



DISCOVER YOUR PRESENTERS

Georgia Parent
Mentor Partnership
Annual Conference

October 12-14, 2010



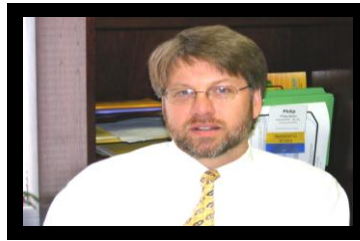
DETAILS ON
“ASK THE EXPERTS”
WILL BE
DISTRIBUTED
AT THE SESSION
WEDNESDAY
AFTERNOON

**EFFECTIVE LEADERS
DISCOVERING A
NEW WORLD IN EDUCATION**

CONFERENCE KEYNOTES

Phillip Mellor

Special Education Director
Henry County School District



OPENING

Phillip Mellor is a 26-year veteran educator working with children and adults with disabilities. For the last 14 years, he has served as a special education administrator. He currently is the Special Education Director in Henry County Public Schools. He is recognized for bringing substantial increases in inclusive environments/co-teaching in three Georgia school systems (Bleckley at 16.4%, Bibb at 27.7%, and Henry at 17.7%) all within two years. His focus is building staff capacity by supporting and empowering staff to become instructional leaders capable of implementing school-based decision making. Mr. Mellor is described as a visionary and system improvement minded individual who is creative and hard working with a committed sense of advocacy. Other accomplishments include serving as president of the Georgia Association of Education Leaders and vice president of the Georgia Council of Administrators of Special Education. He has participated in the GaPMP in Bleckley and Bibb counties and now in Henry County.

Dennis “Chip” Medders Jr. Principal, Manchester High School Meriwether County

LEADERSHIP LUNCHEON



Dennis “Chip” Medders Jr. began his career as a middle school special education teacher in Manchester, Georgia. After teaching for ten years he transitioned to administration. He is currently the principal of Manchester High School where students are one-hundred percent economically disadvantaged.

Mr. Medders gives a lot of credit for this year’s increase in the graduation rate among students with disabilities to the last two-years of work from Manchester’s C.A.F.E. DIALOGUE pilot under GaDOE’s State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG) on decreasing dropout. He and Ginger Henderson, Meriwether’s parent mentor, led the C.A.F.E. Recently, more good news rolled in when the high school made AYP. Mr. Medders received his B.S. in Special Education from Columbus State University and his Ed.S in Educational Leadership from Troy State University. He is a member of Georgia Association of Educational Leaders, Georgia Association of Secondary School Principals, and was the 2008-09 recipient of the Parent to Parent Educational Impact award.

Beverly Rollins, MPA

Executive Director,
Division for Developmental Disabilities
Georgia Department of
Behavioral Health and
Developmental Disabilities



PARTNERSHIP LUNCHEON

Beverly Rollins is the Executive Director of the Division of Developmental Disabilities. She holds a Masters Degree in Public Administration from Keller Graduate School of Management, and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from DeVry University. She has served the citizens of Georgia for more than 18 years in state government. In addition, Ms. Rollins managed the funding and programming for developmental disabilities services through contracts and Medicaid waivers. Ms. Rollins received the 2010 Pioneer award from The National Organization of Black Elected Legislative Women. She also has a number of other community awards and affiliations.

Ms. Rollins is also a Christian Pastor and has been in ministry for 25 years, and is the Executive Director of the Christian Minister's Alliance Institute of Biblical Studies. She has served as Chaplain for the Georgia House of Representatives on two occasions. Residing in Stone Mountain with her husband, Bruce, of 28+ years, they have 3 children and a Miniature Pinscher named Brewzer.

Introduction to the Partnership Keynote:

Nanditha Isaac-(Nandi)

Self Advocate



Nandi Isaacs is a self advocate and business woman, with a lively sense of humor. She excels in dancing and enjoys public speaking at events ranging from Special Olympics to regional and national conferences. She said her current passion is her microenterprise which is helping people save their memories through **"SCAN with NAN."** Nandi loves sports and competes in sailing, equestrian, bocce and bowling competition.

She is a graduate of GA Academy for the Blind and has participated in training with Partners in Policymaking. She has served on the Middle GA ARC Board and is an active participant on the Region 2 DBHDD Quality Improvement Council.

By the way, her mom is Nalini Isaacs, Bibb County Parent Mentor.

Break Out Sessions

DISCOVERY INTO LEADERSHIP COMMUNICATION

Allison Gilmore

CEO - DuMore Improv Company, Director of the Doctoral Program in Business, Goizueta Business School-Emory University

Allison Gilmore, an instructor, trainer, and keynote speaker in spontaneous and intuitive leadership, builds upon her 20 years experience in improvisational comedy with the performing group, Laughing M Gorgeous Ladies of Comedy.

Allison bridges the tools of improvisation with business management skills in order to help people reach their leadership potential. Georgia Power, Turner Broadcasting, CareerBuilder.com, the Junior League of Atlanta, GMAC, Public Relations Society of America, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and Emory University's Goizueta Business School and Candler Seminary are some of Allison's most recent training clients. Allison currently holds leadership roles as the **Director of the Doctoral Program in Business at the Goizueta Business School-Emory University** and as the Chair of Deacons in her local church. She received her degree in theater from the College of Charleston and has trained extensively with improvisational trainers around the country.



Elizabeth Beasle

**Copywriter
Cartoon Network, Turner Broadcasting**

Ms. Beasley is a copywriter for Cartoon Network and has worked at Turner Broadcasting since 1998 in a variety of roles and divisions ranging from Turner Studios, Communications Manager to TBS Interactive Producer. She studied Radio, TV and Motion Pictures at the University of North Carolina, but her real love of entertainment was born from many hours of watching *Hee Haw* and *The Carol Burnett Show*. Elizabeth started taking improv classes at Laughing Matters and Dad's Garage in 2000 and met her fellow Gorgeous Ladies of Comedy shortly afterwards. And, she uses her improv skills every single day at work ---- especially when she has to explain why she took such a long lunch!



Penny Howerton
Special Education Coordinator
Walker County Schools



Penny Howerton has been a teacher for 14 years in both music and special education. She has served in an administrator capacity for the past 15 years and has been in her current role as Special Education Coordinator for Walker County Schools for the last five years.

“I have always loved music and drama and feel that when you interact with people’s emotions, you can make connections that cause experiences to be more memorable,” she explains.

One day she wrote down everything that can go wrong during an IEP. Three pages later she had the ingredients for an interactive learning skit which has been met by rave reviews by many educators in Northwest Georgia. Her cast is made up of fellow Walker County educators, support staff and Michel Jones, Walker’s parent mentor. In addition, **Frank Nesbit, a GaDOE staff member**, will join the team for this interactive and informative look at the art of IEPing!

Ms. Howerton says she is happily married to a “Georgia boy” and they have one son, who is in the 8th grade. We welcome from Walker County:

Walker Team:
LeAnne Tatum
Pam Germain
Tina Carroll



Judi Bailey
Maggie Stultz
Michel Jones

A New GaPMP IEP training PowerPoint will be distributed at this session. The new tool also will be available at the Thumb Drive Download Dock on Thursday. In addition, it will be on the Learning Curve for download.

How did GaPMP systems do on IEP attendance?

Download of the state comparison on IEP also is available at the Thumb Drive Download Dock.

More Presenters

Transition, Response to Intervention, Family Engagement

Ann Cross

Special Education Director, Gordon County Schools

Ann Cross has spent 26 years working in special education, as a teacher, administrator and mentor. Currently, she is the special education director with Gordon County Schools. Ms. Cross led an initiative to ensure every teacher in her district understood differentiated instruction and shared a common language – with families as well. Ms. Cross won several awards for her efforts to include students in the community and assisting them in becoming productive citizens. A national award was given to her for implementing an outdoor classroom and tour of Georgia for students with severe emotional behavioral disorders.

Jean Moorehead

Parent Mentor, Gordon County Schools

Jean Moorehead has a history of helping to promote successful transition programs, challenge leagues and helping parents understand their child’s disability. She is currently the Parent Mentor with Gordon County Schools. She has been described as “having a magical way of defusing a situation to make it a win/win situation for children.”

Alecia Segursky

Assistant Director of ESS, Gordon County Schools

Alecia Segursky describes herself as a special educator, administrator and mom. Currently, she serves as the assistant director of Exceptional Student Services with Gordon County Schools. She has extensive experience teaching students with severe disabilities and is a recognized leader by the GaDOE for exemplary work on compliance transition and IEPs.



GaDOE Staff Presenters / Expertise

Julia Causey, Program Manager, GaDOE
*Professional Learning and State Personnel
Development Grant (SPDG)*
(Transition Panel Workshop/ Ask the Experts)

Ginny O’Connell, Program Manager, GaDOE
(Positive Behavior Instructional Supports (PBIS)
Pre-Session/ Ask the Experts)



Michelle Tarbutton, Program Manager, GaDOE
Parent Involvement, Title I
(Parent Involvement Resource Workshop/ Ask the Experts)

Kayce Harshaw, Specialist, GaDOE
Georgia Alternative Assessment, Moderate to Severe Disabilities
(Ask the Experts)

Lu Nations Miller, Specialist, GaDOE
Late Transition, Graduation
(Workshop: Transition Panel Facilitator/Ask the Experts)

Elise Lynch, Specialist, GaDOE
School Therapy, APR/SPP, C.A.F.E.s
(Mini C.A.F.E. Pre-session Leaders, Ask the Experts)

Alice Murphy, Specialist, GaDOE
Autism Spectrum, (Ask the Experts)

Frank Nesbit, Specialist, GaDOE
Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Dispute Resolution
(Breakout IEP Session, Ask the Experts)

Lekieta Servance, Specialist, GaDOE
Parent Involvement, Title I,
(Parent Involvement Title I Workshop/ Ask the Experts)

Patti Solomon, Specialist, GaDOE, Conference Chair
Family Engagement, Parent Mentors, Parent Survey, C.A.F.E.s
(Mini-C.A.F.E. Pre-Session/ Conference Opening)

Kachell White, Specialist, GaDOE
Georgia Learning Resource Centers
(Ask the Experts)

Lynne Williams, GaDOE Consultant, GaPMP Data Planning, GaPMP Planning Data Sessions during Ask the Expert/ Individual Team sessions on Thursday)

Ms. Williams coordinated the activities of the Georgia Learning Resources Network (GLRS) prior to her retirement from the GaDOE in the fall of 2009. She was a teacher and administrator in public and private schools serving children who are deaf before coming to the state department in 1995.



Debbie Currere, Projects, Conference Co-Chair
Family Outreach Coach, GaPMP, SPDG C.A.F.E.s
(Pre-session C.A.F.E./Leadership Lunch)

More Presenters on Board

Parent Mentor Breakfast Speaker
Dana McCrary, Family Liaison, DBHDD
A DeKalb parent making a difference!



Self Led IEPs Pre-Session/Transition Panel

Cindy Saylor and Colleen Lambert are program coordinators for “Partnerships for Success,” a grant program funded through the *Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities*, and successfully piloted by the Hall County School System. Program components include: Self-Determination classroom curriculum, how to create an active IEP partnership, facilitation of Futures Plans for students, and formation of inclusive school clubs. Most recently they are partnering with the SPDG ASPIRE initiative.

Ms. Lambert is involved with the Georgia Statewide Initiative for Project Search, the Georgia Asset Alliance, and the publication of Hall L.I.F.E., a status report on the welfare of children in the community. Ms. Saylor is on the Region 2 Mental Health Planning Board and served as the chairperson for the Brain Injury Action Team. She has been a member of the Traumatic Injury Advisory Board for the Georgia Brain & Spinal Injury Trust Fund, since her brother suffered in 1996 a traumatic brain injury in an automobile accident. Both are on the Statewide Transition Council.

Mini C.A.F.E. DIALOGUES, Pre-session/ Transition Panel

Parent Mentors **Wausheka McClary**, Elbert County, **Ginger Henderson**, Meriwether County and **Nalini Isaac**, Bibb County **Kevin Hunt**, Elbert Graduation Team Leader.

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR EXPERTS!