

19th Annual ADHD and Related Concerns Conference – Biographies

Keynote Speakers

Donna Porter, MS, CCC-SP

DJ Batiste – Motivational Speaker

Donna Porter has dedicated her life to the field of education, and has gained a breadth of wisdom and experience that she now pours into audiences across the nation. Early in his life, DJ Batiste was expelled from Head Start. His educational career was filled with constant discipline issues resulting in suspensions, expulsions, and enrollment in alternative education. In the fifth grade, he organized a gang and continued to effectively lead gangs throughout his high school years. In the community, he endured arrests and time spent in Juvenile Detention. DJ was traveling on a path of complete destruction until he stepped into Porter's Oral Communications class his senior year. From their first novel encounter, both of their lives were forever changed through the power of a judgement free relationship. A true renaissance educator, Porter has served in a variety of specialties: speech/language pathology, dyslexia support, theatre, public speaking teacher and speech and debate coach. DJ leads and teaches from a different point of view and inspires thousands of educators across the nation with his important message of Connection Before Correction. Throughout Porter's journey, the common thread is a passion for using innovative techniques to unlock the boundless potential of every student. Those unique techniques have made her one of the Southeast's foremost experts in the development of a relationship-based classroom. Her skills transformed Batiste's life, turning him away from gang life to a high school graduate and motivational speaker. She has been recognized with numerous awards: Mississippi Congressional District IV Teacher of the Year, Thad Cochran Arts Integration Teacher of the Year, STAR Teacher, Promethean Organization's Thank-A-Teacher Competition Winner, and Stephen Sondheim Inspirational Teacher. Porter holds B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of Southern Mississippi. This teacher of teachers will change the way you view the classroom and DJ Batiste will inspire you as you impact the next generation.

Disclosure Statement: No financial or non-financial relationships exist.

Jonathan Shook, M.D.

Dr. Jonathan Shook has 15 years of experience as a pediatrician. Through his experiences with his patients and his own four children, he has developed a special interest in helping children and teens with attention and learning problems. Dr. Shook is excited to work with the team at Hattiesburg Clinic Connections who share in this mission.

Disclosure Statement: Dr. Jonathan Shook is employed by Connections Hattiesburg Clinic and receives salary for employment. There is no other financial or non-financial relationship with Connections Hattiesburg Clinic.

Breakout Session Speakers

Jayda Brantley, CALT, LDT

Jayda Brantley is an Intervention Specialist with the Mississippi Department of Education. Jayda received her Bachelor of Science and Master of Science, in Education from Mississippi State University and she earned a Master of Arts degree in Dyslexia Therapy from Mississippi College. Prior to joining MDE she served as a dyslexia therapist, school interventionist and classroom teacher having served students in grades K-12, as well as adults. Jayda is also a Certified Academic Language Therapist with experience serving both general education students and special education students. She resides in Rankin County with her husband, Marty, and three children, Bailey, Cade, and Bennett.

Disclosure Statement: No financial or non-financial relationships exist.

Nicole Briceno, M.S.

Nicole coordinates the Mississippi Early Childhood Inclusion Center (MECIC) credential programs and develops curriculum used in training and technical assistance. She mentors staff to promote best practices and disseminates MECIC activities in state and national conferences. Mrs. Briceno is an Adjunct Professor at the University of Southern Mississippi.

Disclosure Statement: No financial or non-financial relationships exist.

Susan Clark, Ph.D.

Dr. Clark is an assistant teaching professor in Child & Family Sciences at The University of Southern Mississippi. Additionally, she's the Training & Curriculum Specialist at the campus-based Child Development Center that serves children ages birth to 5 and it is the primary training facility for early childhood education students.

Disclosure Statement: No financial or non-financial relationships exist.

Mavis A. Creagh, B.S.

Mavis A. Creagh is an executive director, 6X best-selling author, speaker, consultant, mental health proponent, women's advocate, entrepreneurial strategist, columnist, and online show host. She currently serves as the Executive Director of R3SM, Inc. (Recover, Rebuild, and Restore Southeast MS) a nonprofit founded following Hurricane Katrina. She established Mavis A. Creagh Consulting, LLC, We Women Ministries, Inc., and M. A. C. Boutique & Beauty. In addition, she serves on multiple regional, state and community boards. She serves on the NAMI MS Board & President of the Pine Belt NAMI. One of her proudest accomplishments is being a mother to her amazing teenage son, Jordan!

Disclosure statement: No financial or non-financial relationships exists.

Alex Day, MS, CCC-SLP, CALT**Anna Curtis, M.Ed. CALT**

Alex Day and Anna Curtis are Certified Academic Language Therapists with the DuBard School for Language Disorders located at The University of Southern Mississippi.

Disclosure statement: No financial or non-financial relationships exists.

Krystal Draughn, LCSW

Krystal Draughn has been with Hattiesburg Clinic for 9 years and has more than 25 years of experience as a therapist. Mrs. Draughn works with children ages 10 and beyond as well as adults. In addition, she has worked with specialized populations of eating disorders, both adolescent and adults and has been a certified EMDR (Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing) therapist since 2009. This is a therapy technique used with trauma resolution as well as having other applications. She received her B.S. and M.S.W. from the University of Southern Mississippi.

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Amber Dufrene, B.S.

Amber received her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from Creighton University in 2003. She attended graduate programming at Mississippi State School Psychology program as a Non-Matriculating Student. Immediately she began consulting as an independent contractor in surrounding school districts and homes. Focusing on with children intellectual and

developmental disabilities in the school system. Began receiving referrals in the Hattiesburg and greater area to work with children with pervasive developmental disorders, mood disorders, and ADHD. Amber founded three no-profit agencies serving both children and adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities. The intent of this service is to provide the behavioral intervention and support necessary to successfully maintain each child in his/her home or community. The goal is to provide a degree of behavioral care and supervision in the home community setting that is appropriate to children discharged from a more restrictive setting, or as an alternative to a more restrictive setting. All treatment, care and support services coordinated with the client's psychiatry, psychology, and/or medical care providers.

Disclosure statement: No financial or non-financial relationships exists.

Lauren English, PA-C

Lauren English received her Bachelor of Science from Mississippi State University in Starkville, MS, and her Master of Physician Assistant Studies from Mississippi College in Clinton, MS. English is board certified by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants. Her professional affiliations include the American Academy of Physician Assistants and Mississippi Academy of Physician Assistants. She served as the Mississippi Academy of Physician Assistant's president for the years 2015 and 2016. Lauren is currently employed at Hattiesburg Clinic Connections as a physician assistant and joined the Connections team in March 2014.

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Elizabeth Felder, MD

I am a mother of 3 and a pediatrician with Connections of Hattiesburg Clinic. I have over 25 years of clinical experience in Pediatrics and have developed a special interest in Autism and ADHD. I received my Medical degree and Pediatrics training from the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson, MS. I am a fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics and a member of the Mississippi State Medical Association.

Disclosure Statement: Elizabeth Felder is employed by Connections Hattiesburg Clinic and receives salary for employment. There is no other financial or non-financial relationship with Connections Hattiesburg Clinic.

Mandy Gay, MS, CCC-SLP

Mandy Gay is a speech-language pathologist and dyslexia therapist at Hattiesburg Clinic Connections. Gay received her Master of Science in speech-language pathology from the University of Southern Mississippi and her Master of Education in Dyslexia Therapy from William Carey University.

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Donna George, Ed. S., CALT, QI

Donna is a graduate of the Mississippi College Dyslexia Therapy Program and holds a Specialist in Education in Educational Leadership from William Carey University. She has served as a Dyslexia Therapist, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, and is currently the Principal of the 3-D School in Petal, MS.

Disclosure statement: No financial or non-financial relationships exists.

Josh Hamm, LPC

Joshua Hamm joined Connections in 2007. He received his bachelor's degree in psychology and master's degree in counseling psychology from the University of Southern Mississippi. Mr. Hamm is a Licensed Professional Counselor specializing in parent training and child behavior management. He also works with younger children focusing on social skills training, anger management, and treatment for anxiety and depressive disorders.

Disclosure Statement: Josh Hamm is employed by Connections Hattiesburg Clinic and receives salary for employment. There is no other financial or non-financial relationship with Connections Hattiesburg Clinic.

Melanie Hamm, RN, BSN, MSN

Melanie Hamm joined the Connections team in 2009. She received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from The University of Southern Mississippi. She received her Master's degree in nursing from the University of South Alabama in Mobile, AL. Mrs. Hamm is a Pediatric Primary Care Mental Health Specialist and is a member of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners. She is married to Mr. Josh Hamm, LPC at Connections, and they have one child, Jenna. They attend Venture Church.

Disclosure Statement: Melanie Hamm is employed by Connections Hattiesburg Clinic and receives salary for employment. There is no other financial or non-financial relationship with Connections Hattiesburg Clinic.

Cena Holifield, Ph.D., CALT-QI

Dr. Holifield has served children with dyslexia for the past fifteen years. She is Assistant Professor at William Carey University where she serves as program director and instructor of the Master's Degree in Dyslexia Therapy. IN 2008, she co-founded Dynamic Dyslexia Design; The 3-D School located in Petal, MS where she currently serves as executive director. She holds a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and Administration and Master's of Education Degrees in Dyslexia Therapy and Elementary Education. She is a nationally Certified Academic Language Therapist and Qualified Instructor.

Disclosure statement: No financial or non-financial relationships exists.

Tammara Jordan, MS, CCC-SLP

Tammara Jordan is a Speech Language Pathologist with 23 years of experience treating speech-language issues in the pediatric population.

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Jessica James-Prince, MS, P-LPC

Jessica James-Prince is a Provisional Licensed Professional Counselor in the state of Mississippi. She works as an Outreach Coordinator with Pine Grove Behavioral Health where she conducts clinical assessments for the Child, Adolescent and Adult Psychiatric Intensive Care Units. Jessica educates professionals in the Madison area about Pine Grove's nationally recognized treatment programs. She earned her undergraduate degree in Psychology from The University of Southern Mississippi and her Master's degree in Mental Health Counseling from Mississippi College.

Disclosure statement: No financial or non-financial relationships exists.

Joann P. Judge, Ph.D., CAPE

Joann P. Judge, Ph.D., is an assistant professor in the School of Kinesiology & Nutrition at The University of Southern Mississippi. She is a licensed Health & Physical Education teacher and a

Certified Adapted Physical Educator (CAPE). Her research interests include motor skill development, ASD, evidence-based practices, and eye-tracking technology.

Disclosure statement: No financial or non-financial relationships exists.

Ronald Kent, M.D.

Dr. Kent has been in practice since 1981 and joined Hattiesburg Clinic in 1997. Dr. Kent received his medical degree from the University of Mississippi School of Medicine in Jackson. He completed an internship and residency at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. He is certified by the American Board of Pediatrics. He has a special interest in patients with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. Dr. Kent and his wife Anne, have three children, Emily (and Troy), James (and Jessica) and Grace. He is a member of Temple Baptist. In his spare time, he enjoys woodworking, gardening, playing with his grandchildren.

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Zachary LaBrot, Ph.D.

Zachary LaBrot, Ph.D. is an Assistant Professor of School Psychology at the University of Southern Mississippi and a licensed psychologist in the state of Mississippi. Dr. LaBrot's research and clinical interests involve training teachers and parents to work with children and adolescents diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders.

Disclosure statement: No financial or non-financial relationships exists.

Kenyatta Magee, M.Ed.

Kenyatta is an educator in the Hattiesburg Public School District and the Founder of Not My Seed Inc. She challenges others to create safe, interactive and engaging environments for individuals living with ADHD.

Disclosure statement: No financial or non-financial relationships exists.

Carrie Morgan, Ph.D.

Dr. Morgan is licensed by the Mississippi Board of Psychology and specializes in academic and behavioral assessment and intervention of childhood psychological disorders, including Attention-Deficit/Hyperactive Disorder, autism, developmental disorders, and learning problems. She joined the Connections group in 2013.

Disclosure Statement: Carrie Morgan is employed by Connections Hattiesburg Clinic and receives salary for employment. There is no other financial or non-financial relationship with Connections Hattiesburg Clinic.

Heather Necaie, MS, LPC-S

Heather R Necaie is an LPC-S at Pine Grove Behavioral Health and Addiction Services, where she currently serves as the Director of Inpatient Admissions, Assessments and Outreach offices. She earned her Master's Degree in Counseling Psychology from the University of Southern Mississippi. Her 14+ years of clinical training, research and professional experience include extensive focus and work with individuals with substance use disorders and co-occurring disorders, as well as, training in the use of Motivational Interviewing (MI). In her current role, she provides clinical direction and supervision for the admissions and assessment process for children, adolescents and adults, who are experiencing acute crisis and psychiatric issues.

Disclosure statement: No financial or non-financial relationships exists.

Alison Patroliia, CVT, SDC

Alison Patroliia is training director for Hub City Service Dogs. As training director, she works to provide personalized, task-based service dogs to clients with psychiatric and medical disabilities. In November 2019, she became the first Certified Service Dog Coach in Mississippi.

Disclosure statement: No financial or non-financial relationships exists.

Stephanie Smith, DSW, LCSW

Dr. Stephanie Smith is the Clinical Director of the Women's Center at Pine Grove Behavioral Health & Addiction Services in Hattiesburg MS. Dr. Smith earned her Doctor of Social Work (DSW) in Clinical Practice and Leadership from The University of Tennessee, Knoxville. She has been a LCSW in the State of Mississippi since 2009. She served on the Mississippi National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Board as a Region 3 Representative from August 2015 – July 2017. Dr. Smith has specialized training in TF-CBT, child-parent psychotherapy, integrative treatment

for complex trauma and forensic interviewing. She served as an expert witness testifying on behalf of vulnerable women and children from 2009-2017. Her areas of expertise include emerging adult depression, adult and child trauma, child welfare, mothers with borderline personality disorder, chemical dependency and couples engaged in high conflict divorce. Prior to joining the Women's Center, Dr. Smith practiced as a Clinical Instructor and Clinical Field Specialist at The University of Southern Mississippi School of Social Work. Additionally, she practiced as a family therapist and clinical supervisor for the School of Social Work's MSW Interns at the Family Network Partnership Counseling Center.

Disclosure statement: No financial or non-financial relationships exists.

Alicia Swann, MCD, CCC-A, F/AAA Board Certified Audiologist

Alicia Swann, M.C.D, CCC-A, is a board-certified audiologist and owner of Auditory Processing Center, LLC specializing in assessment and treatment of auditory processing disorder (APD). She has 28+ years of experience working with individuals with APD, has co-authored research articles on APD diagnosis and treatment, and presents nationally on auditory processing and related concerns.

Disclosure statement: No financial or non-financial relationships exists.

Danyella Terrell, LMSW

Danyella Terrell obtained both her BSW and MSW from the University of Southern Mississippi. Danyella has a passion for helping others enhance their confidence as well as empowering them to embrace each day one day at a time. She believes helping others is a gift from God, so why not be a Social Worker? Her determination and drive push her to help those in need with integrity, no matter the cost. Danyella's enthusiasm to learn and passion to improve the quality of life for others is the force that pushes her daily. It is her belief that self-care is not selfish, it is necessary! Danyella is currently a Medical Social Worker at Halcyon Hospice. She has been in this current position since Oct 2020. Prior to joining the Halcyon Hospice, Danyella's employment ranged supervision, front line and regional case management, community partnerships, hospice, Medicaid waiver provider, as well as navigation with the Medicaid Bridge to Independence program, currently known as Community Transition Services and Clinical therapy.

Disclosure statement: No financial or non-financial relationships exists.

Alison Webster, MS, CCC-SLP, CALT-QI, C-SLDS

Alison Webster is the professional development coordinator at the DuBard School for Language Disorders. She is a nationally certified speech-language pathologist, certified academic language therapist, and structured literacy specialist. She holds Mississippi licensure in Speech-Language Pathology and an endorsement in Mild to Moderate Disabilities in Special Education.

Disclosure statement: No financial or non-financial relationships exists.

Alicia Westbrook, Ph.D.

Alicia directs the Mississippi Early Childhood Inclusion Center (MECIC) and is a member of the PEDS diagnostic team. Dr. Westbrook leads MECIC's research efforts, serves as the Inclusive Classroom Profile Assessor, and disseminates program activities nationally. Dr. Westbrook is an Adjunct Professor at The University of Southern Mississippi.

Disclosure statement: No financial or non-financial relationships exists.

Ryan Wexelblatt, LCSW, ADHD-CCSP

Ryan Wexelblatt, LCSW is the creator of ADHD Dude, an internationally recognized approach to ADHD treatment. Ryan creates content for the ADHD Dude YouTube channel, as well as ADDitude Magazine. A licensed clinical social worker, school social worker, certified ADHD clinical services provider and father to a son with ADHD, Ryan is originally from the Philadelphia area. He has presented at the International Conference on ADHD multiple times. Ryan provides parent training through the ADHD Dude Membership Site, and in person social skills programs for boys with ADHD.

Disclosure statement: No financial or non-financial relationships exists.

Rachel Wooten, M.Ed., LDT

Rachel Wooten is the Dyslexia/MTSS Support Team Lead for Kids First Education. Mrs. Wooten provides extensive professional development and instructional coaching to improve academic outcomes for students with learning differences. She holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in the fields of Elementary Education and Psychology and a Master's Degree in Dyslexia Therapy.

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