**Breakout Sessions**

**Thursday, September 15, 2016**

**Breakout Session I**

**8:30 am - 9:30 am**

**Understanding How Medicaid Supports Children with Special Healthcare Needs**

Presenter: Joe Sarra, Georgia Advocacy Office

Georgia’s Medicaid program offers a robust menu of medically-necessary services for children under age 21 who are Medicaid eligible. Professionals will learn how to support families to access Medicaid’s federally mandated programs for children (EPSDT: Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment) in order to obtain services as prescribed by the child’s treating physicians.

**Move On When Ready-- Hard To Believe, But It Is Really True!**

Presenter:Gary Mealer, GaDOE

This presentation will cover all the general information of MOWR for high school students. Participants will learn the advantages of participation in the program as well as the student expectations and responsibilities, and the financial costs are paid for by the program. The most common questions that have surfaced and some statistics that have been collected the first year will be reviewed.

**Parent Pointers—What Parents Should Know about Assistive Technology**

Presenter: Paula Gumpman, Program Specialist, GaDOE

Every child’s IEP team is required to consider the need for assistive technology. This presentation will share some questions that families and educators might ask during the initial eligibility meeting and/or the annual IEP meeting about assistive technology.

**IEP/Literacy Training for Parents of Elementary-aged Students**

Presenters: Dawn Albanese & Jackie McNair, Gwinnett County Parent Mentors

IEP 101/Parent role as a team member in planning and the importance of teaching literacy to children.

**Google docs - Forms and Surveys and RSVPs, oh my! (Repeated in session II)**

Presenters: Allison Stevenson, Fayette County Parent Mentor & Cyndi White, Barrow County Parent Mentor

This interactive session will teach you how to use Google Docs forms for workshop registration, parent surveys and more. We have been using Google forms for many years now in the GaPMP. You will learn how to create them plus many extras that will make communication with parents much easier. A laptop or tablet and a Gmail account is needed for the session.

**Breakout Session II**

**9:40 am – 10:40 am**

**Medicaid Waivers for Children and Young Adults Who Experience Special Healthcare Needs**

Presenter: Joe Sarra, Georgia Advocacy Office

Georgia offers various Medicaid waiver programs to ensure children and young adults who experience a Special Healthcare Need have access to home and community based services so they remain at home with their families and avoid the risk of institutionalization.

**Effective Transition Practices** (repeated in session V)

Presenter:Wina Low, Transition Specialist, Georgia Department of Education

Effective transition practices are essential in supporting students with disabilities to achieve post-secondary goals.  Intentional transition planning must begin well before the formal transition plan is required.  This session will focus on transition best practices and provide an update on current initiatives and partnerships.  The session will also allow time for collegial sharing.

1. Participants will understand current initiatives and focus of the State Transition Planning Team.
2. Participants will discuss compliance as compared to best practice for transition.
3. Participants will have an opportunity to share effective transition practices collegially.

**Compensatory Learning Strategies**

Presenter: Tom Connelly, Ga Department of Labor

The subject of this presentation is brain injury and compensatory learning strategies. In this session, Tom will describe and illustrate the strategies he uses to learn information such as names, numbers, definitions, descriptions, lists and more. He will also describe the procedure he used to attain sterling test scores and success in life after a TBI.

**Parent Engagement to Leadership: Enhancing Your Skills**

Presenters: Edith Abakare, Atlanta Public Schools &Rose Callaway, Parent to Parent of Georgia

Come and experience your own personal journey from involvement to leadership. This hands on workshop leads you to discovery of where you are in the social ecological model (interpersonal, intrapersonal, organizational, community and policy) of leadership. You will use self-discovery tools such as eco-grams, Geno-grams other interactive tools that will enlighten you on your strengths and weaknesses as you gain what is needed to move to the next level. It will empower you to empower your parents, administrators and others who are so valuable in the collective impact of student success.

**Google docs - Forms and surveys and RSVPs, oh my!** (Repeat)

Presenters: Allison Stevenson, Fayette County Parent Mentor & Cyndi White, Barrow County Parent Mentor (repeat)

This interactive session will teach you how to use Google Docs forms for workshop registration, parent surveys and more. We have been using Google forms for many years now in the GaPMP. You will learn how to create them plus many extras that will make communication with parents much easier. A laptop or tablet and a Gmail account is needed for the session.

**Breakout Session III**

**10:50 – 11:50 am**

**Warm Springs: Transitioning after High School**

Presenter: Scott Buckner, Warm Springs Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Roosevelt Academy provides students an individualized program of study to increase skills and independence in activities of daily living and development of interpersonal skills and self-determination. Transition from high school can be a challenging experience for any student, but particularly for those with disability. Roosevelt Academy provides students opportunities to participate in classroom studies, live in the dorm and experience campus life activities. In addition to classroom instruction, students have the opportunity to participate in co-operative learning experiences in a variety of settings, including campus work sites, internships, on-the-job training, and volunteer work. This “hands-on” training strengthens the knowledge attained within the classroom and allows the students to apply newly acquired skills in real work environments.

**Move On When Ready-- Hard To Believe, But It Is Really True!**

Presenter:Gary Mealer, GaDOE

This presentation will cover all the general information of MOWR for high school students. Participants will learn the advantages of participation in the program as well as the student expectations and responsibilities, and the financial costs are paid for by the program. The most common questions that have surfaced and some statistics that have been collected the first year will be reviewed.

**Introduction to Accessible Educational Materials (AIMs) and the Georgia Instructional Materials Center (GIMC)**

Presenter: Carson Cochran, Georgia Instructional Materials Center, GaDOE

Accessible educational materials are considered, braille, large print, auditory, and digital representations of text. Students without access to educational materials are likely to underperform and fall behind their counter parts. Georgia students have access to resources through the Georgia Instructional Materials

Center (GIMC) but many IEP teams struggle with the decision process in recommending accessible materials and how to use them. This presentation will define AEMs, introduce a decision making tool, and ways to acquire AEMs in the classroom.

**What Did You Say?**

Presenter:Renee Davis, Douglas County Parent Mentor

Effective communication is the bridge that helps you deepen your connection to others. Join this discussion of the **how**, **when**, **where**, **who**, **what**, **why** of effective communication.

**Let's give them something to talk about! Survey Says....**

Presenter: JoEllen Hancock, Cherokee County Parent Mentor

Parent Satisfaction Surveys: Are we listening to the results? In this presentation, you will be given practical suggestions on how to increase your parent satisfaction for your district which is measured through the DOE Parent Satisfaction Annual Surveys. In this session we will explore approaching this from both the parent and educator perspectives to increase parent communication in order to build stronger relationships with families.

**Breakout Session IV**

**2:00 pm – 3:00 pm**

*Featured Session*

**Waddie Welcome & the Beloved Community** (repeated in session V)

Presenter: Tom Kohler, Savannah Citizen Advocacy

*Waddie Welcome & the Beloved Community* tells the story of friendships that transcended divisions of disability, race, and income and created powerful new possibilities in a whole community. Born on the 4th of July, 1914 in Savannah, GA with a disability and placed in a nursing home far from his community, Waddie Welcome was an unlikely public figure. His deep desire for freedom drew many friends into his life in ways that not only liberated him from institutionalization but realized Dr. King’s vision of the Beloved Community.

**Warm Springs: Transitioning after High School** (repeat)

Presenter: Scott Buckner, Warm Springs Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Roosevelt Academy provides students an individualized program of study to increase skills and independence in activities of daily living and development of interpersonal skills and self-determination. Transition from high school can be a challenging experience for any student, but particularly for those with disability. Roosevelt Academy provides students opportunities to participate in classroom studies, live in the dorm and experience campus life activities. In addition to classroom instruction, students have the opportunity to participate in co-operative learning experiences in a variety of settings, including campus work sites, internships, on-the-job training, and volunteer work. This “hands-on” training strengthens the knowledge attained within the classroom and allows the students to apply newly acquired skills in real work environments.

**The Art of Family Support**

Presenter: Lynnette Bragg, B & B Services

Come learn how B & B Care Services, Inc., through Family Support Services, can assist families with children diagnosed with DD/Autism. Family Support is intended to enhance the family's ability to meet the needs of the individual and assist the family in participating in recreational and social activities. Creative use of family supports can improve the quality of life for the individual with DD/ID as well as make a positive difference in the lives of the family.

**What do you mean?**

Presenter: Patti Grayson, Fulton County Parent Mentor

As Justin Bieber sings in his song of the same title, “Don't know if you're happy or complaining,” teachers and parents often misunderstand each other. In this session we will focus on the book, *Working with Challenging Parents of Students with Special Needs*, by Jean Chang Gorman. The focus will be on tools and strategies teachers can use to better communicate and work collaboratively with parents of students with disabilities.

**Planning for Special Needs: The ABLE Act and Special Needs Trusts**

Presenter: Michael Smith, Smith Baird LLC

HB 768, Georgia's Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act, was passed by the Georgia General Assembly this session and signed into law by Governor Deal on May 3, 2016. The primary purpose of an ABLE account is to allow people with serious disabilities to save for qualified disability expenses without violating the $2,000 asset limits that apply to eligibility for Medicaid, SSI (Supplemental Security Income) and other benefits programs. This session will be a discussion of the ABLE Act, the value of ABLE Act accounts for special needs individuals, special needs trusts and why we still need both.

**Breakout Session V**

**3:10 pm – 4:10 pm**

*Featured Session*

**Waddie Welcome & the Beloved Community** (repeat)

Presenter: Tom Kohler, Savannah Citizen Advocacy

*Waddie Welcome & the Beloved Community* tells the story of friendships that transcended divisions of disability, race, and income & created powerful new possibilities in a whole community. Born on the 4th of July, 1914 in Savannah, GA with a disability and placed in a nursing home far from his community, Waddie Welcome was an unlikely public figure. His deep desire for freedom drew many friends into his life in ways that not only liberated him from institutionalization but realized Dr. King’s vision of the Beloved Community.

**Effective Transition Practices** (repeat)

Presenter:Wina Low, Georgia Department of Education

Effective transition practices are essential in supporting students with disabilities to achieve post-secondary goals.  Intentional transition planning must begin well before the formal transition plan is required.  This session will focus on transition best practices and provide an update on current initiatives and partnerships.  The session will also allow time for collegial sharing.

1. Participants will understand current initiatives and focus of the State Transition Planning Team.
2. Participants will discuss compliance as compared to best practice for transition.
3. Participants will have an opportunity to share effective transition practices collegially.

**P2P and Me**

Presenter: Mitzi Profitt, Parent to Parent of Ga.

Parent to Parent of Georgia is Georgia’s Parent Training and Information (PTI) agency. This presentation is an overview of who P2P is and the core services that they offer.

**Creating Bright Futures Using ASPIRE and Futures Planning**

Presenters: Scott Crain, Hall County Parent Mentor; Laura Stephens, Project Search Instructor; Adriana Becerra, Will Crain & Gabby Soto, Hall County Students

This session will show how using ASPIRE and futures planning, the PATH method, can help create great school experiences and unbelievably bright futures for our students. Please join us as we hear from Scott Crain, Parent Mentor Hall County Schools, Laura Stephens, and Project Search Instructor along with student Will Crain and former students Adriana Becerra and Gabby Soto. They will share their experiences using ASPIRE and PATH to pave the way for future outlooks of amazing proportions.

**Emergency Preparedness Coalition**

Presenters: Sitara Nayak & Jeannette David, Emergency Preparedness Coalition

When tornado warnings or hurricane evacuation orders are issued it's too late to plan for a disaster. A little preparation beforehand makes a big difference during an emergency. This workshop will provide you with tools that you can share with families of children with disabilities and/or special healthcare needs. These tools include both hi and low tech options such as developing an online disaster plan, creating check lists, putting together an emergency bag by using items that are readily available in your home, etc. Using these tips and resources families will be able to develop their own individualized disaster plan that meet their specialized needs.

**Friday, September 16, 2016**

**Breakout Session VI & VII**

**8:00 am - 8:50 am &**

**9:00 am - 9:50 am**

**Crossing the Bridge Together** *Required*

Presenters: Kim Hartsell, Project Evaluator; Anne Ladd, Family Engagement Specialist; April Lee, E2P Coach; Cynthia Criss, Data Coach; Ann Cross, Loranda Holmes, and Charity Roberts, GaPMP Advisors

Through collaboration while planning, implementing, and evaluating meaningful family and stakeholder engagement, GaPMP districts are addressing the technical and adaptive challenges so that more students are reaching their academic and personal goals. In this session, we will discuss the importance of collecting data and how districts can meet accountability expectations of the GaPMP in FY17.

**Discipline with Love and Logic**

Presenter: Donna Ann Flaherty, Program Specialist, GaDOE

This presentation provides three Love and Logic strategies. These strategies will assist parents/teachers in addressing minor disruptions that sometimes grow into time-consuming problems. Participants will be able to immediately implement these easy-to-use strategies that help build positive relationships and a positive climate.

**Self-Determination for Students with Disabilities: A Critical Component for Independence, Employment, College and Career**

Presenter: Elise James, Program Specialist, GaDOE

This presentation will discuss the importance of building self-determination skills for students with disabilities. Self-determination is a combination of skills, knowledge, and beliefs that enable a person to engage in goal-directed, self-regulated, autonomous behavior. Self-determined individuals have greater ability to take control of their lives and assume the role of successful adults. Research will be provided on the value of this practice as well as the variety of programs and curriculums that are available. The presenter will discuss the state’s student-led IEP initiative, ASPIRE, and its impact in Georgia.

**Overview: Certified Peer Specialist – Parent**

Presenter: Cheryl Benefield, Family and Community Engagement Specialist, Project AWARE, GaDOE

The Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities and consumer leadership have worked collaboratively over the past 16 years to build a lived experience workforce supporting recovery for individuals living with a mental illness diagnosis and/or with a substance use disorder. This lived experience workforce of Certified Peer Specialists for mental health and addiction has not only changed thousands of lives, it has impacted the culture of the behavioral health system, infusing respect, recovery, wellness and empowerment throughout the system. The DBHDD is now invested in expanding this highly valued workforce to include parents of youth living with Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED), Substance Use Disorder or Co-Occurring BH Disorders. The goal is to similarly impact the youth-serving systems by supporting family journeys to recovery and wellness.