

# The Ally

November 2019

*The Families As Allies Newsletter*



Community



Partnership



Celebration

## OUR 2019 AWARD WINNERS

KATELYN ELIZABETH BROWN

## OUR 6TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP CELEBRATION!



**BALCH**  
& BINGHAM LLP

CLICK ON PHOTO TO SEE ALBUM

## WHAT A NIGHT!

Last Monday night we held our **Sixth Annual Community Partnership Celebration** and as usual had a wonderful time with families, friends, award winners and sponsors. You can learn more about our award winners and why we honored them in the left hand column. Thanks to all who joined us, and thanks to those of you who have supported us in so many ways over the years. Of course, we would also like to thank **Bravo** for the wonderful job they do every year and for their delicious food.

But we especially want to thank our **generous sponsors and hosts**, who make the evening possible and help us further our mission.

Thanks to our silver sponsor **Youth Villages**, our bronze sponsors **Hapax Creative**, **Dr. Jon Corey Jackson**, **Dr. Chasity Torrence**, and **Drs. Howard Roffwarg and Joy Hogge**, and to our hosts, **A2Z Printing**, **The Center For Children and Families**, **Community Student Learning Center**, **Mr. Jonathan Comprett** and **Dr. Caroline Ellender Comprett**, **Disability Rights Mississippi**, **Hinds Behavioral Health**, **Hinds County Human Resources**



KATELYN ELIZABETH BROWN

#### ***RECIPIENT OF THE HELEN REDDY JOHNSON MEMORIAL AWARD FOR VALUING EVERY CHILD AND FAMILY***

Katelyn came to us and asked how she and Families as Allies could partner to support family and children, and the result was the video above ([click on photo to access](#)). We are so grateful to Katelyn and hope our partnership will continue. **Please share her video with others.**

#### ***JULIO CESPEDES JR.***



JULIO CESPEDES, JR.

#### ***RECIPIENT OF THE RUSTY TURNER MEMORIAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE***

Julio's passion is to build an optimal system of care for his fellow Mississippians by collaborating with physicians, hospitals, payors, public and private entities to create innovative pathways and models of care. We honor Julio for his work on Mississippi's Integrated Care for Kids (INCK) application.

Agency, Jackson Free Press, Mississippi Psychiatric Association, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Townes and Jan Townes, and Ms. Janet Van Suntum.

If you missed the celebration and would like to feel like you were there, check out the [program](#) and our 2019 [impact report](#), as well as [this video of the evening](#). If you would like to donate, you can do so [here](#). Please note that sponsorships (any donation \$1,000 and over) are acknowledged throughout the year in our print and social media.

## **STATEWIDE CANDIDATES SHARE THEIR STANCES ON MENTAL HEALTH**

At the beginning of October we sent out this question about mental health in Mississippi to the candidates for the offices of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State and Treasurer:

**If elected, what will you do to support our mental health system to be as responsive as possible to adults, children and families in Mississippi who are affected by mental illness?**

We asked them to frame their responses in light of [Judge Carlton Reeves' ruling](#) in the US Justice Department's lawsuit against Mississippi's mental health system. For your reference, the ruling begins with an overview of the issues, information about costs of services begins on page 45 and the lawsuit's relationship to Medicaid expansion is explained in a footnote on the bottom of page 51.

Those candidates who responded are shown below. To read their responses just [click on their photo](#). If you would like a PDF of all the responses

**RECIPIENT OF THE PARTNERSHIP AWARD**

Balch & Bingham is receiving this award for its ongoing support of Families as Allies and its generous donation of pro bono work this year. The firm's guidance has definitely helped Families as Allies come closer to reaching our goals and their support and belief in our mission means the world to us.

**JEFF AMY**



**RECIPIENT OF THE ACCOUNTABILITY AWARD**

Jeff is a staff writer for the Associated Press. This award recognizes Jeff for his consistent, thorough and accurate reporting over the past year about Mississippi's mental health system, and for his tweeting during the recent federal trial, which allowed people who could not attend stay updated.

## Families Who Live In The Delta

Is your child seen by a nurse practitioner or family doctor? Do you think that person might like some extra support from a child psychiatrist or psychologist?

[click here](#). All responses are printed verbatim and our publication of the responses does not imply that we agree with them or that they are factually correct.



Tate Reeves



Jim Hood



Delbert Hosemann



Jay Hughes



Johnny Dupree



Jennifer Riley Collins

*We reached out to these candidates multiple times throughout October, but did not receive their responses by the time of publication: Lynn Fitch, Michael Watson, David McRae and Addie Green.*

*We urge everyone to vote this Tuesday, November 5. You can find more information about voting [here](#). Families as Allies does not endorse candidates.*

That help is now available through the **CHAMP (Child Access to Mental Health and Psychiatry) Project**. Check out [CHAMP's brochure here](#) and share it with the person who provides your child's medical care.

## THANK YOU FOR MAKING FAMILIES AS ALLIES A WINNER!

Please buy your gift cards at Bravo, Broadstreet and Sal & Mookie's starting November 15 and designate Families as Allies as your charity! Thank you to [Mangia Bene Restaurant Group](#) for its support.

### Meet the 2019 Charities!

These 12 charities will be the recipients of 10% of the proceeds of our [12 Days of Giving Gift Card Sale](#) November 15-26th. And you get to choose which one you support when you check out!



#HEARTFORJACKSON

## SUN HERALD COMMUNITY FORUM ON MENTAL HEALTH



On October 22nd Executive Director Joy Hogge participated in a community forum on mental health that was sponsored by the Sun Herald. Dr. Hogge joined Anita Lee, investigative reporter for the Sun Herald, Dr. Julie Teater, a psychologist who practices in the Gulf Coast region and Troy Peterson, Sheriff of Hancock County. The forum was moderated by Lauren Walck, Senior News Editor at the Sun Herald.

Over the past year problems have mounted at Gulf Coast Mental Health, and the situation has been reported on by Ms. Lee in a number of articles for the Sun Herald. As she put it in one of the articles on the subject, [the near collapse of community mental health services in South Mississippi should have come as no shock to anyone in the know.](#)

The event was well attended, with nearly 100 participants filling the Institute for Marine Mammal Studies auditorium, including some Gulf Coast elected officials. Many of those who came were concerned about the future of mental health care in the Gulf Coast region, especially given the uncertain future of Gulf Coast Mental Health.

We know there are many challenges ahead but were encouraged by the number of community members who attended and were passionate about finding solutions.

# UPDATE ON THE DOJ vs. STATE OF MISSISSIPPI MENTAL HEALTH LAWSUIT



The State Chapter of the Federation of Families



**The only statewide organization run by and for families of children with behavioral health challenges.**



We support each other and work together to make things better for our children.

**TUPELO:**  
Are you ready to take our Leadership Training?

All you have to do is  
**SIGN UP!**

Families as Allies is holding a day long leadership training class on Saturday, November 23rd in Tupelo.

This training is for parents who are interested in being Parent/Caregiver Leaders to serve on decision-making groups and committees.

**SIGN UP SOON AS SPACE IS LIMITED!**

WHERE: CREATE Foundation, Inc.  
213 Main Street, #100 (boardroom is in the rear of building)  
Tupelo, MS 38804

WHEN: Saturday, November 23rd  
from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

**JOIN US.**  
Call 601-355-0915.  
[www.faams.org](http://www.faams.org)



## ANNOUNCING OUR NEXT LEADERSHIP TRAINING IN TUPELO ON SATURDAY, NOV. 23rd

This training is for all parents and parent peer support specialists in the Tupelo area. The training will take place on Saturday, November 23rd, from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.  
**REGISTER NOW!**



**The National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health is excited to be celebrating its 30th Anniversary this year!**

You are invited to participate in the Federation's "30 for 30" Campaign by making a donation of \$30 to honor its 30 years of service representing the



On September 3rd Judge Carlton Reeves issued his **Memorandum and Order** in the case of the *United States vs. Mississippi* regarding the state's mental health system. Judge Reeves found in favor of the United States. He ordered the parties to submit, within 30 days, three names of potential special masters and a proposal for the special master's role.

On October 3rd each of the parties submitted their list of potential special masters and their proposal for the special master's role.

[\*\*State of Mississippi Proposal\*\*](#)  
[\*\*US Department of Justice Proposal\*\*](#)

[For an overview and timeline of the DOJ litigation in Mississippi click here.](#)

## Reflections on Reform

The National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health asked me to share my thoughts on implications for all states as a result of Mississippi's recent mental health lawsuit and trial. You can read what I wrote (and lots of other good information) in the Federation's [October 2019 Legislative and Advocacy Update](#).



national voice of children, youth,  
parents and families.  
You can donate [here](#).



Please join us in  
Supporting the MCCD  
Click photo for more information



## SHOP WITH US!

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## STAFF PLANNING RETREAT

We had our annual staff planning retreat on October 4 and were delighted to be joined by several parents who are providing parent to parent support in different systems.

We brainstormed ways to more closely coordinate our work and involve more families. We look forward to hearing your thoughts on what you most hope happens in the next year at our annual New Year Open House on January 21!



How to Talk to Children About their Mental Health: An Age by Age Guide from MSN.com

*Click the photo to access the Guide*

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