

## **22<sup>nd</sup> Annual ADHD and Related Concerns Breakout Session Summaries**

### **ADHD In Females: Understanding what it looks like, how it is affected by hormones, and common co-morbidities**

**-Melanie Hamm, BSN, MSN, PMHS**

This session will explain symptoms of ADHD in females and how those may differ from males. Attendees will also learn how ADHD is affected by hormonal changes throughout a female's life from puberty, pregnancy, postpartum, and menopause. Co-Morbidities like Anxiety, Depression, and PMDD will be discussed.

### **ADHD Medication Management for Clinicians – Parts I and II**

**-Jonathan Shook, MD**

ADHD is one of the most common chronic conditions encountered by clinicians, yet ADHD medication management can seem overwhelming for numerous complex reasons. In this 2-part series, we will discuss principles and best practices informed from available research and practice guidelines on ADHD treatment. We will also examine some tools and resources available to help clinicians as we consider medication options with our patients.

### **ADHD: Myths and Misinformation**

**-Jonathan Shook, MD**

Information on just about any topic is now just a click or a voice command away, but unfortunately information about ADHD is often not based on research, science, or credible evidence. Misinformation about ADHD can increase stigma and shame around ADHD which makes life more difficult for individuals with ADHD and those who care about them. In this session, we will explore several “myths” that are often spread regarding ADHD. We will then present findings from research and scientific evidence that point to more accurate and reliable messages about ADHD, thereby offering help and hope in contrast to fear and shame for those with ADHD.

### **ADHD 101: Part One- What is ADHD?**

**-Brooklee Tynes, PhD**

**-Carrie Morgan, PhD**

ADHD is the most common neurodevelopmental condition among children and teens. Kids with ADHD often struggle with healthy functioning at home, at school, as well as in relationships and organized activities. In part 1 of this series, we will discuss signs and symptoms of ADHD, as well the importance of an appropriate evaluation to assess for ADHD and related conditions.

## **ADHD 101: Part 2- What Types of Interventions have been Shown to Help Students with ADHD Most? Why is Early Treatment of ADHD Important?**

**-Melissa Smith, FNP**

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## **ADHD Through the Seasons of Life: Childhood, Adolescence, and Adulthood**

**-Lauren English, PA-C**

In spite of the misconception that ADHD is only a childhood disorder, ADHD is actually a lifetime disorder that exists in all seasons of one's life. This discussion about ADHD will equip the audience with information about the similarities and differences that exist in childhood, adolescence, and adulthood.

## **Behavior Boost – Tiered Supports for Self-Regulation and Success**

**-Rachel Wooten, Med, LDT**

**-Natalie Breithaupt, BS**

Blast off into better behavior support! Our Kids First space-themed session equips educators with tiered strategies to address executive functioning and behavior needs through MTSS. Explore universal routines, targeted interventions, and intensive supports to guide all students toward self-regulation and success—no matter what orbit they're in!

## **Behavioral Interventions: In Home and Community. ADHD Crisis Interventions for Children and Adolescents.**

**-Ember Dufrene, BS**

This session will address several kinds of behavioral interventions that can help children with ADHD manage their symptoms of hyperactivity, impulsivity, and inattention. The lecture will address behavioral modifications that teach care providers and their children the skills to add needed control and success. Along with strategies to stay organized and focused, provide explanation toward decreasing disruptive behaviors, increasing social skills, and congruous implementation of behavioral strategies in the home. In addition, a discussion of broader strategies of behavioral modification to include skill-based interventions for on-task behaviors and self-monitoring training to encourage independence. This session will include tools that teach children the skills necessary to maximize their strengths and compensate for their weaknesses.

## **Behind the Mask: Understanding Autism in Girls**

**-Kourtney Kromminga, PhD, LP, NCSP**

This session explores how autism presents differently in girls, often leading to underdiagnosis or misdiagnosis. We will examine current research on gendered symptom expression, barriers to identification, and the implications for clinical practice. Attendees will gain practical strategies for improving diagnosis and tailoring interventions for females with autism.

## **Bringing Learning to Life: Engage Children through Arts Integration**

**-Morgan Bergeron, Med**

Explore how arts integration fosters creativity, connection, and emotional expression in learning environments. Through hands-on activities and research-based strategies, discover how the arts support academic goals while promoting well-being, empathy, and inclusive engagement for students and the adults who support them.

## **Connected but Alone: The Impact of Social Media and Device Use on Youth Mental Health Thursday, October 23, 2025 Keynote**

**-Kristi Bush, LBSW**

This presentation takes a deep dive into the intricate landscape of modern childhood and adolescence, focusing on the significant impact of technology, especially social media, on the mental health of today's youth. Kristi, a leading expert in the field, will guide attendees through a comprehensive and thought-provoking exploration of the rising issues surrounding anxiety, depression, and feelings of isolation among young people.

## **Connecting with Connections**

**-Jonathan Shook, MD**

During this forum, Dr. Shook will facilitate a professional discussion from Hattiesburg Clinic Connections and Hattiesburg Clinic Psychology & Counseling to share knowledge from years of working with individuals with ADHD and related disorders and provide key information for professionals, parents and caregivers. Participants will gain a greater knowledge of ADHD as well as information on treatment and support. Finally, questions from the audience will be addressed.

## **Different Types of Dyslexia: Identification, Intervention, and Support**

**-Tammy Jordan, MS, CCC-SLP**

Explore the various types of dyslexia in this informative CEU course. Learn to identify characteristics of phonological, surface, rapid naming, and visual dyslexia, and understand their impact on learning and reading. Learn to identify symptoms, improve intervention strategies, and support individuals more effectively through evidence-based understanding of dyslexia subtypes.

## **Enhancing Emotional Regulation in Individuals with ADHD: Strategies for Success**

**-Danyella Terrell, LCSW**

Emotional regulation challenges are a core difficulty for individuals with ADHD, often impacting their relationships, academic or work performance, and overall well-being. This session will explore evidence-based strategies to improve emotional regulation, offering practical tools for individuals, caregivers, educators, and clinicians. Participants will learn how to recognize emotional dysregulation, implement self-regulation techniques, and create supportive environments that foster emotional resilience in individuals with ADHD.

## **Enriching Text for Enhanced Comprehension for Students with Learning Differences**

**-Donna George, EdD, CALT-QI, SLDS**

**-Kathleen Pitts, Med, CALT-QI, SLDS**

Join us for 'Enriching Text for Enhanced Comprehension,' a seminar designed to explore strategies and techniques for written text to support students with learning differences, enhancing engagement, understanding, and retention. Practical tips will be shared to create accessible, inclusive, and effective learning experiences for diverse learners.

## **Essential for Some, Beneficial for All: Dyslexia-Informed Writing Strategies for Every Classroom**

**-Linnie Reynolds, Med, CALT, LDT, C-SLDS**

This interactive session will equip participants with practical, dyslexia-informed writing strategies that benefit all students. Explore why writing matters, discover research-based frameworks, and learn explicit techniques aligned with Mississippi's writing standards. Gain ready-to-use tips for short writing tasks, accommodations, and clear goals to strengthen instruction across the curriculum.

## **From Identification to Intervention – A Real Talk on ADHD in Schools**

**-Jeffrey VeZain, PMHNP**

ADHD is everywhere in schools – but are we really getting it right? Join psychiatric nurse practitioner Jeffery VeZain for a real-world conversation about what ADHD looks like in classrooms today. This session will get real about the behaviors that disrupt classrooms, the truth about ADHD management and how to measure what's actually working.

## **Grant's Journey: A parent's (and educator's) perspective of navigating ADHD, ODD and ASD**

**-Tonya Bolton, MEd**

Have you wondered what a day is like for parents? Are you looking for practical ways to navigate life with children diagnosed with ADHD, ASD, or ODD? If so, join me to discuss a parent's (and educator's) perspective to tackle daily challenges, celebrate joys and DON'T SWEAT THE SMALL STUFF.

## **Hidden Auditory Processing Disorders: Frequently Overlooked in ADHD, Autism, and Learning Struggles**

**-Alicia Swann, MC, CCC-A**

Many children labeled inattentive have auditory processing disorder (APD), a condition that impairs the brain's ability to interpret sound and requires different treatment from ADHD. This session explores hidden APD signs, case examples, and current evidence-based therapies. Attendees will leave with tools to recognize APD, communicate its impact, and support accurate referral and intervention.

## **How Do I Know? Taking (some) of the Guesswork out of Parenting**

**-Brooklee Tynes, PhD**

Children do not come with a manual. Parenting and caring for children may be the single most challenging and emotional task. Learning how to create structure and clearly communicate with children helps establish a sense of security for children and provides a roadmap for parents.

## **Is it Autism, ADHD, or Both?**

**-Barbara S. Saunders, DO, FAAP**

In this session, case study(ies) will be used to demonstrate when symptoms of hyperactivity, inattention, social skills and interactions difficulties, repetitive behaviors and movements, and/or sensory processing difficulties should be attributed to autism spectrum disorder (ASD), attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), or both.

## **It's the Process Not the Product! Using Art to Foster Healthy Social-Emotional Development in Young Children**

**-Susan Clark, PhD**

This session will address how process art can nurture young children's social-emotional development. We will also explore key developmental milestones, the value of art in early childhood, and practical, open-ended activities. Learn how educators and caregivers can create supportive, art-rich environments that promote emotional expression, self-regulation, and positive social interactions.

## **Mission Behavior Boost: Tiered Supports for Self-Regulation and Success**

**-Rachel Wooten, MEd, LDT**

Blast off into better behavior support! Our Kids First space-themed session equips educators with tiered strategies to address executive functioning and behavior needs through MTSS. Explore universal routines, targeted interventions, and intensive supports to guide all students toward self-regulation and success—no matter what orbit they're in!

## **Practical Strategies for Helping Families Navigate Routines with their Children with ADHD**

**-Britany D. Garza, Med, BCBA, LBA-TX**

**-Lourdes Rodriguez, BS**

**-Zachary LaBrot, PhD, LP**

This session will review practical and feasible strategies to support family routines for children with ADHD. These strategies include preventative and teaching strategies to increase children's ability to engage in daily routines while decreasing challenging behavior. Recommendations for tailoring these strategies for children's unique needs will be discussed.

## **Social-Emotional Learning: Making the Connection between School and Home**

**-Emily Gilbert-Boyd, EdD**

This session will explore Social-Emotional Learning and its benefits. We will discover how to integrate SEL into the classroom, strengthen school/home communication, create a supportive environment and culture, and equip parents with skills, language, and strategies that support emotional growth and provide a seamless transition.

## **Sparkle and Shine: Creating Magic in the Classroom for All Children to Excel Through Multisensory Instruction – Keynote and Breakout Session**

**-Jillian M. Vallo, PhD**

Discover how to create classroom magic with “Sparkle and Shine”—a session focused on multisensory instruction that ignites learning for every child. Learn practical, brain-based strategies to help students excel academically while supporting their emotional and sensory needs, nurturing the whole child in an engaging, inclusive environment.

## **Strategies for Enhanced Decoding, Reading Comprehension, and Written Expression in Middle School**

**-Leta Palmiter, EdS, CALT, NBCT**

**-Kelley Davis, MS, NBCT**

This session will explore morphological awareness through structured literacy, emphasizing direct instruction in prefixes, suffixes, roots, and their meanings with connections to semantics and syntax supported vocabulary and writing development. Strategies will be provided for both intervention and whole-class instruction in grades 5–8, enhancing comprehension, decoding, and written expression across content areas.

## **Targeted Social Emotional Supports: Facilitating Peer Interactions**

**-Nicole Briceno, MS**

**-Alicia Westbrook, PhD**

Throughout early childhood, children require nurturing and responsive relationships with caregivers for healthy social and emotional development. Through our relationships, they learn how to interact with others. For many children with ADHD and related concerns, meaningful peer interactions require targeted intervention. Participants will gain skills to support children in initiating and maintaining peer interactions.

## **Tech for All: Tailoring Educational Technology for Diverse Learners**

**-Rebekah Satcher, EdD**

Tech for All: Tailoring Educational Technology for Diverse Learners explores innovative strategies for integrating educational technology that meets the unique needs of all students. Participants will discover the latest tech tools and resources designed to enhance engagement, accessibility, and learning outcomes for diverse learners.

## **The Soft Skills of Leadership – Utilizing Your Emotional Intelligence**

**-Dr. Wanda S. Maulding-Green, EdD**

This session will include information on the application of emotional intelligence (EI) principles to improve leadership. Participants will learn the fundamentals of EI and understand how emotions influence decision-making and interpersonal dynamics. Strategies for enhancing self-awareness and managing emotions will also be shared.

## **Turning Conflict into Connection: Navigating Difficult Conversation**

**-Billie Fick, PhD**

**-Cassandra Weiss, PhD**

This presentation offers practical tools from *Never Split the Difference* to manage emotionally charged conversations. Strategies include active listening, calm tone, mirroring, labeling emotions, and asking collaborative questions. These interventions build trust, reduce conflict, and foster productive dialogue with students, parents, and colleagues in challenging situations.

## **Understanding Autism: Characteristics and Classroom Strategies**

**-Denise Harrison, MS**

This session focuses on enabling participants to identify the characteristics of Autism and providing strategies to help students succeed in the classroom and the school environment with their neurotypical peers.

## **Understanding Dyscalculia – The Forgotten Math Disability**

**-Tessa Dvorak, EdD**

Gain insight into dyscalculia, a math-related learning disability. Explore its definition, key signs, and how it differs from math anxiety. Learn how dyscalculia affects learning and daily life and discover strategies to support affected individuals.

## **Understanding the Impact: Case Studies in Social Media and Youth**

**-Kristi Bush, LBSW**

This presentation offers an in-depth examination of case studies highlighting the impact of technology and social media on youth mental health. Led by expert Kristi, attendees will explore rising issues such as anxiety, depression, and feelings of isolation, gaining valuable insights into today's challenges facing young people.

## **Unlocking Potential: Innovative Therapeutic Strategies for Late-Diagnosed Dyslexic Students**

**-Kayla Reggio, Med, CALT-QI, LDT**

**-Traci Barrientos, Med, CALT-QI, LDT**

What do we do when our students with dyslexia have completed our structured programs, made significant progress in their reading skills, yet still require extensive support to succeed in middle school, high school, and beyond? This presentation will address the challenges faced by older students, particularly those with severe dyslexia, who have completed Orton-Gillingham (OG)-based curriculums but continue to struggle with reading fluency and applying their skills in real-world academic settings. While OG-based programs have shown success in building foundational reading skills, fluency remains a barrier for many students as they transition to more complex academic environments. This session will explore strategies to enhance reading fluency in middle and high school students, focusing on oral reading, scaffolded practice, and individualized feedback. It will also emphasize the importance of integrating technology tools and accommodations into therapeutic settings, empowering students with the support they need to thrive in the classroom and beyond. Practical recommendations will be shared for educators to foster reading fluency, self-confidence, and academic independence in their students.

## **Using ELPA21 Tasks to Strengthen Academic Writing for English Learners**

**-Monique Henderson, EdD**

This interactive session will help participants understand how to use ELPA21 writing tasks to strengthen English learners' writing. This session will include an explanation of what students have to do on ELPA21 and how to equip students to respond to a variety of practical writing tasks, including writing lists, responding to emails and writing photo captions.

## **What is Play Therapy and What Does Attachment Theory Have to Do With It?**

**-Mindy Hamilton, MSW, LCSW, RPT-S**

Play therapy has become a respected and well-known treatment modality for children but there is still some confusion about what it's all about and how it works. There is also misinformation about how traumatic happenings before a certain age will not be remembered because a child is too young, so no interventions are needed.