

# Maryland Head Start Association

## 2019 Annual Spring Conference

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**Wednesday, May 8, 2019**  
**8:30 am – 10:00 am**

❖ **Panel Discussion: Homelessness 1.5hrs**

❖ **Core of Knowledge Content Area: Community**

**Lead Facilitator: Simeon Russell**

**10:15 am -11:45 am**

❖ **Understanding & Motivating Young Children 1.5hrs**

❖ **Core of Knowledge Content Area: Child Development**

Innovative and enriching workshop for staff and parents on how to help and enhance children's learning experience by understanding their brain's inner workings and how it impacts their behavior. Our children's early years are spent in their emotional brain where it is harder to self-regulate, retain information, and grow behaviorally and academically. During this workshop participants will learn how to use sign language and other techniques to bring our children out of their emotional brain into their logical brain and in time producing better self-regulation skills. Participants will also learn fun strategies to connect with children using their communication language.

**Presenter:** **Mrs. Lillian Hubler** has presented to over 100,000 early childhood educators across the nation with hundred of national, regional and state events. Mrs. Hubler attend Gallaudet University to learn how to incorporate sign language into early childhood best practice. She has a CDA in early childhood and works under the direction of Dr. Michael Hubler who has a doctorate in social emotional learning.

❖ **Prevention: How to eliminate Dental Cavities for Children 1.5 hrs.**

❖ **Core of Knowledge Content Area: Health, Safety, Nutrition**

This workshop will provide comprehensive information for prevention of dental disease (cavities). Dental health begins at an early age, best practices can help eliminate dental issues for children, which will lead to wellness in all facets of the child life.

**Presenter:** **Judith F. Gaston, RN, MS** is the Eastern Shore Oral Health Education and Outreach Program Coordinator for the six counties (Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne, Talbot, Caroline and Dorchester) for the Office of Oral Health, Prevention & Health Promotion Administration, Maryland Department of Health, Baltimore, Maryland. Judith has been involved with Oral Health/Medical Health/Behavioral Health and Social Health settings for areas in Michigan and Maryland for the last 40 plus years. Her activities for the communities in Maryland through the University of Maryland, School of Dentistry and now the state of Maryland have been to provide multiple facets of oral health education for all ages (infancy through seniors, pregnant women and clients with multiple special needs). The directive being in prevention of oral health disease, case management in obtaining dental services, and/or outreach to medical,

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behavioral health or dental agencies that need a path to maintaining/providing quality oral health care as a part of total wellness.

**Presenter:** **Katy Battani, RDH, MS** has been a dental hygienist for 16 years and is an alumnus of the University of Maryland, Baltimore School of Dentistry and the University of Maryland, Baltimore Graduate School. Katy is currently the project manager for the Partnership for Integrating Oral Health Care into Primary Care project at the National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center at Georgetown University. Prior to this position, she led the Maryland Department of Health, Office of Oral Health's Perinatal and Infant Oral Health Quality Improvement Project which focuses on improving oral health for pregnant women and infants at high risk for oral disease. Katy currently serves on the Maryland PRAMS (Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System) Steering Committee, is the Maryland Dental Hygienist Liaison for the National Center on Early Childhood Health and Wellness and has recently served as the Maryland State Representative to the DentaQuest Foundation's Oral Health 2020 Network. Katy is active in several state and national organizations. Katy previously worked as Health Education Coordinator for the Maryland Dental Action Coalition (MDAC) whose mission is to develop and maintain a statewide partnership of individuals committed to improved health among all Marylanders through increased oral health promotion, disease prevention, education, advocacy and access to dental care. Prior to her position with MDAC, she was a dental hygiene faculty member at the University of Maryland, Baltimore School of Dentistry and served for four years as Graduate Program Director of the Master of Science in Dental Hygiene Program. In 2015, Katy received the Champions for Children and Youth Award which recognizes professionals, volunteers, and youth in the community who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to help children. Also, in 2015, Katy was recognized nationally as one of the "Dental Hygienists You Want to Know" by the Dimensions of Dental Hygiene Journal. Katy's publications and research interests focus on maternal and child oral health and the dental hygiene workforce.

**Presenter:** **Jasmine Joseph, RDH, MPH** received her Master of Public Health degree from American Public University. She has five years of experience as a dental hygienist clinician and educator. She is passionate about preventive oral health care and health promotion and is now pursuing these interests in dental public health at the Maryland Department of Health, Office of Oral Health, Baltimore, Maryland. Jasmine also holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County and is an active member of the American Dental Hygienists' Association.

❖ [Easy Data Management with Child Plus.](#)

❖ [Core of Knowledge Content Area: Community](#)

In this session participants will learn how to collect data and use reports to help guide decisions. This workshop will also learn how to use internal monitoring tools and email notifications to help improve your policies and procedures to meet OHS compliance.

**Presenter:** **Jose Martinez** is a veteran Head Start employee and a parent for 11 years. Jose knows how important the effective management of your Head Start and Early Head Start programs are to the success of all participants involved. Fluent in Spanish, Jose routinely works with agencies of all sizes across the nation. Jose is an Account Executive for Child Plus

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**Wednesday, May 8, 2019**

**1:30 pm – 4:30 pm**

- ❖ *Strategies for Supporting Dual Language Learners in the Classroom 3.0 hrs.*
- ❖ *Core of Knowledge Content Area: Child Development*

This is an interactive workshop that provides foundational knowledge about dual language learners, strategies for supporting home language and the acquisition of English, and key considerations for communicating and engaging with DLL families.

**Presenter: Amiee Aquino** has been in the early care and education field for approximately 20 years. She worked for different organizations and agencies such as the Department of Defense Air Force, Department of Defense Navy, Region III Head Start, Teaching Strategies, Knowledge Universe, and Bright Horizons Family Solutions. She had been a Training & Curriculum Specialist, Executive Center Director, Quality Assurance & Training Manager, and ECE TTA consultant. Amiee has an extensive background in staff development, trained in curriculum and assessment, presented at NAEYC and State conferences. Amiee was previously an ECE Specialist in Region III and provided TTA in areas of school readiness, career/professional development, and parent family community engagement. Amiee has a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Development and Family Sciences from University of Texas at Austin and some graduate studies in ECE.

**Presenter: Heather McAdam** has more than 15 years of experience in teaching, coaching and consultation within the Early Childhood Education field. Born and raised in Phoenix Arizona, Heather provided coaching for Quality First! Arizona's Quality Rating and Improvement System. As an Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant, Heather partnered with programs to address the social, emotional and behavioral needs of young children. Since relocating to the east coast, Heather has provided coaching and support as an Instructional Specialist to Head Start and Early Head Start programs in the District of Columbia. Heather has a master's degree in both Special Education and Early Childhood Education Curriculum and Instruction. Heather also holds an Infant and Family Studies certification from The Harris Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Training Institute.

- ❖ *Emergency Preparedness 3.0 hrs.*
- ❖ *Core of Knowledge Content Area: Health, Safety and Nutrition*

This training will support grantees, staff and parents in planning for emergencies. Emergency Preparedness includes planning and preparation in the event of disasters, community partnerships to prepare and recover from disasters, staff training, parent planning and information, dealing with disaster recovery, and psychological first aid to support children, staff, and families who have been through traumatic emergency events.

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**Presenter:** **Rashanda Jenkins** joined the Region III Training & Technical Assistance Network Team as the Health Specialist in February 2019. With over 11 years of experience working in Early Childhood, Ms. Jenkins has spent most of her career in Early Head Start and Head Start Programs in Northern Virginia. Ms. Jenkins has served in a variety of roles that include an Early Head Start Home-based Supervisor, Grantee Program Director, Regional Health & Nutritional Coordinator and worked as the State Health Advisory Chairperson for the Virginia Head Start Association (VAHSA) for over 3 years. Ms. Jenkins also served on the Virginia Head Start Association Board of Directors as the Northeast Region Director Chairperson. Ms. Jenkins earned a master's degree in Social Work from the prestigious Howard University in Washington, D.C. and a Bachelor of Social Work from Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, North Carolina. Ms. Jenkins is also a graduate of the UCLA Johnson & Johnson Head Start Management Fellows Program c/o 2013. Ms. Jenkins currently resides in Arlington, VA with her family.

- ❖ [\*\*Mindfulness Practice in Early Childhood and the Impact on the Developing Brain 3.0hrs.\*\*](#)
- ❖ [\*\*Core of Knowledge Content Area: Child Development\*\*](#)

This session will help you learn how to use mindfulness techniques such as breathing and meditation to help focus attention, balance emotions, and improve relationships among young children birth to five, their families, and others in their world. There will be an overview of how the brain works and how emotions and response to different situations can impact brain development and functioning. The way you focus your mind can change the structure of the brain! Designed for early childhood professionals, teachers, assistants, parents, and the children they work with. It is never too early to teach mindfulness strategies to improve executive functioning skills and decrease challenging behavior!

**Presenter:** **Ellen Abramson** has been supporting young children, with and without disabilities, their families and adults who work with them for over 30 years at the local, state, and national level in government, public and private schools, childcare, hospitals, and community programs. Ellen teaches at Johns Hopkins University, College of Southern Maryland and has provided workshops nationwide to parents, educators, and child-serving professionals on a variety of brain-based topics including building great brains birth through five, understanding ADHD, autism spectrum disorders and executive function skills. She has been training and coaching staff on poverty, early literacy skills, assessment, inclusion, behavior management, and social and emotional development throughout Maryland and on a reservation in New Mexico. Ellen has a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of New Hampshire, a master's degree in early childhood special education from the George Washington University, and is currently studying at the University of Pennsylvania Program for Mindfulness.

**Presenter:** **Donna Greenleaf** is the current Supervisor for Early Childhood for Dorchester County Public Schools. She has worked in Maryland for over thirty years supporting children, families, and teachers as Coordinator for Special Education, Director of the Infants and Toddlers Program, special education teacher, classroom teacher, and child care provider. In her current role as Supervisor of Early Childhood for Dorchester County Public Schools, she oversees early childhood classrooms and co-chairs the local Early Childhood Advisory Council. She promotes SEFEL (Social Emotional Foundations for Early Learning) practices and mindfulness strategies in elementary classrooms. Ms. Greenleaf received a bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland in elementary and special education and a master's degree in special education and administration from Johns Hopkins University. She recently co-presented with Ms. Abramson on mindfulness techniques in early childhood classrooms at the National At-Risk Education Network Conference and at the Maryland Head Start Winter Health Institute.