



Deborah Ferris, CDP
Regional Director, Southeastern U.S.
Music & Memory®
dferris@musicandmemory.org

As a Regional Director for MUSIC & MEMORY®, Deborah promotes awareness of the therapeutic impact and benefits of personalized music to enhance quality of life and improve treatment outcomes for individuals with cognitive, intellectual, mental, and physical challenges.

Deborah promotes program best practices for long-term success and sustainability. Her work and passion for the program have yielded positive results for countless individuals, family members, and care professionals.

Relevant Abbreviated Summary:

5/2013 – Current: Music & Memory - Regional Director Southeastern U.S.

- Certification & full implementation of the Music & Memory program to enhance quality of life, promote culture change, and reduce the use of psychotropic meds for the elderly and infirm within a 120-bed, skilled care environment
- Create, design and conduct frequent web-based trainings via Citrix/LogMeIn software
- Creation and continued maintenance of over 350 Power Point Slide Library and numerous presentations utilized by all Regional Directors and other Music & Memory staff
- Created and designed foundation for program implementation guides and manualized implementation steps
- Created and designed foundation for most popular program implementation resources
- Created and designed Music & Memory's Pre-Certification Orientation & Preparation training and Certification training webinars
- Promote awareness of the therapeutic impact of personalized music with the goal of enhancing quality of life and certifying health and community organizations
- Design and conduct program presentations at elder and health care conferences
- Collaborate with clinical teams, establish partnerships, and maintain a rapport with stakeholders
- Encourage corporate initiatives and act as a consultant regarding grant opportunities to bring awareness, funding, and support through state provider associations and government agencies in the health and elder care sectors, community organizations, and Alzheimer's support entities
- Provide support for existing certified programs by making recommendations and promoting use of program resources and best practices for long-term success and sustainability

Conference Presentations:

- Mississippi Department of Mental Health & Intellectual Developmental Disabilities Annual Conference
- Coalition for Alzheimer's & Related Disorders of Northwest Alabama
- Dementia Society of America Annual Conference – Atlanta, GA
- Culture Change of Georgia Annual Conference – Atlanta, GA
- Alzheimer's Mississippi Annual Caregiver Conference – Jackson, MS
- St. Augustine Film Society – Alive Inside Documentary Screening – St. Augustine, FL
- Leading Age Tennessee Annual Conference – Nashville, TN
- North Carolina Assisted Living Association Annual Conference – Winston-Salem, NC
- Mississippi Department of Human Services Annual Conference – Natchez, MS
- Leading Age Kansas Annual Conference – Wichita, KS
- South Carolina Health Care Association Annual Conference – Columbia, SC
- National Aging in Place Council Annual Conference – Charleston, SC

- Southern Gerontological Society Annual Conference – Atlanta, GA and Asheville, NC
- Arkansas Department of Health & Human Services – Little Rock, AR
- Georgia Health Care Association – Atlanta, GA
- Tennessee Federation for the Aging Annual Conference – Pigeon Forge, TN

Education:

Certified Dementia Practitioner

- Completed required training and current standing

Messick High School – Memphis, TN

- Who's Who Among Distinguished High School Students of America
- Top Ten – Class of 1978
- Graduated in 11 Years (Skipped 11th Grade)

State Tech Institute – Memphis, TN

- Studies in the areas of Administration and Computer Technology