

Mississippi Child Welfare Institute Conference 2020 Presentation Descriptions

7am- Conference Registration Begins

8:30am-9:45am- Opening Plenary

10am-11am / First Concurrent Session

The Lived Experiences of Homeless Women Veterans, Their Families and Children

Dr. Bradley E. Thomas

VA Hospital Memphis, TN

Type of Presentation: Empirical Research

There is scant research devoted to addressing the issue of homelessness among women veterans. Not much is known about the actions that women veterans take to end homelessness for themselves and their families. This research explores factors that are dominant in the literature regarding female veterans.

Raising Citizens, Not Consumers: How to Teach Kids to Think and Act Politically

Dr. Michael Forster

University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, MS

Type of Presentation: Practice-Focused Workshop

Far too many young Americans have virtually no understanding of fundamental democratic principles, the major structures and processes of American government, or the roles and responsibilities of citizens beyond the practice of sporadic voting. This disturbing deficiency can only be corrected by civic education, provided by caring and civically conscious adults.

Effects of Excessive Uses of Social Media on Personal Well-Being and Family Relationships

Valerie Carson, LMSW, Doctoral Student

Jackson State University

Type of Presentation: Empirical Research/Conceptual Paper

The Internet is one of the latest modes of communication and socialization, which has been a major factor in reducing face-to-face or telephone contact. Possibly, the internet is widening the communication gap among individuals, couples, and families by isolating them, thus reducing the time spent participating in interactive communication and social activities. With further research, it is important to examine this increasing behavior such that we can understand the positives of media use among social groups as well as identifying possible negative effects on the social environment.

LMSW SUPERVISION *(Needs a 2hour block)

Dr. Laurie Lawson

Mississippi College, Clinton, MS

Type of Presentation: Special/*Ethics

This workshop will explore the supervisor-supervisee ethical boundaries, the importance of competent practice, and the application and understanding of diversity issues as they relate to consumer services.

Disrupting Minority Poverty Mindset through Culturally Appropriate Community-Based Leadership

Brian A. Street, MSW, Doctoral Student & Social Entrepreneur

Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA

Type of Presentation: Conceptual Paper

Through the traditional lens of the social services field, the term *poverty* is commonly viewed as a measurement of a person's or family's income to a set poverty threshold of the minimum income needed to cover basic needs (University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2019). From this presentation, each attendee should first understand how the formative years of child development shape the human brain; secondly, how that brain development impacts an individual's perspective of life's possibilities as he or she grows through life; thirdly, how to discuss and propose multi-system partnerships (community leaders, entrepreneurs, business owners, academics, etc.); and finally, how to measure program outcomes in an effort to secure additional funding from traditional funders and non-traditional funders alike.

Human Trafficking: Recommendations for practice, policy, and research

Dr. Breshell Jackson-Nevels

Co-Presenter: Dawn Salary, MBA

Norfolk State University, Norfolk, VA

Type of Presentation: Practice-Focused Workshop

The purpose of this presentation is to increase an understanding of the role of child welfare in relation to the child-trafficking population. The barriers between service providers and the child welfare system will be discussed, mainly focused on the lack of identification of victims and in the areas of collaboration and funding of services. Recommendations for practice, policy, and research include transparency, education between system and community, shared input in case decision making, and future exploration of the experiences of caseworkers.

11:00am-11:15am/ Break

11:15am-12:15pm/ Second Concurrent Session

Family Support and First-Generation College Youth Attending an HBCU

Jessica S. Marshall, M.Ed.

Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins, TX

Type of Presentation: Practice-Focused Workshop

Despite barriers, millions of low-income, first-generation youth persist; luckily, HBCUs serve with a unique mission that includes robust support and opportunity. Utilizing systems theory as a framework, this presentation will explore factors (based on the literature) affecting first-generation student persistence and the role families can play in their child's college experience. The goal is to recognize barriers students confront and recommend institutional and family strategies to address the issue of support for first-generation students. This presentation will facilitate a deeper understanding of the potential impact that parents and families can have on student success.

School to Prison Pipeline: The Taboo Crisis

Elizabeth Perkins & Dr. LaTibbie Cavett

Crime Prevention through Education Perkins Consulting, Washington, DC

Type of Presentation: Practice-Focused Workshop

As presenters, based on the literature, we argue the following: students who do not have basic reading, writing, or math skills have a significantly higher chance of being incarcerated; students and schools who do poorly get treated poorly; and strict standards, regulations, and laws prevent valuable teachers from teaching, students from learning and schools from prospering. How do we help out? What exactly is the issue? Is our education system flawed? Are our students failing? Are we failing our students? These will be some of the questions we use to fuel thought and discussion.

Beyond Brokenness: Women in Transformation and Healing: A Critical Perspective to Prevent Child Maltreatment

Dr. Mildred Delozia

Jackson State University, Jackson, MS

Type of Presentation: Empirical Research

This workshop will focus on the “Women in Transformation and Healing Program (WITH).” Two theoretical perspectives that include trauma-based models and ecological or transactional theories help to explain intergenerational patterns of child maltreatment (CWIG, 2016) and is the primary underpinning for the Women in Transformation and Healing Program. Additionally, from a macro perspective “The Upstream Story” that is used to understand the concept of primary prevention (Merck, 2018) also highlights how the Women in Transformation and Healing (WITH) Program is a primary prevention strategy at the macro-level for child maltreatment.

Dehumanization of Black Males by Police

Dr. Dana K. Harmon

Capella University, Minneapolis, MN

Type of Presentation: Empirical Research/Conceptual Paper

This conceptual paper will discuss the history of police oppression and contemporary examples of killing of Black males and utilize Critical Race Theory (CRT) that helps explain the social inequality of this population and provide strategies that may hold promise in addressing the problem of police brutality and the killing of Black males. Although Black females also have been

killed by police, and their deaths are equally important, many more Black males have succumbed in this manner (Williams, Ritchie, Anspach, & Harris, 2015).

The Status of LGBT Parenting: A Systematic Review

Bernice McKenny, LMSW, Doctoral Student

Co-Presenter: Jaegoo Lee, PhD, MSW

Jackson State University

Type of Presentation: Empirical Research/Conceptual Paper

Even though more same-sex people pursue parenthood, they face the challenges of how to navigate the interactions of a society that are homophobic, heterocentric, and that does not know how to embrace the idea that there are many nontraditional families. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) endorsed a policy supporting the benefits of both parents in a same-gender couples having legal rights and responsibilities for their children. Currently, no research supports the assumption that the gender of the parents makes a difference in the well-being of the child. Using a systematic review, this presentation will examine past literature pertaining to the status of LGBT parenting.

Cross Collaboration Perspective of Care in Child Welfare

Roslyn Durham

Co-Presenter: Dr. Sharon Alston

Norfolk University, Norfolk, VA

Type of Presentation: Conceptual Paper (*Student Focused Session)

This interactive workshop will provide an overview of approaches to creating a collaborative system of care in child welfare. We will discuss collaborative approaches to prevention and intervention that seek to reduce risk associated with a youth's entry into the child welfare system. We will also explore how developing an appreciation for ethnic and cultural diversity, particularly for African American and other minority groups is key to establishing the therapeutic relationship.

12:30pm-1:45pm/ Conference Luncheon

2:00pm-3:00pm/ Third Concurrent Session

Engaging, Educating, and Empowering: The Importance of Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs in Education

Dr. LaTibbie Cavett,

Madison County Jobs 4 Youth, Madison, MS

Co-Presenter: Samantha Smith

University of Mississippi Medical Center, Jackson, MS

Type of Presentation: Practice-Focused Workshop

Several factors contribute to children becoming disengaged academically. Many studies have shown that adolescents who drop out of school had one common issue: not having their basic,

overall needs met. In Mississippi, during the 2018-2019 school year, 13.1% of children were considered chronically absent, 15,015 was referred to youth court of that 5.6% referred by the school system, and 10.1% dropped out of school. This presentation will navigate how social services workers can engage children who are struggling, educate them with the tools they need to overcome challenges, and empower them for success.

Keeping Children Safe and Alive: Strategies to Prevent Bullying and Suicide

Dr. Phyllis E. Gillians
Bowie State University, Bowie, MD

Type of Presentation: Empirical Research/Conceptual Paper

Today, there is no clear definition of bullying, however, a comprehensible definition is necessary for education, intervention, and prevention. This workshop will present literature on bullying: Definitions of bullying-including the prevalence of bullying, characteristics of the victim and the bully. This workshop will also address cyberbullying; the role of family; and will highlight the role of the principal from the leadership perspective of Transformational Leadership.

MS Board of Examiner's Update

Billy Dilworth, Executive Director
Mississippi Board of Examiners, Jackson, MS

Type of Presentation: Special

The presenter will describe changes to Social Work Licensure Rules and Regulation in the State of Mississippi; those participating will increase knowledge of the need for a regulatory board and for public protection; and lastly, participants will understand the importance of continued competency and licensing.

Creating Compassionate Environments to Foster Father Involvement and Empowerment

Dr. Ronica Arnold Branson
Co- Presenter: Dr. Stephanie Davidson Herndon
Jackson State University, Jackson, MS

Type of Presentation: Conceptual Paper

Fathers play an essential role in the development of children and growth of healthy families. Research has shown that involvement of fathers can help improve children's emotional, intellectual, ethical, moral, and social development. This presentation will focus on the tenants developed by the Fathers and Families Coalition of America to educate and train practitioners, fathers, and other professionals to help in (1) Family Support (2) Healthy Growth and Development and (3) Culturally Competent Practices to help create more compassionate environments to help foster healthy father involvement and empowerment.

Why “Big Boys Don't Cry or Tell:” The Role of the Family and Society in Shaping the African American Male College Students’ Perception, Attitude and Behavior toward Male Victims of Female Perpetrated Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

Dr. Roenia DeLoach

Savannah State University, Savannah, GA

Type of Presentation:

Existing research shows that while intimate partner violence (IPV) is a major concern in the United States, most research on IPV has focused on female victimization. To fill this gap in the literature, the present research examines male victims of IPV by conducting focus groups and interviews with 8 African American male college students. The aim was to explore their perception, attitude and behavior toward male victims of female perpetrated intimate partner violence. Ultimately, A 7-item, semi-structured interview guide was developed to elicit information from participants. The purpose of this presentation is to share the findings from the research concerning the role that society and family played in shaping the participants’ perception of male victims of female perpetrated violence.

Career Academies: Bridging the Gap between Education and Workforce Preparation

Rhonda Dorsey, PhD

Jackson State University, Jackson, MS

Type of Presentation: Conceptual Paper

A slow and steady shift is occurring in schools across the nation. After generations of preparing students for college or a vocation, a new vision is emerging in American schools—one that aims to prepare students for postsecondary learning and careers. And the reasons for doing so are many, including poor student outcomes and a shift in the job market toward a more educated workforce. Those attending this session will learn and gain insight on the origin of the career academy movement and learn how Mississippi schools that are transitioning to career academies are improving educational outcomes for students and families.

3:15pm-4:15pm/ Fourth Concurrent Session

The Parent Representation Program: Keeping Families Together

Melody Vaughn, MSW, LSW

Carolyn Hicks, Director

Sara Mann, Attorney

Mission First Legal Aid Office

Jackson, MS

Type of Presentation: Practice Focus

The Family Defense Team was established to keep families together and to represent and defend parents fighting against the painful and unnecessary removal of their children. The focus is to achieve positive outcomes for children and families through the reduction of the use of foster care and reduced time to permanency for children. The Parent Representation Team is comprised of attorneys and social workers we fight to keep families together by supporting parents at

meetings and conferences with Child Protection Services and the Youth Court. We also connect families to proven prevention services, and empowering parents to advocate for themselves and their families.

Challenging Implicit Bias: Child Welfare Practice with African American Families

Dr. Tiffany Yvette Lane

Norfolk State University, Norfolk, VA

Dr. Belinda Davis Smith

Jackson State University, Jackson, MS

Type of Presentation: Conceptual Paper

Disproportionately, African Americans are overrepresented in out of home care. Child welfare is a field of practice where decisions are routinely made by social workers (Smith, 2006). Decisions are also based upon assessment of family's functionality and parental strength, individual risk factors, needs and resources (Howe, Dolley & Hinings, 2000). Cohen (2003) argues that decision-making is frequently is both subjective and cultural, reflecting the distinctive beliefs and values of the child welfare worker. We argue that it is important that social workers become aware of implicit bias when working with African American families.

Disparities in Traumatic Experiences, Health, and Mental Health among Children in Mississippi and Four Neighboring States

Dr. Pedro M. Hernandez

Co-Presenter: Dr. Jaegoo Lee

Jackson State University, Jackson, MS

Type of Presentation: Empirical Research/Conceptual Paper

The purpose of this presentation is to examine parent-reported health, mental health, and adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) for children and adolescents in Mississippi and four neighboring states (i.e., Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Tennessee). For this purpose, we use the combined 2016–2017 National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH) dataset.

The Application of Original Therapeutic Tools for Children

Dr. Errol S. Bolden

Coppin State University, Baltimore, MD

Type of Presentation: Empirical Research/Conceptual Paper

Coloring books are therapeutic tools that are also used to allow children to share feelings that they may be experiencing. "Tabani's Travels: A Self Awareness Coloring Book for Kids", provides two mediums for children to express their feelings in a manner that is self-directed. This is done through the child writing about specific emotions or drawing them out. This workshop demonstrates how these two original therapeutic tools can be used to engage children in critical dialogue regarding their feelings in response to trauma/loss encountered.

E-Cigs, Vapes, Our Teens, OH MY!

Carla Baskin, MSW, Doctoral Student

Capella University, Minneapolis, MN

Type of Presentation: Empirical Research/Conceptual Paper

This presentation introduces attendees to the relationship of Electronic Cigarettes, Vaporizers, and the teen population. It gives an overview of exactly what these devices are, what their original intent was, and how the youth and teen population are being drawn to them, along with health-related risks.

Weapons of Mass Construction in a Systematically Destructive System: Exploring Educational Strategies to Combat the Four American Catastrophes

Veronica Wylie, Doctoral Student

Jackson State University, Jackson, MS

Type of Presentation: Conceptual Paper

In an effort to combat the internal destruction caused by catastrophes such as materialism, racism, and poverty, initiatives throughout the educational spectra have emerged and in many cases, been validated through extensive research. This research explores the praxis and predicted successes of constructive strategies developed specifically to deconstruct young minds and reconstruct them with an understanding that is antithetical to these catastrophes. With a strict focus on curriculum, discipline, and racial identity development; we will engage the fabric of necessary campaigns to deconstruct the pillars of catastrophe through praxis and policy.

Student Showcase* (The seventh presentation for the block; put in closing plenary room; each student has 15 minutes and 2 minutes for questions; NO CEU OFFERED)

The Impact of Opioid Addiction on Early Childhood Development

Jessica Campbell, BSW Student

Jackson State University, Jackson, MS

Type of Presentation: Empirical Research/Conceptual Paper

This workshop will shed light on the impact of the opioid epidemic on children and families. It must be acknowledged that exposure to traumatic events does not mean a child is destined to suffer the ill effects of toxic stress all their lives. Ultimately, with the assistance of healthcare professionals, such as social workers, early recognition and proper intervention has the potential to reverse trauma's damaging effects.

University-community partnership: Jackson State University School of Social Work and Habitat for Humanity sustaining communities

Shenika Montgomery, MSW Student

Paula Boyd, MSW Student

Jackson State University, Jackson, MS

Type of Presentation: Student (Empirical)

Habitat for Humanity has a long-standing commitment to revitalizing blighted communities across the country; however, Habitat, in its work, does not continue their intensive work with communities after they have "opened" the neighborhood, which may cause these new communities to experience issues with instability and deterioration. Through the

administration of surveys, this poster reports preliminary data on the needs of the Broadmoor Community in Jackson, MS.

Assessing knowledge of protective factors among adults living in Hinds County, MS: Strategies to reduce child abuse

Keyatta Moses, MSW Student

Sonji Pace, MSW Student

Ludia Jackson, MSW Student

Jackson State University, Jackson, MS

Type of Presentation: Student (Empirical)

Although interventions and policies have evolved to address issues of child abuse and neglect, statistics suggest the need to continue and strengthen community-based prevention efforts (Kufeldt, 2011). Using descriptive statistics, this quantitative analysis assessed knowledge of protective factors (child abuse prevention) among adults living in Hinds County, Mississippi. The presenters will discuss specific prevention methods that aims to reduce child abuse and number of children in care overall.

A Crisis on the Rise : Suicide Among African American Youth and Young Adults

Kysia Owens, MSW Student

Jackson State University, Jackson, MS

Type of Presentation: Student (Conceptual)

Increasingly, there is a body of research that indicates the rate of suicide is rising in the African American community, particularly among youth and young adults; hence, there is a tremendous need to increase awareness to reduce the risk factors associated with this epidemic. The presenter will share her personal experience with losing her son to suicide, along with the work she is doing to prevent suicide and increase mental health awareness.

4:30pm-5:45pm/ Closing Plenary

5:45pm- Conference Ends