in national media, appearing on the Oprah Show, The Today Show, The CBS Early Show, CNN interviews. He blogs for Psychology Today and thefix.com. Another major focus of his professional career has been to promote cooperative and loving relationships. This year he will update and re-release Who's On Top, Who's on Bottom: How Couples Can Learn to Share Power and soon begin to post previously published articles about relationships on his website ([robertschwebel.com](http://robertschwebel.com)).

**Lindsey Simpson, MS,CPA** serves as the Prevention Coordinator at Forsyth County Schools. Lindsey holds a Master of Science degree from Brenau University and is a Certified Preventionist through the Prevention Credentialing Consortium of Georgia. Lindsey has worked in the field of prevention since 2006 addressing risky behaviors such as suicide and substance use. In her current role as Prevention Coordinator she supports a school based mentoring program, substance use and suicide prevention. Lindsey is certified as an Instructor in Youth Mental Health First Aid and Teen Mental Health First Aid. In addition, she is a certified trainer for Sources of Strength. Lindsey has dedicated her entire career to serving her community through various prevention efforts. As a founding member of the Forsyth County Drug Awareness Council As a lifelong resident of her community, she is committed to reducing suicide deaths and substance use among our youth in Forsyth County.

**Charlotte Spell** currently serves as Project Director for the Drug Free Communities Support Program and Project Coordinator for the Partnership for Success Program in Bulloch County. She has had a working relationship with Bulloch Alcohol & Drug Council for 19 years. Charlotte earned her Bachelor's and Master's in Science from Georgia Southern University. She is a certified Prime for Life instructor and QPR Suicide Prevention Master Trainer. Ms. Spell has served on several boards and is currently President of Let's Be Clear, GA, a statewide marijuana prevention and advocacy group.



She has experience presenting at local, state, and national conferences and as a successful grant writer. Charlotte enjoys spending time outdoors with her family - husband, Chris, son, Joshua, and daughter, Brooklynn.

**Dr. Earl Suttle** is the CEO and founder of Leadership Success International, LLC, an international consulting and training company based in Atlanta, GA. The firm works with businesses and organizations to increase their profits and productivity through developing their greatest resource: their people. Through his live seminars, webinars, and private executive coaching sessions, Dr. Earl has empowered thousands of individuals to achieve greater success and enabled companies to become world-class. As a leadership advisor, his clients include Delta Air Lines, American Express, AT&T, AFLAC Insurance, Toyota, University of Georgia, Walmart, and Kimberly Clark Corporation. He is also a consultant to the NBA, NFL, and WWE (World Wrestling Entertainment) and works on a personal level with the athletes. Dr. Suttle worked for over 25 years as a healthcare professional, and particularly appreciates the camaraderie and dedication of his healthcare clients across the country. He began his professional life as an elementary school teacher and guidance counselor and particularly enjoys his workshops in the educational field at schools, universities, Head Start and Housing Authority organizations. Dr. Earl is a highly sought-after speaker and author of 10 best-selling books and numerous CDs on leadership. He has appeared on CNN and been featured in Ebony and InStyle magazines. His remarkable insights and powerful, practical tools excite, energize and elevate his audiences to exceptional greatness. He and his wife, Felicia, make their home in Atlanta.

**Felicia Mabuza-Suttle** is an international award-winning entrepreneur, an inspirational speaker, an author, and a philanthropist. She is President and co-owner of Leadership Success International, LLC, an organization that specializes in executive leadership training and business communications. Mabuza-Suttle is a shareholder of Pamodzi Investment Holdings. The South African Broadcast Corporation (SABC) also named her among the "100 Great South Africans." Felicia, as she is known on television, was host of Conversations with Felicia, a talk show on The Africa Channel in the US. In South Africa, she hosted the popular The Felicia Show. The Felicia Show was the first South African audience talk show that enabled black and white South Africans to come together and debate issues they could not discuss during apartheid. Felicia has interviewed luminaries like Nelson Mandela, Julius Nyerere, Kenneth Kaunda, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, Britain's former first lady, Cherie Blair, and personalities like Larry King, Danny Glover, Diana Ross, Hugh Masekela, Miriam Makeba, John Maxwell, Iyanla Vanzant, T.D. Jakes, Wayne Dyer, Suze Orman, Lou Gossett Jr., who she will interview again at the 15th Annual Georgia School of Addiction Studies Conference. She is author of Dare to Dream, her memoir describing how she answered Nelson Mandela's call to all South Africans living abroad to come back home to help build a new democracy. Her new book, Live Your Dream, is an inspirational book based on quotes and experiences that will help propel you to your own success.

**Ryan Wells** is an adult child of an addict. I currently reside in the beautiful city of Dublin GA, with my awesome wife of 15 years (Mika) and our 3 tornadoes in jeans (Allison, Kaydence, and Ryan Jr.), and our big fur baby (Lyna). I currently work as a clinical supervisor for Spectrum Healthcare Systems. I am a graduate of Fort Valley State University and a proud member of Phi Beta Sigma fraternity Inc. and I currently serve on way too many boards.

**Dr. Karen Citizen-Wilcox** is a native of the great State of Louisiana. Upon her high school graduation, Karen moved to Hattiesburg, MS where she earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from The University of Southern Mississippi. While working on her degree, Karen was hired as a Cooperative Education student intern by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Office of Inspector General – Investigations Division. Upon graduation, Karen accepted a full-time position with USDA in the Atlanta Regional Office and spent approximately 30 years as a federal agent with the department, attaining a senior management position as the Special Agent-in-Charge of the Southeast Region for the last 9+ years of her career. Karen decided to further her educational goals by seeking and achieving both a master's degree in Leadership from Shorter University and a doctoral degree in Organizational Leadership from Argosy University. Karen retired from federal service in 2019 and began working in the field of prevention as a project coordinator.



inator for Beyond the Bell in the Alcohol and Substance Abuse Prevention Project until the end of its contract in September 2022. Karen has a passion for education and helps tutor third through fifth grade students in Language Arts. She enjoys all things sports and is an avid and die-hard Atlanta Falcon's fan. She also enjoys cooking, reading, teaching, and exercising. She is married to her best friend and the love of her life, Timothy Wilcox. Together they have three children, Jalisa, Brieonna and Bryson - and one granddaughter, Jordan. Jalisa is an aspiring entrepreneur in the food industry, Brieonna just graduated from Howard Law School and passed the GA Bar, Bryson is a junior at Stetson University, and Jordan is continuously wrapping Karen and Tim around all ten of her fingers.

**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 disparate communities.

**Yvonne Harvey Williams** - Entrepreneur, Author, Speaker Television Personality.... Born & raised in Paterson, NJ attended Eastside High School, Rosa Parks Performing Arts School. New Jersey Youth Corp., Majored in Business Management at Passaic College & worked at a sales firm for "The New York Times" newspaper for 11 years receiving nearly 11 promotions becoming a senior level training/recruiting manager where she managed & trained thousands of people during her career. For over 25 years Yvonne has used her life experiences having to "overcome tremendous adversity" as a platform to encourage individuals to always "be & do" their BEST. Her past and future success has inspired millions of people all over the world... she has DEDICATED her LIFE to INSPIRE others. She's the author of 5 books 3 of her books are in Barnes & Noble's, she's the CEO & founder of Speak2Inspire LLC, a consulting business where she travels & speaks all over the country. She's the CEO/founder of "i-inspire" clothing & product line, she launched the "i-inspire...Stop-Bullying" campaign to help end bullying in ALL AGE GROUPS. She hosted a community access talk show in New Jersey, highlighting community youth, interviewing celebrities & famous athletes. She's been featured in magazines, newspapers, featured news stories, documentaries, teen empowerment video's, abstinence DVD's & talk-shows both nationally & internationally sharing her passion and her purpose to reach youth and young adults. Yvonne has been the #1 speaker for 9 consecutive years for one of the largest speaking bureaus for youth in the United States. She conducts keynotes, seminars and workshops as an independent, professional speaker, mentor & consultant presenting educational information all over the country for some of the most prestigious organizations in the world.

**Todd Wilson** is the Executive Director of The Georgia Association of Recovery Residences (GARR) and was the founder and director of The Arches Recovery Services for 14 years, a 30 bed Recovery Residence in Sandy Springs, Georgia. He is a Certified Addiction Counselor (CADC II) currently providing individual and small group counseling as well as family workshops. Todd is a graduated Southern Illinois University in 1987 with a Bachelors and Associates degree in Advanced Technical Services and Information Processing. He has been a small business owner and entrepreneur since 1990, owning a variety of successful small businesses in addition to The Arches over his career. Through that experience he presently provides consulting services to small business owners and is active with Monarch Collaborations and South Fork Conservancy to improve awareness of parks and conservation for the great outdoors.



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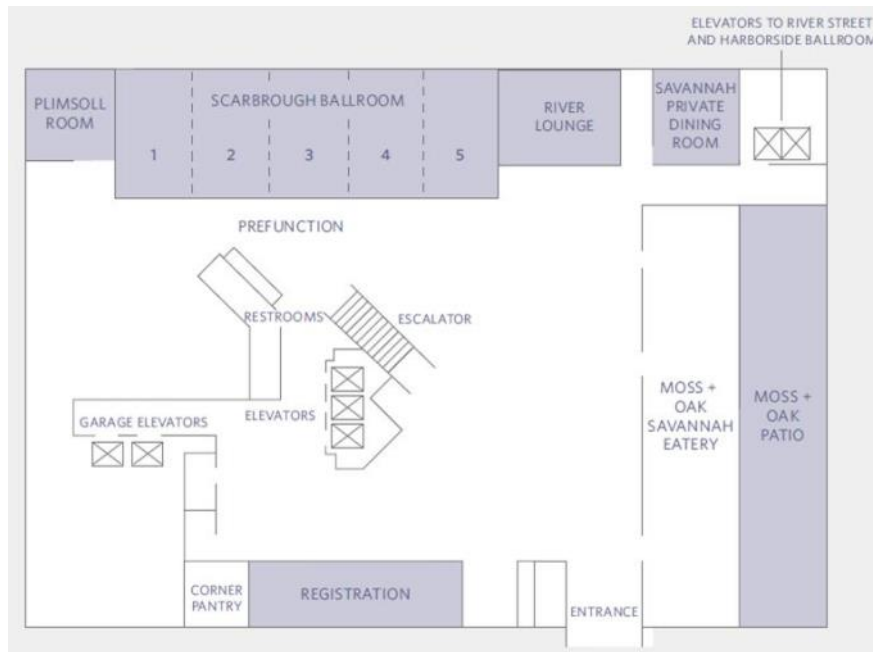
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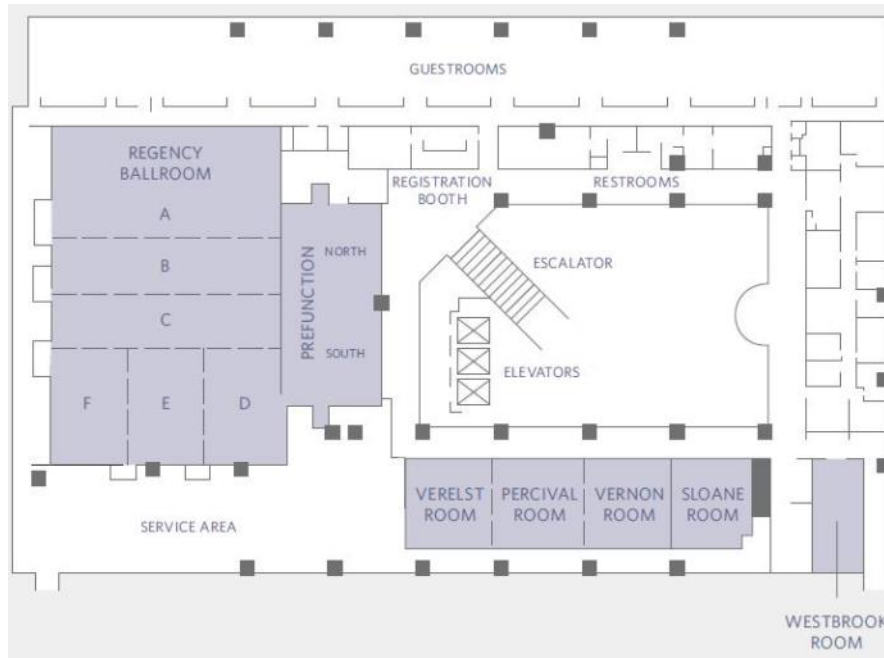


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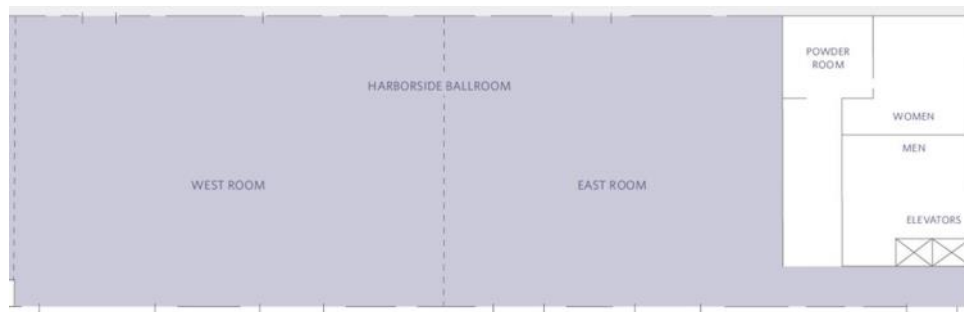
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