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TUPELO, MS SEPTEMBER 27-29, 2023

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*Danielle J. Maack, Ph.D.*  
*74th Annual MPA Convention Chair*

Welcome to the 74th Annual Mississippi Psychological Association (MPA) Convention!

Greetings students, colleagues and friends! I am All Shook Up to welcome you all to the 2023 Mississippi Psychological Association Convention, “Viva Psychology! Amplifying our voices throughout Mississippi!” If this is your first time attending, a special thank you for joining us! If you are a returning convention goer, it is great to be seeing you again and we appreciate your continued support of the MPA and its training and networking endeavors!

This year the convention returned “up north” to the birthplace of Elvis Presley, Tupelo, Mississippi. This is the first time that the MPA convention has been in the northern part of the state since 2008 and I figured, It’s Now or Never to give it a chance! As in years past, we have put together an energetic collection of speakers, programming, and entertainment to facilitate a true engaging learning and networking experience!

I hope that you leave convention this year with a sense of excitement for advocacy, new perspectives on the changing laws in Mississippi and how they impact mental health services, and increased connections with your colleagues from across the state! If this can help lead to continued engagement in the field, in the association, and in passion for your work then convention will have served its purpose! Dust off your Blue Suede Shoes and enjoy your time at the 74th annual MPA Convention!

A big shout out to all our sponsors and exhibitors for helping make this convention possible, and a special thanks to all the speakers and attendees. The MPA will not succeed without its members’ investment and support. By showing up, you are helping to ensure that the MPA will have a voice in the dissemination of science, education, and legislation that directly impact our profession across the state!

Viva Psychology!  
Thank you. Thank you very much!

Danielle J. Maack, Ph.D.  
74th Annual MPA Convention Chair



## SCHEDULE

### DAY 1: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH

9:00 AM - 9:30 AM: Convention/Workshop Registration

9:30 AM - 11:30 AM: **CE Workshop I:** Return to Sender: Outpatient Competence Restoration for the Court— Stephanie Howard, Psy.D. **(2 CE credits) Cherry Room**

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM: Lunch on Your Own

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM: **CE Workshop II:** Is Dr. Nick OK to be doing that? -Brian Thomas, Psy.D. **(2 CE credits) Cherry Room**

3:00 PM - 4:30 PM: **CE Workshop III:** A Little Less Conversation: The Connections Created Using Breath, Movement, and Yoga--Therapeutic Benefits of Integrated Mind-Body Practices” -Josh Fulwiler, Ph.D. **(1.5 CE credits) Cherry Room**

5:00 PM - 7:30 PM: **MPA 2023 Welcome Reception with Exhibitors! West Hall** Come and meet Elvis, enjoy appetizers and drinks, be present for door prizes, and network with colleagues and exhibitors!

### DAY 2: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Information Desk Open

7:30 AM - 9:00 AM: Gavel Club (Hotel Tupelo- Past-Presidents)

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM: Breakfast with Exhibitors

9:00 AM -10:30 AM: **General Session:** Opening Session/Welcome with Tupelo Mayor Todd Jor and MPA Business Meeting **Cherry Room**

10:30 AM - 10:45 AM: Break with Exhibitors **West Hall**

10:45 AM - 11:45 AM: **Concurrent Session I A:** A Little Bit of Green- The MS Medical Cannabis Program - Callie Anyan **(1.0 CE credit) Cherry Room**

**Concurrent Session I B:** It's Now or Never: Mississippi Mental Health System on the Road to Change - Joy Hogge, Ph.D. **(1.0 CE credit) Pine Room**

11:50 AM - 1:20 PM: Luncheon Session and Keynote: Welcome to My World: Humor, Inspiration, and Insight into How Childhood Trauma Shaped an Editorial Cartoonist - Marshall Ramsey **(1.0 CE credit) Dogwood Room**

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM: **Concurrent Session II A:** Presentation from the National Center for Cannabis Research & Education- Robert Welch Pharm.D. **Cherry Room**

**Concurrent Session II B:** Data Blitz **Pine Room**

2:30 PM - 2:45 PM: Break with Exhibitors **West Hall**

2:45 PM - 3:45 PM: **Concurrent Session III A:** Suspicious minds: Discussing the different professions covered in professional psychology and impact for MPA. - Danielle Maack, Ph.D. **(1.0 CE Credit) Cherry Room**

**Concurrent Session III B:** "Return to Sender" How Psychologists' Documentation Impact the Disability Evaluation- Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services panel **(1.0 CE Credit) Pine Room**

3:50 PM - 4:50 PM: **General Session:** Leveraging training settings to better understand and address barriers to accessing behavioral health care in Mississippi - Kristy McRaney, Ph.D. **(1 CE credit) Cherry Room**

3:50 PM - 4:45 PM: Set up for Poster Session **Lobby**

5:00 PM - 5:45 PM: Poster Session **Lobby**

5:30 PM - 8:30 PM: **Viva Psychology Extravaganza!!! Lounge & Lobby**  
(Dinner, Drinks, Elvis performance, Photobooth, Silent Auction)



## SCHEDULE

### DAY 3: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH

8:00 AM - 9:30 AM: **Awards and Membership Breakfast with Door Prizes** Dogwood Room

9:45 AM - 10:45 AM: **Concurrent Session IV A:** A Little More Conversations: Discussing Current Trends and Practices in Forensic Psychology in Mississippi-Stephanie Howard, Psy.D. **(Non-CE)** Cherry Room

**Concurrent Session IV B:** And the Grass Won't Pay no Mind: How to be effective at grassroots politics- Ben Sapp **(Non-CE)** Dogwood Room

10:50 AM - 11:50 PM: **Closing Session:** Suspicious Minds: Healthcare, Privacy, and Support Post-Dobbs - Vara Lyons, J.D. **(1.0 CE credit)** Cherry Room

12:00 PM - 12:30 PM: Wrap-up and Adjourn- CE Distribution

12:00 PM - 1:30 PM: **Lunch and Workshop IV:** Some Conversation and More Action: Working with Transgender and Non-Binary Clients in Mississippi- Ty Stafford, Ph.D. **(1.5 CE credits)** Dogwood Room

1:30 PM - 2:00 PM: CE Distribution Board Room

1:30 PM - 5:00 PM: Civil Commitment Workshop provided by MS Board of Psychology Board Room



TUPELO, MS SEPTEMBER 27-29, 2023

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# MDRS



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# *All about CE credits.*

-To receive CE credit for convention workshops, sessions, or luncheon, you need to have registered and attended the session in full in order to receive your CE certificate.

- Attendees need to sign in within 10 minutes of the beginning of the session, upon entering the meeting room, or as the sheets are circulated.
- Attendees must also sign out of each session for attendance confirmation.

-Evaluations will be distributed in each CE session meeting room. Attendees will be asked to return these before leaving that session.

-You will receive your CE certificates Friday during the CE Distribution(s) and can contact [djmaack@deltaautumn.com](mailto:djmaack@deltaautumn.com) with any questions.

## Grievance Procedure:

Please bring any concerns or grievances regarding CE Programs occurring at the 2023 MPA convention to Delta Autumn Consulting CE representative Danielle Maack, Ph.D. (onsite; [djmaack@deltaautumn.com](mailto:djmaack@deltaautumn.com)). Alternatively, you can contact the Delta Autumn CE Chair, John Young, Ph.D. ([jnyoung@deltaautumn.com](mailto:jnyoung@deltaautumn.com); 662-259-0868) for grievance policy/concerns.



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## CE SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2023 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM**  
**CE WORKSHOP I (2.0 CE CREDITS)**

### **Return to Sender: Outpatient Competence Restoration for the Court**

The purpose of this workshop is to create awareness regarding Mississippi's current forensic landscape and need for outpatient competence restoration and forensic services. In this workshop, attendees will be presented with information about the current "forensic landscape" in Mississippi (highlights and needs) and Competence to Proceed Legally (CST). The forensic mental evaluation process in Mississippi (how referral is initiated, eval process, what happens if CST or IST, when is a defendant hospitalized, etc.) will be presented and discussed. Attendees will be provided with information about competence restoration practices, including with special populations, and how to meet the need for outpatient competence restoration services. Additionally, ethical issues related to the practice of forensic psychology and the certification processes to become a forensic evaluator in Mississippi will be detailed. This is an intermediate program that builds off the knowledge of psychological assessment, interviewing, individual therapy, forensic psychology/competency assessment, this is also considered an ethics course.

### **Learning Objectives:**

Following this presentation, participants will be able to:

1. Discuss the current landscape in MS for forensic mental evaluations and treatment of pretrial adult criminal defendants and need for outpatient competence restoration treatment.
2. Describe the concept of adjudicative competence and relevant case law (*Dusky v US*, *MCRCrP12*).
3. Explain a deficit approach based to competence restoration and implementation of treatment with defendants in jail vs. on bond.
4. Detail the statutory requirements for what it means to be incompetent to stand trial in MS.

### **Presenters: Stephanie Howard, Psy.D. and Kathryn Olson, Psy.D.**

Dr. Stephanie Howard is a licensed psychologist in Mississippi with expertise in clinical and forensic psychology. In the past 7 years, she has worked at MS State Hospital on the Forensic Service in a variety of roles, including conducting forensic evaluations, providing and supervising competence restoration treatment and therapy, and program development efforts involving competence evaluation training, female forensic patients, and jail-based competence education and forensic navigation. Currently, she works as a forensic evaluator at MS State Hospital and in her own private practice.

Kathryn Olson, Psy.D., has been a licensed psychologist in Mississippi since 2019. She has worked with individuals with intellectual disabilities and other developmental disabilities since 2013. She is employed as a forensic evaluator at Mississippi State Hospital where she conducts criminal forensic evaluations of the defendant's competence to proceed legally and mental state at the time of the alleged offense. She also works part-time conducting compensation and pension evaluations for military veterans. She has experience in competence restoration treatment with pretrial defendants and psychotherapy with forensically-involved populations. Dr. Olson has a special interest in psychological testing, including intelligence testing.

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## WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2023 – 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

### CE WORKSHOP II (2.0 CE CREDITS)

#### Is Dr. Nick OK to be doing that?

This workshop will focus on the cognitive changes commonly experienced in the aging population and how those can impact an advanced medical provider's (physician/nurse practitioner) ability to practice. The overall purpose is to educate attendees on the common cognitive changes that occur with aging, and the impact of these changes related to medical practice. The neuropsychological evaluation of aging medical practitioners will be presented, and Dr. Thomas will provide redacted cases from his clinical practice for discussion. Time will be allotted for questions/answers to supplement this interactive workshop. This is considered an Intermediate level workshop building off a basic understanding of test administration/interpretation and psychological/ neuropsychological evaluation more broadly.

#### Learning Objectives:

Following this presentation, participants will be able to:

1. Describe common cognitive changes that occur with aging.
2. Apply the knowledge of common cognitive changes to understanding potential impact of these changes on aging medical providers.
3. Discuss a framework for evaluation of cognitive changes with aging medical providers.

#### Presenters: Brian Thomas, Psy.D., Patrick Vukmirovich, B.S., and Sierra Thomas, Bachelor's candidate

Dr. Brian Thomas is a board-certified neuropsychologist who has practiced in Tupelo, MS, since 2000. He is a practicum site supervisor for MSU doctoral students, a consultant neuropsychologist for the BAP/MAF programs with the NFL and for Lincoln Financial Group. He is a HIMS approved neuropsychologist performing evaluations related to FAA mandated evaluations. He routinely evaluates professionals performing Fitness for Duty evaluations.

Patrick Vukmirovich, B.S. is a graduate student in clinical psychology at Mississippi State University. He is currently a Graduate Extern at Thomas Neuropsychology where he assists with administering neuropsychological batteries to individuals with a range of dysfunction. He also is a research assistant in the Externalizing Disorders lab at Mississippi State University.

Sierra Thomas is a fifth-year senior at the University of Mississippi double majoring in psychology and classics. She has completed all course requirements for graduation and is continuing her education to actively be involved in several research labs. She also is a Psychometrist at Thomas Neuropsychology in Tupelo, MS.

## WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2023 – 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM

### CE WORKSHOP III (1.5 CE CREDITS)

#### A Little Less Conversation: The Connections Created Using Breath, Movement, and Yoga--Therapeutic Benefits of Integrated Mind-Body Practices

This introductory workshop will provide an overview of integrated mind-body practices, with a focus on the history of yoga and its relationship to modern psychological science. Attendees will gain an understanding of the evolution of the concept of wellness, specifically in relation to therapeutic practices. Additionally, the workshop will provide experiential opportunities for participants to engage in breathwork, movement, and meditation skills, focusing on the application of these techniques in daily life. The primary goal of the workshop is to develop an understanding of various modalities of mind-body practice, as well as to facilitate a sense of connection for both personal and professional ends.

#### Learning Objectives:

Following this presentation, participants will be able to:

1. Describe the background and history of integrated mind-body practices.
2. List the 8 limbs of yoga and their relationship to modern concepts.
3. Compare integrated mind-body practices with early psychotherapy efforts.
4. Apply proven integrated mind-body techniques and strategies to their everyday lives.

#### Presenters: Joshua Fulwiler, Ph.D. and Corrie "Coco" Cockrell, B.A.

Joshua Fulwiler has a doctoral degree in clinical psychology. He obtained his 200-hour Registered Yoga Teacher certification in May 2015 and an additional 300-hour certification in July 2021. Josh founded a solo private practice in 2018, and he has provided psychological assessment services while teaching yoga in his spare time.

Corrie "Coco" Cockrell has a bachelor's degree from the University of Mississippi. She is a professionally trained dancer, choreographer, certified nutrition consultant, and registered yoga teacher (RYT-500). Coco has worked as a group fitness instructor since 2012 and provides personal training services.

# Locations

7075 Golden Oaks Loop W  
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# TAKE NOTES



## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2023 – 10:45 AM – 11:45 AM CONCURRENT SESSION 1A (1.0 CE CREDIT)

### **A Little Bit of Green- The MS Medical Cannabis Program**

The Mississippi Medical Cannabis Act was passed in legislation in February of 2022. As a result, the MS State Department of Health was charged with building and regulating the MS Medical Cannabis Program. MMCP aims to provide a safe and accessible program that meets the needs of patients, while also ensuring the public health and safety of all Mississippi residents. Furthermore, the MSDH branch of MMCP collaborates with the MS Department of Revenue to maintain oversight and regulation of dispensaries. MSDH is charged with licensing patients, practitioners, caregivers, business entities and testing labs and the regulation of operations thereof; whereas, the DOR is charged with licensing and regulatory oversight of dispensaries. While health and safety remain the primary goal of MMCP, we are also committed to ensuring prevention of diversion of cannabis, addiction prevention measures, programmatic transparency, fiscal sustainability, and protecting vulnerable populations.

#### **Learning Objectives:**

Following this presentation, participants will be able to:

1. Describe the requirements of the MS Medical Cannabis program with regard to who qualifies.
2. Assess the legalities of the Mississippi Medical Cannabis Act.
3. Discuss psychologists' role in collaboration with providers and patients participating in this program.

#### **Presenter: Callie Anyan, B.S.**

In her capacity as Director of Registry Services, Callie is responsible for oversight of program matters related to patients, practitioners, and caregivers. Callie has dedicated her career to patient safety, advocacy, and access to care in stigmatized fields of healthcare, including addiction medicine, mental and behavioral health, crisis pregnancy, and interpersonal violence. In addition, she holds her national TNR certification and operates Callie Kat's Alley Cats, a grassroots organization dedicated to animal welfare, education, and rescue. Callie serves as the primary point of contact for practitioners caregivers and welcomes opportunities to assist. In the coming months, she will be devoting much of her time and efforts to forming close professional relationships with practitioners and caregiver professionals participating in the Program.

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2023 – 10:45 AM – 11:45 AM CONCURRENT SESSION 1B (1.0 CE CREDIT)

### **It's Now or Never: Mississippi's Mental Health System on the Road to Change**

Every state is federally mandated to have a planning council composed of a diverse array of members that includes people with mental health and substance use challenges, their families, and other statewide stakeholders to advise the state on both the needs for responsive services, as well as how SAMHSA mental health and substance use funds should be spent to ensure the development and implementation of such services. This presentation describes how two psychologists, working from different perspectives (i.e., grassroots family advocacy, clinical services, and state policy), engaged with the council to support robust and representative data collection and a consumer and family-driven approach to using the data to inform state policy and spending. This presentation will include didactic instruction, case examples from the survey, and group discussion to reinforce how patient-centered and evidence-based approaches to evaluation can lead to better outcomes for people receiving services and their families, as well as guide how to implement and maintain evidence-based practices with greater fidelity. PowerPoint slides and handouts will be used to reinforce how these strategies can support the day-to-day work of psychologists in Mississippi.

#### **Learning Objectives:**

Following this presentation, participants will be able to:

1. Describe the role and responsibilities of behavioral health planning councils.
2. Detail how patient-centered and evidence-based approaches of evaluation can lead to better outcomes for people receiving services.

#### **Presenters: Joy Hogge, Ph.D. and Scott Willoughby, Ph.D.**

Dr. Joy Hogge is a licensed psychologist who is the executive director of Families as Allies, a statewide organization run by and for families of children with behavioral health and related challenges. As a psychologist, most of her work has been in the public/community mental health system. Additionally, she has worked on mental health policy and legislation in Mississippi for the past 23 years and has presented multiple times nationally and locally on system of care issues, system design, and family-driven practice.

Dr. Scott Willoughby is a licensed Clinical Psychologist who is the Program Director at the South Mississippi State Hospital and also works in private practice. He has extensive clinical experience in the public mental health system including at a state-run facility. He is well-versed in evidence-based practices and provides professional development for trainees.





## *Meet Our Keynote Speaker Marshall Ramsey*

Marshall Ramsey is the Editor-At-Large for Mississippi Today, a non-profit news website. He's a two-time Pulitzer Finalist (2002 and 2006), a 2022 Southeastern Emmy winner and his work is nationally syndicated by Creators Syndicate. His cartoons have appeared in The New York Times, USA Today and The (Jackson, Miss.) Clarion-Ledger. He's also the author several successful books including three cartoon collections, two short story collections (Fried Chicken and Wine and Chainsaws and Casseroles) and the delightful children's book Banjo's Dream. Ramsey's cartoons, photos, stories and posts are frequently shared on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. He's also the host of the weekly statewide radio program, Now You're Talking with Marshall Ramsey and the television program Conversations on Mississippi Public Broadcasting. He has appeared on Fox & Friends, Inside Edition, CBSN and CNN New Day.

Ramsey's also a cancer survivor. Diagnosed with malignant melanoma in 2001, he has been honored by both the Melanoma Research Foundation and the American Cancer Society for paying his survival forward. He actively promotes skin cancer awareness and sun safety through cartoons, speeches, skin screenings and a 5K race. He even ran the Marine Corps Marathon to raise funds for melanoma research. (He completed the race, raised \$13,000 and developed some wicked leg cramps).

Ramsey, his wife Amy, their three sons and precocious dog Pip live in Mississippi, the best state for politics, storytellers, sweet tea and raising a family.





## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2023 – 11:50 AM – 1:20 PM LUNCHEON SESSION (1.0 CE CREDIT)

### **Welcome to My World: Humor, inspiration, and insight into how childhood trauma shaped an editorial cartoonist.**

Marshall Ramsey has drawn Mississippi's story for over 28 years with his art and editorial cartoons. He can tell complicated stories with just a few lines on a page. But the story behind his story is much more complex. In his presentation, he'll share how his creativity was forged. While learning to waterski on the Tennessee River at age eight, Marshall Ramsey's father taught him a life lesson that has carried him through numerous challenges — how to grab the rope and get back up after a bad fall. That ability to reframe challenges has been Ramsey's superpower that has gotten him through cancer, two spinal surgeries, a career implosion, and the illness and deaths of his parents. But when his father died, family secrets were exposed. His mother, a beautiful and gifted artist, struggled with her own CPTSD. So did her mother as did her mother (There are diary pages revealing his great, great grandmother was beaten by her mother). Trying to predict his mother's erratic behavior gave young Ramsey the ability to read a room and predict people's behavior. He could predict things others missed. It gave him the skillset that made him an excellent cartoonist. It also left him depressed and anxious.

As Ramsey's mother's health unraveled at the end of her life, it was like a boat prop running through a shallow pond. After an emotional family meeting about his father's care, an anxiety attack that left his legs numb while driving through Birmingham, Alabama, he reluctantly sought the help of a therapist. He vividly remembers his first visit. While sitting in the waiting room, shame caused him to want to hide behind the giant potted plant. That was the day he learned that mental health is health. You don't feel shame when you go to a cardiologist and oncologist, do you? Ramsey has become an advocate for the elimination of stigma surrounding mental health. Through the use of cartoons, photos and humor, Ramsey paints you a picture of what therapy is like for a patient. How he managed to break out of a cycle of self-defeating behavior.

Ramsey has mastered grabbing the rope. He is also good at knowing when to let go. Like his beloved late dog Banjo, he understands the importance of a strong will and a good attitude. But he also knows that there are times when you need to ask for help. Today, Ramsey is grateful for his mother — for the good and the bad. She shaped him into the creative artist he is today. And he is grateful for his therapists for illuminating a path toward healing. Seeking mental health help isn't weakness. It's the greatest strength of all.

### **Learning Objectives:**

Following this presentation, participants will be able to:

1. List tools Marshall Ramsey used to break out of a cycle of self-defeating behavior.
2. Discuss the conceptualization of C-PTSD from the viewpoint of a patient.
3. Describe the manner in which a cartoonist realized he could become a mental health advocate.

### **Presenter: Marshall Ramsey**

Marshall Ramsey is the Editor-At-Large for Mississippi Today, a non-profit news website. He's a two-time Pulitzer Finalist (2002 and 2006), a 2022 Southeastern Emmy winner and his work is nationally syndicated by Creators Syndicate. His cartoons have appeared in The New York Times, USA Today and The (Jackson, Miss.) Clarion-Ledger. He's also the author of several successful books including three cartoon collections, two short story collections (Fried Chicken and Wine and Chainsaws and Casseroles) and the delightful children's book Banjo's Dream. Ramsey's cartoons, photos, stories and posts are frequently shared on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. He's also the host of the weekly statewide radio program, Now You're Talking with Marshall Ramsey and the television program Conversations on Mississippi Public Broadcasting. He has appeared on Fox & Friends, Inside Edition, CBSN and CNN New Day.

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2023 – 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM DATA BLITZ

### **Make Me Know It - The Mediating Role of Perceived Diabetes Knowledge Between Depression & Diabetes Diet Self-Care**

Colter Clayton, University of Mississippi  
Aaron A. Lee, Ph.D.

### **Burning (Religious) Love... or Suspicious (Religious) Minds: How Religious Coping Styles Impact Mental**

Health Symptoms Among African Americans  
Elijah Mudryk, University of Mississippi  
Aaron A. Lee, Ph.D., Laura Johnson, Ph.D.

### **A Good Rockin Tonight: Dark Personality, Sexual Satisfaction and Sexual Perceptions**


Jasmine Rios, University of Mississippi  
Carrie V. Smith, Ph.D.

### **Always on My Mind: Appearance as a motivator for weight-loss intervention**

McCall Schruoff, University of Mississippi  
John Young, Ph.D. and Danielle Maack, Ph.D.

### **"Patch It Up": Examining the Link Between Music Listening and Social Exclusion Recovery**

Sydney G. Wicks, University of Mississippi  
Andrew H. Hales, PhD.



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**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2023**  
**2:45 PM – 3:45 PM**  
**CONCURRENT SESSION IIIA (1.0 CE CREDIT)**

**Suspicious Minds: Discussing the different professions covered in professional psychology and impact for MPA**

As the stated purpose of the MPA is to be the organized voice of psychology in Mississippi and advance psychology as a science, this panel will speak to the diversity in education, training, and career trajectories of individuals working in different psychology professions throughout the state. The introductory level presentation includes individuals with specialties in clinical psychology, school psychology, experimental psychology, and counseling psychology across academic and non-academic positions. In addition to discussion of educational and career trajectory the group will talk about MPA as a professional home (both what has been supportive and what positive changes might be made for inclusivity for all psychology).

**Learning Objectives:**

Following this presentation, participants will be able to:

1. Identify at least 3 different career and educational paths of psychologists in Mississippi.
2. Detail areas of disconnect between psychologists across career paths and their involvement with the MPA.
3. Discuss steps the MPA can consider in order to be a more supportive and inclusive professional home for all psychologists in Mississippi.

**Presenters: Danelle Maack, Ph.D., Mitch Berman, Ph.D., Amanda Gugliano, Psy.D., Sarah Irby Ph.D., BCBA, Ryan Liu-Pham, Ph.D., Josie Nicholson Ph.D., & Kathryn Waggoner, Psy.D., ABPP**

Dr. Maack is the moderator of this panel, is a licensed psychologist and owner of Delta Autumn Consulting, LLC in Oxford, MS. Dr. Maack specializes in treatment of mood and anxiety disorders as well as psychological assessments. Dr. Maack completed her Ph.D. in clinical psychology at the University of Wyoming with internship training at the Jackson Consortium and postdoctoral training at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. She is the author of numerous peer-reviewed articles, active in local mental health coalitions, and the current Federal Advocacy Coordinator for the MPA.

Dr. Berman is a licensed psychologist and Professor and Department Head at Mississippi State University. He completed his Ph.D. in clinical psychology at Kent State University with internship training at the Medical College of Pennsylvania/EPPI. He currently supervises masters and doctoral theses at MSU with primary research interests including aggressive and self-injurious behavior in humans, including the role of social, personality, and biological influences. His clinical interests focus on cognitive-behavioral treatments for adult disorders, including anxiety disorders and aggression. He has been awarded funding on numerous grants, industrial contracts, and has a multitude of peer-reviewed publications.

Dr. Gugliano is a licensed psychologist and Director of the Forensic Evaluation Service at the Mississippi State Hospital. She completed her Psy.D. in clinical psychology at the Arizona Professional School of Psychology, Argosy University/Phoenix with internship training at the Mississippi State Hospital. She has numerous professional presentations, research, and publications in the areas of forensics.

Dr. Irby is a licensed psychologist who is the owner of Irby Psychological Services, LLC. In Southaven, MS as well as a Clinical Assistant Professor at the University of Memphis. She received her Ph.D. in School Psychology from the University of Memphis with internship training at the Nebraska Internship Consortium in Professional Psychology- Munroe-Meyer Institute. She has numerous papers and publications related to testing, giftedness, and autism spectrum disorder.

Dr. Liu-Pham is an experimental psychologist who is an Assistant Professor at Jackson State University. He completed his Ph.D. in experimental psychology at the University of Southern Mississippi. He is the director of the Interpersonal Relationships Lab at Jackson State University. He has numerous publications in the area of various types of relationships.

Dr. Nicholson is a licensed counseling psychologist and sport psychologist who is the Assistant Athletic Director for Sport Psychology at the University of Mississippi. She completed her Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology at the University of Southern Mississippi with her internship training at the CSU Health Network Counseling Services: Sport and Performance Program and post-doctoral fellowship at the Counseling and Wellness Center, University Athletic Association at the University of Florida. She currently serves as the chair of Division 47 of the APA (The Society for Sport, Exercise, and Performance Psychology).

Dr. Waggoner is a licensed psychologist and Founder/CEO of Phoenix Behavioral Health Center, PLLC in Ocean Springs, MS. She received her Psy.D. in clinical psychology at Wright State University School of Professional Psychology with internship training at Spring Grove Hospital Center in MD. She completed her postdoctoral fellowship at the San Antonio Military Medical Center. She is board-certified with a specialty in Clinical Health Psychology. She has numerous publications and presentations related to behavioral health services.



# TAKE NOTES



**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2023**  
**2:45 PM – 3:45 PM**  
**CONCURRENT SESSION IIIB (1.0 CE CREDIT)**

**“Return to Sender” How Psychologists’ Documentation Impact the Disability Evaluation-  
Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services**

The introductory level panel discussion will review the importance and impact of the psychologist’s treatment records and consultative reports on the disability evaluation process. We will provide information about the sufficiency of medical documentation for the purposes of disability claims evaluation. The panel will also address and expand upon the functional impact of mental disorders/symptoms as they relate to the mental components of an individual’s ability to engage in work-related activities.

**Learning Objectives:**

Following this presentation, participants will be able to:

1. Describe the content needed for sufficient medical documentation for the purpose of Disability Claim Examinations.
2. Explain the functional impact of mental disorders/symptoms as they relate to the mental components of an individual’s ability to engage in work-related activities.
3. List the four functional areas that are impacted by mental disorders when severity and capacity to work are assessed.
4. Apply signs and symptoms of a disorder to impact upon daily functioning and utilize severity ranges in order to analyze and compile opinions about mental capacity to work.

**Presenters: Angela Herzog, Ph.D., Gus Sison, Ph.D., David Gavel, Ph.D., Samandra Murphy, Missy Thomas**

Dr. Herzog has been a consultant at Disability Determination Services since 1985, where she works with personnel to determine eligibility for citizens of Mississippi who apply for various types of Social Security benefits based upon impaired functioning due to mental disorders. She also works with administrators to ensure that medical records are obtained from treating sources as needed to determine eligibility, and to obtain consultative examinations from psychologists across the state when citizens do not have a source of mental health treatment. When new personnel are brought on board as consultants or employees at DDS, Dr. Herzog assists with providing training on SSA’s mental impairment regulations.

Dr. Sison holds the Ph.D. in psychology and has provided examinations for DDS for many years, adjunctive to his military career.

Dr. Gavel holds the Ph.D. in psychology and provides the perspective as a newcomer to the panel, building on his forensic practice.

Mrs. Murphy’s professional career has been in many positions of leadership and administration with the SSA and DDS programs.

Mrs. Thomas is Director of the Medical Records Team at DDS. Her role is to recruit medical/psychological consultant sources to provide evaluations for the agency which makes determinations when Mississippians apply for various types of Social Security benefits based on medical disorders, including mental disorders. She also ensures that the agency has access to Mississippi providers of health care to facilitate receipt of treatment records that are used in the determination of eligibility for Social Security benefits.





# TAKE NOTES



**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2023**  
**3:50 PM – 4:50 PM**  
**GENERAL SESSION (1.0 CE CREDIT)**

**Leveraging training settings to better understand and address barriers to accessing behavioral health care in Mississippi.**

The intermediate-level symposium will consist of a series of mini presentations (~15 minutes) highlighting the unique strategies that training clinics have employed to address barriers to accessing behavioral health services. Mini presentations will be followed by a Q/A session (~15 minutes).

1. Presentation one will highlight how funds were secured to provide free telehealth services to children through a training clinic (MSU). Advantages for both clients and trainees will be discussed. (E. Stafford)
2. Presentation two will highlight how a training clinic (USM) secured funding to implement new and free transdiagnostic groups for both children and adults to address a growing waitlist for services. Steps for implementation as well as preliminary outcome data from services will be provided. Advantages for both clients and trainees will be discussed. (C. Springfield & K. McRaney)
3. Presentation three will offer insight into the barriers that were encountered in implementing the two above approaches and recommendations for providers as well as supervisors in training settings. Presentation three will be informed by data obtained from qualitative interviews with clients in the new group service implementation described in presentation two. (K. Bonfils & L. Hammer)

This program requires a foundational knowledge of evidence-based care and treatments.

**Learning Objectives:**

Following this presentation, participants will be able to:

1. Explain how training settings can be leveraged to fill an important service need in communities
2. Select strategies to maximize access to care in the community
3. Discuss the advantages of offering new and unique services modalities for trainees and future service providers
4. Describe potential for barriers clients face when accessing care

**Presenters: Kristy McRaney, Ph.D., Emily Stafford M.Ed., Lillian Hammer, Cassi Springfield, Kelsey Bonfils, Ph.D.**

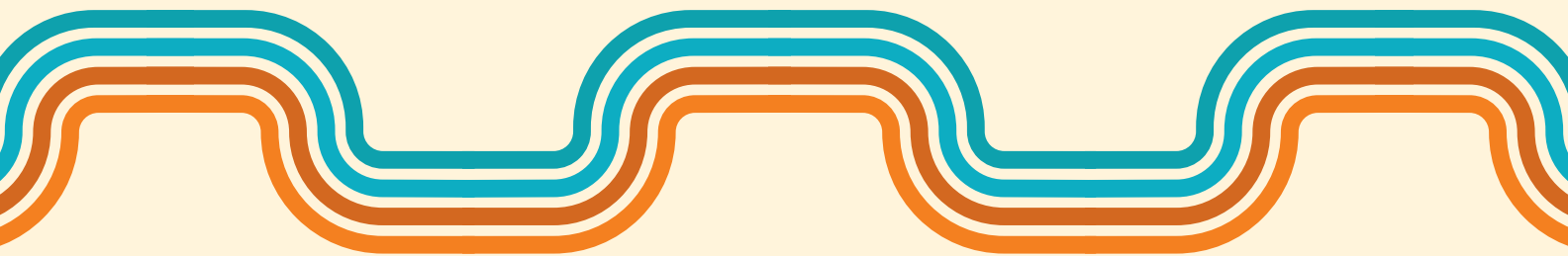
Kristy McRaney, Ph.D. is the director of the USM Center for Behavioral Health and assistant clinical professor (since 2020), teaches graduate courses in psychology at USM (since 2020), is a licensed psychologist, and has published peer-reviewed research in psychology. She has previously presented CE training specific to service implementation and training of behavioral healthcare workforce at the local and national level.

Emily S.H. Stafford is the director of the Mississippi State University Psychology Clinic and Assistant Clinical Professor within the Department of Psychology (since 2018). Dr. Stafford graduated from Auburn University with a Ph.D. in Counselor Education in 2014 and an M.Ed. in Community Agency Counseling in 2009. She is a licensed professional counselor supervisor and holds a board certification in telemental health. She is involved in grant projects aimed at decreasing youth suicide in the state, with projects totaling over \$2 million in funding.

Lillian Hammer is a doctoral student in Clinical Psychology at USM, where she started in 2021. She has undergone training with Drs. Bonfils and McRaney and served as a therapist for one of the interventions at USM for which data will be presented. She is a dedicated clinician-in-training and has conducted the relevant work to be presented in close consultation with her mentor, Dr. Bonfils.

Cassi Springfield is a doctoral student in Clinical Psychology at USM, where she started in 2021. She has undergone training with Drs. Bonfils and McRaney and served as a therapist for one of the interventions at USM for which data will be presented. She is a dedicated clinician-in-training and has conducted the relevant work to be presented in close consultation with her mentor, Dr. Bonfils.

Kelsey Bonfils, Ph.D. is an Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychology at USM and the Director of the Social Cognition & Recovery in Schizophrenia (SCORS) Lab. She started at USM in 2020, where she teaches doctoral-level courses, and became a licensed psychologist in MS in 2021. She has published extensive peer-reviewed research, including work focused on psychotherapy and implementation and dissemination of various interventions. Dr. Bonfils has previously conducted several trainings through a variety of outlets pertaining to training in evidence-based psychotherapies and specific therapy techniques, some of which were CE-approved.



**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2023**

**5:00 PM – 5:45 PM**

**POSTER SESSION**

## **GRADUATE STUDENTS**

**Chronic Illness and Psychopathology in Emerging Adults: Moderation by Parent-Child Relationship Quality**

Abigail Kukay, Mississippi State University

Cliff McKinney, Ph.D.

**Hope, Hopelessness, Optimism and Regretting Surviving a Suicide Attempt**

Karin Hendricks, University of South Alabama

Kate Comtois, Ph.D., MPH

**How's the World Treating You? The Effect of Ambivalent Sexism towards Women on Well- and Ill-Being**

Caitlin M. Shaw, M.A., University of Mississippi

C. Veronica Smith, Ph.D.

**“You Cheated & You Schemed, You’re the Devil in Disguise”: How dark traits influence college students’ academic misconduct**

Jacq Strowd, The University of Southern Mississippi

Yuxuan Yang, B.S., Eric Dahlen, Ph.D.

**The Role of Migraine Aura in Functional Impairment**

Delora Denny, University of Mississippi Medical Center

Todd A. Smitherman, Ph.D., Aaron A. Lee, Ph.D.

## **UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS**

**Don't Be Cruel for There is a Connection Between Experiences of Discrimination and Mental Health in Emerging Adults Who Were Raised by Grandparents**

K'lee Pittman, Mississippi State University

Acacia R. Lopez M.S., Danielle K. Nadorff Ph.D., Laura Ann Chapman, Alexandria Davis

**A Little Less Conversation: Computer Usage as a Coping Mechanism in Children Experiencing Loneliness**

Laura Ann Chapman, Mississippi State University

K'lee Pittman, Alexandria Davis, Acacia R. Lopez, M.S., Danielle K. Nadorff, Ph.D.

**Comparing Categorical and Dimensional Measures of BPD: Investigating Sex Differences and Impulsivity**

Jennilynn Hall, Mississippi State University

Laughlin Aschenbrenner, Yasmine Griffin, M.A., Hilary DeShong, Ph.D.

**Crying All the Time? The Relationship between Executive Function and Effortful Control in Toddlers**

Racheal Embry, University of Mississippi

Kallen Mitchell, Abby Brown, B.A., Stephanie E. Miller, Ph.D.

**The Indirect Effect of Parental Anxiety on Parental Involvement through Helicopter Parenting**

Morgan Moore, Mississippi State University

Andi Durham, B.S., Cliff McKinney, Ph.D.

**Attachment, Trauma History, and Perceived Discrimination as Predictors of Depression in Emerging Adults Raised by Grandparents**

Alexandria Davis, Mississippi State University

Laura Ann Chapman, K'lee Pittman, Acacia R. Lopez, M.S., Danielle Nadorff, Ph.D.

**Investigating the Relationship between BPD Traits and Thought Control Strategies**

Ashley Mangus, Mississippi State University

Johntavia Toliver, Yasmine A. Griffin, M.A., Hilary DeShong, Ph.D.



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## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2023 – 10:50 AM – 11:50 AM CLOSING SESSION (1.0 CE CREDIT)

### **Suspicious Minds: Healthcare, Privacy, and Support Post-Dobbs**

Following the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, Mississippi's reproductive healthcare has become even more inaccessible, unaffordable, and nearly obsolete. The mental health of women and people who may become pregnant has severely suffered since the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* in *Dobbs*. The ability to fully provide women with reproductive and mental health care is increasingly fraught as legislators have not stepped up to provide a framework to protect women's bodily autonomy now that there is no constitutional shield. The legal landscape of what providers can and cannot do in response is increasingly confusing as each state individually enacts bans or strengthens protections for reproductive healthcare. In this introductory presentation, attorney Vara Lyons will give an overview of the current legal outlook of women's reproductive healthcare in Mississippi.

#### **Learning Objectives:**

Following this presentation, participants will be able to:

1. Describe the current legal landscape of women's reproductive healthcare in Mississippi.
2. Discuss how maternal mental health has suffered since the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*.

#### **Presenter: Vara Lyons, J.D.**

Vara Lyons graduated from the George Washington University Law School in 2015 and has over eight years of litigation and advocacy experience. Vara previously served as a Brooklyn Assistant District Attorney and litigated sexual abuse cases in private practice. Most recently, Vara was the ACLU of Mississippi's policy counsel, where she represented various plaintiffs in a redistricting matter and advocated for progressive legislation.

## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2023 – 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM CE WORKSHOP I/II (1.5 CE CREDITS)

### **Some Conversation and More Action: Working with Transgender and Non-Binary Clients in Mississippi**

The landscape for transgender and non-binary individuals is a combination of increased acceptance in many areas of life with a concurrent rise in discrimination in other areas. Additionally, there has been an increase in focus on this minority group from regulatory bodies. Mississippi and other southern states have been at the forefront of these issues, centering a spotlight on members of these communities and making mental health services more important than ever. This presentation seeks to provide a foundation for understanding issues for this community and discuss best practices in providing affirming care with transgender and non-binary clients. Presentation and discussion of current research and guidance from mental health and medical organizations will be included along with discussion of legal and ethical considerations for providers. Resources for navigating these concerns will also be provided. Q & A time will also be available throughout the presentation. This is an introductory-level presentation that also qualifies as a CE ethics program.

#### **Learning Objectives:**

Following this presentation, participants will be able to:

1. Demonstrate foundational understanding of common mental health experiences and concerns of transgender and non-binary persons.
2. Apply this understanding to working with transgender and non-binary clients in psychological practice.
3. Discuss and respond to legal and ethical concerns that may occur when working with transgender and non-binary clients.

#### **Presenter: Ty Stafford, Ph.D.**

Dr. Ty Stafford is an Assistant Clinical Professor in psychology at Mississippi State University and the Associate Director of Training for the APA-accredited Clinical Psychology program at MS State. He is also a licensed psychologist having worked primarily in college counseling settings for the past 10 years, specializing in supervision, LGBTQ+ concerns, and trauma. He is also the Region 1 Representative for the MPA Psychology board. Currently, he teaches the Psychology of Gender Differences course for undergraduates at MS State as well as the Diversity of Applied Psychology course for graduate students within the Clinical Psychology program. He is an active member of the MS State Safe Zone Advisory Board. He is also the chair of the Department of Psychology Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access (IDEA) committee as well as a member of the MS State Arts & Sciences IDEA committee. Additionally, he is on a national task force with the Council of University Directors of Clinical Psychology focusing on diversifying the clinical psychology graduate student pipeline.





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