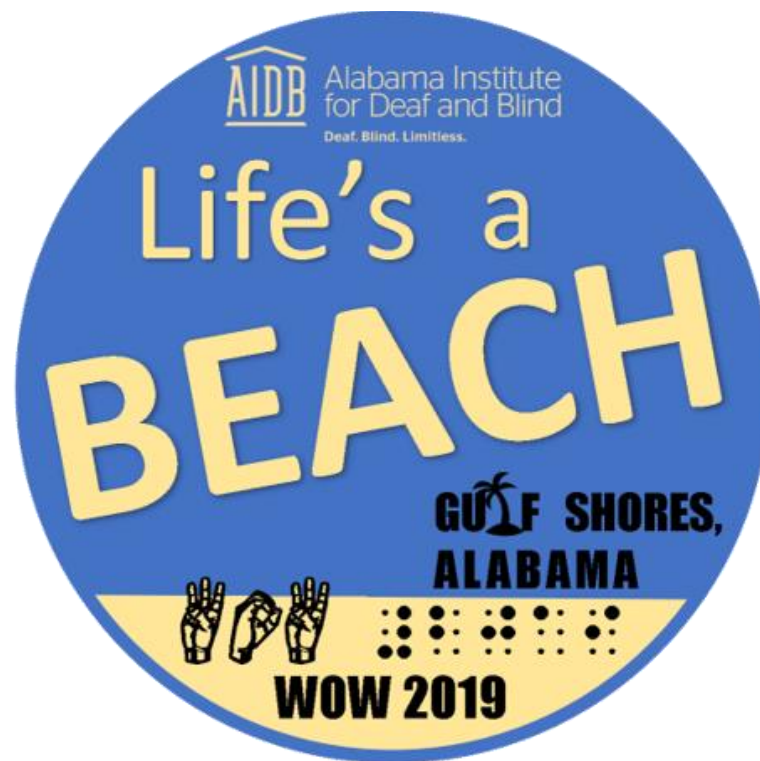


WOW 2019

Waves of Opportunity Workshop
Life's a Beach

August 15, 2019 – August 18, 2019

**THE LODGE AT GULF STATE PARK,
GULF SHORES, AL**



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday, August 15, 2019

Time	Activity
Based on Location	Depart from Regional Centers
4:00 PM	Check-In The Lodge at Gulf State Park
5:00 PM	Welcome & Overview Ballroom III & IV
5:30 PM	Orientation and Mobility of Premises
6:30 PM	Poolside Pizza Mixer
7:30 PM	BINGO / Table Games Sponsored by AIDB Huntsville Regional Center

Friday, August 16, 2019

Time	Session A	Session B	Session 3
8:00 AM	Breakfast and Learn Dr. John Mascia Ballroom III & IV		
9:00 AM	Zumba Nancy Hayes Dunes Terrance	Karate Wheeles Karate Dogwood	Accessible Artworks Nancy Raia & Amy Hess Live Oak III
9:45 AM	BREAK		
10:00 AM	Legislative Update Dr. Graham Sisson Live Oak I	STEMfinite Possibilities Jason Martin & Bill Adams Live Oak II	Beating the Blues Together Kim Thornsberry & Jag Dawadi Live Oak III
10:45 AM	BREAK		
11:00 AM	Lunch and Learn - Office of Institutional Advancement Elizabeth Ponder Ballroom III & IV		
1:00 PM	Leaders at all Levels - National Industries for the Blind Kathleen Gallagher Live Oak I	Cyber Security Jason Martin & Bill	Transference of Skills Into the Workplace

Time	Session A	Session B	Session 3
		Adams Live Oak II	Dr. Linda Fugate Live Oak III
1:45 PM	BREAK		
2:00 PM	Partnering with Business Relations, ADRS Anna Taylor Live Oak I	Beach O&M Bill Adams Boardwalk Entrance	Accessible Art Nancy Raia & Amy Hess Live Oak III
3:00 PM	Off-Site Activities		
5:00 PM	Buses depart for Gulf Shores Middle School		
6:00 PM	Dinner & Learn – Structured Discovery / Limitless Lecture Gulf Shores Middle School		
7:00 PM	Talent Show Gulf Shores Middle School		

Saturday, August 17, 2019

Time	Session A	Session B	Session 3
8:00 AM	Breakfast and Learn - Life is a Beach, How to Have a Mini-Vacation Every Day Estella Beavers Ballroom III & IV		
9:00 AM	Zumba Nancy Hayes Live Oak I	Karate Wheeles Karate Live Oak II	Beach O&M Bill Adams Boardwalk Entrance
9:45 AM	BREAK		
10:00 AM	The Benefits of Vocational Rehabilitation Melissa Nored Live Oak I	The Disabled Caregiver Michael Duell Live Oak II	Foundation Fighting Blindness Michelle Glaze Live Oak III
10:45 AM	BREAK		
11:00 AM	Lunch and Learn, Self- Advocacy Michael Deuel & Issac		

Time	Session A	Session B	Session 3
	Beavers Ballroom III & IV		
1:00 PM	Leaders at All Levels - National Industries for the Blind Kathleen Gallagher Live Oak I	Self-Advocacy - Deaf & Hard of Hearing Michael Deuel Live Oak II	Self-Advocacy - Blind & Visually Impaired Issac Beavers Live Oak III
1:45 PM	BREAK		
2:00 PM	Leaders at All Levels - National Industries for the Blind Kathleen Gallagher Live Oak I	Online Dating Tamara Kidd Live Oak II	Living with Diabetes Tamara Little, Noel Miller, & Constance Hughes Live Oak III
3:00 PM	Off-Site Activities		
5:00 PM	Board Buses to Depart for Outing		
6:00 PM	Off-Site Excursion at the Wharf		

Sunday, August 18, 2019

Time	Activity
8:00 AM	Breakfast and Learn
10:00 AM	Check-Out The Lodge at Gulf State Park
1:00 PM	Lunch in Greenville, AL
Based on Location	Arrive at Regional Center



SESSION INFORMATION

ACCESSIBLE ARTWORKS

Nancy Raia & Amy Hess

Friday Morning at 9:00 AM – Live Oak III

Friday Afternoon at 2:00 PM – Live Oak III

Methods that work with Artists with Low Vision! Go tactile when possible.

BEACH O&M

Bill Adams

Friday, Afternoon at 2:00 PM – Meet at Boardwalk Entrance

Saturday, Morning at 9:00 AM – Meet at Boardwalk Entrance

Walking around the beach can be fun, it can be relaxing, but it can also be nerve-racking for someone with low vision or who is blind. How do you know where you are supposed to go, how do you get back? Learn some tips and tricks about moving around safely. Try out the newest tech for safe travel. AND most importantly dip your toes in the Gulf of Mexico!

BEATING THE BLUES TOGETHER

Kim Thornsberry & Jag Dawadi

Friday, Morning at 10:00 AM – Live Oak III

Participants will learn the meaning of Blues, its causes, how it feels like, and eventually how to beat it using effective coping strategies. Participants will be informed of professional services available from

Office of Deaf Services Regional Therapists across Alabama and how to access them.

BREAKFAST AND LEARN, AIDB DEAF. BLIND. LIMITLESS.

Dr. John Mascia

Friday, Morning at 8:00 AM – Ballroom III & IV

Learn about AIDB and how we all are Deaf. Blind. Limitless.

BREAKFAST AND LEARN - LIFE IS A BEACH, HOW TO HAVE A MINI-VACATION EVERY DAY

Estella Beavers

Saturday, Morning at 8:00 AM – Ballroom III & IV

Life can be stressful. Vacation getaways is a great way to get a break. However it seems as soon as vacation is over we go right back to the stress. Stress will always be present, but it doesn't have to over take us. Prolonged stress can lead to physical, mental, emotional and spiritual burnout. I will show you techniques to help manage that stress and have mini vacations in your everyday life.

CYBER SECURITY

Jason Martin & Bill Adams

Friday, Afternoon at 1:00 PM – Live Oak II

Cyber security: Cyberattacks are everywhere and you need to be prepared! Learn to identify various types of cyber threats and how to avoid them. Delve into the dangers of social engineering and social media. Find new ways to create strong and powerful passwords.

FOUNDATION FIGHTING BLINDNESS

Michelle Glaze

Saturday, Morning at 10:00 AM – Live Oak III

KARATE

Wheeles Karate

Friday, Morning at 9:00 AM – Dogwood

Saturday, Morning at 9:00 AM – Live Oak II

LEADERS AT ALL LEVELS

Kathleen Gallagher

Friday, Afternoon 1:00 PM – Live Oak I

Saturday, Afternoon 1:00 PM – Live Oak I

Saturday, Afternoon 2:00 PM – Live Oak I

We all are on teams. A team is a group of people pulled together to accomplish a common purpose. In this session we will look at what skills you need to be an effective team player. We all experience change. It is inevitable that we will have change in our lives. As human beings we have the tendency to resist change. In this session we will look at ways to minimize our resistance to change and the benefit of dealing with change in a more positive way. We all day interacting with other people. How we communicate will determine the outcome of our interaction. In this session we will learn skills needed for non-defensive communication.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Dr. Graham Sisson

Friday, Morning at 10:00 AM Live Oak I

This interactive session will provide information on the nuts and bolts of legislative advocacy. It will also provide a brief description of significant laws and bills that have recently passed in the Alabama legislature as well as information on federal legislation and bills that impact individuals with disabilities.

LIVING WITH DIABETES

Tamara Little, Noel Miller, & Constance Hughes

Saturday, Afternoon at 2:00 PM – Live Oak III

A panel discussion on how to manage diabetes

LUNCH AND LEARN - OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT

Elizabeth Ponder

Friday, Morning at 11:00 PM – Ballroom III & IV

LUNCH AND LEARN, SELF ADVOCACY

Michael Deuel & Issac Beavers

Saturday, Morning at 11:00 PM – Ballroom III & IV

Learn to be your own advocate.

ONLINE DATING

Tamara Kidd

Saturday, Afternoon at 2:00 PM – Live Oak II

Learn how to stay safe, and learn its value to you

PARTNERING WITH BUSINESS RELATIONS, ADRS

Anna Taylor

Friday, Afternoon at 2:00 PM – Live Oak I

Learn what the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services, Business Relations can do for you.

SELF ADVOCACY - BLIND & VISUALLY IMPAIRED

Issac Beavers

Saturday, Afternoon at 1:00 PM – Live Oak III

Learn to be your own advocate.

SELF ADVOCACY - DEAF & HARD OF HEARING

Michael Duell

Saturday, Afternoon at 1:00 PM – Live Oak II

Learn to be your own advocate.

STEMFINITE POSSIBILITIES

Jason Martin & Bill Adams

Friday, Morning at 10:00 AM – Live Oak II

Stemfinite Possibilities: Discover many ways to pursue your passions using the power of STEM. Learn many free ways to enhance own hobbies or perhaps a pathway into a new career.

THE BENEFITS OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

Melissa Nored

Saturday, Morning 10:00 AM – Live Oak I

Participants will learn what programs are available through ADRS and gain an understanding of the Eligibility criteria/process in each Division. This information will explain how each step comes together to create successful outcomes for our consumers.

THE DISABLED CAREGIVER

Michael Duell

Saturday, Morning 10:00 AM – Live Oak II

Learn about caring for someone while you have a disability.

TRANSFERENCE OF SKILLS INTO THE WORKPLACE

Dr. Linda Fugate

Friday, Afternoon at 1:00 PM – Live Oak III

Going to work is a big step and for someone with a disability often there is much more involved than meets the eye. This presentation will look at the 'soft' skills, those activities of daily living without which employment is difficult or impossible. Setting an alarm, managing transportation, writing lists and notes not only are these skills necessary to obtain and retain employment, they also can be used in a job. How you ask? That's transference!

ZUMBA

Nancy Hayes

Friday, Morning at 9:00 AM – Dunes Terrance.

Saturday, Morning at 10:00 AM – Live Oak I

PRESENTERS



DR. JOHN MASCIA

President,

Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind

Dr. John Mascia is the Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind's 17th President. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees in audiology and speech pathology from Hofstra University in New York and has a doctorate in audiology from the Pennsylvania College of Optometry, School of Audiology. He received his certificate of clinical competence in audiology from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and is a licensed audiologist. He has made numerous presentations and served in leadership roles with professional organizations and is widely published.

Dr. Mascia has worked as a supervising and chief audiologist and as an assistant professor in New York. In 1989, he joined the Helen Keller National Center, where he served as coordinator of Audiological Services, supervisor of the Speech and Hearing Department, coordinator of Professional Services and then finally as national director of Field Services. As a senior administrator, he was responsible for the supervision of regional representatives, national training programs, community placement services, and 45 affiliate programs. In 2005, he joined AIDB as executive director of the E.H. Gentry Facility and Regional Centers and was promoted to the role of vice president of Adult Programs in 2009. On January 1, 2013, he became President of AIDB.

He serves on numerous boards and community organizations including the American Speech & Hearing Association (ASHA) Board of Ethics; Hearing Charities of America; Talladega College Board of Trustees; International Motor Sports Hall of Fame Board of Directors; Lions Club International—Talladega; Talladega Red Door

Kitchen; Leadership Alabama; Easter Seals-Talladega Chapter, and numerous advisory councils.

Dr. Mascia is married to Nancy Mascia, and has three children, Chris, Katie, and Annie.



ANNA DOEREN-TAYLOR

Business Relations Specialist,

Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services

Mrs. Taylor earned her BS degree from Troy University in 1999 where she studied Rehabilitation and Psychology. After graduating from college, she worked at a private university providing admissions and career counseling services. In 2000, she was recruited into the staffing industry where she remained until 2010 as an executive recruiter. Mrs. Taylor provided talent acquisition for multiple channels of business and industry throughout the river region in physician recruitment, C-suite, manufacturing, legal, banking, accounting, insurance, and government contracting. Mrs. Taylor began her second career with the State of Alabama, Department of Rehabilitation Services as a Business Relations Consultant in 2011 and became a passionate advocate for hiring individuals with disabilities. She recently completed her Masters in Counseling in 2018 and moved into a Rehabilitation Specialist role where she provides staff development and training for business and industry on diversity and inclusion initiatives related to hiring and retaining individuals with disabilities. Mrs. Taylor has a passion for assisting military service members with their transition to civilian life and has partnered with multiple channels of military and government organizations to address barriers to employment for disabled veterans and wounded warriors.



AMY HESS

Orientation and Mobility Specialist, Teacher of the Visually Impaired Regional School for the Blind

Amy Hess has been an Orientation and Mobility Specialist and Teacher of the Visually Impaired at the Callahan School for the Deaf and Blind in Mobile for fifteen years. Amy and Nancy have been collaborating art together with students at the Callahan School for over ten years. The duo has developed numerous lessons to help students create artistic masterpieces utilizing a full sensory approach and best practice.



BILL ADAMS

Case Manager for the Blind, Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist, AIDB Tuscaloosa RC

Bill Adams lost his vision due to a traumatic brain injury in his 20s. Bill is a certified orientation and mobility specialist (COMS) and case manager for the blind with the Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind. Bill works with both children and adults teaching mobility and adaptive technology while providing case management services in west Alabama. Before working for AIDB, Bill worked for the Department of Veterans Affairs, Southeastern Blind Rehabilitation Center as a computer programmer and orientation and mobility intern. Bill graduated with his master's in orientation and mobility from Western Michigan University. Bill believes that through technology and proper training a person with any amount of vision loss can be productive and a happy member of society.



CHANTAL MAYS

Certified Orientation Mobility Specialist

Certified Teacher of the Visually Impaired

Chantal is a Certified Teacher for Children that have Visual Disabilities and a Certified Orientation and Mobility, Specialist. She has 38 years of experience in her chosen field. For the past 17 years, she has worked as an Itinerant Teacher for children who have low vision or are blind in the State of Alabama. She provides direct services, consulting services, assessment, and evaluations in the area of Orientation & Mobility (O&M) and academic accessibility. She currently works in three school systems in Alabama helping blind/low vision students from kindergarten through high school learn the skills for academic and personal success. Chantal is also a part-time vendor for ADRS (Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services). As an O&M vendor for the State of Alabama, Chantal works with students that have graduated from high school and are in need of O&M on the college campus that they will attend. Volunteer Projects: Chantal is an active member of the National Federation of the Blind (NFB). She has volunteered at all of the NFB Youth Slams. This a national event that engages blind high school youth in activities that promote careers in science, technology, engineering, and math.

-Chantal is the past President of the Alabama Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments (AAPVI). She has been affiliated with the group for 12 years. -Chantal also volunteers for events hosted by the UAB Center for Low Vision Rehabilitation, Songs for Sight, Support Group. She collaborates with Songs for Sight annually to host the Children's Harbor Weekend Family Camp Experience for families with children who are blind or have low vision. -In 2018 Chantal volunteered to participate in College Quest on the campus of Auburn University. She provided O&M to students with visual disabilities that were selected to attend this program. The purpose of College Quest is to teach high school students with

visual impairments how to use the tools that will promote success in college.



CONSTANCE HUGHES

Certified Health and Life Coach

Constance Hughes is a proud 1999 high school graduate from the Alabama School for the Blind. She received her B.S. degree in Family and Consumer Sciences with a concentration in Dietetics from Jacksonville State University in 2005. In 2013 she continued her education at Argosy University to get an MPH degree. Currently she is enrolled at the Health Coach Institute to obtain a certification as both a Health and Life Coach.

Her work experience includes working in both acute care and long-term care settings for over ten years as a diet technician, where my primary roles were to screen patients/residents who were at either low to moderate nutritional risks. Also, as a diet tech she has provided nutrition education to both inpatient and outpatients who were diagnosed as diabetic, having heart failure, stroke, etc. She really enjoys speaking in her local community and beyond about how to create healthy habits and promote healthy living.



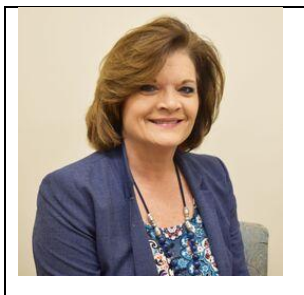
CYNDY AIKENS

Physical Therapist

Pediatric Physical Therapy in Anniston

Cyndy is a 1997 graduate of the University of South Alabama with a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood and Elementary Education. She taught school in Mississippi, prior to homeschooling her three daughters. She graduated in 2015 from the University of Alabama at

Birmingham as a Doctor of Physical Therapy. She enjoys Early Intervention and Pediatric therapy and has experience with Neonatal Care, developmental delays and Pulmonary care from Children's of Alabama. She currently loves treating outpatients part-time at Pediatric Physical Therapy in Anniston and working with Robin Irwin Physical Therapy to treat infants and toddlers through Early Intervention. In her spare time, she enjoys all things outdoors including swimming, boating, and kayaking; hiking and trail running; and trying to keep her flowers alive in her back yard. Her favorite way to spend an evening is gathered around the firepit with family and friends. She is looking forward to meeting her first granddaughter in late September!



ELIZABETH PONDER

VP of Advancement & Community Relations

Executive Director, AIDB Foundation

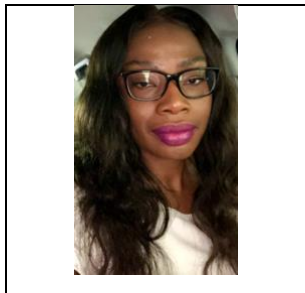
Elizabeth is a Birmingham, Alabama native, earning a bachelor's degree from Auburn University in Marketing and Vocational Education and a master's degree in philanthropy and development from LaGrange College.

She has a background in secondary education and financial planning which led her to the development field where she has over 16 years of diverse fundraising and advancement experience, with a focus on planned and major gifts in education and health care.

Elizabeth has a comprehensive knowledge of charitable planning, fundraising techniques, and campaign planning, but also has a deep appreciation of donor motivations. Elizabeth enjoys fostering collaborative work and inspiring others to think creatively about how donors can make impactful gifts that support areas most meaningful to them.

She has three adult children and five grandchildren (3 girls, 2 boys)

that have stolen her heart. Elizabeth enjoys college football and spending time with family and friends.

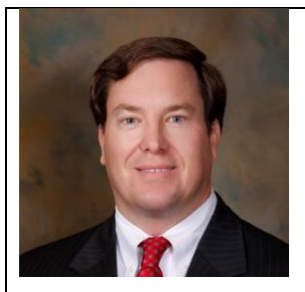


ESTELLA BEAVERS

Founder, Stella Healthy Living

Registered Nurse

Estella Beavers is the founder of Stellar Healthy Living, a health coaching business promoting a healthy lifestyle through spirit, mind and body strategies. Estella earned her RN, BSN degree from UAH in 2003 and her Health Coach certification in 2017 from THCG. She has been a nurse since 2003 with 8 years of experience in home health supervising and providing direct care. She is currently a health coach and motivational speaker and has spoken at conferences such as NFB State Convention Alabama in 2019, AIDB Talladega Regional Center WOW Conference 2017, AIDB EI retreat 2017, Sprouting for Success Conference 2018 as well private speaking engagements for many state agencies, and church groups throughout the state of Alabama. She uses her years of experience in healthy living and her medical background to help others achieve their happiest, healthiest life. She is also a wife, mother, minister, and motivational speaker.



DR. GRAHAM SISSON

Director, Governor's Council on Disabilities

Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services

He was appointed to the United States Military Academy (West Point) in 1982 and was scheduled to report to Cadet Basic Training, but was injured June 27, 1982 in a head-on motor vehicle collision with a drunk driver, which left him with a closed head injury and

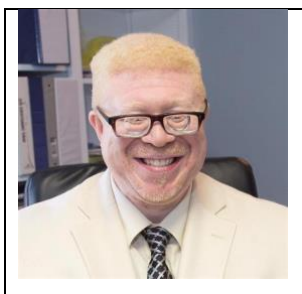
permanent paralysis from the waist down and a full time wheelchair user.

In January 1983, Dr. Sisson entered the University of North Alabama. He was graduated summa cum laude in 1987 with B.S. in Accounting and minors in English and History. He received the Keller Key (highest GPA) and Turriss Fidelis(highest award to graduating senior) keys upon his graduation. In his senior year, he was elected SGA President.

After his graduation from UNA, Dr. Sisson attended Vanderbilt Law School and was graduated in 1990 with a JD and licensed in September 1990. Prior to being appointed a deputy attorney general and an assistant attorney general with the State of Alabama, Dr. Sisson worked for several Birmingham law firms. He now serves as the State's ADA Coordinator and Assistant Attorney General with the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services. He was reappointed by Governor Kay Ivey as the Director of the Governor's Office on Disability and State ADA Coordinator. Dr. Sisson served as an adjunct law professor teaching a disability law course at the Birmingham School of Law and teaches a doctoral course in disability law and history at Auburn University. Dr. Sisson received his doctorate in rehabilitation from Auburn University in 2016.

Dr. Sisson's hobbies are vegetable gardening and woodworking. He is also a certified scuba diver.

He is a graduate of the 2005 Leadership Birmingham Class and the Leadership Alabama 2017.



ISSAC BEAVERS

Regional Center Director, Huntsville

Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind

Isaac Beavers is a graduate of Alabama School for the Blind. He earned a BA in Psychology for the University of Alabama, a Master of Education in Rehabilitation Counseling from Auburn University

and is a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor. Isaac has worked for the Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind (AIDB) for over 20 years. He served 17 years as the Case Manager for Blind at the Huntsville Regional Center, until he was promoted in 2014 to Regional Director. Isaac has served on many boards and committees including: President of the Alumni and Workers Association of the Alabama School for the Blind (ASB Alumni), the State Rehabilitation Council, Blind Advisory Committee, Co-Chairman of the Huntsville Council on Accessibility, and serves as an Advisory Board Member for the Rehabilitation Counseling Program at Alabama A&M University. He is the creator and coordinator of 6 Transition Curricula for Blind and Visually Impaired students. Isaac has spoken at state, national and international conferences. In 2015 ASB Alumni awarded him the organizations highest honor, the Lillian Ricks Award. In 2016 Isaac was recognized by the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services (ADRS) Department of Blind Services for years of dedicated collaboration with the “Joined at the Hip” award. Isaac completed Leadership Huntsville Madison County in 2016, where he started the now annual Ability Career Fair for people with disabilities. Isaac has been married for more than 22 years and has two adult daughters and dog who thinks he is a person.



JAG DAWADI

Region III Mental Health Therapist

Office of Deaf Services

Jag Dawadi, MS, MAC, LPC-S, graduated from RIT with a bachelor’s degree in Social Work in 1998. Upon graduation, he ventured out far north in Alaska where he worked for six years as an itinerant worker bringing mental health and addiction services to consumer’s home communities, often flying with bush pilots. It was while in Alaska he witnessed firsthand chronic fragmentation in mental health and substance abuse service delivery which led to a

pursuit of his master's degree in community mental health counseling with a specialization in co-occurring psychiatric and substance use disorders at Southern New Hampshire University, graduating in 2004. Since then he has been a staunch advocate of integrated mental health and substance abuse services delivery from admission, treatment, discharge, and aftercare, for deaf and hard of hearing including hearing individuals who present with two or more psychiatric disorders. Most recently he worked for 11 and a half years at a specialized residential treatment center in Florida where 'hard to treat' deaf patients with a variety of psychiatric, behavioral and addictive disorders were admitted from almost all States in the country. His career has led him to Sweet Home Alabama as a Regional Therapist in the Mobile area within a stone's throw of this conference.



JASON MARTIN

Assistive Technology Specialist for the Blind

Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services

Jason Martin is the Assistive Technology Specialist for the Blind, he has a Bachelor's degree in Radio, Television, and Film from Auburn University and a Master's degree in Special Education and Visual Impairments from the University of Alabama Birmingham. He is a native of Talladega Alabama and attended the Alabama School for the Blind and years later returned to teach Assistive Technology to low vision, Blind, and Deaf-Blind students at the Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind. Jason has been with the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services for four years in his current position and in 2017 he was awarded Advocate of the Year by the Montgomery Area Committee on the Employment of People with Disabilities. Recently, Jason spoke at Princeton University on the topic of STEM education and Blind students.



JESSICA HAVARD

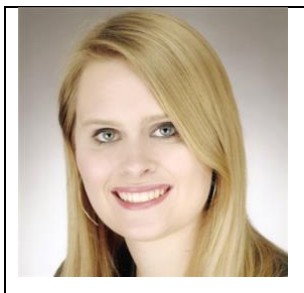
Parent Advisor

Alabama Hands and Voices

Jessica Havard, of Spanish Fort, AL, is the proud mother to two children. Her daughter is Deaf, and her son is hearing with Epilepsy and ADHD. Jessica has been married to her husband for 13 years. After her daughter's diagnosis of hearing loss Jessica soon learned that obtaining services and supports were not as easy as once thought. This inspired Jessica to pursue a career where she could help parents navigate systems by empowering them to become advocates for their children. In 2016 Jessica began working with Children's Rehabilitation Services as a Parent Consultant. In the role of Parent Consultant Jessica helps parents of children and youth with special health care needs. In 2017 Jessica met two other equally passionate parents and founded Alabama Hands & Voices. In May of 2019, Jessica became program coordinator for the Alabama Hands & Voices Guide By Your Side program.

Jessica serves on CRS local and state advisory committee, state Early Hearing Detection, and Intervention Hearing workgroup leads the Mobile Learning Community and works with the Children's Rehabilitation Engineering Team.

Jessica is passionate about supporting parents and families of children and youth with special health care needs including those who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or deafblind.

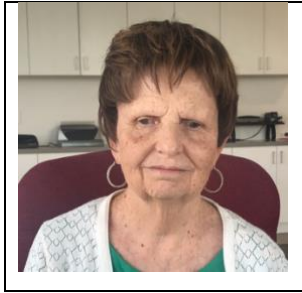


KAREN COLLINS

Music Therapist, Founder

Music Therapy Milestones, LLC

Music therapist specializing in early childhood.



KATHLEEN GALLAGHER

Learning & Development Manager

National Industries for the Blind

Kathleen (Kathy) has been with National Industries for the Blind (NIB) since September 1989. Throughout her career, at NIB she has been instrumental in the professional training and development of people who are blind. Her experience includes: managing NIB internship program, organizing a focus group and gathering information to launch NIB's business leaders program. Kathy provided work skills training to over 1,000 employees from NIB associated agencies. She was an instructor for the Statler Center's hospitality and call center training program, where she taught interviewing skills. Kathy holds a BA in psychology and MA in counseling psychology.



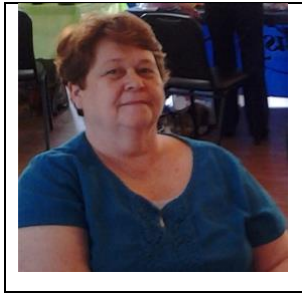
KIM THORNSBERRY

Region I Mental Health Therapist

Office of Deaf Services

Kimberly Thornsberry, MS, LPC, CRC, currently serves as a Region I Mental Health Therapist with the Office of Deaf Services and her office is based in Decatur/Huntsville, AL. As part of her work, she provides direct services to individuals who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing/Deafblind at regional Mental Health centers and group homes and provides consultation to non-signing staff and professional partners working with D/HH/DB consumers. Prior to coming to her home state, she worked as a Case Manager for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing at the Sanderson Community Center of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in Taylorsville, Utah for seven

years. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and a Bachelor of Science in Family and Consumers Studies: Child Development at Gallaudet University in 2003 and pursued her Master's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling with the Deaf at the Western Oregon University in 2006. Kim is currently working on several projects such as a support staff training to work with D/HH in group homes and setting up training workshops to discuss relevant D/HH topics in current situations, to support working partners to provide the best services available to consumers who are D/HH.



DR. LINDA FUGATE

Certified Vision Rehabilitation Specialist

Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services

I am a CVRT (Certified Vision Rehabilitation Therapist) in Mobile. My education is as varied as my background. I have a bachelor's degree in history from Indiana University, a master's in visual disabilities from Florida State and a doctoral degree in counseling from Argosy.

I am currently on the Board of Directors of the Association of Vision Rehabilitation Therapists and a member of the subject matter expert committee for ACVREP. I also am an adjunct assistant professor at Hunter College's visual disabilities program.

Teaching is my passion and I find as many ways as I can to share with others. I currently manage a caseload that is both itinerant and center-based in Mobile. I have presented at conferences in many parts of the Southeast on a wide range of topics. I was raised on the California coastline, so presenting at the beach feels almost like coming home...



MANDY GRIFFIN

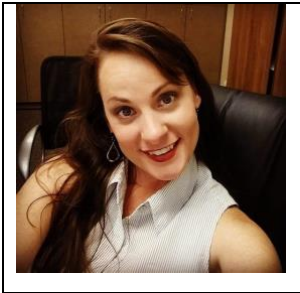
Admissions Coordinator

Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind

After growing up in the city of Talladega and remaining a citizen of Talladega County throughout her adult life, Mandy Griffin has had the opportunity to learn about the Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind for more than 30 years; since the main campuses are located in Talladega. With her mom being employed by AIDB for almost 40 years, Mandy has witnessed first-hand the importance AIDB has on families like that of her own.

Mandy Griffin received her bachelor's degree from Jacksonville State University in secondary education. She went on to receive her master's degree in Education from the University of West Georgia. Before coming to AIDB, Mandy actually taught as a Facilitator in Distance Learning Lab at Munford High School. Mandy's background also includes working at a local bank and a hospital where she worked with customers, clients and families ensuring their needs were met through services provided.

With a diverse background and thorough knowledge and understanding of how to help others, Mandy became employed at AIDB in the admissions department in 2010. Since that time, Mandy has helped to serve students and families across the state of Alabama to become enrolled in AIDB's three schools that include the Alabama School for the Blind, Alabama School for the Deaf, and the Helen Keller School. In 2017, Mandy was able to advance her career by moving up and becoming the Admissions Coordinator of AIDB's three school programs. Mandy's administrators, co-workers, employees, family, and friends all recognize Mandy as a dedicated asset to AIDB, where she puts her heart into helping those she serves and puts her passion into getting students to a better place.



MELISSA NORRED

Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor

Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services

Melissa Norred, M.A., C.R.C. is a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor for the Deaf and Deafblind with the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services.

She received her Master's Degree in Rehabilitation Counseling at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Her undergraduate work was completed at Auburn University, where she received a Bachelor's Degree in Communication Disorders with a Concentration in Deaf Studies.

Melissa Norred brings with her twenty years of experience serving individuals with, Sensory impairments, Mental Illness, Learning Disabilities, Developmental Delays, Physical Disabilities, Chemical Dependency, and Cognitive Impairments. She has worked as an Evaluator, Job Placement Specialist, Case Manager, Vocational Instructor, Rehabilitation Teacher for the Blind, Interpreter for the Deaf, and Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor.

Ms. Norred has been with the ADRS agency for eleven years. Prior to joining the ADRS team, she was the Director of Adult Rehabilitation Services at Easter Seals in Birmingham, Alabama. As a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor out of the Talladega VR office, Melissa Norred's responsibilities include serving as Liaison Counselor to both Alabama School for the Deaf and The Helen Keller School; and serving the Deaf and DeafBlind community in the surrounding ten counties.

As a VR counselor, she provides vocational counseling and guidance, information and referral to partnering agencies, managing a caseload budget; identifying and addressing barriers to employment, and LOTS of documentation!

Ms. Norred resides in a small community outside of Birmingham where she enjoys spending time with family and raising her two

sons, Seth and Syllas.



MICHAEL DUELL

Case Manager for the Deaf

Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind

Michael Deuel currently serves as the Case Manager for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing serving seven counties in North Alabama since 2015 with Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind's Regional Center in Huntsville, Alabama. Michael is a native Alabamian and has worked in nonprofit organizations as advocacy for the last 18 years. He received a BA in Recreation Leadership from Jacksonville State University with a focus on community organization and leadership and pursued his Master's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling at Auburn University in 2019. Michael Deuel is a member of the National Association for the Deaf, Alabama Association for the Deaf, Alabama School for the Deaf Alumni Association, North Alabama Deaf Club, and Alabama Deaf Golfers Association. He lives in Huntsville, AL with his girlfriend, Lauren Cash, and daughter, Cameron (12).



MICHELLE GLAZE

Associate Director, Professional Outreach

Foundation Fighting Blindness

Michelle Glaze is the Associate Director of Professional Outreach for the Foundation Fighting Blindness. Michelle joined the Foundation in February of this year after 15 years in medical sales. Her passion for this role with the Foundation stems from personal challenges with vision loss. Michelle recently accepted an invitation to serve on the board for the Alabama Department of

Rehabilitation services, which she will begin in December. Michelle received a master's degree in Education of the Deaf, with a minor in mathematics, from California State University, Fresno in 2000. She went on to teach Algebra at Central West High School for 3 years. After moving to Alabama, she began her career as a medical sales professional in the Montgomery area. In 2016, Michelle and her son, Parks, moved to Baldwin County. Together, they enjoy many outdoor adventures, including tandem bike riding, paddle boarding, and kayaking. Parks is involved in several extracurricular activities, such as baseball, basketball, science club and Jiu-jitsu, all of which keep them both busy. Michelle enjoys music, exercise, cooking and playing the guitar in her spare time.



NANCY HAYES

Owner, Thumbs Up Interpreting Service, Inc.

Nancy Hayes is currently the owner of Thumbs Up Interpreting Service, Inc. She started her business in 2005 and has been interpreting professionally for almost 40 years. Around the year 2000, Nancy discovered Zumba as a great form of exercise. She has attended Zumba classes on a regular basis and completed an Instructor Training Level One course.



NANCY RAI A

Community Outreach Director

Eastern Shore Art Center

Nancy Raia has been the Community Outreach Director of the Eastern Shore Art Center in Fairhope, AL since 2001 bringing the

arts to the community. For her work in the community, she has received numerous awards including; the Gulf Guardian Award for her environmental art lessons, the Mobile Arts Councils Educator Award and the AL Art

Educator of the Year. In addition to the many art classes Nancy teaches at the Art Center, she also brings art to senior living facilities, teaches art at the S/W Regional School for the Deaf and Blind and provides private and group art lessons for those with disabilities and chronic illnesses. She is often asked to be a guest lecturer at local universities on “art as a therapeutic tool”.

Nancy has studied under a variety of teachers at the Eastern Shore Art Center and works in acrylics, watercolor, pen & ink and photography. She is a member of the Eastern Shore Camera Club, Bay Area Art Educators, AL Art Educators Association and the National Art Educators Association.

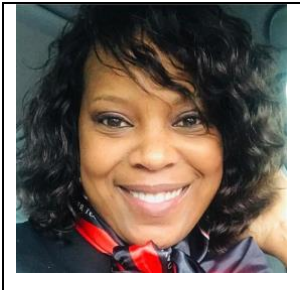
Nancy has traveled throughout the region as a visiting artist, bringing communities together with a unique art vision; a belief that art brings us together celebrates our differences and honors the individual.



NOEL MILLER

Owner, Bayside Shoes for Life

My goal is to improve the quality of life of community diabetics by helping to prevent lower limb injury, infection, and amputation with proper footwear and inserts designed specifically for the diabetic foot. We can reduce these risks by reducing the risk of injury and improving blood circulation to the foot with doctor prescribed properly fitted diabetic shoes and inserts coupled with proper diabetic foot care and education. I can fit up to widths 6E and carry special easy to put on shoes for arthritics and the wheelchair-bound.



TAMARA KIDD

Social Worker II

Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind

Tamara has been a social worker at the AIDB Talladega Regional Center for the past 15 years and was fundamental in creating the and supportive housing program and is currently in charge of the money management program. Tamara received her BS in Human Development and Family Studies from Auburn and got her Master's in Rehabilitation Counseling from Auburn and is a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor.



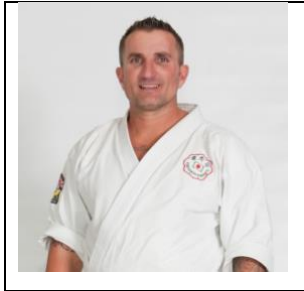
TAMARA LITTLE

Registered Dietitian, Owner

NutriLevel Consulting LLC

Tamara H. Little is the owner-operator of NutriLevel Consulting LLC, which provides nutrition services to children and adults. Tamara is an Auburn University graduate (War Eagle!) having earned a Bachelors in Science in Nutrition/Dietetics, with a minor in Human Development and Family Studies. She is also a Registered Dietitian by the Commission on Dietetic Registration and licensed by the Alabama State Board of Examiners for Dietetics/Nutritionists. With nearly 10 years in the field of nutrition, Tamara has experience in the areas of child nutrition, diabetes management, weight loss, health promotion, and clinical care. As a compassionate advocate, she works with clients to develop plans that meet their and/or their family's individual medical, cultural, and lifestyle needs through individual consultations, skill development (meal planning, preparation, & shopping), and in-home sessions. Tamara has been a presenter for various community events, and a repeat presenter

for Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind's National Nutrition Month in March. Her greatest achievement in life is being a wife and a mother of 4 amazing children!



WHEELLES KARATE

Sensei Chris Wheelles

Head Instructor

Sensei Chris Wheelles began his karate career at the age of 13 in his home town of Ashland, AL. There he studied under Sensei Randall Browning. After he obtained his black belt at the age of 17, he started training under the late Master Yuki Koda in Montgomery, AL. During this time he was able to be a member of the United States Yoshukai Karate Association Demo Team and traveled throughout the United States, and Japan. Sensei Chris Wheelles has also had the opportunity to fight in full contact tournaments in the United States, as well as Japan. In 2004, Sensei Chris Wheelles moved to the Gulf Coast where he studied under 9th Degree and United States Director, Hiroaki Toyoma in Pensacola, FL. In 2009 Sensei Chris spent one-year teaching karate under former kickboxing champion, and 7th Degree Black Belt, Sensei Gerry Blanck in Los Angeles, CA. In 2010, Sensei Chris Wheelles returned to the Gulf Coast and opened Wheelles Karate Academy in Gulf Shores, AL.

GENERAL INFORMATION

AIDB Regional Centers

Shoals Regional Center
512 North Main Street
Tuscumbia, AL 35674
Phone: 256-383-3503
FAX: 256-383-3562

Tuscaloosa Regional Ctr.
2412 Skyland Blvd. E
Tuscaloosa, AL 35405
Phone: 205-345-2883
FAX: 205-345-4883

Huntsville Regional Center
600 Saint Clair Ave SW
Bldg. 2,
Huntsville, AL 35801
Phone: 256-539-7881
FAX: 256-532-0942

Montgomery Regional Ctr.
432 East Jefferson
Montgomery, AL 36104
Phone: 334-262-0824
FAX: 334-262-7708
EI FAX: 334-262-7848

Birmingham Regional Ctr.
220 34th Street South
Birmingham, AL 35222
Phone: 205-328-3989
FAX: 205-323-3691

Dothan Regional Center
111 Medical Drive
Dothan, AL 36303
Phone: 334-677-6270
FAX: 334-793-7044

Talladega Regional Center
PO Box 698
Talladega, AL 35161
Phone: 256-761-3370
FAX: 256-761-3693

Mobile Regional Center
1050 Government Street
Mobile, AL 36604
Phone: 251-432-7777
FAX: 251-432-3199