**Breakout Sessions**

**Thursday, September 28, 2017**

**Breakout Session A**

**9:30 am - 10:30 am**

**Path to Microenterprise**

**Room: 100**

**Presenter: Luke Jeffers, former SCCSPS student; Karen Anderson, mom; Tom Kenkel, Owner of Kenkel Designs; Jennifer Atkinson, Supported Employment Manager, Progressive Abilities Support Services (PASS); Helen Sanders, Transition Specialist, Savannah Chatham County Public Schools**

A former Savannah Chatham County Public Schools student shares his idea for building a small business based on his interest and talent.  He hopes his training and volunteer work will become a micro- business.  Please join us for a look at how he came to volunteer and find a mentor to help him develop his passions.  (A microenterprise is a small business with a small number of employees and a small amount of capital and provides goods and services to a local area.)

**Being Trauma Informed- An Obligation to Our Children**

**Room: 111**

**Presenter: Kimberly Hodges, South Metro GNETS/K. Hodges Consulting, LLC**

Childhood trauma knows no gender, racial, cultural or socio-economic barriers. It enters our homes, schools and communities to wreak havoc in the lives of our youth. The devastation has reached epic proportions in the United States. Despite this grim reality, there is hope. As parents and adults in the lives of children, we can combat childhood trauma by helping to build resilience. Please join Kimberly Hodges to find out how.

**Cultural Competency**

**Room: 113**

**Presenter: James Butler, Lamar County**

Many of us have an understanding of cultural awareness as it relates to people from diverse ethnic backgrounds but do we acknowledge disability as a cultural difference? This session is participatory and will involve activities promoting cultural awareness relative to families and individuals managing the challenges associated with a disability. The areas of focus may include family support, advocacy, leadership, and cultural perceptions.

**Engaging Parents in Educational Records (Repeated in session B)**

**Room: 129**

**Presenter: Hubert Bennett, GaDOE**

The Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) is the GaDOE’s new application to engage parents in their child(ren)’s educational records. Parents now have access to up to 11 years of historical data via the SLDS Parent Portal. In addition to academic records, parents have access to digital resources that are utilized around the state.

**Breakout Session B**

**10:45 am – 11:45 am**

**How to Build a Champion!**

**Room: 100**

**Presenters: Brian Hussey, Low Country Down Syndrome Society; Nick (champion) and Charles (father) Brown; Jerri Hendrix, Transition Teacher/Project Search; Heather Wolfe, CCDS case manager**

Continuing with last year's presentation on *Night of Champions (NOC)*, this session will present how one student's path through school, Project Search and employment culminated with recognition as a Champion during the annual *Night of Champions!*  Low Country Down Syndrome Society's Brian Hussey will offer his top 10 secrets for replicating an event like *NOC* in other communities. Also, information about the 2018 *NOC* will be provided for parent mentors who are interested in attending this event and seeing first-hand the successes celebrated. This is an example of community collaboration at its best.

**A Conversation with Lauri Tuten Special Session**

**Room: 111**

**Presenter: Lauri Tuten, Transition Director, GVRA**

Parent mentors who have completed the GVRA 101 Learning module are invited to attend this special session. Participants will have an opportunity to meet with Lauri Tuten, Director of Transition for Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency (GVRA).  This unique opportunity allows Parent Mentors to discuss initiatives of GVRA and to gain a better understanding of services available for students and their families.  Learn more about the changes with WIOA, Warm Springs, support for inclusive post-secondary programs as well as the new career specialist pilot program.

**Discipline with Love and Logic**

**Room: 113**

**Presenter: Donna Ann Flaherty, Program Specialist, GaDOE**

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

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**Breakout Session C**

**2:00 – 3:00 pm**

**Resolving Dispute Resolution**

**Room: 100**

**Presenter: Jamila Pollard, J.D. Program Manager Senior/Legal Officer, GaDOE**

In this session, participants will explore and gain an understanding of the different types of special education dispute resolution processes and practices, including IEP facilitation, mediation, formal written complaints, and due process hearing requests. The participants will also learn, through real-world scenarios, how to assist parents in resolving special education disputes.

**From Where I Sit**

**Room: 111**

**Presenters: Dr. Mary Kay Berry, Special Ed Director; Jane Grillo, Parent Mentor; & Jennifer Johnson, Teacher & Parent, White County Schools**

In this presentation a professional development tool will be provided for administrators and parent mentors to use to further develop an understanding of IEP meetings from both the parent perspective and the school perspective.

**Students for LIFE**

**Room: 113**

**Presenter: Sandra Bath, Youth Transition Coordinator, LIFE, Inc.**

Students for LIFE is a transition program offered to students aged 14 through 21 who have disabilities. The lessons focus on the skills necessary for navigating successfully from their Individual Education Plans to post-secondary life. LIFE has both in-school and summer programs.

**Successful Partnerships: Assisting Students with Disabilities to Successfully Transition to College and Careers**

**Room: 129**

**Presenter: Carmen Cates, Georgia High School High Tech Outreach and Program Development Coordinator**

This session will focus on services provided by the Georgia High School High Tech (HSHT) program for high school students with disabilities. Information about why these transition services are critical to students with disabilities will be provided, along with the program goals and successes of assisting schools with: reducing the dropout rate, empowering students to enter technological careers, and facilitating a successful transition to post-secondary education and gainful employment.

**Breakout Session D**

**3:15 pm – 4:15 pm**

**Recognizing & Reducing Parent/Caregiver Exhaustion**

**Room: 100**

**Presenter: Jackie McNair & Dawn Albanese, Parent Mentors, Gwinnett County Public Schools**

As a caregiver of an individual who requires constant attention, it can be difficult for the caregiver to receive proper care. In this session, participants will learn how to recognize when they are becoming overwhelmed and find solutions to prevent getting exhausted and ineffective.

**Engaging Families in Self-Determination**

**Room: 111**

**Presenter: Elise James, Program Specialist, GaDOE**

Self-determination has become an important topic in schools around the country. However, family involvement is an important variable affecting the development and expression of self-determination in children with disabilities. This session will present information and research on the role of the family in the self-determination process. Strategies to promote and support family engagement in self-determination instruction at home will be discussed.

**What Every Parent Should Know About FBA**

**Room: 113**

**Presenter: Stephanie Hadaway, Behavior Specialist, Bartow County Schools**

Behavior challenges at school are often difficult and the process for resolving them can be confusing. Parents need to be able to engage in an informed discussion of the process, including the functional behavior assessment. The functional behavior assessment or FBA for short is a critical point before writing a behavior intervention plan. This session will break down the FBA process into manageable and understandable steps.

**P2P and Me**

**Room: 129**

**Presenter: Rose Calloway, Parent to Parent of Ga**.

Parent to Parent of Georgia is Georgia’s Parent Training and Information (PTI) agency. This presentation

**Friday, September 29, 2017**

**Breakout Session E**

**8:30 am – 9:15 am**

**Georgia’s System for Family and Community Engagement** (repeated in session F)

**Room: 100**

**Presenters: Amy Song, Program Manager, GaDOE**

What’s the state’s approach to improving family and community engagement in schools? Learn about the Family and Community Engagement System of Georgia’s Systems of Continuous Improvement. This session will provide a brief overview of the six structures of the Family and Community Engagement System and an interactive activity to share ideas among participants.

**Reading Writing AT Tools Smackdown**

**Room: 111**

**Presenter: Carson Cochran, Program Manager, GaDOE**

Come share your experiences and learn from others about the apps and software that provide access to students in reading and writing. The session will start with an overview of the annual consideration of AT for students and some presenter examples of apps and software that some students are using to access their curriculum. Be sure to come prepared to share what you have in your toolbox for examples you use when supporting families.

**Authentic Stakeholder Engagement**

**Room: 113**

**Presenters: April Lee, Family Engagement Coach & Tracy Barber, C.A.F.E. Community Engagement Coach**

Utilize the evidence-based framework and tools of *Leading by Convening* to meaningfully engage stakeholders to make positive impacts on student achievement. Breaking down the technical and adaptive solutions for effective partnerships in your school districts that will lead to the successes everyone wants to be a part of.

**Breakout Session F**

**9:25 am - 10:00 am**

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**Room: 100**

**Presenters: Amy Song, Program Manager, GaDOE**

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**Deciding if Read-Aloud Accommodations are the Right Choice**

**Room: 111**

**Presenter: Carson Cochran, Program Manager, GaDOE**

Read aloud accommodations can aid some students to access the grade-level curriculum. However, in certain instances read aloud accommodations could interfere with comprehension. Additionally, the overuse of reading accommodations can negatively impact independence. This session will provide resources to assist your work with parents who are unsure what read aloud accommodations are and how they should be used.

**Super Couper**

**Room: 113**

**Presenters: Griffin Couper, Student & Paige Couper, Mom; Allyn Case, Teacher/Coach, Jenkins High School**

Griffin's skills in running earns him a place on the Jenkins High School track team; his first opportunity ever to be included on a team! He will share his experience with inclusion in athletics.