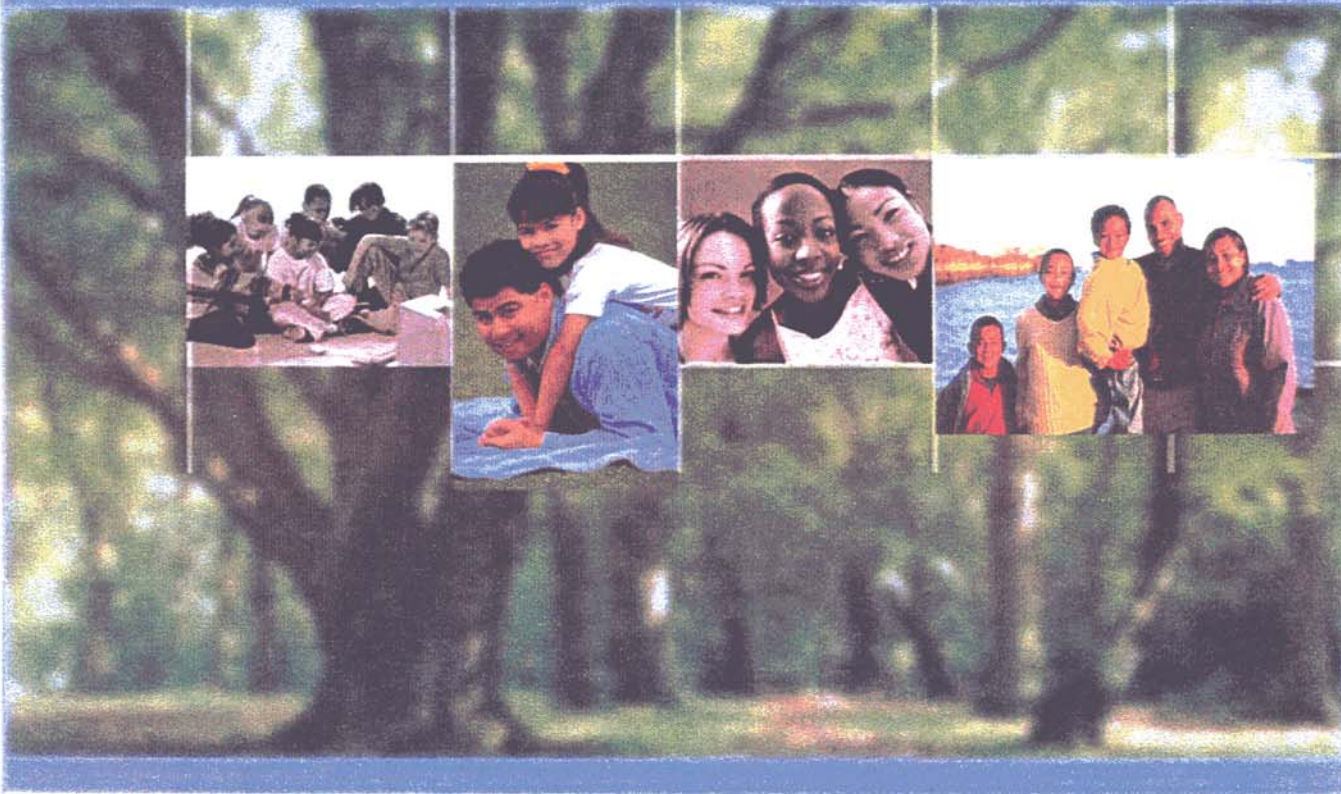


**Jackson State University
College of Public Service
School of Social Work**

Second Annual Mississippi Child Welfare Institute Conference



Mississippi's Challenge: Rebuilding the Village

February 19-20, 2004

**Crowne Plaza Hotel
200 Amite Street
Jackson, Mississippi**



HALEY BARBOUR
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

February 11, 2004

Dear Friends,

As Governor of the State of Mississippi, I am pleased to extend greetings to all in attendance at the Second Annual Mississippi Child Welfare Institute Conference. It is also my pleasure to welcome our visitors to the capitol city of Jackson. I hope your visit will be a pleasant one.

Please know I deeply appreciate the many contributions you have made to support the vulnerable children and families in the State of Mississippi. All of your efforts have helped to make Mississippi a better place to live, work, and raise a family. The State of Mississippi is fortunate to benefit from your dedication, and we thank you for your contributions to our communities.

I extend my best wishes for a successful and informative conference. If I may be of assistance to you, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Haley Barbour".

Haley Barbour
Governor



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
HALEY REEVES BARBOUR, GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DONALD R. TAYLOR
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

February 19, 2004

College of Public Service, School of Social Work
Mississippi Child Welfare Institute - Title IV-E
Jackson State University
3825 Ridgewood Road, Suite 9
Jackson, Mississippi 39211

Dear Conference Attendees:

It gives me joy to welcome you to the *Second Annual Child Welfare Institute Conference*, sponsored by Jackson State University in partnership with the Mississippi Department of Human Services (MDHS). The theme, "Mississippi's Challenge: Rebuilding the Village," addresses the needs for collaboration with all services provided to support our children and families in the State of Mississippi. MDHS employees are very pleased to be part of this effort, and we anticipate strengthening our partnership with all entities in the state.

Have a great conference!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald R. Taylor".

Donald R. Taylor

DRT:td



February 19, 2004

College of Public Service, School of Social Work
Mississippi Child Welfare Institute - Title IV-E
Jackson State University
3825 Ridgewood Road, Suite 9
Jackson, MS 39211

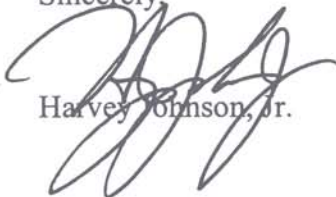
Dear Attendees:

On behalf of the City of Jackson, I extend a warm **WELCOME** to the Jackson State University College of Public Service, School of Social Work, *Second Annual Mississippi Child Welfare Institute Conference*.

We know that you will delight in all that Jackson has to offer. Take an opportunity to enjoy some of the great entertainment venues: visit the Smith Robertson Museum and Cultural Center and see an exhibit about the rich African-American experience; star-gaze at the Russell C. Davis Planetarium (one of the largest planetariums in America); see the *Glory of Baroque Dresden* exhibit coming to the Mississippi Arts Pavilion this March; cheer for the Central Baseball League Champions, the Jackson Senators, this spring and summer; visit our many historical landmarks; partake of some of the best shopping around; and enjoy our delicious food in any of our many restaurants. Above all, we know the people of the City of Jackson are our best asset and the true ambassadors of "The Best of the New South!"

Again, I hope your conference is a great success!

Sincerely,



Harvey Johnson, Jr.

"Making Jackson The Best Of The New South"



JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39217

OFFICE OF
THE PRESIDENT

(601) 979-2323
FAX No. (601) 979-2948

February 19, 2004

Greetings:

I am pleased to extend a warm Jackson State University welcome to each of you attending the *Second Annual Mississippi Child Welfare Institute Conference*, coordinated by Jackson State University's College of Public Service, School of Social Work, and the Mississippi Department of Human Services. This is an exciting and productive time for us, and we appreciate your commitments to better the lives of vulnerable children and families in Mississippi.

The caliber of keynote speakers and workshop presenters is exceptional for this conference. You will have an opportunity to engage in topics that range from adoption and foster care, advocacy, and clinical practice. I hope you will take full advantage of the various sessions, activities and networking opportunities that will be offered.

I also commend the committee members and volunteers who have expended much time and effort to ensure that the conference will be a successful and pleasant learning experience for each of you. If we can assist you in any way during the conference, please do not hesitate to call on us.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

Ronald Mason, Jr.
President

THE MISSISSIPPI CHILD WELFARE INSTITUTE — TITLE IV-E
A collaborative project of the Mississippi Department of Human Services, Division of Family and Children's Services and Jackson State University

JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY ● COLLEGE OF PUBLIC SERVICE ● SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
3825 RIDGEWOOD ROAD ● SUITE 9 ● JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39214
TELEPHONE NUMBER (601) 432-6165 ● FAX (601) 432-6827

February 16, 2004

Dear Conference Participants:


It gives us great pleasure to welcome you to the *Second Annual Mississippi Child Welfare Institute Conference* sponsored by the School of Social Work - College of Public Service and the Mississippi Department of Human Services.

Each year we look forward to a cadre of local, state and national leaders, social workers, and other community professionals, consumers of service, educators, and students joining with us as we explore strategies to improve the lives of children in our community, state, and nation. We are pleased to share current best practices and intervention research related to important public child welfare issues, especially those predominant in our state.

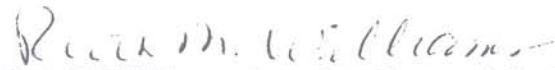
We acknowledge, with sincere gratitude, the work of the planning committee, including the School of Social Work faculty, staff, students, administrators, and community partners who devoted time and effort in planning the conference. Our common goals of safety, well-being, and permanency for all children are paramount in our scheduled conference discussions and deliberations.

We commend you for your excellent decision to be here and trust that your thirst for knowledge will be quenched, your hunger for innovation will be satisfied, and you will experience the hospitality and friendship of the administrators, faculty, staff, and students of Jackson State University.

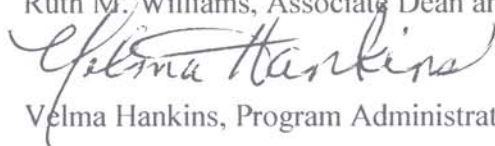
Sincerely,



Gwendolyn S. Prater, Dean and Principal Investigator



Ruth M. Williams, Associate Dean and Co-Principal Investigator



Velma Hankins, Program Administrator



Carol Wilson Spigner, D.S.W.

**Kenneth L. M. Pray Distinguished Professor
University of Pennsylvania School of Social Work**

Carol W. Spigner, D.S.W. has been on the faculty of the University of Pennsylvania School of Social Work since 1999 where she teaches policy and practice. She also serves as Co-Director of the Field Center for Children's Policy, Practice and Research. Prior to her arrival at Penn, Dr. Spigner was the Associate Commissioner for the Children's Bureau at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Service, Administration for Children and Families (ACF) during the Clinton Administration. As Associate Commissioner, Dr. Spigner was responsible for administration of the \$4 billion federal child welfare program and for setting national child welfare policy. She maintains an active consultation with public child welfare agencies that are engaged in reform effort. Dr. Spigner is a member for the Pew Commission on Children in Foster Care which is examining federal funding and court improvement options.

Dr. Spigner has also served as a senior associate at the Center for the Study of Social Policy, Washington, D.C. and as the director of the National Child Welfare Leadership Center, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Dr. Spigner held professorships at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the University of California, Los Angeles. Dr. Spigner has published in the areas of cultural competency, permanency planning and relative care.

Dr. Spigner began her career working for the Los Angeles County Departments of Adoption and Probation. A native of California, Dr. Spigner her B. A. from the University of California at Riverside and received her Master's and Doctoral degrees in social work from the University of Southern California.

Dr. Spigner has received a number of awards including the University of Southern California's award for "Lifetime Contributor to the Development of Policies and Programs for Underserved Populations," the National Association of Black Social Workers', "Outstanding Contributors Award," and the National Association of Public Child Welfare Administrators' Award for "Leadership in Public Child Welfare." Dr. Spigner is married and the mother of two adult sons.



SONDRA M. JACKSON

Sondra M. Jackson has extensive child welfare experience in administration, training, and consultation. She is currently serving as Executive Director of the Black Administrators in Child Welfare (BACW). Through her experience in directing local and state public child welfare agencies as well as teaching and serving as Director of Training at the University of Maryland School of Social Work, she has made significant contributions in the field of child welfare. As an administrator and educator, Sondra Jackson has acquired a wealth of knowledge and experience in providing leadership and guidance for multiple programs and projects to enhance policy and practice on behalf of black families and children.

Some of her most significant accomplishments include: Congressional testimonies on the value of family preservation programs for African American children and families; the development of a nationally recognized intensive family services practice model; numerous speaking engagements and training workshops to improve social workers' skills emphasizing a strengths perspective and a culturally sensitive approach to youth services; the implementation of the first training program in Maryland to improve social workers' factual understanding of African American culture; and several publications that appeared in the NASW Social Work Journal and the Child Welfare Journal entitled "Kinship Care as an African American Response to Family Preservation." Also, her thrust toward helping professionals build on family strengths and increasing cultural competence led her to develop a training curriculum entitled "A Journey Toward Cultural Competence." Sondra also created a training curriculum entitled "Kinship Care Services to the Triad: A Training Manual for Child Welfare Practitioners." As the co-editor of the January 1997 issue of the Child Welfare Journal entitled "Perspectives on Serving African American Children, Youths, and Families," Sondra captured the thinking of African American child welfare scholars.

SECOND ANNUAL
MISSISSIPPI CHILD WELFARE INSTITUTE CONFERENCE
"MISSISSIPPI'S CHALLENGE: REBUILDING THE VILLAGE"

Sponsored by
Jackson State University
College of Public Service, School of Social Work
and the
Mississippi Department of Human Services

February 19-20, 2004
Crowne Plaza Hotel
Jackson, Mississippi

Thursday, February 19, 2004

9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Conference Registration
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Exhibits
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Opening Plenary Session

Location: Windsor III

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Presider

Dr. Ruth M. Williams, Associate Dean
School of Social Work
Jackson State University
Co-Principal Investigator, Mississippi Child Welfare Institute —
Title IV-E Project

Greetings

Dr. Gwendolyn Spencer Prater, Dean
College of Public Service
Jackson State University
Professor of Social Work and
Principal Investigator, Mississippi Child Welfare Institute —
Title IV-E Project

Colonel Donald Taylor, Executive Director
Mississippi Department of Human Services

Mr. Billy Mangold, Director
Division of Family and Children's Services
Mississippi Department of Human Services

Introduction of Guest Speaker

Dr. Gwendolyn Spencer Prater

Speaker

Dr. Carol Wilson Spigner
Kenneth L. M. Pray Professor
School of Social Work
University of Pennsylvania

SECOND ANNUAL MISSISSIPPI CHILD WELFARE INSTITUTE CONFERENCE

“MISSISSIPPI’S CHALLENGE: REBUILDING THE VILLAGE”

10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Break

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Session I
Location: Briarwood

*AdoptUSKids: History, Components, and the National
Photolisting Website*

Ms. Rebecca Jones-Gaston
National Recruitment Campaign Manager
The Adoption Exchange Association

Ms. Heidi DiAngelo, Child and Family Advocate
The Adoption Exchange Association

Moderator

**Dr. Beverly Edwards, Assistant Professor and
Mississippi Child Welfare Institute — Title IV-E
Coordinator**
School of Social Work
Jackson State University

Session II
Location: Newbury

Strategies for Building Systems of Care For Children

Ms. Tumutual Norton, Director
Systems of Care Project
State Department of Mental Health

Ms. Tessie Brunini Schweitzer, Executive Director
Mississippi Families as Allies

Moderator

Dr. Phyllis Hammond, Clinical Instructor
School of Social Work
Jackson State University

Session III
Location: Surrey

*Clinical Intervention: Utilizing the Strengths
Perspective in Assessing Child Welfare Cases*

Dr. Venessa Brown, Associate Professor
School of Social Work
Southern Illinois University

Moderator

Dr. Alan Bougere, Assistant Professor
School of Social Work
Jackson State University

SECOND ANNUAL MISSISSIPPI CHILD WELFARE INSTITUTE CONFERENCE

“MISSISSIPPI’S CHALLENGE: REBUILDING THE VILLAGE”

Session IV
Location: Windsor III

Support Groups for Adoptive and Foster Parents

Mrs. Linda West, Executive Director
Mississippi Families for Kids

Ms. Dorothy Jacobs, Adoption Administrator
Mississippi Department of Human Services —
Central District

Moderator

Dr. James Brooks, Associate Professor
School of Social Work
Jackson State University

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

LUNCH (on your own)

1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Session V
Location: Surrey

*Preventing Juvenile Crime: Examining an Effective
Family-Focused Model and Community-Based Approach*

Mr. Jeff Hinton, Assistant Professor
Marriage and Family Therapy Program
University of Southern Mississippi

Dr. Patricia Sims, Associate Professor and Director
Marriage and Family Therapy Program
University of Southern Mississippi

Dr. Mary Ann Adams, Associate Professor
Marriage and Family Therapy Program
University of Southern Mississippi

Moderator

Dr. Jacquelyn Mitchell, Assistant Professor
School of Social Work
Jackson State University

Session VI
Location: Briarwood

Exploring Permanency for Indian Children

Ms. Carolyn Maple
Community Development Specialist
National Indian Child Welfare Association, Inc.

Moderator

Ms. Maurice Calistro, Program Director
Division of Social Work
Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians

SECOND ANNUAL MISSISSIPPI CHILD WELFARE INSTITUTE CONFERENCE

“MISSISSIPPI’S CHALLENGE: REBUILDING THE VILLAGE”

Session VII
Location: Newbury

Emerging Practices in Promoting Safe, Strong, and Thriving Families

Ms. Carol A. Whipple, Senior Consultant
FRIENDS National Resource Center

Moderator

Dr. Edith Williams, Assistant Professor
School of Social Work
Jackson State University

Session VIII
Location: Windsor III

Program Improvement Plans

Mrs. Elizabeth Shanks Frizzell, Associate Director
National Child Welfare Resource Center for
Organizational Improvement

Moderator

Dr. Susie Spence, Director
Ph.D. Program
School of Social Work
Jackson State University

2:45 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Break

3:15 – 4:30 p.m.

Session IX
Location: Windsor III

Kinship Care: The African-American Response to Family Preservation

Ms. Sondra Jackson, Executive Director
Black Administrators in Child Welfare, Inc.

Moderator

Mrs. Theresia Ratliff, Clinical and Community Coordinator
School of Social Work
Jackson State University

Session X
Location: Surrey

Clinical Intervention: Utilizing the Strengths Perspective in Assessing Child Welfare Cases (Repeat session)

Dr. Venessa Brown
Southern Illinois University

Moderator

Mrs. Cathy Kinnard, Field Internship Coordinator
School of Social Work
Jackson State University

Session XI
Location: Newbury

Post-Permanency Services for Foster Children and Youth

Ms. Robin Nixon, Director
National Foster Care Coalition
National Resource Center for Foster Care and
Permanency Planning

Moderator

Ms. Eva Ellis, Assistant Professor and Director of Field Practicum
School of Social Work
Jackson State University

SECOND ANNUAL MISSISSIPPI CHILD WELFARE INSTITUTE CONFERENCE

“MISSISSIPPI’S CHALLENGE: REBUILDING THE VILLAGE”

Session XII
Location: Briarwood

Exploring Permanency for Indian Children

Ms. Carolyn Maple
Community Development Specialist
National Indian Child Welfare Association, Inc.

Moderator

Ms. Maurice Calistro, Program Director
Division of Social Work
Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians

Friday, February 20, 2004

8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Conference Registration

8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Exhibits

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Location: Windsor III

8:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

*Best and Promising Practices in Child Welfare:
Implications for Systemic Change*

Dr. Venessa Brown, Associate Professor
School of Social Work
Southern Illinois University

**Ms. Alice Clark, State Representative and
Member**
Public Health and Human Services Committee
Mississippi House of Representatives

Mr. Eltorry Ficklin, Vice President
Support Group for Harden House Adoption and Foster Care
Parent Association

Sister Donna Gunn, Director
Parish Social Ministry
Catholic Charities, Inc.

Mr. Marvin Hogan, Executive Director
Friends of Children of Mississippi

Moderator

Dr. Mary Nelums, Associate Professor
School of Social Work
Jackson State University

SECOND ANNUAL MISSISSIPPI CHILD WELFARE INSTITUTE CONFERENCE

“MISSISSIPPI’S CHALLENGE: REBUILDING THE VILLAGE”

9:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Break

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Session XIII

Location: Warwick

Clearing the Legal Hurdles for Permanency

Mr. John Gadow, Attorney

Attorney General’s Office

State of Mississippi

Moderator

**Dr. Beverly Edwards, Assistant Professor and
Mississippi Child Welfare Institute — Title IV-E
Coordinator**

School of Social Work

Jackson State University

Session XIV

Location: Briarwood

*Post-Permanency Services for Foster Children and Youth
(Repeat Session)*

Ms. Robin Nixon, Director

National Foster Care Coalition

Moderator

**Ms. Eva Ellis, Assistant Professor and Director
of Field Practicum**

School of Social Work

Jackson State University

Session XV

Location: Surrey

*Support Groups for Adoptive and Foster Parents
(Repeat Session)*

Mrs. Linda West, Executive Director

Mississippi Families for Kids

Ms. Dorothy Jacobs, Adoption Administrator

Mississippi Department of Human Services

Moderator

Dr. James Brooks, Associate Professor

School of Social Work

Jackson State University

SECOND ANNUAL MISSISSIPPI CHILD WELFARE INSTITUTE CONFERENCE
“MISSISSIPPI’S CHALLENGE: REBUILDING THE VILLAGE”

Session XVI
Location: Newbury

*AdoptUSKids: History, Components, and the National
Photolisting Website* (Repeat Session)

**Ms. Rebecca Jones-Gaston, National Recruitment
Campaign Manager**

Ms. Heidi DiAngelo, Child and Family Advocate

Moderator

Mrs. Jean Brooks, Acting B.S.W. Program Director
School of Social Work
Jackson State University

CLOSING LUNCHEON

Location: Windsor III, IV, V
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Presider

Ms. Velma Hankins, Program Administrator
Mississippi Child Welfare Institute — Title IV-E
School of Social Work
Jackson State University

Greetings

Dr. Ruben Gentry, Associate Provost
Office of Academic Affairs
Jackson State University

Dr. Felix Okojie, Vice President
Office of Research Development Support and
Federal Relations
Jackson State University

Invocation

Mr. Tim Neyland, Doctoral Student
School of Social Work
Jackson State University

Introduction of Speaker

Dr. Gwendolyn Spencer Prater

Speaker

Ms. Sondra Jackson, Executive Director
Black Administrators in Child Welfare

Closing Remarks

Dr. Ronald Mason, Jr., President
Jackson State University

Mississippi Child Welfare Institute Conference Exhibitors

- 1. Adoption Exchange Association, Inc.**
- 2. Cares Center, Inc.**
- 3. Catholic Charities, Inc.**
- 4. Jackson State University Department of Urban and Regional Planning**
- 5. Jackson State University School of Social Work**
- 6. Mississippi Families for Kids**
- 7. Mississippi Families as Allies for Children's Mental Health, Inc.**
- 8. Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians**
- 9. Mississippi Forum on Children and Families**
- 10. Mississippi Department of Human Services**
- 11. Southern Christian Services**
- 12. Tougaloo College**
- 13. Tulane University School of Social Work**
- 14. University of Southern Mississippi School of Social Work**
- 15. Yazoo County Families First Resource Center
Yazoo City Municipal School District
Parent and Community**
- 16. Young Men's Christian Association**

NOTES

**SECOND ANNUAL
MISSISSIPPI CHILD WELFARE INSTITUTE CONFERENCE**

Program Planning Committee

Ms. Velma Hankins, Chair

Dr. Alan Bougere

Ms. Maurice Calistro

Ms. Phoebe Clark

Mrs. Eugenia Renee Cook

Dr. Beverly Edwards

Ms. Wanda Gillom

Ms. Eunetta Hart

Dr. Deborah Holt

Mrs. Cathy Kinnard

Dr. Shonda Lawrence-Wills

Ms. Bernice McKenny

Mrs. Theresia Ratliff

Mr. Eugene Van Every

Mrs. Linda West

Dr. Gwendolyn Spencer Prater, Ex-Officio

Dr. Ruth M. Williams, Ex-Officio