

SPEAKERS

Miranda Andrus

Dr. Miranda Andrus currently serves as Clinical Professor of Pharmacy Practice with Auburn University Harrison School of Pharmacy (HSOP) and Clinical Professor of Family Medicine with the University of Alabama-Birmingham (UAB) School of Medicine in Huntsville. Dr. Andrus earned a Doctor of Pharmacy degree (Magna Cum Laude) from the Samford University McWhorter School of Pharmacy in 1999. She completed a post-graduate Specialty Residency in Primary Care at the Durham VA Medical Center and UNC-Chapel Hill School of Pharmacy in 2000. In 2002, Dr. Andrus became a Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist. In 2009 she received the distinction of Fellow of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy (FCCP). Dr. Andrus practices at the UABHuntsville Family Medicine Center where she provides pharmacotherapy services to patients and actively educates medical residents and pharmacy students in the clinical setting. Dr. Andrus previously worked for HSOP in Tuscaloosa for four years, where she practiced in rural primary care. Her areas of interest include the scholarship of teaching and learning in experiential education, tobacco abuse and treatment, diabetes, hypertension and dyslipidemia.

Nicole Augustine

Nicole M. Augustine is a behavioral health and public health expert, social entrepreneur, and social justice advocate. A passionate prevention thought leader, she is dedicated to using innovative strategies to strengthen communities, address health inequities, and drive change. An experienced training and technical assistance (TA) specialist, she specializes in integrating equity throughout the strategic prevention framework.

Rebecca Bensema

Officer Rebecca Bensema proudly serves the Alabama Bureau of Pardons and Paroles as Assistant Director for Reentry. In this role, she oversees all operations of Electronic Monitoring, Day Reporting Centers, Day Reporting Center Lite's, the Transition Centers and other programs.

Badari Birur

Badari Birur, MD is a board certified psychiatrist, who completed residency in Psychiatry at National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS), India. He then moved to US and completed general psychiatry residency training at East Tennessee State University, Johnson City. He currently serves as faculty in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurobiology at University of Alabama, Birmingham, where he is primarily involved in providing clinical care to in-patients.

Garret Biss

Garret Biss is a retired Marine Corps Pilot. Post-retirement in 2015, Garret confronted challenges common among veterans: anxiety, depression, and a sense of displacement. Turning to alcohol as a crutch, it wasn't until suicidal ideation took hold that he sought change. Rather than traditional addiction treatments, Garret's path was shaped by mentoring that emphasized self-worth, rediscovering identity, and tapping into inherent strengths. This transformative experience sparked a commitment to assisting others with mentorship and training that is grounded in positivity and personal strengths.

Will Bomar

As a mental health therapist at Clarity Counseling and social worker at the Tuscaloosa Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Will Bomar provides individual, couples, and group psychotherapy to people with various mental health challenges such as trauma, depression, dissociation, anxiety, and addiction. Since graduating with his second master's degree, Will has become fully trained in Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing therapy (EMDR) under the EMDR Institute which was founded by Dr. Francine Shapiro (the originator and developer of EMDR). He then further specialized in early interventions for trauma and became fully trained in additional EMDR protocols known as ASSYST and PRECI. These protocols can be used to help prevent PTSD from ever developing after a person experiences a traumatic event. In addition to EMDR, he also received training in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Substance Use Disorder (CBT-SUD) from the US Department of Veterans Affairs.

Davis Bradford

Dr. Davis Bradford is a clinician-educator at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) School of Medicine, board-certified in internal medicine and addiction medicine. After completing internal medicine residency and serving as a chief resident at Boston University, he joined UAB to co-lead the addiction consult service with Dr. Peter Lane in addition to providing care at UAB's Beacon Integrated Healthcare and previously at the Birmingham VA's Opioid Reassessment Clinic. He is committed to expanding addiction education in Alabama and serves as associate program director for UAB's newly accredited addiction medicine fellowship.

SPEAKERS

Michael Browning

Michael Browning, nationally recognized public health and Substance Abuse Disorder program developer, policy analyst, and trainer, has a passion for constituent-led community advocacy. He has provided support to several governmental agencies by providing alcohol, tobacco, and other drug prevention proven practices in capability building, training, and day-to-day technical assistance to assist the departments in planning, grantee support and technical assistance and community engagement. Including and not limited to: US Federal government, State of California, District of Columbia, Atlanta, County of Los Angeles, Kern County, the County of San Bernardino, and other CA counties. He is a proven grant writer and program developer. He was a senior administrative analyst for the University of California, Berkeley - Institute for the Study of Social Change (now: Institute for the Study of Societal Issues, Prevention by Design. He is currently the president of the Insight Center for Community Economic Development.

Lawrence Bryant

Dr. Bryant brings a plethora of experiences and knowledge dealing with substance use disorders (SUD), HIV/AIDS prevention, diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), as well as anti-racism education; he also provides training and consulting services on working with underserved populations; including AA, mature persons, homeless and LGBTQ+ persons.

Marilyn Bulloch

Marilyn Novell Bulloch, Pharm.D. BCPS, FCCM is an Associate Clinical Professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice at the Auburn University Harrison School of Pharmacy. Dr. Bulloch holds an Adjunct Associate Professor appointment with the University of Alabama-Birmingham School of Medicine Department of Medicine and the University of Alabama College of Community Health Sciences Department of Family, Internal, and Rural Medicine. Additionally, Dr. Bulloch serves as the Director of Strategic Operations. Dr. Bulloch grew up in Collinsville, Virginia and received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey in 2007. She completed a post-graduate pharmacy practice residency at the University of Alabama-Birmingham Hospital in 2008. In 2009, Dr. Bulloch completed post-graduate specialty residency in critical care pharmacy at Charleston Area Medical Center in Charleston, West Virginia. Additionally, Dr. Bulloch completed a Faculty Scholars Program in geriatrics through the University of Alabama-Birmingham Geriatric Education Center in 2011. Dr. Bulloch began in her role as faculty at Auburn in August 2009 and her current practice site is at DCH Regional Medical Center in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. She participates in an interprofessional education inpatient rounding service that also includes academic physicians from the University of Alabama, medical residents and fellows, and third and fourth year medical students. Her practice includes adult critically ill and acute care patients, with a large contingent of geriatric patients. Dr. Bulloch provides comprehensive pharmacotherapy management for the patients on the inpatient service, with specific focus on infectious disease and other acute and critical illness needs. Dr. Bulloch has and continues to serve on multiple committees and in leadership positions for many local, state, and national pharmacy and interdisciplinary medical organizations. She was inducted as a Fellow of the American College of Critical Care Medicine in 2017. Her research interests include geriatric pharmacotherapy, interdisciplinary education, alternative professional education instructional methods, infectious disease, care transitions, and acute and critical care pharmacotherapy.

Yakima Burch

Yakima Burch is currently a Clinical Director for a local non-profit agency and founder of F.E.E.L.Counseling & Wellness Services. She has a passion, professionalism and purpose aimed in helping guide others in accomplishing their identified goals. Ms. Burch is a licensed professional counselor with over a decade of experience in counseling wellness services, substance use disorders, mental health and family relationships; currently certified as an adult mental health aid and trainer in trauma responses. She acquired a Bachelor's degree from Alabama State University and Master's degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from Troy State at Montgomery.

Erin Burleson

Erin Burleson is a prevention consultant for the Alabama Department of Mental Health-Office of Prevention. She received her BS from Auburn University and began her career in the prevention field in 2002. Mrs. Burleson worked for a prevention agency for seven years, serving as a community outreach coordinator and prevention director where she also became certified as a Prevention Specialist in 2004. In 2009, she transitioned to her current position as a prevention consultant. As a prevention consultant, Mrs. Burleson provides technical assistance and training to prevention agencies throughout the state.

James Campbell

James Campbell, LPC, LAC, MAC, AADC has worked professionally in the human services field for over twenty-nine years in a wide range of clinical settings, currently serving as the Associate Director for the Southeast Addiction Technology Transfer Center. His passion is equipping providers to support individual and family wellness effectively and build on the strengths they possess. He's a member of both NAADAC and ACA and is a nationally recognized author and speaker.

SPEAKERS

Deborah Crook

Deborah Crook has had a long career in medical services beginning in 1992. She currently serves as the ADOC Deputy Commissioner of Health Services and Director of Mental Health Services since November of 2018.

Julianna Davis

Dr. Julianna Davis works as the Community Outreach Specialist for Mountain Lakes Behavioral Healthcare. She developed a comprehensive wellness plan for mental health alongside the Albertville Police Department and now facilitates that plan in police and fire departments all over North Alabama. She graduated from Liberty University in 2023 with a Doctorate of Education in Community Care and Counseling: Traumatology. As a trauma specialist, working with veterans and first responders is her passion.

Rosalyn Davis

Rosalyn Davis is a 37 year Criminal Justice professional with experience in all phases of the criminal justice system. Mrs. Davis is a Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor 2, an International Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor, a Medication Assisted Treatment Specialist, and a Sr. Instructor through the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council (POST). Rosalyn is a part-time Instructor for Middle Georgia State University having served for 14 years teaching Criminal Justice Courses. She has served in multiple leadership positions in the private sector and in State Government over the last 32 years, some include Program Manager III, Probation Officer III, Director of a Day Reporting Center, a Statewide Manager of Day Reporting Centers, Community Counseling Services Manager, and Programs Manager. She is a National Trauma Informed Response Trainer, a Crisis Intervention Officer, and a 24 year sworn probation/parole Officer in the State of Georgia. She holds a Bachelor and Master's degree in Criminal Justice and is a member of various professional organization including serving as President of the Georgia Professional Association of Community Supervision. Rosalyn enjoys traveling, shopping, crafting, and spending time with her family and friends.

Nichole Dawsey

Nichole Dawsey is the Deputy Director of the Addiction Prevention Coalition in Birmingham, AL. Prior to this role, she was the Executive Director at PreventEd in St. Louis, MO.

Jennifer Doty

With over 25 years of experience, Jennifer Doty, MS Psy, LMFTA, ICADC, is a dedicated Educator, Substance Abuse Counselor and Allied Mental Health Professional specializing in adolescent care. She is currently an Adolescent Assessor and Substance Abuse Counselor at UAB Beacon Recovery. She has held leadership roles such as Program Director and Clinical Director, developing initiatives like the Moving Forward Women's Group for IPV Survivors and Learning To Do Life Challenge for Adolescents. Beginning in 2025, she will take part in the prestigious LEAP program under the JCOIN Initiative, funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse, enhancing her research skills to address the opioid crisis. As a Marriage and Family Therapist Associate under the Supervision of Rhonda Stalb, LMFT-S, she is pursuing a Doctorate in Education focused on Operational Leadership in Behavioral Health Management. Beyond her career, she is a proud mother and "Jen Jen" to her grandson, who inspire her passion for making a difference.

Brandy Drake

Brandy Drake returned to academia at the age of 33. In 2012, she graduated from Wallace State Community College with an associate's degree. She then pursued further education at Athens State University, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology with a minor in Sociology in December 2014. In May 2018, she completed her Master of Arts in Vocational Rehabilitation Counseling at The University of Alabama. Brandy began her professional journey at Bradford Health Services in January 2013 as an assistant counselor. She achieved her Alcohol and Drug Counselor (ADC) certification in January 2015 and subsequently accepted a position as a Qualified Substance Abuse Professional (QSAP 2) at Cullman Mental Health. In 2018, she joined Mt. Lakes Behavioral Health at Cedar Lodge. Following the attainment of her master's degree, she also received her Associate Licensed Counselor (ALC) certification. In January 2023, she met all necessary requirements to obtain her Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) credential. Brandy has experience working with specialized populations, including individuals with co-occurring disorders and pregnant women. Currently, she operates a small private practice in Vinemont, Alabama, and collaborates with The Partnership for a Drug-Free Community, conducting assessments both in-office and virtually.

Dr. Charles E. Elliott

Dr. Charles E. Elliott received his medical degree from the University of Alabama School of Medicine in 1979, completed internship and residency in internal medicine at Carraway Methodist Medical Center from 1979 to 1981, and finished his residency at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) Hospital in anesthesiology in 1983. After a career in anesthesiology, Dr. Elliott returned to UAB in 2023 as the inaugural addiction medicine fellow. After completing his addiction medicine fellowship, Dr. Elliott continues to serve his community in Decatur, Alabama, and works alongside his son, Judge Elliott, as medical advisor for the Morgan County Drug Court program.

SPEAKERS

Judge Charles B. Elliott

Charles B. Elliott obtained his J.D. from Cumberland School of Law at Samford University in 2011. He currently serves as the circuit court judge for the 8th Judicial Circuit of Alabama and is the presiding judge for the Morgan County Drug Court program-- working with individuals arrested for drug and drug-related offenses to help them achieve and maintain long-term sobriety.

Marc Fomby

Marc Fomby is a Certified Prevention Specialist and the founding CEO of FTC Prevention Services, LLC in Pearl, MS. He is a member of the Metro Jackson Community Prevention Coalition, dedicated to youth life skills and peer education training. Marc is a member of the Recovery School District of New Orleans, a national initiative committed to breaking the cycle of violence and providing support assistance to youth. He is also the conference coordinator of the Mississippi School for Addiction Professionals, the first statewide educational hub for prevention, intervention and treatment specialists in the state of Mississippi as well as the conference coordinator for the annual statewide Juvenile Justice Symposium. He received his Bachelor's degree in business management from Belhaven University. He has also been preaching and teaching the Gospel since 2005. He served as Co-Youth Pastor at Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church in Brandon, MS after being Licensed and Ordained in the Ministry. He now serves as the Dean of Chapel for The Piney Woods School in Braxton, MS. He is in his ninth year as Chaplain where he serves the students and faculty of the school weekly by spreading the Gospel.

Daphne Garner

Daphne Garner has been with Southern Wellness since 2023. Her primary caseloads consist of adolescents in the juvenile justice system who are substance users. Daphne has a bachelor's in psychology from the University of North Alabama and a master's in clinical mental health counseling from Walden University. She enjoys working with several populations including adolescents and women. Besides being a counselor, Daphne is an assistant pastor and musician at her local church. Her hope is that she can help individuals discover their autonomy to create and support a healthy life.

Priscila Giamassi

Priscila Giamassi is an EDC training and technical assistance (TA) associate and Certified Preventionist. As a Latina, woman, and immigrant living in the United States, she is dedicated to using her voice and resources to advocate for mental health and substance use disorder prevention for all, especially BIPOC communities. She brings strong project management, capacity-building, group work facilitation, and business development skills.

Jeffery Gilliland

Jeff Gilliland, a Birmingham, AL native, is a dedicated individual in long-term recovery with a decade of experience in faith-based recovery and the clinical sector. Serving as a Peer Support Specialist, spiritual counselor, intake coordinator, and currently the program manager at The Foundry Farm Recovery Program, Jeff's commitment to helping others navigate their recovery journey is evident. Additionally, he holds the role of Director of Outreach at Spirit Life Church and, alongside his wife, leads the Celebrate Recovery Group on Friday evenings. Jeff achieved Certification as a Recovery Support Specialist in 2017.

Amanda Gray

Amanda Salter Gray is a Person in long-term recovery, and a survivor and overcomer of many years of Trauma and abuse. Amanda struggled with substance use and Mental Health for 26 years of her life and it was through the A.D.O.C. she learned skills on how to manage her life issues. Because of the events in her life this has motivated Amanda to be a change, and help others learn and cope with different struggles individually and help those who work in the criminal justice system have a better understanding of people who are dealing with trauma, substance use, and dealing with incarceration. She had done many forms of programming and classes herself along with Therapy to understand how to live with the disorders that her own trauma and substance use created. She has now worked for P.E.I.R. for almost 4 years. Amanda is a trauma trainer for the criminal justice system and is also able to work in our jails and prisons with individuals as they prepare for the next chapter after incarceration. Amanda does not consider what she does as a job but a passion to fulfill a need to help other individuals like herself.

Becky Haas

Becky Haas is an international advocate and trainer on using a trauma informed approach and the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) study. She is a pioneer in creating trauma informed communities. Work she led in Northeast Tennessee was recognized by SAMHSA in 2018 as a model for cities to follow. Becky authors sector specific professional development trainings with two receiving statewide accreditation in Tennessee as evidence-based training and one earning national accreditation. She is uniquely distinguished for her work promoting trauma informed resilient communities as well as training police officers and others in the justice system to understand trauma. She has a deep understanding of the importance for every professional sector to have intimate knowledge of healthy early childhood development and the potential for early adversity to disrupt that healthy development. Among many accolades she's received, in 2022, she was awarded the Friends of Children Award by the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth for her statewide efforts to reduce the effects of childhood trauma.

SPEAKERS

Kimberly Holder

Kim Holder is Family Program Coordinator for Not One More Alabama (NOMA) where she shares her compassion, street smarts and education with hundreds of family members with loved ones in the trenches of alcohol and/or drug addiction. Kim is a person in long-term recovery and has worked in the field of substance use disorders for the past 10 years. She is a passionate advocate for others who are affected by the disease of addiction and is thankful for the opportunity to build NOMA's Family Support Group. Kim is certified as an Alcohol and Drug Counselor, Peer Support Specialist and Parent Coach. She is just months away from earning a degree in Social Work from Troy University.

Ben Howell

Benjamin A. Howell, MD, MPH, MHS received his medical degree from the University of California, San Francisco along with a Masters of Public Health from the UC Berkeley School of Public Health. He completed residency and chief residency in the Internal Medicine-Primary Care residency at Yale-New Haven Hospital. Following residency, he completed a health services research post-doctoral fellowship in the Yale School of Medicine's National Clinician Scholars Program. He is faculty in the Section of General Medicine, the SEICHE Center for Health and Justice, and the Yale Program in Addiction Medicine, all at the Yale School of Medicine. As a general internist board certified in addiction medicine, his clinical role involves general internal medicine and addiction medicine in both inpatient and outpatient settings. His research is broadly focused on improving the health outcomes of individuals, families, and communities impacted by mass incarceration, increasing access to harm reduction services, and policy interventions to improve access and quality to evidence-based treatments for substance use disorders.

Tamela Hughes

Tamela Hughes is a Licensed Professional Counselor and the Founder of Courage To Overcome. Specializing in maternal mental health, suicide prevention, and supporting the Black community, Tamela is committed to breaking the stigma surrounding mental health through compassionate, culturally informed care. Her work empowers individuals to navigate life transitions, health challenges, and personal growth.

Janice Johnson

Janice Johnson is a Licensed Master Social Worker, Retired Therapist, Author, Speaker, Mother, and Recovering Alcoholic. Janice is a Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW) with over 20 years of experience, specializing in teens, addiction, and family therapy. She has worked in both inpatient and outpatient settings and community organizations. Janice is the mother of four and a recovering alcoholic with over 11 years of sobriety. She has combined her personal and professional experience to author a book and blog. Her platform is focused on prevention, education, breaking patterns of generational dysfunction, and working with families. She has been a guest speaker on over 20 Podcasts and a presenter at numerous conferences, workshops, and community organizations.

Jan Kavookjian

Dr. Jan Kavookjian has a behavior sciences focus in outcomes research, with nearly twenty-five years of experience applying an adult learning theory basis for motivational interviewing (MI) training for practitioners across health professions, and teaches advanced MI electives (PharmD and PhD programs). She has trained over 3,300 practitioners across health professions in MI skills. Her research includes outcomes from disease management interventions, particularly using MI for self-management behaviors in diabetes, obesity, and other chronic conditions, and prevention initiatives including diabetes prevention, substance use disorder prevention, and vaccination uptake. She has published her research in peer reviewed journals (e.g., Quality of Life Research, Pediatrics, Diabetes & Complications, Journal of Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics, The Science of Diabetes Self-Management and Care, Translational Behavioral Medicine, Patient-Centered Outcomes Research, Patient Education and Counseling, Clinical Therapeutics, Journal of the American Pharmacists Association (APhA), AIDS Care, and others), was selected to lead the ADCES published 'Being Active', 'Hypoglycemia Outcomes', and 'Quality of Life Outcomes' systematic reviews, developed several invited webinars related to MI, served on the ADCES Research Committee and Board of Directors, and was elected by ADCES membership to serve as 2022 President for the association. She was invited by the CDC/NDEP to lead a panel of MI experts in a national webinar for MI in diabetes care, was invited to deliver an MI webinar for the Population Health Improvement Learning Collaborative, was invited for MI programs and mini training workshops at the American Diabetes Association Clinical Conferences in 2016, 2017, 2021, and 2022, wrote the MI book chapter for American College of Clinical Pharmacy PSAP book 8, gave three featured MI training programs for APhA Foundation's Diabetes Advanced Practice Institutes, and was named by the National Community Pharmacists Association as the 2015 Outstanding Adherence Educator. She was selected as a Fellow of the APhA Academy of Pharmacy Research Scientists in 2018 and a Fellow of ADCES in 2020. She is frequently invited to give MI presentations at national or local meetings, and MI trainings for practitioner groups in their care settings or virtually via zoom.

SPEAKERS

Ed Kern

Dr. Ed Kern, a board-certified psychiatrist, has served since 2018 as the Director of Psychiatry for the Office of Health Services (OHS) within the AL Dept of Corrections (ADOC). In this position he works closely with Deputy Commissioner for Health Services, Deborah Crook and Director of Mental Health Services, Felicia Greer along with others to develop policies, provide mental health program oversight and collaborate with the department's contracted healthcare vendor.

Lou Lacey

Lou Lacey is an author, Licensed Professional Counselor, and the Director of Emotional Wellness at Children's of Alabama. She works to prevent Compassion Fatigue among the medical caregivers at the pediatric hospital by providing individual and group counseling on site. She has a 35-year history of providing therapy for victims of trauma. Lou is the former Director of Rape Response and of CHIPS Center at Children's (child abuse assessment and treatment clinic.) She has been a speaker and instructor for over 25 years in the areas of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Compassion Fatigue Prevention and Treatment and finding joy in living a life of service to others. Lou believes in the healing power of laughter, connection, and the wearing of weird shoes, all of which are included in her new book, Pickle Jar Diaries.

Kimberley Lamar

Kimberley Lamar began her journey in the recovery field in 2002 at Family Support Services, LLC in Huntsville while working towards her associate's degree in human services-Alcohol and Drug Option from Wallace State. In 2007, she was recognized with a nomination for alumni of the year. By 2004, Kimberley received certification as an Alcohol & Drug Counselor through the Alabama Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association and the ICRC Board. She devoted 17 years of her career to Bradford Health Services in Birmingham, specializing in detoxification and extended care. In 2019, she became certified as a Peer Support Specialist and transitioned to Pathway Healthcare. Kimberley was named Mentor of the year in 2022 by the Minds and Mentors Paraprofessional Training Program at the University of Alabama. Her previous work experience includes serving at New Vision Withdrawal Management in Sylacauga, AL, where she was nominated for administrator of the year on a national level. Kimberley is an active volunteer with Not One More Alabama in Huntsville, AL, and Addiction Prevention Coalition in Birmingham, AL. Presently, she serves as the administrator at the Recovery Resource Hub within the Partnership for a Drug-Free Community. In 2023, Kimberley celebrated 25 years of sobriety.

Peter Lane

Dr. Pete Lane is a board-certified addiction medicine physician and family medicine provider, and an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurobiology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). Dr. Lane is also the Medical Director for Addition Recovery Program at UAB. He has led addiction services in the different settings at UAB, including medically supervised detoxification unit, ambulatory service, and consultation/liaison service. He has had extensive experiences in evaluating and treating patients with substance use disorders. He is also a great educator who has provided numerous lectures to medical students, residents, and fellows in the past 20 years.

Tammy Langlois

Tammy Langlois is a Registered Nurse with 37 plus years of experience in direct patient care, with experience in home health care, post-operative recovery, pediatrics, med-surg, Program Integrity, Tuberculosis case management (12 years), infectious diseases and outbreaks management (6 years), healthcare associated infections (6 years), utilization review . After two years of working in med-surg in a rural hospital Tammy started her career with the Alabama Department of Public Health as a staff home health nurse July 31, 1989. Through the years with the Alabama Department of Public Health, there have been numerous experiences that contributed to a wealth of knowledge...including a contract to work with the Medicaid Agency during their Maternity Waiver Programs where providers had to bid a case management of maternity patients and nearly 2 weeks in North Carolina during the hurricane response, working in community shelters to provide some relief to local public health staff and I was a part of that team...it was a rewarding experience.

Leah Leisch

Dr. Leah Leisch is a physician Board Certified in Internal Medicine and Addiction Medicine. She is the Program Director of the Addiction Medicine Fellowship at University of Alabama at Birmingham and the Medical Director of UAB's Beacon Integrated Healthcare and a physician at the Birmingham Veteran's Affairs Medical Center.

Li Li

Dr. Li Li is a board-certified general psychiatrist and addiction medicine specialist, and an Associate Professor, tenured, in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurobiology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). She has been funded by the NIH, SAMHSA, and Foundation of Opioid Response Efforts for her studies. Her research focuses on the intersection between stress, depression, and addiction. She has published about 80 peer-reviewed articles in this field and has been recognized nationally and internationally for these topics. She has served as a mentor for over 20 mentees in the past 15 years. She has lectured regionally, nationally, and internationally on addiction and mental health-related topics. Dr. Li is also the Medical Director for Outpatient Public Sector Addiction Services at UAB and leads addiction services at UAB and has had extensive experiences in evaluating and treating patients with both addiction and psychiatric disorders.

SPEAKERS

Mark Litvine

Mark Litvine is a person in long term recovery from a substance use disorder and Mental Health Diagnosis. Mark uses his lived experience to provide hope, assistance, guidance, understanding and encouragement to the individuals that he serves. Mark started out by volunteering as a peer at the Birmingham Fellowship House and was in the first class of state Certified Recovery Peer Support Specialists in Alabama in March 2016. Mark is also a Certified Peer Specialist on the Mental Health side as well. Mark is one of the founders of R.O.S.S. the first Recovery Community Organization in Alabama and Mark was the Director Of Marketing for the Recovery Organization Of Support Specialist. Mr. Litvine started out training the state Certified Recovery Peer Support Specialists in 2016. Today Mark is the Substance Use Peer Coordinator for the Alabama Department of Mental Health. Mark received the Peer Warrior Award in 2017 for his hard work and dedication to the peers in Alabama. Mark serves on the Alabama Opioid Task Force and Ethical Peer Accountability Committee for the state Certified Peers in Alabama. Mr. Litvine was taught early on in his recovery that he lives a life of purpose today which is to advocate for and serve those in his community.

Scott Luetgenau

Scott Luetgenau, BSW, MSW, LCAS, CSI, is a person in long-term recovery and a respected leader in addiction treatment and recovery support. With a background in social work and specialization in addiction treatment, Scott has progressed from founding a Collegiate Recovery Community to directing North Carolina's largest Opioid Treatment Program. As founder of Gatespring, a consultation firm, and a SAMHSA consultant, he provides nationwide guidance on opioid treatment, clinical pathways, and workforce development. Scott's expertise in Acceptance and Commitment Therapy and Motivational Interviewing, combined with his experience in program management and policy development, makes him an influential voice in the field. He has held leadership positions in several prominent organizations, including the North Carolina Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence and Addiction Professionals of North Carolina. Scott's work continues to shape policies, improve treatment methodologies, and positively impact communities affected by substance use disorders.

Aniket Malhotra

Dr. Aniket Malhotra completed his medical education at Maulana Azad Medical College in India before moving to the United States to pursue a psychiatry residency and addiction psychiatry fellowship at Emory University. He currently serves as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurobiology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). At UAB, Dr. Malhotra focuses on the treatment of addiction disorders, providing expert care in both out-patient settings and through the consultation-liaison service. His work integrates the latest research and clinical practices to address the complex needs of patients with substance use disorders.

Pierluigi Mancini

Dr. Pierluigi Mancini is a national and international consultant and speaker about mental health and addiction specializing in cultural and linguistic responsiveness, immigrant behavioral health, social and racial justice, health equity and health disparities. His new book "...And Healthcare for All - How to become a high-performing, equity-centric organization: A Practical Guide for Health Care Leaders" has just been published and is being heralded as a timely and important book. It is available now in English and soon it will be available in Spanish at Amazon.com.

Karen Marlowe

Karen F. Marlowe assumed her role as the Associate Dean for Academic Programs and Davis Professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice on July 1, 2022. Marlowe oversees a broad portfolio including recruiting and admissions, student services, curricular planning, academic policies and procedures, student organizations, budgeting, and personnel management. In addition, she serves as a member of the college's senior leadership team and advises the dean in all aspects of the day-to-day management of the college. After graduating from Auburn University, she completed her pharmacy practice residency at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. In 2000, she accepted an appointment with Auburn University with a practice affiliated with the University of South Alabama Medical School, Department of Internal Medicine. She provided care for inpatient internal medicine patients but maintained a consulting service and patient advocacy program for patients with chronic pain or terminal illness. Initially coming to HCOP as an assistant professor, she was promoted to associate professor with tenure in 2006 and was named Davis Professor in 2015. She was promoted to associate department head and served as the Assistant Dean for the Mobile Campus since its inception in 2007. Since 2019, Marlowe has served as the founding director of the Auburn University Center for Opioid Research, Education, and Outreach. She is board certified in pharmacotherapy by the Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties and is credentialed in pain management by the American Academy of Pain Management. Her areas of scholarship and research include pain management, ethics and professionalism related to pain management, patient attitudes and success of pain management strategies, patient acceptance of non-medicinal strategies for pain management in combination with their medication, the current state of medical education related to pain management and pharmacokinetics.

SPEAKERS

Jerria Martin

Jerria Martin serves as Executive Director of Drug Free Communities of Dallas County and a substance abuse prevention consultant headquartered in historic Selma, AL. As a consultant, Jerria works with a variety of government entities and organizations including the United States Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA), Community Anti Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA), the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Opioid Response Network (ORN).

Steve Mason

Steve Mason is a licensed professional counselor, supervising counselor, and certified addiction counselor who has worked in the substance use field since 1999. During his tenure in the field, he has worked with both adolescent and adult populations in outpatient, residential, and home-based settings. He recently ended his time serving as the clinical director for the Aletheia House and started New Direction Counseling Inc, where he is the executive director. He also serves as adjunct faculty for Alabama A&M University's psychology and counseling program.

Angela McElrath

Rick Meriwether

Richard "Rick" Meriwether is currently serving as an Independent Health Educator. He had been employed with the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), Department of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases, as a Program Manager/Health Educator/Trainer beginning in 1994. Prior to his employment with UAB, he was employed by the Alabama Department of Public Health, STI/HIV/AIDS Divisions, as a Disease Intervention Specialist in the STI/HIV program. He has worked in several areas of STI/HIV prevention & control, i.e. epidemiology, research, surveillance, education, clinical/medical/community relations, etc. His work has allowed him opportunities for working with several medical entities, as well as community-based organizations in the areas of prevention education on both the individual and community-based levels.

Talisha Moody

Talisha Carter-Moody has over 30 years of experience conducting training and providing counseling services to some of the most resistant and difficult populations. She has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice and a Master's Degree in Community Counseling. She is a Licensed Professional Counselor and a Certified Professional Counselor Supervisor. She is trained in multiple evidenced based programs. She has created and overseen the implementation of new training and programs and provided continuous quality updates as the statewide counseling manager for Georgia Department of Corrections.. She has been responsible for overseeing contracts with vendors who provide training and training other trainers to become subject matter experts. She was a trailblazer in understanding how to influence change utilizing evidence-based practices. She is a skilled communicator, trainer, counselor, mentor, manager, leader in the area of counseling services and beyond. She was promoted to the Statewide Counseling & Cognitive Behavioral Unit Manager in 2013, where she oversaw all the counseling services and training for the Georgia Department of Corrections until her retirement in October 2021. She is currently active in her community and does private practice providing counseling services for adolescents and adults. She is wife to Ronnie for 29 years and they have two wonderful sons, Carter and Seth and two beautiful granddaughters who she is affectionately called "Ouma"-Kennedi and Kensleigh. She is a woman of God, who is constantly working to give the world what she was born to do, her goal is to not leave anything on the field when she leaves this world.

Contenna Moore

Contenna Moore is the CEO/Co-Founder of a nonprofit organization CHOICES, INC and MoMc Reentry Services, LLC. She worked as a case manager in the juvenile system for six years and also mentored young ladies ages 9-18. Contenna currently serves as the ADOC Psychological Associate II, Employee Assistance Program and Equal Employee Opportunity Representative at William E. Donaldson Correctional Facility and has been working in the adult criminal justice system for 12 years. Contenna is a graduate of Auburn University, where she received both my Bachelor's, and master's in clinical psychology. I also have a master's in human services/management of Nonprofit Organizations I am currently working on my Doctorate in Clinical Psychology. She is a grant writer and has secured funds through grants and funding opportunities for other organizations as well as the organizations that she has co-founded. Contenna is the mother of one son, who is also a recent graduate of Auburn University.

SPEAKERS

Jennifer Nelson

Jennifer Nelson is a native of Birmingham, AL, and matriculated in the Birmingham City School System. A graduate of the University of Montevallo and the University of Georgia, Jennifer holds a B.A degree in Social Worker and Master's Degree in Clinical Social Work. Jennifer has operated in the capacity of social worker and therapist for nearly 15 years, with experience serving various at-risk populations. Jennifer is the CEO and founder of Kintsugi Counseling & Consulting, LLC, and holds the license of LICSW-S in the state of Alabama.

Micheal Nerney

Michael Nerney is a consultant in Substance Abuse Prevention and Education, with over forty-two years of experience in the field. As the former Director of the Training Institute of Narcotic and Drug Research, Inc. (NDRI), his responsibilities included the management of a statewide training system which delivered more than 450 training programs to substance abuse treatment and prevention professionals annually.

Merrill Norton

Dr. Merrill Norton is an EMMY winning Clinical Associate Professor Emeritus of the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy with his specialty areas to include psychopharmacology and addiction pharmacy. He was most recently honored by the Georgia Addiction Counselors Association's Board of Directors and Certification Board with being bestowed the first Certified Master Addiction Counselor (CMAC) credential in the state. His recently updated book, *Understanding Substance Use Disorders Pharmacology*, has been used to train thousands of mental health professionals nationally and his latest book, *The Pharmacist's Guide to Opioid Use Disorders* was released in December 2018.

Kori Novak

Dr. Kori Novak is an accomplished Senior Executive and highly sought-after consultant with more than 25 years of success spanning eldercare, tribal healthcare, and criminal justice. Throughout her extensive career, she has leveraged her in-depth knowledge and leadership skills to drive significant advancements in these fields. Dr. Novak has served as a CEO for various for-profit and not-for-profit healthcare organizations, where her broad areas of expertise have included elder and end-of-life care, rural chronic disease management, healthcare strategy, and public affairs.

Mackenzie Phillips

Not long before her fiftieth birthday, Mackenzie Phillips walked into Los Angeles International Airport. She was on her way to a reunion for *One Day at a Time*, the hugely popular 70s sitcom on which she once starred as the lovable rebel Julie Cooper. Within minutes of entering the security checkpoint, Mackenzie was in handcuffs, arrested for possession of cocaine and heroin.

Angela Powe

Angela Powe is a Prevention Associate for the Alabama Department of Mental Health- Office of Prevention. She received her Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from Alabama State University. Ms. Powe has 17 years of service with the State of Alabama. She previously worked with the Alabama Department of Corrections, where she held positions as a Drug Treatment Counselor, Drug Treatment Specialist, ADA Facility Coordinator, EEO, and EEO Senior. She began her career in the prevention field in 2023. As a prevention associate, Ms. Powe oversees the Block Grant for all 67 counties in Alabama.

Anthony Reynolds

Anthony Reynolds is a Licensed Professional Counselor and a Certified Addiction Counselor with over 40 years working in substance use and mental health treatment. During his career he has developed and managed treatment programs while always participating in direct clinical counseling throughout his career. Mr. Reynolds is very passionate about meeting patients where they are and intervening to promote change when needed, especially those suffering from substance use disorders and special populations. He has a very broad and unique knowledge of addiction and mental health having worked with literally thousands of individuals and families. He has direct experience working and managing inpatient, outpatient, hospital, and corrections-based programs. He currently serves the Alabama Department of Mental Health as Crisis Care Project Director. In this role he provides oversight of the implementation of the Alabama Crisis System of Care.

Drew Reynolds

Drew Reynolds, PhD, MSW, MEd is Principal Consultant at Common Good Data, where he provides data and program evaluation services to nonprofits and the public sector. In his consulting work, he advises organizations in how to use data-driven decision-making to design and evaluate effective programs, secure funding, and improve community wellbeing. While he serves organizations across many sectors, Drew - a social worker - has developed an expertise in providing data and program evaluation services for organizations in prevention, mental health, human services, and education. Drew also advises organizations on how to improve data and evaluation activities through a diversity, equity, and inclusion lens that attends to the culturally, linguistically, and racially diverse contexts in which many organizations serve.

SPEAKERS

Lacy Rowan-McGuire

Lacy Rowan-McGuire received her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology with a minor in Sociology from Jacksonville State University. Behavior analysis was highly integrated into her degree and included research and history of methods in psychology with practicum hours focused on studying substance use disorders. She completed an independent study on the correlation of unhoused individuals who also struggle with use of substances. In 2019 Lacy obtained her Master's Degree in Addiction and Recovery through Liberty University and has since returned to Liberty University for a Doctorate in Education in Traumatology. In 2014 Lacy began a career as a counselor at Cedar Lodge and quickly certified as an Alcohol Drug Counselor through The Alabama Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association (AADAA). She later served as the Program Coordinator at Cedar Lodge where she oversaw the Level 3.5 crisis residential substance abuse program. She now serves as the Clinical Director at Recovery Services and she has recently gained certification in the Court Referral Education Program through the Alabama Administrative Office of Courts. Lacy loves working in the field of substance use where she sees miracles happen everyday. She loves to spend her down time with her husband and 3 dogs sitting on the shores of the beautiful Lake Guntersville which is her hometown where she grew up. She has raised two children, Caitlyn and Hunter and they are her biggest blessings. Lacy is a person in long-term recovery and has celebrated 16 years of sobriety.

Sabrina Scott

Dr. Sabrina Scott is a Licensed Professional Counselor in Alabama and Georgia with over 17 years of clinical, managerial and leadership experience. She currently serves as the Director of the JBS Craig Crisis Care Center in Birmingham, Alabama. Dr. Scott's management, leadership and supervisory experience includes overseeing and managing clinical, crisis, and residential programs for at-risk youth, adults, couples and families struggling with mental health and substance use related diagnoses. In her various roles throughout her career, Dr. Scott has collaborated and worked with numerous stakeholders, community providers and partners to address the mental health and substance use related problems for individuals who are underserved and underinsured. Dr. Scott is committed to improving access to care and treatment services for those that are most vulnerable in our communities.

Virginia Scott-Adams

Dr. Virginia Scott-Adams became a licensed psychologist in 2008 subsequent to her earning her Doctoral Degree in Psychology (Psy.D.) in 2006 from Hofstra University in Long Island, New York. Dr. Scott-Adams began serving in her current position with the Alabama Department of Mental Health as the Director of the Office of Forensic Mental Health Services during 2020 and is responsible for maintaining and coordinating a forensic system of care for Alabamians who have mental health issues and who have involvement with the legal system.

Lena Sheffield

Lena Sheffield earned her Bachelor's degree and Master's degree from the University of Miami. She is a Florida Licensed Mental Health Counselor, Florida Certified Addiction Professional, Master Addiction Counselor through NAADAC and Certified Eating Disorder Professional through iaedp. Additionally, she is level I certified in Radically Open DBT and holds Health Care Administration certification from Florida International University.

Johnece Smith

Johnece Smith is native and resident of Birmingham, Alabama. She works as an Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant with the Alabama Department of Mental Health. In this role, she develops and implements new programs for families. Smith also collaborates with caregivers to share social-emotional activities that promote positive mental health and relationships. Her long-term aspirations include building her skills and tools for families, children, and adults that support holistic counseling and healthier communities. She enjoys presenting on topics historical trauma and care, infant and early childhood development, self-care, attachment styles and exploring mental health from holistic viewpoint of care. She also collaborate with other community providers.

Samson Teklemariam

Samson Teklemariam, LPC, CPTM, is the Vice President of Clinical Services for Behavioral Health Group (BHG). Samson also serves as the Southeast Regional Vice President for NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals. He is an accomplished leader with a history of driving organizational results with learning and development solutions. He was formerly the Director of Training and Professional Development for NAADAC and National Director of Learning and Development for Phoenix House Foundation. Samson is a certified lead trainer for the Cognitive Behavioral Interventions for Substance Abuse (CBISA) curriculum, Calm Every Storm: Crisis Prevention & Intervention curriculum, and experienced in treatment trauma-related disorders using trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy (TFCBT) and Seeking Safety. He is passionate about culturally-responsive care for co-occurring conditions, clinical supervision and mentorship, improving access to care barriers, and advocacy for communities in greatest need.

SPEAKERS

Paula Thomas

Paula Thomas received her Masters in Counseling from Jacksonville State University and has worked in the field of substance abuse since 1987. She was one of the first six Court Referral Officers in the state in Tuscaloosa before the Treatment Act of 1990 and has been the Executive Director of Recovery Services since 1997. Recovery Services serves Madison, Marshall, Jackson, DeKalb & Cherokee Counties providing substance abuse education and treatment. Recovery Services contracts with both the Alabama Department of Mental Health and The Administrative Office of Courts. She loves to spend her down time with her husband boating and enjoying all things outdoors. They share four children and four grandchildren who keep life fun and with lots of joy.

Dana Williams

Dr. Dana Williams is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with over ten years of experience. She found her passion for clinical care as the Manager of Student Support Initiatives for The University of Alabama's Student Care and Well-Being Office. During her time at UA, she also received her Doctorate in Education in Higher Education Administration. Dr. Williams believes that care should be client-centered and that everyone deserves dignity and respect during the therapeutic process.

Lisa Williams

Dr. Lisa Williams currently holds a Doctor of Public Administration, a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice, a Master's Degree in Rehabilitation Counseling and a Masters in Social Work, and Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice, with a minor in Anthropology, from Valdosta State University, Thomas University and Tulane University. My education is complemented by over 20 years of experience providing a wide variety of correctional, educational, counseling, and public safety support services to a diverse population.