



45th Annual Education Conference
February 23 – 25, 2018

2018



BRIDGING THE GAP
Partnering to Reconnect Family

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

From the President

I'd like to personally welcome each of you to the Adoptive and Foster Parent Association of Georgia's 45th Education Conference. It's an exciting time for AFPAG. As we continue to grow and adapt, while remaining motivated and responsive to your needs, we see the value each year for this conference. Our association is confronting a time of many changes, and we're meeting these changes. We're transforming the way we operate to continuously improve our ability to meet your needs. Your board of directors have continued to meet the challenges of our field and to excel despite the setbacks. We should all be very proud of where we are today and where we are headed.

I'd like to thank each of you for attending our conference and bringing your expertise to this conference. You have the vision, the knowledge, and the experience to help us pave the way into our future. You are truly our greatest asset for tomorrow, and we could not accomplish what we do without your support.

Have a great conference.

Mr. Verdell Daniels – President

Adoptive and Foster Parent Association of Georgia Inc. (AFPAG)

Hotel Information

You will need to secure your own hotel reservations. Tell them you are with the Adoptive and Foster Parent Association of Georgia (AFPAG) Conference, February 23-25, 2018. All hotels reservations must be made by the cut-off date listed by the hotel below to ensure you receive the conference rate.

VILLAS BY THE SEA PHONE 1-800-841-6262 CUT-OFF DATE JAN 24, 2018

Mini-Villa/Studio	\$109.00
One Bedroom Villa	\$129.00
Two Bedroom Villa	\$159.00
Three Bedroom Villa	\$175.00

HAMPTON INN AND SUITES PHONE 1- 912-635-3733 CUT-OFF DATE JAN 26, 2018

Standard Room, Two Queen Beds or one King Bed	\$143.00
Suites	\$163.00

DAYS INN AND SUITES PHONE 1-912-635-9800 CUT-OFF DATE JAN 23, 2018

Island Side Room	\$108.00
Ocean Side Room	\$118.00

HOLIDAY INN AND SUITES PHONE 1-912-635-2211 CUT-OFF DATE JAN 26, 2018

Island View	\$129.00
Ocean View	\$139.00
Oversize Ocean Front	\$149.00
Oceanfront Suites	\$199.00

WESTIN HOTEL PHONE 1-888-627-8316 CUT-OFF DATE JAN 23, 2018

Island View	\$155.00
Ocean View	\$175.00

QUALITY INN AND SUITES PHONE 1-912-635-2202 CUT-OFF DATE JAN 23, 2018

Standard Room	2 Queen Beds	\$123.00
Standard Suites	2 Double Beds Suites	\$153.00
Suites		\$174.00

JEKYLL ISLAND CLUB HOTEL PHONE 1-800-535-9547 CUT-OFF DATE JAN. 23, 2018

Clubhouse or Traditional Rooms	\$139.00
One Bedroom Suites	\$179.00
Suites	\$289.00

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 22, 2018

12:00PM – 4:00PM
12:00PM – 5:00PM
12:00PM – 5:00PM

AFPAG Board of Directors Meeting
Early Registration
Exhibit Set Up

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 23, 2018

7:00AM – 5:00PM
7:00AM – 5:00PM
8:30AM – 10:30AM
10:30AM – 10:45AM
10:45AM - 12:15PM
12:15PM – 1:30PM
1:30PM – 3:00PM
3:00PM – 3:15PM
3:15PM – 4:45PM
4:45PM – 5:45PM

Registration Open
Exhibits Open
Opening Session
BREAK
Breakout Workshop Session A
LUNCH ON YOUR OWN
General Session #1
BREAK
Breakout Workshop Session B
Annual Business Meeting

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 24, 2018

7:00AM – 5:00PM
7:00AM – 5:00PM
8:00AM – 9:30AM
9:30AM – 9:45AM
9:45AM – 11:15AM
11:15AM – 11:30AM
11:30AM – 1:15PM
1:30PM – 1:45PM
1:45PM – 3:15PM
3:15PM – 3:30PM
3:30PM – 5:00PM

Registration Open
Exhibits Open
General Session #2
BREAK
Breakout Workshop Session C
BREAK
Awards Luncheon
BREAK
Breakout Workshop Session D
BREAK
General Session #3

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 25, 2018

8:00AM – 9:00AM
9:00AM - 9:15AM
9:15AM – 10:45AM
10:45AM – 11:00AM
11:00AM – 12:00PM

Non-Denominational Worship Service
BREAK
Breakout Workshop E
BREAK
Closing Session

2018 AFPAG Conference Information

Please choose two selections for each workshop session and record the workshop number in the order you prefer for each workshop selected. Be sure to record your 1st choice and then your 2nd choice. Remember to register early for the best selection of workshops as classes are size limited.

EXAMPLE:

Selection 1: 1st Choice: A-1

Selection 2: 2nd Choice A-6

YOU CAN RECEIVE 15 TRAINING CREDIT HOURS IF YOU ATTEND ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

- Opening Session
- General Sessions
- Awards Luncheon
- Closing Session
- All Assigned Workshops

REGISTRATION INCLUDES:

- Registration Fee
- Workshop Materials
- Registration Bags
- Awards Luncheon Ticket
- 1 Year of AFPAG Membership

*Additional tickets to the Awards Luncheon can be purchased for \$35.00 each

NO CHILDREN WILL BE ALLOWED IN ANY CONFERENCE SESSION OR WORKSHOP!

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

OTHER HELPFUL TIPS

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

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact our office: 912-920-8362 or 912-312-6941

2018 AFPAG Conference at a Glance

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 22, 2018

12:00PM – 4:00PM
12:00PM – 5:00PM
12:00PM – 5:00PM

AFPAG Board of Directors Meeting
Early Registration
Vendors & Exhibits Set Up

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 23, 2018

7:00AM – 5:00PM
7:00AM – 5:00PM
8:30AM – 10:30AM
10:30AM – 10:45AM

On-site Registration / Pre-Registration Pick-Up
Exhibits Open
Opening Session Keynote Speaker: Pat O'Brien
BREAK

10:45AM – 12:15PM

Breakout Workshops (A)

- A-1.** Creating Effective Partnership with Fathers
- A-2.** Creative Conflict Resolution
- A-3.** Foster Parents Understanding and Preventing Compassion Fatigue
- A-4.** Post Adoption Services through Adoption Assistance/SMI Where's My Check
- A-5.** You Don't Have to be a Perfect Parent to Parent Perfectly
- A-6.** Case Law Updates for Foster and Adoptive Children
- A-7.** How to Meet and Advocate for Your Foster Child's Healthcare Needs
- A-8.** Let's Talk Adoption
- A-9.** Credit Reporting and Your Youth in Care
- A-10.** Post - Traumatic Stress Disorder (Another Perspective)

12:15PM – 1:30PM
1:15PM – 3:00PM
3:00PM – 3:15PM

LUNCH ON YOUR OWN
General Session I *"Department of Early Care and Learning – CAPS"*
BREAK

3:15PM – 4:45PM

Breakout Workshops (B)

- B-1.** Preventing Adoption Disruption: How to Prepare for and Cope with Trauma Issues
- B-2.** The Importance of Maintaining Sibling Connections
- B-3.** Understanding Trauma and Brain Development: How Can I Build Resiliency in My Child
- B-4.** Benefits of Fostering a Teenager
- B-5.** Educational Rights for Children in Foster Care
- B-6.** Keep Calm, Connect, and Redirect: Tools for Behavior Management
- B-7.** Post - Traumatic Stress Disorder (Another Perspective)
- B-8.** Understanding Your Court Appointed Special Advocate
- B-9.** The 40 Developmental Assets for Successful Youth
- B-10.** Complex Trauma Informed Approach to Children in Foster Care

3:45PM – 4:45PM

AFPAG BUSINESS MEETING

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 24, 2018

7:00AM – 2:00PM Registration On Site
7:00AM – 5:00PM Exhibits Open
8:00AM – 9:30AM General Session II “Caregiver’s Right to Be Heard in Court”
9:30AM – 9:45AM BREAK

9:45AM – 11:15AM

Breakout Workshops (C)

- C-1. Post Adoption Services Through Adoption Assistance/SMI Where is My Check
- C-2. FUNFORMATION
- C-3. Early Detection of Developmental Delays and Disabilities
- C-4. Coordinated Transition Planning for Youth with Severe Disabilities
- C-5. Tools for Trauma Responsive Parenting
- C-6. Meeting the Mental Health Needs of Children and Psychotropic Medication
- C-7. Understanding Trauma and Brain Development: How Can I Build Resiliency in My Child
- C-8. Understanding Your Court Appointed Advocate
- C-9. Learning About Yourself and Others
- C-10. Amerigroup 360

11:15AM – 11:30AM

BREAK

11:30AM – 1:30PM

AFPAG’s Awards Luncheon

1:30PM – 1:45PM

BREAK

1:45PM – 3:15PM

Breakout Workshops (D)

- D-1. Diversity in Skin and Hair Care
- D-2. Credit Reporting and Your Youth in Care
- D-3. Creating Effective Partnership with Fathers
- D-4. Early Detection of Developmental Delays and Disabilities
- D-5. You Don’t Have to Be a Perfect Parent to Parent Perfectly
- D-6. Fetal Alcohol Syndrome
- D-7. ADHD Nuts and Bolts
- D-8. Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (Another Prospective)
- D-9. The 40 Developmental Assets for Successful Youth
- D-10. Amerigroup 360

3:15PM – 3:30PM

BREAK

3:30PM – 5:00PM

General Session III

“Reasonable and Prudent Parenting Standards”

Sunday February 25, 2017

8:00AM – 8:45AM

Non-Denominational Worship Service

9:00AM – 10:30AM

Breakout Workshops (E)

- E-1.** Diversity in Skin and Hair Care
- E-2.** Constructive Conflict Resolution
- E-3.** Fetal Alcohol Syndrome
- E-4.** The Child Welfare System: The Pipeline to Human Trafficking
- E-5.** ADHD Nuts and Bolts
- E-6.** Learning about Yourself and Others
- E-7.** Georgia's Foster Parent Bill of Rights

10:30AM – 10:45AM

BREAK

10:45AM – 11:45AM

Closing Session and Grand Prize Drawing

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING THE ADOPTIVE AND FOSTER PARENT ASSOCIATION OF GEORGIA'S 45TH ANNUAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE.

Adoptive and Foster Parent Association of Georgia

Winnie Levinson Scholarship Application

The Adoptive & Foster Parent Association of Georgia will award two \$1,000.00 scholarships

The Winnie Levinson Scholarship is awarded to deserving students who are Georgia residents and are in foster care. **PARENTS MUST BE A MEMBER OF** the Adoptive and Foster Parent Association of Georgia. (AFPAG). The Winnie Levinson Scholarship is sent directly to the student to use for any educational purpose the student may encounter. It is payable in two payments, one at the start of the fall semester, and one at the start of the spring semester. Proof of enrollment is required before payment can be issued.

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

- ✓ **Personal Data- name, address, contact information including e-mail**
- ✓ **Recommendation from three people who do not reside with you and have known you for a minimum of one year and one recommendation from your local DFCS on their letterhead.**
- ✓ **A short (500 word) essay on why you should receive this scholarship.**
- ✓ **A copy of your transcript of your high school grades.**
- ✓ **A letter from one of your parents stating why you should receive this scholarship.**

All applications must be received by February 1, 2018

You can apply by mailing the above information to:

**AFPAG
101 Windsor Road
Savannah, Georgia 31419**

Workshop Descriptions

Workshop Descriptions Session A
Friday February 23, 2018
10:45AM – 12:15PM

A-1. CREATING EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIPS WITH FATHERS:

*This workshop has been designed to assist foster parents with exploring and identifying ways to effectively involve men and fathers in the lives of children in the custody of DFCS. Research shows that outcomes are better for children when positive, responsible men are involved in their lives. The child welfare system has often overlooked men as a resource and may be underutilizing men as valuable allies in our efforts to keep children safe and protected. **Presenter: Darrell Green***

A-2. CREATIVE CONFLICT RESOLUTION:

*Whether it's with other foster parents, DFCS, the court, or other involved parties, there are going to be disagreements on what is in the best interest of the children we care for. Learn techniques and resources you can use to lessen the negative impact of those conflicts and to make sure that your position is clearly heard. **Presenter: Paul Blough***

A-3. FOSTER PARENTS UNDERSTANDING AND PREVENTING COMPASSION FATIGUE: *This workshop provides a "Tool Box" for how to take care of yourself related to compassion fatigue, also known as secondary traumatic stress (STS). Foster parents are at a high risk of compassion fatigue as they are consistently exposed to children who have experienced trauma through abuse and neglect combined with the lack of appropriate support. This workshop will provide understanding around compassion fatigue symptoms, self-test, and prevention strategies to maintain a healthier you. **Presenter: Ebony Taylor***

A-4. POST ADOPTION SERVICES THROUGH ADOPTION ASSISTANCE/SMI Where is My Check?: *Meeting a child's needs does not simply end after an adoption finalization court hearing. There comes a time when families require post adoption services to assist with their needs long after an adoption has finalized. Families need support services to help with the demands of parenting special needs children. This workshop will focus on the post adoption services offered through the Adoption Assistance program in Georgia. Topics will include coverage on all available post adoption services. In addition to post adoption services through DFCS, there will also be a presentation from System Methods Inc. (SMI), the financial system vendor and partner to Georgia's DFCS. **Presenters: Adrian Owens and Leah Waters***

A-5. YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A PERFECT PARENT TO PARENT PERFECTLY: *Suzette and Charles Brown, married 33 years, know there are several definitions of being perfect, but being a perfect parent is not one. D.W. Winnicott, a noted pediatrician and psychoanalyst, suggests children turn out best with "good enough" mothers and fathers who do not strive for perfection but rather provide an "adequate environment". By not making your children's world ideal, you allow time for them to learn that they are not fragile, overcome obstacles, learn from mistakes, solve problems and bounce back from adversity. Mrs. Brown's training will definitely help parents with parenting skills. **Presenters: Suzette and Charles Brown***

A-6. CASE LAW UPDATES FOR FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE CHILDREN: *Come to this workshop to hear and learn about the recent appellate laws in Georgia and nationally that might impact you, your child and your case. This workshop will be structured as a lecture with plenty of room for discussion. Presenter: Judge William Bartles*

A-7. HOW TO MEET AND ADVOCATE FOR YOUR FOSTER CHILD'S HEALTH CARE NEEDS: *Learn how you can ensure that your foster or adopted child's healthcare needs are met with healthcare providers and care management organizations. Presenter: Tom Rawlings*

A-8. LET'S TALK ADOPTION: *Whether you are a prospective adoptive parent, a resource parent, or a partnership parent, you want to attend this workshop if you have children placed in your home who you desire to adopt. Participants attending this workshop will gain knowledge regarding the requirements and the process to adopt children from Georgia's child welfare system. The primary focus will be on laws governing adoption policy in Georgia and Georgia's best practice supported by adoption policy. Presenter: Deborah Burrus*

A-9. CREDIT REPORTING AND YOUTH IN CARE: *This presentation will discuss the importance of ensuring our older youth in care are aware of their credit score and are connected to a specialist through the GATY/SE Independent Living Program. Presenters: Erika Dennis and Devin Martin*

A-10. POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER (ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE): *Foster children are now being diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). "Another Perspective" will discuss trauma in children from removal to placement in a foster parent's home. Discussion will focus on behaviors as well as mental health concerns of foster children who are now experiencing trauma. The discussion will focus on ways foster parents can help children in foster care with this trauma and what services can be provided. Presenter: Janice Miller Walker*

Workshop Descriptions Session B
Friday February 23, 2018
3:30PM – 5:00PM

B-1. PREVENTING ADOPTION DISRUPTIONS: HOW TO PREPARE FOR AND COPE WITH TRAUMA ISSUES AND YOUR ADOPTIVE CHILD: *Adoptive children are routinely told that when they are adopted, they have found their forever families. Yet increasingly, adoptive parents are taking their children to DFCS and saying that they cannot continue to parent their adoptive children. This situation re-traumatizes children who have already been traumatized by parental abuse and neglect, by years in foster care, and by termination of parental rights. Learn what steps you can take to prepare for a lifelong relationship with a child adopted out of foster care and how to prevent the disruption of an adoptive placement. Presenters: Kristi Lovelace and Bonnie Lockwood*

B-2. THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING SIBLING CONNECTIONS: *This workshop will help caregivers understand the need for siblings to be together. Participants will learn the long-term impact of sibling connections and what happens when those bonds are severed. Participants will learn ways to partner with the Division, relatives, and other caregivers to maintain healthy and solid relationships of siblings in their care. Presenters: Candis Jones and Deborah Burrus*

B-3. UNDERSTANDING TRAUMA AND BRAIN DEVELOPMENT: HOW CAN I BUILD RESILIENCY IN MY CHILD?:

It is safe to say that all children who enter foster care have experienced some form of trauma be it mild, moderate, or severe. Most children return to normal functioning after they have experienced a traumatic event, while others may exhibit symptoms of post-traumatic stress. Often parents are not equipped to provide the support their children need. However, by becoming trauma informed and learning the power of habits, parents will be able to provide appropriate emotional, social, and academic support to their child. Presenter: Natasha La Marr.

B-4. BENEFITS OF FOSTERING A TEENAGER: *Through this workshop, you will obtain knowledge of all benefits that the Independent Living Program (ILP) offers the youth that are 14 and up in your home. You will obtain knowledge of all areas of ILP and how you can assist your youth to ensure that he or she receives all the benefits of ILP. All our youth have rights and you will obtain knowledge of these rights. At the end of this workshop, you will have knowledge of all areas of ILP and how important it is for the youth placed in your home to take advantage of the ILP. Presenters: Teresa Reese and Estelline Beamon*

B-5. EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE: *Children in foster care consistently experience some of the lowest educational outcomes of all youth. Research demonstrates that every time a child changes schools, he or she loses up to six months of his or her education. Many foster youth may change schools 10-15 times throughout his/her education. Furthermore, many foster children suffer from the emotional ramifications of the incidents that led to their placement in foster care, and this can lead to acting out and avoidance of school. Come learn how you can be a good educational advocate for your foster or adoptive child. Presenter: Craig Goodmark*

B-6. KEEP CALM, CONNECT, AND REDIRECT: TOOLS FOR BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT: *One of the most challenging aspects of parenting is disciplining effectively. This workshop will offer tools and techniques to address tough child and adolescent behavior. Participants will have the opportunity to problem solve together some of their toughest challenges and leave with a plan of action.*

Presenter: Dianne Kelly

B-7. POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER (ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE): *Foster children are now being diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). "Another Perspective" will discuss trauma in children from removal to placement in a foster parent's home. Discussion will focus on behaviors as well as mental health concerns of foster children who are now experiencing trauma. The discussion will focus on ways foster parents can help children in foster care with this trauma and what services can be provided. Presenter: Janice Miller Walker*

B-8. UNDERSTANDING YOUR COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE: *C.A.S.A. is comprised of a group of volunteers that are appointed by a judge to advocate for the best interest of abused and neglected children in the foster care system. Our goal is to be the constant in a child's life, provide individualized attention, as well as bring an urgency to a child's needs while they journey through foster care and the Juvenile Court System. Presenter: C. Angela Daughtry*

B-9. THE FORTY DEVELOPMENTAL ASSETS FOR SUCCESSFUL YOUTH: *In this engaging, hands-on workshop, participants will explore the Search Institute's 40 Developmental Assets and how they relate to positive youth development. Participants will also gain tools and resources for immediate implementation. Join us for this fun networking and learning opportunity. Presenter:*

Mary Kate Chapman

B-10. COMPLEX TRAUMA INFORMED APPROACH TO CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE: *The term complex trauma describes the dual problem of children's exposure to multiple traumatic events and the impact of this exposure on immediate and long-term outcomes. Typically, complex trauma exposure results when a child is abused or neglected, but it can also be caused by other kinds of events such as witnessing domestic violence, ethnic cleansing, or war. Many children involved in the child welfare system have experienced complex trauma. In this workshop, you will learn about the current science and how the child welfare system is shifting in response to this new information and how it can impact your foster or adoptive child.*
Presenters: Judge Michael Key and Michelle Barclay

Workshop Descriptions C
Saturday February 24, 2018
9:45AM – 11:15AM

C-1. POST ADOPTION SERVICES THROUGH ADOPTION ASSISTANCE/SMI Where is My Check?:
*Meeting a child's needs does not simply end after an adoption finalization court hearing. There comes a time when families require post adoption services to assist with their needs long after an adoption has finalized. Families need support services to help with the demands of parenting special needs children. This workshop will focus on the post adoption services offered through the Adoption Assistance program in Georgia. Topics will include coverage on all available post adoption services. In addition to post adoption services through DFCS, there will also be a presentation from System Methods Inc. (SMI), the financial system vendor and partner to Georgia's DFCS. **Presenters: Adrian Owens and Leah Waters***

C-2. FUNFORMATION: *This workshop is packed full of fun information and is designed to help you lighten your load as a foster or adoptive parent by lightening your life. Utilizing this workshop in the right way, you are bound to add smiles to your life and life to your smiles and add more laughter to your life and the people around you. Always remember, the greatest bonding experience you can have with any other individual is the bond of shared laughter. Share these tools willingly and freely, especially with your children. **Presenter: Pat O'Brien***

C-3. EARLY DETECTION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DELAYS AND DISABILITIES: *The Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) in collaboration with Georgia Division of Family and Children Services is leading a training initiative for educating parents on the early signs of developmental delays, disabilities, and chronic health conditions in children 0 – 5 years. In this workshop, you will improve your knowledge and awareness of developmental delays to better identify signs of concern and how to connect to appropriate screenings and interventions. A review of the most common developmental disabilities and a developmental milestone tracker for caregivers will be included in this presentation. **Presenter: Rita Young***

C-4. COORDINATED TRANSITION PLANNING FOR YOUTH WITH SEVERE DISABILITIES: *Transition planning for youth with severe developmental and mental health disabilities can be extremely challenging. This workshop is designed to provide participants with information on how and when to apply for Medicaid waivers and social security benefits for youth preparing to transition from foster care. Participants will also receive information on various community services and resources designed to prevent homelessness and promote a seamless transition. **Presenter: Estelline O. Beamon and Brigette Miller***

C-5. TOOLS FOR TRAUMA RESPONSIVE PARENTING: *Responsive parenting after trauma emerged as a core theme, consisting of being aware of a child's needs and acting on these needs. This workshop will explore 14 strategies that parents may use to be a trauma responsive parent. This workshop will integrate tools from the Georgia Center for Resources and Support that can help parents sharpen their awareness of a child's needs and act appropriately in responding to these needs.* **Presenter: Brenda Gillespie**

C-6. MEETING THE WELL- BEING NEEDS OF CHILDREN AND PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION: *Wellness Programming Assessment and Consultation (WPAC) in partnership with Amerigroup will present information regarding well-being needs of children. This presentation will include an overview of the role of WPAC and Amerigroup. WPAC and Amerigroup will address topics such as Early Periodic Screening Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT), dental exams, Trauma/Developmental Assessment, psychotropic medications, scheduling medical appointments, and preauthorization for medication.* **Presenters: Shemika Harris and Shauna S. Malone**

C-7. UNDERSTANDING TRAUMA AND BRAIN DEVELOPMENT: HOW CAN I BUILD RESILIENCY IN MY CHILD?: *It is safe to say that all children that enter foster care have experienced some form of trauma be it mild, moderate, or severe. Most children return to normal functioning after they have experienced a traumatic event, while others may exhibit symptoms of post-traumatic stress. Often parents are not equipped to provide the support their children need. However, by becoming trauma informed and learning the power of habits, parents will be able to provide appropriate emotional, social, and academic support to their child.* **Presenter: Natasha La Marr.**

C-8. UNDERSTANDING YOUR COURT APPOINTED ADVOCATE: *C.A.S.A. Is comprised of a group volunteers that are appointed by a judge to advocate for the best interest of abused and neglected children in the foster care system. Our goal is to be the constant in a child's life, provide individualized attention, as well as bring an urgency to a child's needs while they journey through foster care and the Juvenile Court System.* **Presenter: C. Angela Daughtry**

C-9. LEARNING ABOUT YOURSELF AND OTHERS: *Through this workshop you will be able to identify your personal strengths, personality style, and your personality profile. This workshop will broaden your knowledge of working with the youth in your home. Some of the items that will be discussed are basic needs of the heart, human needs, how do you feel loved, emotional needs, and are you enough. You will be able to identify and build assets to assist the youth in your home. This workshop will help you to discover your passion and purpose with teenagers in your home.* **Presenters: Teresa Reeves and Estelline Beamon**

C-10. UNDERSTANDING AMERIGROUP'S 360: *This workshop will provide the participants with the information and tools the will to secure health care needs for their children. Georgia's Child Welfare System underwent a major change. The Amerigroup representative will give you all the key information and facts on this program. Participants will be able to interact with the presenter by asking questions and sharing their opinions.* **Presenter: Ronald Dunham**

Workshop Descriptions D
Saturday February 24, 2018
1:45PM – 3:15PM

D-1. DIVERSITY IN SKIN AND HAIR CARE: *In this workshop, participants will learn the following. 1. Understanding hair and skin types, 2. Understand common contraindications as it relates to a specific group, 3. Understand common hair care needs (tools and supplies), 4. Understand the process of shampooing and detangling. The presenter will provide a list of resources and products available. A mini demonstration will be provided: **Presenter: Kimberly Cutter-Williams***

D-2. CREDIT REPORTING AND YOUTH IN CARE: *This presentation will discuss the importance of ensuring our older youth in care are aware of their credit score and are connected to a specialist through the GATY/SE Independent Living Program. **Presenters: Erika Dennis and Devin Martin.***

D-3. CREATING EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIPS WITH FATHERS: *This workshop has been designed to assist foster parents with exploring and identifying ways to effectively involve men and fathers in the lives of children in the custody of DFCS. Research shows that outcomes are better for children when positive, responsible men are involved in their lives. The child welfare system has often overlooked men as a resource and may be underutilizing men as valuable allies in our efforts to keep children safe and protected. **Presenter: Darrell Green***

D-4. EARLY DETECTION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DELAYS AND DISABILITIES: *The Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) in collaboration with Georgia Division of Family and Children Services is leading a training initiative for educating parents on the early signs of developmental delays, disabilities, and chronic health conditions in children 0 – 5 years. In this workshop, you will improve your knowledge and awareness of developmental delays to better identify signs of concern and how to connect to appropriate screenings and interventions. A review of the most common developmental disabilities and a developmental milestone tracker for caregivers will be included in this presentation. **Presenter: Rita Young***

D-5. YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A PERFECT PARENT TO PARENT PERFECTLY: *Suzette and Charles Brown, married 33 years, know there are several definitions of being perfect, but being a perfect parent is not one. D.W. Winnicott, a noted pediatrician and psychoanalyst, suggests children turn out best with “good enough” mothers and fathers who do not strive for perfection but rather provide an “adequate environment”. By not making your children’s world ideal, you allow time for them to learn that they are not fragile, overcome obstacles, learn from mistakes, solve problems and bounce back from adversity. Mrs. Brown’s training will definitely help parents with parenting skills. **Presenters: Suzette and Charles Brown***

D-6. FETAL ALCOHOL SYNDROME: *Come learn what Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) is all about. FAS is a group of signs and symptoms that appear together and indicate a certain condition. The signs and symptoms are birth defects that results from a woman’s use of alcohol during her pregnancy. Participants will learn the signs, symptoms, and where to get help from. **Presenter: Marjorie Jones***

D-7. ADHD NUTS AND BOLTS: *While all of us have heard a generalized idea of what ADHD is and what to look for, when we are face to face with it, we often are left feeling overwhelmed and confused. We want to provide the best care for our child, but we don’t even know what questions to ask. This presentation*

will focus on understanding ADHD, what the child is experiencing, treatment options, strategies for dealing with the behavior, and helping children learn to cope. **Presenters: Chris and Jen Cannington**

D-8. POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER (ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE): *Foster children are now being diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). "Another Perspective" will discuss trauma in children from removal to placement in a foster parent's home. Discussion will focus on behaviors as well as mental health concerns of foster children who are now experiencing trauma. The discussion will focus on ways foster parents can help children in foster care with this trauma and what services can be provided.* **Presenter: Janice Miller Walker**

D-9. THE FORTY DEVELOPMENTAL ASSETS FOR SUCCESSFUL YOUTH: *In this engaging, hands-on workshop, participants will explore the Search Institute's 40 Developmental Assets and how they relate to positive youth development. Participants will also gain tools and resources for immediate implementation. Join us for this fun networking and learning opportunity.* **Presenter: Mary Kate Chapman**

D-10. UNDERSTANDING AMERIGROUP'S 360: *This workshop will provide the participants with the information and tools they will need to secure health care needs for their children. Georgia's Child Welfare System underwent a major change. The Amerigroup representative will give you all the key information and facts on this program. Participants will be able to interact with the presenter by asking questions and sharing their opinions.* **Presenter: Ronald Dunham**

Workshop Descriptions E
Sunday February 25, 2018
9:00AM – 10:30AM

E-1. DIVERSITY IN SKIN AND HAIR CARE: *In this workshop, participants will learn the following. 1. Understanding hair and skin types, 2. Understand common contraindications as it relates to a specific group, 3. Understand common hair care needs (tools and supplies), 4. Understand the process of shampooing and detangling. The presenter will provide a list of resources and products available. A mini demonstration will be provided.* **Presenter: Kimberly Cutter-Williams**

E-2. CREATIVE CONFLICT RESOLUTION: *Whether it's with other foster parents, DFCS, the court, or other involved parties there are going to be disagreements on what is in the best interest of children we care for. Learn techniques and resources you can use to lessen the negative impact of those conflicts and to make sure that your position is clearly heard.* **Presenter: Paul Blough**

E-3. FETAL ALCOHOL SYNDROME: *Come learn what Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) is all about. FAS is a group of signs and symptoms that appear together and indicate a certain condition. The signs and symptoms are birth defects that result from a woman's use of alcohol during her pregnancy. Participants will learn the signs, symptoms, and where to get help from.* **Presenter: Marjorie Jones**

E-4. THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM: THE PIPELINE TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING: *Human trafficking is one of the fastest growing crimes in the United States. It has occurred in all 50 states, and foster children are particularly vulnerable. This presentation will increase your knowledge on what human trafficking is.*

*Participants will learn tactics often used by traffickers to lure victims. Participants will also learn strategies to help keep children from becoming victims. **Presenter: Karen Lambie***

E-5. ADHD NUTS AND BOLTS: *While all of us have heard a generalized idea of what ADHD is and what to look for, when we are face to face with it, we often are left feeling overwhelmed and confused. We want to provide the best care for our child, but we don't even know what questions to ask. This presentation will focus on understanding ADHD, what the child is experiencing, treatment options, strategies for dealing with the behavior, and helping children learn to cope. **Presenters: Chris and Jen Cannington***

E-6. LEARNING ABOUT YOURSELF AND OTHERS: *Through this workshop you will be able to identify your personal strengths, personality style, and your personality profile. This workshop will broaden your knowledge of working with the youth in your home. Some of the items that will be discussed are basic needs of the heart, human needs, how do you feel loved, emotional needs, and are you enough. You will be able to identify and build assets to assist the youth in your home. This workshop will help you to discover your passion and purpose with teenagers in your home. **Presenters: Teresa Reeves and Estelline Beamon***

E-7. GEORGIA'S FOSTER PARENTS BILL OF RIGHTS: *This workshop is an open discussion on the Georgia Foster Parents Bill of Rights and its strengths and awareness. Participants will receive vital information on Georgia's Foster Parents Bill of Rights and contact information for your Regional Vice President (Advocate). This presentation will also include the Grievance Procedure for both DFCS and Private Agency caregivers. Handouts will include a copy of the Foster Parent Bill of Rights and the Grievance Procedure. **Presenter: Verdell Daniels***

Presenters' Biographies

Barclay, Michelle, Esquire: Michelle Barclay has been on staff to the Supreme Court of Georgia's Commission on Justice for Children since 1996. Before becoming a lawyer, she was a nurse, specializing in ICU and Trauma Care at both Grady and Emory Hospitals. Her degree includes a Juris Doctor from Emory University School of Law. She is also co-founder (along with her husband Andrew Barclay) of the Barton Child Law and Policy Center at Emory University.

Bartles, William, Judge: The honorable Judge William Bartles is the Juvenile Court Judge in Henry County. He received his Law Degree from the University of Georgia. During his tenure as Juvenile Court Judge, he has partnered with the Division of Family and Children Services to ensure the highest quality of services to children and families by the Division. Additionally, Judge Bartles frequently shares his vast knowledge with judges, foster parents, adoptive parents, and child welfare professionals throughout the country as a national speaker on child welfare topics.

Beamon, Estelline, BSW, MPA: Estelline Beamon is a state of Georgia, GA-RYSE Independent Living Specialist in Region 12 of the Department of Family and Children Services. Mrs. Beamon has worked at the Division with foster care youth transitioning to adulthood since September 2003. Prior to working with the Division, she worked as the Program Specialist/Tutor Coordinator serving youth in the Upward Bound/Trio Program at Savannah State University preparing youth to successfully matriculate and graduate from institutions of postsecondary learning.

Blough, Paul: Mr. Blough is CEO and founder of Blough Tech, a nationally recognized IT Service Company Focused on helping small business solve their problem through technology. Mr. Blough and his wife, Kim, are 25 plus year veteran foster parents. They have had over 110 plus children in their home and have adopted 6. They are actively involved in trying to break the cycle that leads many foster children to repeat the mistakes of their birth parents. Mr. Blough also serves on the board of directors for both the local and state foster parent association.

Brown, Charles & Suzette: Debra Suzette and Charles Allen Brown have been married for 33 years. Mrs. Brown has an Associate Degree in Business Management and a B.A. in Psychology. She has been employed with Families First- Georgia Center for Resources and Support for over five years. Mr. Brown has an Associate Degree in Photography from the Atlanta Art Institute and has been employed with the Atlanta Public School System. They are raising their eight-year-old granddaughter and have been fostered and adoptive parents for over 20 years.

Bruce, Jerry, Esquire: Jerry Bruce has been a parent, Guardian-Ad Litem, Delinquency and Adult Prosecutor, Delinquency and Adult Defender, Special Assistance Attorney General representing Georgia's Division of Family and Children, and a Juvenile Court Judge; essentially every job an attorney can do in Georgia's Juvenile Court. He is currently involved in child welfare law and policy work for state agencies and educational institutions, and he regularly presents and trains on child welfare issues.

Burrus, Deborah: Deborah Burrus is the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services Adoption Director. Ms. Burrus has worked passionately in the field of child welfare since 1992. Most of Ms. Burrus's tenure has been spent working with adoptions. Currently as the Adoption Director, she is responsible for leading her team's efforts to achieve timely and safe permanency outcome for child in

foster care. In this position, she oversees the adoption program, guardianship and the recruitment of adoptive homes. Ms. Burrus has served on the National Foster Care Management Board and has a Bachelor's of Science Degree from Auburn University.

Cannington, Chris and Jen: The Canningtons were foster parents, and now they are adoptive parents of two ADHD children. Mr. Cannington has used his personal insight into living with this line of illness as he has struggled with it himself. Mr. Cannington has used his personal experience to help children cope and understand ADHD from the inside out. Mrs. Cannington is a Licensed Professional Counselor. She has worked in mental health with both adult, children, and adolescent population. She currently works for the Department of Juvenile Justice.

Chapman, Mary Kate: Ms. Chapman serves as Guide's Associate Executive Director. She is responsible for the oversight of the Youth Advisory Board, for customizing training events for both youth and Adults, and the coordination of conferences, including the Georgia after school and youth development conference; and Guide's Annual Youth Leadership Conference. Ms. Chapman also oversees the technical assistance and support of all youth action teams that who attend Georgia teen institute.

Cutter-Williams, Kimberly. Mrs. Cutter-Williams has been a full-time hairstylist for over 20 years and a licensed cosmetology teacher for 15 years. Kimberly holds a Cosmetology License from Savannah Technical College, Teachers License from Poway Beauty College, Bachelor's in Psychology from Saint Leo University and a Master's in Education from Armstrong Atlantic University. She is currently employed as a Department Chair at Savannah Technical College. Mrs. Cutter-Williams is a State Certified Mediator. Kimberly is married and enjoys spending time with her family, husband Richard, sons Stephen and Stephan, daughter Kimberly and her two granddaughters, Khloe and Zoe.

Daniels, Verdell: Mr. Daniels graduated from Peabody High School in Eastman, Ga. Mr. Daniels is married to Mrs. Eunice E. Daniels, and they have been married for 42 years. They have five biological children and two adoptive sons. Mr. and Mrs. Daniels have been foster parents for 30 years. He is an United State Marine Corp Veteran; serving a tour of duty in Vietnam. Mr. Daniels attended South University and Savannah State University. He has an Associate Degree in Business Management. Mr. Daniels is the Vice Chair of Counsel of State with the National Foster Parent Association, and he is the current President of the Adoptive and Foster Parent Association of Georgia.

Daughtry, Angela: Ms. Daughtry has been the lead advocacy coordinator with the Savannah Chatham Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for two years. A native of Los Angeles Ca., Ms. Daughtry worked with CASA of Los Angeles for three years. She received her M.A. in Educational Leadership from Eastern Michigan University with a focus on higher education/student affairs. Ms. Daughtry participates with the Georgia Statewide Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Task Force.

Dennis, Erika: Ms. Dennis is a Credit Report Specialist with the GARYSE/ILP team. She has worked in the consumer finance industry for the past few years to promote both financial stability and independence amongst families and individuals. She has extensive background in reading and interpreting credit reports as well as resolving inaccuracies when necessary. Ms. Dennis holds a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting with a Minor in Management from Georgia Southern University.

Gillespie, Brenda, LMSW: Mrs. Gillespie is the Program Manager for the Georgia Center for Resource and Support. She is an LMSW, having graduated from the University of Georgia's School of Social Work. She retired from DFCS in 2004. She led the development of IMPACT, a continuum of services for prospective foster and adoptive families. She was a consultant for EMBRACE (the Foster Families Foundation of Georgia Inc.).

Goodmark, Craig: *Attorney Craig Good mark is currently running his own small private education law practice. Having previously worked for nine years at Atlanta Legal Aide Society. He received his education at the University of Florida School of Law and Wake Forest University, earning a Bachelor's Degree in History.*

Green, Darrell: Mr. Green is a Staff Development Professional with the Georgia State University School of Social Work Professional Excellence Program. During the past 10 years, he has provided training and staff development for DFCS administrators, supervisors and frontline case managers. During his 25 years of service, Mr. Green has served as a Project Administrator with the Carter Center of Emory University, a (CASA) Coordinator in Juvenile Court, a grass roots community organizer, a parenting course instructor and a parent curriculum developer with the focus on initiatives for non-custodial fathers. As a professional speaker and trainer, Mr. Green has delivered numerous key notes and workshop presentations at professional conferences and at training events. As the father of three sons, Mr. Green is passionate about his role in assisting the community to effectively respond to the need of men and fathers.

Harris, Shemika, LMSW: Shemika Harris has been professionally involved in child welfare for over 15 years. She received her Bachelor's of Social Work from Barton College in North Carolina and Master's of Social Work from Clark Atlanta University in Atlanta, Georgia. Ms. Harris began her career in child welfare as a case manager in Fulton County and since that time, has served in various capacities to include foster care supervisor in Dekalb County as well as Monitoring Specialist for the office of Provider Management. Shemika Harris has experience in training case managers, supervisors, foster parents, child placement agencies, and child care institutions in child welfare policies. Presently she serves as the Program Manager for the Wellness Programming Assessment and Consultation unit (WPAC).

Jones, Candis: Mrs. Jones begin her career with the State of Georgia in 1997 with the Department of Corrections. In 2002, she transitioned to the Division of Family and Children Services. She has served in several positions with the Division, from the Office of Family independence to the Office of Child Welfare. She also served as Director of Thomas County DFCS in 2015. She then became the Director of the Caregiver Recruitment and Retention Unit where she has been working feverishly to develop a strong and supportive network for Georgia's caregivers and children.

Jones, Marjorie, LPN: Mrs. Jones is a Certified Nurse's Assistant. She was employed for eight years at Memorial Mission Hospital in Ashville, North Carolina. Marjorie served five years in the U.S. Army as an Administrative Assistant. She was stationed at Fort Carson, Colorado and in Germany. After her tour of duty was over, she and her husband lived in Fort Hood, Texas for 28 years. During that time, she furthered her education by obtaining a Nurse License at Temple Jo. College and at the University of Texas. Mrs. Jones is a foster parent and serves on the Adoptive and Foster Parent Association of Georgia's Board of Directors.

Kelly, Dianne, MS, LPC: Mrs. Kelly is the founder and Executive Director of Kindred Family Service, Inc. which provides traditional and relative foster care and adoptive services. She has worked progressively in the field of child welfare since 1992, holding leadership positions within leading private social services agencies and DFCS. Mrs. Kelly's career reflects her deep affinity for serving children and families. She is an experienced clinician, curriculum writer, trainer, and child welfare consultant.

Key, Michael, Judge: The honorable Judge Michael Key has served at the Juvenile Court in Troup County, Georgia since 1989, and is a partner in the law firm of Key and Grady, P.C. A graduate of Emory University School of Law, Judge Key served in the U.S. Airforce from 1971-1975. Judge Key is the past president of the Juvenile Judges. He is a member of the Georgia Child Support Guide Line Commission and served as chair of the Georgia Commission on Family Violence.

Lambie, Karen: Now retired, Dr. Lambie taught for a total of 32 years at both elementary and university levels. She has a PHD in Educational Psychology from the University of Georgia. Before retiring in 2010, she made the decision to dedicate the rest of her life to work for social change and raise awareness concerning human rights violations. She serves on the Board of Directors for Savannah working Against Human Trafficking. Dr. Lambie is a foster parent from Bulloch County. Also, Dr. Lambie serves on the Adoptive and Foster Parent Association of Georgia.

LaMarr, Natasha: Dr. LaMarr has a doctorate in Counseling Education and Supervision. She is a Licensed Professional Counselor and a Prepared Enrich Facilitator, with a certification in Marriage and Family Therapy. She is an approved clinical supervisor and a national certified counselor with over 15 years of experience working with families, couples, teens, adolescents, and children. She has also worked in higher education as a professor at Mercer University, Devry University, and Bauder College. The focus of Dr. LaMarr's research has been on marriage and family, integrating spirituality into counseling, and the dissolution of marriage with in the community.

Lockwood, Bonnie: Mrs. Lockwood has a Master's of Science in Rehabilitation Counseling from Georgia State University. She has been a Licensed Professional Counselor in Georgia since 1997. She has studied and worked with attachment disorders for several years. She also specializes in addiction and child welfare. Mrs. Lockwood is married and has two teenage girls.

Lovelace, Kristi, Esquire: Ms. Lovelace practices law in central Georgia. She is certified as a Child Welfare Law Specialist by the National Association of Counsel for Children, represents parents and children, and worked as a Municipal Court Judge.

Malone, Shauna S., M. Ed: Shauna S. Malone has been professionally involved in social services in various capacities for over 20 years. She received her Bachelor's of Sociology from Paine College in Augusta, Georgia and her Master's in Education with Specialization in Counseling/Psychology from Troy University, Augusta, GA Campus. Ms. Malone began working in residential care management before becoming employed with the Richmond County Division of Family and Children Services as a case manager in 2004. In 2014, she began working as a Wellbeing Specialist with DFCS. Currently, she serves as the Lead Wellness Specialist of the Wellness Programming Assessment and Consultation Unit (WPAC).

Martin, Devin: Mr. Martin is a graduate of Alabama State University where he received his Bachelor's Degree in 2003 and his Master's in 2006. In 2007, he joined the Department of Human Services, where he worked for seven years with the Office of Inspector General as a Criminal History Specialist. Mr.

Martin joined GA/RYS Independent Living Program as a Credit Report Specialist In 2004. In his new role, he helped to create the blueprint and foundation of initiating and completing the credit report process to serve foster youth through the State of Georgia.

O'Brien, Pat: Mr. O'Brien is a well-known national speaker. He is the founder of You Gotta Believe! The Older Child Adoption and Permanency Movement, Inc. Mr. O'Brien believes life is too short to be taken seriously.

Owens, Adrian: Mr. Owens has been employed with the Division of Family and Children Services for 14 years. He began his career with DFCS in Gwinnett County in 2003 in the adoption unit. In 2005, Mr. Owens joined the DFCS State Adoption Unit as a policy specialist. In 2008, Mr. Owens became the Program Manager in the Social Service Administration Unit (SSAU) and in 2012, he became the SSAU Director. Mr. Owens and his staff provide management and oversight of the IV-E Adoption Assistance Program, post adoption contracts and services, adoption assistance policy, Interstate Adoption/Foster Care (ICAMA) Medicaid training and consultation, and adoption records management.

Rawlings, Tom: Tom Rawlings has a long record of using his legal and advocacy skills on behalf of those who most need the help, especially children and families. For the past 12 years, he has served in numerous policy, legal, and court leadership roles. As the first full time Juvenile Court Judge for the Georgia's Middle Circuit, he started an innovative mental therapy program for children and youth in his court and their families. Mr. Rawlings is also the Director Office of Child Advocate.

Reese, Teresa: Ms. Reese is an Independent Living Specialist for the Division of Family and Children Services. She has worked for the Division since November 2000. Throughout Ms. Reese's career in DFCS, she worked as a Social Service Case Manager in foster care prior to moving to her current position in June 2013. She is a graduate of Mercer University in which she received a Women's Back to School Scholarship and was selected for Governor's Internship.

Taylor, Ebony: Ms. Taylor has over 18 years of experience working in juvenile justice and in child welfare. Ms. Taylor began her career with the Department of Family and Children Services in 2004, where she has held various positions in leadership such as Supervisor, Administrator, County Director and currently a Field Program Specialist. Ms. Taylor has earned her Bachelor of Social Work from Ferris State University and she also holds a Master's of Science in Administration from Central Michigan University. Ms. Taylor completed extensive training with the collaboration of Georgia State University for the DHS Leadership Academy.

Walker-Miller Janice: *Ms. Janice Miller-Walker is the founder and Chief Executive Director of Trinity J & D Child placement agency in Savannah, Ga. She provides traditional, and relative foster care placement. Ms. Walker has worked in the child welfare field for over 25 years. Janice started her career in Brooklyn, New York as a case manager. Upon moving to Georgia, she worked in the Georgia Division of Family and Children Service and with private agencies. In 2007 Janice opened Trinity J & D LLC.*

Waters, Leah: Mrs. Waters has been with the Division of Family and Children Services for 16 years. Mrs. Waters started as a Foster Care Case Manager before being promoted to Adoption and Resource Development Supervisor where she spent most her DFCS career recruiting foster and adoptive families and working to finalize adoptions. Mrs. Waters joined the Social Services Administration Unit (SSAU) working the title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program in February 2014. In addition to managing the

contract with Georgia Center for Resources and Support, she assists with policy consultation, (ICAMA) Medicaid, and approves Special Services Adoption Assistance requests. She graduated from Georgia State University with a Bachelor's in Social Work.

Young, Rita: Ms. Young is a private consultant who specializes in training, project management and stake holder engagement. Her professional goal is to support the private and public sector with the latest information, programming, and product to create efficiencies and foster innovation in serving and supporting individual with disabilities. As an experience coach and facilitator, Ms. Young formerly directed Partners in Policy Making, a well-recognized leadership for families and individuals with disabilities. Ms. Young also directed a justice training program. As a public policy director, she worked with Georgia Assembly to advocate for funding home and community based service.

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