

## OPENING SESSION SPEAKERS

\* **Karen Anzola, MEd** ♦ Karen is a mother to two, both of whom have special health care needs. She has an array of professional experience in Early Childhood Special Education, training and technical assistance (TTA) and community involvement. Ms. Anzola has worked for over 20 years with children and youth with and without disabilities and their families and the health care and education professionals who serve them. Working for the past 10 years as a TTA Coordinator with Family Voices, Inc., whose mission is to achieve family-centered care for all children and youth with special health care needs and/or disabilities, Ms. Anzola has been able to share her passion for family leadership and learn from other experienced, skilled parent leaders throughout the country.

\* **Jackie Richards, LMSW** ♦ Jackie is a licensed medical social worker, has years of experience as a pediatric social worker, and is currently the interim executive director of Family Connection. Her own son, who has ADHD, has taught her that "instructions" for raising a child with special needs do not come in a textbook. The greatest instruction has come from other parents. Jackie is trained in family-centered care and continues to advocate for family-centered care in all aspects of medical care for children with special needs.

## WORKSHOP PRESENTERS

\* **Geneva Adams** ♦ Geneva is a member of Family Connection SC Academy, and has served on the Board of Directors. She has served as the Chair Person for the South Carolina Palmetto Children Council; the South Carolina Advisory Council on Education of Students with Disabilities; Co-Chaired the South Carolina Governor Children Council, and has worked closely with other local and national disability organizations. Geneva is the parent of twenty-eight year old Michael Adams, and eighteen year old Kevin Adams who has Cerebral Palsy. She obtained the majority of her disability knowledge, wisdom, and skills from being an advocate and caregiver for her son.

\* **Marie Aimore, BA** ♦ Marie is the Director of Camp Burnt Gin, DHEC's camping program for children teens, and young adults who have special health care needs. She has over 20 years of experience in a residential camp setting working with teens and young adults who have with special needs. Marie is the Director of Camp Burnt Gin, DHEC's camping program for children, teens, and young adults who have special health care needs. She has over 20 years of experience in a residential camp setting working with teens and young adults who have special needs.

\* **Laura Antinoro, SSP** ♦ Laura has worked for the past 13 years in the Fort Mill School District with high school aged youth with disabilities. She is a Certified School Psychologist and Transition Specialist and also serves as Chair for the Transition Advisory Council of York, Chester and Lancaster Counties. Laura currently serves as Vice-President for the South Carolina Council for Exceptional Children's Division on Career Development and Transition. Laura also serves on the state transition planning team as a local education representative for South Carolina.

\* **Donald Bailey** ♦ Donald is a lifelong resident of Charleston, SC, and the parent of two children and two grandchildren. His youngest is a 19-year-old with cognitive learning difficulties. Donald served on the Board of Trustees at the University of South Carolina from 1990 through 1998. For the past few years, he has been involved in helping develop post-secondary educational opportunities around the state for young adults with intellectual disabilities.

\* **Bryant N. Blakeslee, CLU** ♦ Bryant has 35 years experience in the Financial Services Industry. He is also active in the community. He and his wife, Beth, have been married for 35 years and have two children.

\* **Suzie Boykin, RN, BSN** ♦ Suzie has been employed with Department of Health and Human Services in the Division of Community Long Term Care since 1985. In her present position, she provides oversight of policies for the home and community based waivers - Elderly/Disabled waiver, HIV/Aids waiver, Ventilator Dependent waiver. She also provides oversight of policies for level of care, PASARR (Pre-admission Screening and Resident Review, CPDN (Children's Private Duty Nursing) and CPCA (Children's Personal Care Aid) programs.

\* **Jane Breeden** ♦ A native South Carolinian and resident of Spartanburg, Jane is an active community volunteer and mother of three daughters. When her eldest child was diagnosed with intellectual disabilities Jane, and her husband Dan, became dedicated advocates for students with learning challenges. Working in conjunction with both the private and public sectors, Jane is committed to enhancing the quality of educational opportunities for learning disabled young adults in the state.

\* **Stephanie Bridgers** ♦ Stephanie works with Family Connection as a Family Partner and the coordinator of the Physician Education Awareness Program (PEAP) since 2006. She is very involved in the Autism Community, facilitates Autism Connection, organizes play groups and events for families that have children with special needs, and serves on the Fund Development Board for Epworth Early Intervention Center, a preschool for children with disabilities. Stephanie has been married to Michael for 11 years and they have 3 sons, Samuel, 9; Eli, 7; and Noah, 4. Samuel and Eli have been diagnosed with Autism. Stephanie, has a son, Alex, 17 from her previous marriage. Alex was diagnosed with ADD at 11, and Bi-Polar and Depression at 14.

\* **Traci Bryant-Riches, MEd (Counseling)** ♦ Traci is the owner of The Birth of Venus Group a company that advances the lives of women. She also works at the South Carolina Department of Education in the office of Exceptional Children. Traci holds a BA in Women's Studies and Psychology from the University of Tennessee and a Masters of Education from the Auburn University. Her career's focus has been on disability issues and gender equity.

\* **Gay Clement-Atkinson, PhD** ♦ Dr. Gay Clement-Atkinson has 38 years of experience in working in children with different needs and abilities. She is a certified PITT Trainer and certified CCCCD Trainer in addition to serving as Director of the ABC Special Needs Program for 15 years.

\* **Sarah Clingman, JD, CELA** ♦ Sarah limits her practice to elder law, estate and disability planning and probate work. She has been a member of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA) since 1992 and is a past president of the SC NAELA Chapter. She is also an active member of the SC Bar Elder Law Committee and the Probate and Estate Planning Section. She has been in practice since 1990 and formed her own firm in 2000. She is a certified specialist in Elder Law (CELA) by the National Elder Law Foundation, the only credential recognized by the ABA and SC Supreme Court for attorneys practicing in the area of special needs planning.

\* **Robert Compton, MEd, NBCT** ♦ Robert works for the South Carolina Department of Education in the Office of Exceptional Children. He serves as an Education Associate in the area of Low Incidence Disabilities. He also provides regional technical assistance to the North Central Region of the state. Prior to coming to the SCDE, he worked in the school districts for eight years.

\* **Kim Conant, LPN** ♦ Kim has been a pediatric nurse for over 30 years, the last 18 of which have been with Palmetto Pediatrics where she has served as their Special Needs Care Coordinator for the last 7 years. She also volunteers with the American Red Cross Disaster Services in Individual Client services and Health Services, and is on the Leadership Committee for Disaster Preparedness at the Chapter level which serves 11 counties in Central South Carolina. As part of her "real job" at Palmetto Pediatrics as the Special Needs Care Coordinator, she offers guidance to patients and families regarding emergency preparedness and continued access to care.

\* **Tim Conroy, MEd** ♦ Tim is the Vice President of the South Carolina Autism Society (SCAS). He has worked as a special education teacher, school administrator, and education associate in the Office of Exceptional Children for the South Carolina Department of Education.

\* **Vivian Correa, PhD** ♦ Dr. Correa is a distinguished professor of early childhood and special education at Clemson University. Her areas of interest are early childhood, family involvement, and teaming. She has conducted research with Latino families of young children with disabilities. She is a native of San Juan, Puerto Rico.

\* **Rebecca (Becky) Doolittle McFalls, MHS, OTR/L** ♦ Becky is an occupational therapist and a certified Relationship Development Consultant with the Pediatric Rehabilitation Center at East Cooper Medical Center in Charleston. She is a graduate of Indiana University and the Medical University of South Carolina. She has dedicated the last 10 years working primarily with children with Autism, Down Syndrome, and sensory integration dysfunction on a multi-discipline team of occupational, physical and speech therapists.

\* **Ronald Dozier, MS, MEd** ♦ Ronald has 'retired' after working 35 plus years in direct service organizations. However, he continues to work part time at the University of South Carolina Center for Disability Resources. He strives to help people direct their own lives and supports. He has a wonderful (and gracious) support person Catherine Dozier, two sons who serve in the U.S. Marine Corps. His daughter-in-law and two grandchildren also serve.

\* **Mary Eaddy, AA (Business)** ♦ Mary is Executive Director of PRO-Parents of S. C. She has been with PRO-Parents since 1990 when it became the parent training and information center (PTI) for South Carolina. Mary has provided extensive training related to special education and parent involvement at the state and national level. She has served and continues to serve on the Board of Directors and advisory committee of numerous national and state disability and non-profit organizations. Mary's most relevant knowledge and passion for her work comes from parenting two children with learning disabilities and attention deficit disorder and being grandmother to a grandchild with developmental delays.

\* **Julia England, BA** ♦ Julia received her bachelor's degree from the University of Texas at Austin in 2006. She spent several years teaching English Language Arts in public tenth and eighth grade classrooms in Houston, Texas, as well as several classes for struggling readers and writers. Julia is currently a graduate student in the University of South Carolina School Psychology doctoral program in Columbia, SC.

\* **Sherry Fields** ♦ Sherry is the Upstate Area Coordinator with Family Connection. She has been with Family Connection for 17 years. Sherry has been married to Charles Fields for 25 years. She is the mother of two children Matthew, age 23 and Amanda, age 19. Amanda was born with Spina Bifida, hydrocephalus, and epilepsy. Amanda has had more than 118 different surgeries in the past 19 years. Amanda was an amazing young lady that continually inspired her mother with her strength and loving personality. Amanda's legacy lives on with her passing away on May 2009. Sherry was a founding member of the Parent Advisory Committee on Children with Special Health Care Needs through the Alliance for South Carolina's Children. She served as chairperson of the Parent Advisory Committee of Children Rehabilitative Services for seven years and is a volunteer member of the Parent Council at the Children's Hospital in the Greenville Children's Hospital System.

\* **Diane Flashnick, AA** ♦ As the parent of a son identified early with ADHD and a learning disability, Diane learned the need to advocate for him in the public school system and in the community. Recognizing the importance of a parent's involvement for a child's success, as Director of the Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health of South Carolina, Diane makes sure that information, training and support is available to empower parents in that role. She also works to help professionals understand that listening to the perspective of the family and child will help identify what works best for each child and family.

\* **Debbie Greenhouse, MD, FAAP** ♦ Dr. Greenhouse is a graduate of Clemson University and Emory University School of Medicine. She is in practice at Palmetto Pediatric and Adolescent Clinic in Columbia and is a clinical associate professor in the department of pediatrics at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine.

\* **Kathryn Grogan, LMSW** ♦ Kathryn received her masters in social work at University of South Carolina and is a LISW. Her experience includes working with children as a: elementary school mental health counselor, social worker with the Medically Fragile Children's Program and as an Early Interventionist.

\* **Alison Hanna, RD, LD** ♦ Alison is a registered dietitian with the USC School of Medicine Department of Pediatrics. Her primary area of focus is with the Healthy Lifestyles Clinic for treatment of childhood overweight, obesity, and related disorders. She also provides nutritional counseling services for the other pediatric specialty areas, including: neurology, endocrinology, pulmonology, and infectious disease.

\* **Kristi Hartwell, MSW** ♦ Kristi has a Masters in Social Work from the University of South Carolina. She is Program Director of the Supported Community Living Initiative at the Center for Disability Resources where she supports adults with developmental disabilities and their circles of support in exploring creative housing opportunities to become active members of the community through technical assistance and research.

\* **Pat Head, MSW** ♦ Pat works with the SC Healthy Connections Choices program by MAXIMUS helping Medicaid members enroll into Medicaid managed care health plans. She formerly worked for nine years with Family Connection as the Special Projects Coordinator. Her 22 years in the field of social work also include early intervention, child protective services, the Commission for the Blind, and the Department of Health and Environmental Control. She has two children, Ryan, who has Down syndrome and Alexandra.

\* **WC Hoecke, MEd** ♦ W.C. is the husband of Catherine and father of Karl a 15-year-old with special needs, Franklin (14) and Anna (10) and currently serves as the Director of Family Information and Education at Family Connection. WC pastored in Columbia for twelve years. The Hoeckes have a passion to see healthy family formation and lead parenting workshops and PREP Couples Workshops. WC leads Fathers Network (a network of fathers of children with disabilities) and coordinates Family Connection's Faith In Action Respite Project. He serves as a founding Board member of both the SC Respite Coalition and the SC Fatherhood Practitioners Network.

\* **Mike Hollifield, MEd** ♦ Mike is a physical education teacher with 35 years of experience working with children with special needs. He has worked with our therapeutic horseback riding program for about 20 years. He is a certified therapeutic riding instructor and the Director for HALTER (Handicapped Athletes Learning To Enjoy Riding).

\* **Davis Hook, BS** ♦ Davis has 40+ years experience in pharmacy including community retail, compounding general/sterile, consulting, and has served 12 years on the SC Board of Pharmacy.

\* **Derrick Howle, BA** ♦ Derrick is employed as with BMW Mfg Corp. LLC. He and his wife Sandrine created the SC Autism Services Directory to help parents locate services available for autism in SC and The LUCAS Network (Loving Unconditionally Children with Autism Support) to allow families to communicate with each other concerning treatment, services and issues dealing with Autism. He was the Co-chair of the 2008 Strides for Autism Walk in Greenville; chair of the 2008 and 2009 Upstate SC Autism Forum; Organizer of the 2009 Greenville Autism Awareness Candlelight Ceremony; Advocate for the SC PDD Waiver program and was a proud member of the Ryan's Law Gang along with Lorri Unumb, Marcella Ridley and Lisa Rollins. But more importantly, he is the father of two wonderful children of which one has autism.

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SC Department of Education

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\* **Irene Ingram, OTR/L, BCP** ♦ Irene is a graduate of the Medical University of South Carolina. She was certified in the treatment and testing of sensory integrative dysfunction in 1981. She uses Therapeutic Listening, Samonas sound therapy, craniosacral therapy, lymphatic drainage of the brain and many other approaches. She has always been interested in learning many different theories and techniques and developing treatment programs that are eclectic and aimed at treating the whole person. Mrs Ingram has practiced for 31 years in the schools, developmental centers, and her private clinic. She specializes in treatment for children with a variety of needs.

\* **Sandra Jagan, LMSW** ♦ Sandra is a social worker for the Children's Hospital Special Care Center (formerly the Medically Fragile Children's Program). She attended Columbia College for her undergraduate degree and received her Master of Social Work from the University of South Carolina. Mrs. Jagan has worked with children with special health care needs for the past 4 years.

\* **Mary Kenyon Jones, MEd** ♦ Mary Kenyon is an Educational Consultant with SC DHEC's Division of Oral Health. Her work with the Division of Oral Health includes the development of educational materials for children and parent resources including an Oral Health Information Booklet for Families with Special Health Care Needs. Ms. Jones also conducts statewide trainings for childcare providers, and she serves as a leader in the SC Oral Health Coalition.

\* **Julie Kellert, BA, MA** ♦ Julie is currently a clinical therapist with Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics' Autism Program. She received her B.S. in Psychology from Furman University, and a M.A. in Clinical Psychology from the University of South Carolina. She has two wonderful children: 6 year-old Jake, who was diagnosed with autism at the age of 3, and 4 year-old Mia. Julie was a Family Partner with Family Connection for a little over two years, and continues to facilitate their monthly Autism Connection group as a volunteer.

\* **Nicole Kennedy, PT** ♦ Nicole graduated with honors from the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta, GA in 1985 and has 28 years experience as a pediatric physical therapist. She has pursued continuing education in the areas of myofascial release, NDT, sensory integration, yoga therapy, yoga for the special child, adapted seating and wheelchair mobility, as well as motor learning theory. She is pursuing certification for yoga therapy and expanding her private practice to include yoga therapy with pediatric therapy. Nicole is in private practice in Hartsville, SC.

\* **Ronald Kuebler, CCC-SLP, ABDA** ♦ Ronald has been a speech pathologist in private practice since 1998 and provides speech therapy to all ages and disabilities. Along with his son, Scott (AAC user), he has presented in Asia, Europe, South America, North America on AAC topics including audience interaction component with devices: Pegasus Lite(Words +), ChatPC(Salttillo) and iphone with Proloquo2go software.

\* **Carol Kurlowich, BS** ♦ Carol enjoys sharing resources and techniques gained from over 25 years of experience as a classroom teacher, educational therapist, and homeschool mom. In addition to her BS degree in Education plus 6 hrs. graduate credit in Educational Therapy, Carol's best teachers have been her 13yr-old daughter, Naomi, who was born with Down Syndrome, and her brother with PDD.

\* **Sherry Larson** ♦ Sherry is a single mother of three wonderful children. Her middle child, Shelby is diagnosed with developmental delays, Autism, scoliosis, seizures, and has had heart surgery. She is employed by Family Connection of S. C. as the Family Partner Program Coordinator.

\* **Shannon Lindsay, M.S., GCDF** ♦ Shannon is a graduate of Wofford College in History and Biology and obtained her Masters Degree in Genetic Counseling from the University of Pittsburgh in 1999. Shannon came to the state office of Vocational Rehabilitation in February 2004 to the position of Consultant for Transition Services. In this capacity she is responsible for developing, implementing and sustaining transition service initiatives as well as serving as a liaison to the SC Department of Education and other agencies and organizations relative to transition services.

\* **Susan Luberoff, MD, FAAP** ♦ Dr. Luberoff is Medical Director of the Assessment and Resource Center (ARC), a child abuse evaluation program in Columbia, and Medical Consultant to DHEC's Division of Children with Special Health Care Needs. She is an Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics with the USC School of Medicine, is board-certified in Pediatrics, and has extensive experience in working with medically complicated children.

\* **Tracy Malkison, MSP, CCC-SLP** ♦ Tracy is a Speech-language Pathologist who has worked with children with multiple disabilities, including deaf-blindness for the past 13 years. The majority of her career has been spent working with children who are non-verbal or have limited verbal communication skills. She is the director of the SC Interagency Deaf-Blind Project. In this role she trains teachers, early interventionist, and families on how to develop early communication skills.

\* **Amy May, JD** ♦ Amy is the manager of the Trusts and Estates Team at the law firm of Rogers Townsend & Thomas, PC in Columbia, SC. She focuses her practice in the areas of Estate Planning, Estate Administration, Guardianship and Conservatorship Protective Proceedings, Special and Supplemental Needs Trusts, Medicaid and Medicare Issues, Fiduciary Service and Court Appointments, General Probate Litigation and Real Estate.

\* **Roz McConaughy, MLIS, AHIP** ♦ Roz is Assistant Director for Education and Outreach at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine Library. She coordinates library projects that provide outreach to professionals and consumers, including the CDR Library, the InfoAble Portal, and Go Local-SC. She regularly attends the Gary Pozak radio show, "Health, Wealth, and Happiness," and is co-author of the consumer health book, "Answers to the Questions People Ask in Libraries."

\* **Leslie McKenzie, MSP, CCC-SLP** ♦ Leslie graduated from Clemson University and then received a Masters in Speech-Language Pathology from the University of South Carolina. She previously worked at the Medically Fragile Children's Program and SpeechWorks and is now the director of Team Therapy SC, a family-centered therapy clinic in Columbia, SC.

\* **Harley Morgan, MD** ♦ Dr. Morgan is a Board certified pediatric neurologist, currently practicing at USC, Dept. of Pediatrics, Division of Pediatric Neurology. Prior to joining the faculty at USC, he practiced in Tulsa, OK for 19 years. He is married with two young adult daughters.

\* **Lily Nalty, MA, CCC-SLP** ♦ Lily is a speech-language pathologist who has worked with young children with developmental disabilities for over 20 years. She has evaluated and provided intervention, consultation, and presentations related to children with special needs, particularly warranting inclusion of augmentative-alternative communication strategies and feeding strategies. Lily has worked in homes, schools, university clinics, the S.C. Assistive Technology Project, and the Carolina Autism Resource and Evaluation Center (CARE) team, and presently works primarily with Team for Early Childhood Solutions, a project at the Center for Disability Resources at USC which provides technical assistance to early intervention personnel.

\* **Maggie Ortiz** ♦ Maggie has four children, including 19 yr old twin boys with significant special needs which include developmental and medical issues. She works at Family Connection of South Carolina as the Hispanic Outreach Coordinator.

\* **Carol A. Page, PhD, CCC-SLP, ATP** ♦ Carol is the director of the South Carolina Assistive Technology Program of the USC School of Medicine, Center for Disability Resources. She received her PhD degree in speech-language pathology from the University of South Carolina and her assistive technology practitioner certificate from the Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America.

\* **Mike Paget, MEd (Special Education)** ♦ Mike majored in psychology at the undergraduate level, and has completed a Master's of Education degree, with an emphasis on the education of students with emotional disabilities. His primary professional responsibilities have included teaching in special education classes; directing clinical day program services in multi-school district programs; and training on issues related to behavioral health.

\* **Johanna Pérez** ♦ Johanna is from Greenville S.C. She is the mother of 3 children; the youngest was born with a genetic disorder called trisomy 9. Since her birth Maria has been involved with special needs kids and has focused on helping families with similar conditions. She has worked with Family Connection of SC for over a year and is looking forward to improving support of the Hispanic community.

**Maria Platanis, RN, BSN** ♦ Maria administers and operates the Medically Complex Children's Home and Community Based Waiver. She has been a Pediatric Intensive Care Nurse for over 15 years. She has worked at several of the country's best hospitals such as Texas Children's, CHOP in Philadelphia, and MD Anderson Cancer Center. She is very familiar and comfortable working with children and families with complex needs.

**\* Jeremy Poindexter, JD** ♦ Jeremy is an attorney with Toussaint Law Firm, PC located in South Carolina. Prior to attending law school, Mr. Poindexter worked in politics for approximately 10 years. He has a son, Calvin, who was born in 2006 with Down syndrome.

**\* Katie Poindexter** ♦ Katie is a full-time nursing student at USC-Upstate. Outside of school, she cares for her son Calvin, a lively child with Down syndrome. In her spare time she enjoys hiking with her family and going to the movies.

**\* Mark Posey, PhD** ♦ Dr. Posey worked in all levels of the public schools for 12 years. He is an Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics at the University of South Carolina's School of Medicine (12 years as well). He is the Associate Director of the Developmental Pediatric Clinic and Program Director of the Dunbar ADHD Program. In addition to his clinical work, he conducts numerous workshops a year for parents. He has been married for sixteen years and has four children.

**Cheryl Powell** ♦ Cheryl is the parent of an 18 year old daughter who has Cerebral Palsy. She recently graduated from Richland One and is matriculating at Midlands Technical College.

**Emily Powell, MA** ♦ Emily is a fourth year doctoral student in the School Psychology program at the University of South Carolina. She currently works with the ABC-Special Needs program conducting consultations and trainings for day care centers serving children with special needs. Additionally, she works for the Pediatric infectious disease clinic completing cognitive and developmental evaluations for children with HIV.

**\* Crystal Ray** ♦ Crystal has four children, one with significant special needs which include developmental and medical issues. Crystal works at Family Connection of South Carolina as the Medicaid Managed Care Resource Parent.

**Dana Reed, JD, MAT** ♦ Dana received her law degree from the University of Pennsylvania and her Masters degree in the area of special education from the University of South Carolina. Ms. Reed is currently the Ombudsman for the Office of Exceptional Children (OEC) at the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) where she has served as complaint investigator for two years. As the OEC's Ombudsman, Ms. Reed provides information and consultation to parents, state/local agencies, and advocacy organizations regarding the education of children with disabilities. Her focus is on helping people build relationships, prevent conflict, and resolve disagreements.

**\* Steve & Frieda Ritter** ♦ Steve and Frieda Ritter are proud parents of Elyse, 20, and Adam, 17. Both Steve and Frieda have been active in Family Connection for 20 years. Their involvement has ranged from supporting parents, to speaking to new Pediatric residents, to being active participants in the PEAP program, to serving on the Advisory Council for the South Carolina Department of Education for Children with Special Needs. Steve has served on the Board of Directors for Family Connection and Frieda has assisted countless families with a variety of issues.

**Curtis Rogers, MD** ♦ Curtis has spent over 25 years evaluating children with special needs and helping their families. His special areas of interest are X-linked intellectual disabilities, skeletal dysplasias, and prenatal diagnosis. He is on the board of InDwellings, a Christian ministry to build group homes for adults with intellectual disabilities.

**Jen Rogers, BS (Biology)** ♦ Jen has over fifteen years of professional experience with marine mammal & zoo animal training and horse therapy programs. She has created educational programs for various special needs populations. Since moving to Columbia in 2001 has worked at the Riverbanks Zoo where she started ZooTeens. Jen attended a training program for service dogs and then created PAALS - Palmetto

Animal Assisted Life Services. This program focuses on ways to train animals for the people who need them most and who sometimes have the least resources.

**William F Schmidt, MD, PhD** ♦ Dr. Schmidt received his PhD in 1975 from the Duke University Department of Physiology and Pharmacology and his medical degree from Duke University School of Medicine in 1976. Since 1990, Dr. Schmidt has served as Chairman of the Department of Pediatrics, as well as the Medical Director for Children's Hospital at Greenville Hospital System University Medical Center. Dr. Schmidt is a practicing pediatric hematologist-oncologist.

**Larry Siegel, MD** ♦ Dr Siegel is a Developmental Pediatrician who practiced in Wisconsin for 23 years and in Columbia for 12 years. In Wisconsin he was an advisor to the State Department of Education on the implementation of 99142 (which later became IDEA) and later was involved in the development of the Wisconsin equivalent of baby net. He surveyed rehabilitation facilities for the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities for 11 years. He is on the board of the American Academy of Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine.

**Heather Smith, MRC, LPC** ♦ Heather is a forensic evaluator and psychotherapist at the Assessment and Resource Center (ARC), the Children's Advocacy Center in Columbia, South Carolina. Ms. Smith has worked extensively with children and adolescents in outpatient, inpatient, and group home settings. She trains on evidence-based interventions with maltreated children and forensic interviewing techniques for those in the legal system. She also works closely with the Richland County Multidisciplinary Team and the Sexual Assault Response Team to ensure comprehensive services are provided to children who have been maltreated and their non-offending family members. Ms. Smith is currently conducting a research project regarding the question of competency and truth-telling in young children.

**Mark Solnick, SSP, BCBA, LPES** ♦ Mark has a specialist degree in school psychology, and is finishing his Ph.D. requirements at USC. In addition, he is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst, and a Licensed Psycho-Educational Specialist. For the last 10 years, he has focused on conducting psychological assessments for children with a range of disabilities and developing intervention programs consistent with applied behavioral analysis techniques and positive behavior supports.

**\* Randi St. Denis, BS** ♦ Randi, Director of Home Educators Encouragement Alliance (HEEA) in Georgia, is an educator, popular homeschool speaker, and a seasoned homeschooling mom. Using her degree in Educational Psychology, Randi works as a consultant to public, private, and homeschool families providing teaching expertise and assistance for all types of children. She is a recognized expert in technical aspects of learning that allow every type of child, from special needs to gifted, the opportunity to learn well.

**Angela Sypherrtt, BS** ♦ Angela graduated from Francis Marion University with a B.S. degree in Sociology. She has worked for the Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (DDSN) since 1992 in varying positions from direct care, Clinical Counselor, Service Coordinator, Service Coordination Supervisor. She presently is Director of Service Coordination and Plan Development at the State DDSN Office and currently supervises staff responsible for MR/RD Waiver and Community Supports Waiver policy. She is also responsible for case management/Service Coordination policy for the department which involves all other Waivers governed by DDSN.

**\* Ginny Thompson, MS, CCC-SLP** ♦ Ginny has been a school based clinician, serving children with developmental disabilities and regular education students with speech and language delays. She has received specific training to work with students on the autism spectrum, and students with social cognitive deficits such as Nonverbal Learning Disorder and ADD/ADHD. She presently serves on the Autism Team for Chatham County school system in NC. Ginny participates regularly on IEP teams and is a strong advocate for the students and parents she serves. She is also the parent of a child with Nonverbal Learning Disorder and a child with ADHD, and has a parent's perspective. Ginny is passionate about helping her students learn to navigate their social world.

**Meghan Trowbridge, LMSW, CBIST** ♦ Meghan has worked in the field of disabilities since 1993. Her background includes service coordination, person centered planning, and community development. She has worked with the Supported Community Living Initiative since 2004.

**\* Saritta Vann** ♦ Born and raised in Chile, Saritta is a mother of 2 children (6 and 5 years old) and married for 9 years. She is the mother of a child with autism, loves to paint, and works with exceptional children and their families. Saritta also volunteer at a shelter for victims of domestic violence and is also a funder of "The PJ Project" with daughter Sophia(5) to collect pajamas for nursing homes and shelter around the lowcountry.

**Debbie Wardell, M.Ed, BCBA** ♦ Debbie has over 15 years of experience working with individuals with special needs from birth to adulthood in public and private settings.

**Elizabeth Wilkinson, LMSW** ♦ Elizabeth received her master's degree in social work from the University of South Carolina. She began work with the Developmental Disorder's Program in 2001 where she serves as the Coordinator of Treatment Services. She also serves as the Project Coordinator for The South Carolina Autism Treatment Network through the USC School of Medicine. Elizabeth lives in Northeast Columbia with her husband and two sons, ages 8 and 9, and enjoys maintaining community ties through involvement with Cub Scouts and her local Elementary School SIC council.


**Steve Wilson, MLIS, MA** ♦ Steven has been the Coordinator of the Center for Disability Resources Library for the past four years. In addition to going all over the state promoting the CDR Library, he regularly appears on Gary Poszak's radio show, "Health, Wealth, and Happiness," where he discusses monthly health observances. He also is a co-author of the consumer health book 'Answers to the Health Questions People Ask in Libraries (2008).'

**Beth Wood, MS, OTR/L, HPSC** ♦ Beth is currently the Therapeutic Riding Program Coordinator for the Lander Equestrian Center in Greenwood, SC. She has worked as an occupational therapist with both adults and children with developmental disabilities and special needs for 10 years. After acquiring the hippotherapy clinical specialist certification 6 years ago, she has been using hippotherapy as her primary treatment strategy.

**Frieda Wyatt** ♦ Frieda is a Gang Investigator with the Richland County Sheriff's Department. In this position she is responsible for investigating gang related crimes, maintaining data on known gang members, providing gang intelligence to other divisions of the Sheriff's Department, public speaking, and aggressive criminal enforcement in high crime areas of Richland County

**\* Mitch Yell, PhD** ♦ Dr. Yell is the Fred and Francis Lester Chaired Professor of Teacher Education at the University of South Carolina. He has his Ph.D. in special education from the University of Minnesota. His primary areas of expertise include special education law, developing educationally meaningful and legally sound IEPs, evidence based interventions for children and youth with disabilities, school wide positive behavior support, and progress monitoring, meaningful and legally sound IEPs, evidence based interventions for children and youth with disabilities, school wide positive behavior support, and progress monitoring.

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I give my highest recommendations for this conference and guarantee that you will benefit from attending!