



**BCDI**

Black Child  
Development Institute

ATLANTA

# 5th Annual Culturally Responsive Early Education & Care Leadership Summit

Thoughts Become Things: Manifesting a Bright  
Future for Black Children and Families



## EVENT PROGRAM

Wednesday, February 21, 2024  
8:00 am-4:00 pm

Loudermilk Conference Center  
40 Courtland Street NE  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303



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# ABOUT BCDI-ATLANTA

## OUR HISTORY

Established in 1981, Black Child Development Institute (BCDI)-Atlanta coordinates community programs and initiatives, throughout the state of Georgia, supporting three key focus areas: early care and education, literacy, and family engagement.

## OUR VISION

BCDI-Atlanta envisions a society that ensures a successful future for all Georgia's children.

## OUR MISSION

To improve and advance the quality of life for Black children and families in Georgia through education and advocacy.

BCDI-Atlanta partners with child-serving agencies to implement culturally relevant and culturally responsive programs promoting high-quality early care and education, literacy, and family engagement.



[#BCDIAtlantaSummit](#) [#ThoughtsBecomeThings](#) [#BCDIAtlanta](#)

# ABOUT THIS EVENT

Black Child Development Institute (BCDI)-Atlanta is proud to present its 5th Annual Culturally Responsive Early Education & Care Leadership Summit in Atlanta, Georgia.

This year's summit theme, Thoughts Become Things: Manifesting a Bright Future for Black Children and Families, includes speakers, concurrent sessions and exhibits to explore and enlighten on various topics associated with the theme - specifically around:

- Literacy and Knowledge
- Student and Family Engagement
- Assets and Resources
- Community and Cultural Identity

**"Where our thoughts dwell,  
so becomes our reality.  
Choose wisely!"  
— Nanette Mathews**



# SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

## 8:00 - 9:00 AM - REGISTRATION

**ROOM: BALLROOM FOYER**

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## 9:00 - 9:45 AM - OPENING SESSION

**ROOM: BALLROOM**

- **Greetings** - Dr. Bisa Batten Lewis, BCDI-Atlanta President
  - **Partner Greetings** - Cori Cain, Associate Vice President, Strong Learners, United Way of Greater Atlanta
  - **Opening Remarks** - DECAL Commissioner Amy Jacobs
  - **Agenda Overview** - Dr. Bisa Batten Lewis, BCDI-Atlanta President
  - **Opening Panel Session** - Sharon Hudgins-Beck, Moderator, BCDI-Atlanta
    - ◇ Laura Miller, Senior Director, Family Engagement and Leadership, United Way of Greater Atlanta
    - ◇ Juanita Yancey, Executive Officer, Georgia Head Start Association
    - ◇ Professor Sheila Thompson, Early Learning & Development Program Director, Mercer University
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## 9:45 - 9:55 AM - TRANSITION & STRETCH BREAK, EXHIBIT EXPERIENCE

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## 9:55 - 11:10 AM - MORNING CONCURRENT SESSIONS

- **TRACK: EARLY LEARNING**  
*Promoting a Culture of Care for Early Care Educators*  
**ROOM: MARK C. POPE**
    - ◇ Dr. Jordan Murphy of Center for Interrelational Science and Pediatrics, LLC
    - ◇ Audrey Idaikkadar, MPH, MA of Resilient Georgia
  - **TRACK: EARLY LITERACY**  
*Repairing Broken Mirrors and Windows: Creating a Culturally Responsive and Preserving Environment in Birth Through Pre-K*  
**ROOM: CHILDS YOUNG**
    - ◇ Nathan Thompson of Rollins Center for Language and Literacy at Atlanta Speech School
    - ◇ Alice Oliver of Rollins Center for Language and Literacy at Atlanta Speech School
  - **TRACK: FAMILY ENGAGEMENT**  
*Reinventing Welcome: A Forward-Thinking Approach to Family Support & DEIA Practices*  
**ROOM: PAUL A. DUKE**
    - ◇ Kendra Cole of Prevent Child Abuse (PCA) Georgia
  - **TRACK: POLICY & ADVOCACY**  
*Black Children, Black Families: Understanding the Deprivation of Mental Health and Substance Use Treatment in Black Communities. How Can We Turn This Around?*  
**ROOM: BOARDROOM**
    - ◇ Dr. Nedra Washington Goss of the University of North Texas at Dallas
    - ◇ Dr. Shelia Lumar of the University of North Texas at Dallas
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## 11:10 AM - 11:20 AM - TRANSITION & STRETCH BREAK, EXHIBIT EXPERIENCE

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### 11:20 AM - 12:35 PM - MIDDAY CONCURRENT SESSIONS

- **TRACK: EARLY LEARNING**

*Transformation and Responsive Coaching*

**ROOM: MARK C. POPE**

◇ Angela Shelton of Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning

- **TRACK: EARLY LITERACY**

*Powered by Play: Responsive Interactions and TALK Strategies at School and at Home*

**ROOM: CHILDS YOUNG**

◇ Yvonne Hart of Enrichment Services Program, Inc.

- **TRACK: FAMILY ENGAGEMENT**

*The BEHAVIOR Code: Decoding and Nurturing the Cultural Dynamics of Black Child Behavior*

**ROOM: PAUL A. DUKE**

◇ Dr. Onnie Poe of Filling in the GAPS

- **TRACK: POLICY & ADVOCACY**

*Exploring the Experiences of Black, Low-Income Parents' Access to Quality Early Childhood Education Programs (ECE)*

**ROOM: BOARDROOM**

◇ Dr. Keon N. Berry of Quality Care for Children

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### 12:35 PM - 2:00 PM LUNCHEON AND FEATURED SPEAKERS

**ROOM: BALLROOM**

◇ Mindy Binderman, Executive Director, Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students (GEEARS)

◇ Dr. Leah Austin, President & CEO, National Black Child Development Institute (NBCDI)

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### 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM AFTERNOON CONCURRENT SESSIONS

- **TRACK: EARLY LEARNING**

*Equity Through Empathy: A Path Toward Understanding Others*

**ROOM: MARK C. POPE**

◇ Dr. Dina Walker-DeVose of Georgia Southern University

◇ LaShunda Morris of Georgia Southern University

- **TRACK: EARLY LITERACY**

*The Power of the Puppet: Nurturing Language, Learning and Lore Through Puppetry Arts*

**ROOM: CHILDS YOUNG**

◇ Ashley Jefferson of Nguzo Babies

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• **TRACK: FAMILY ENGAGEMENT**

*Cultivating Mindful Moments in Nature: Promoting Black Family Health and Well-Being Through Culturally Responsive Nature-Based Activities*

**ROOM: PAUL A. DUKE**

- ◇ Danielle Adamson of HealthMPowers
- ◇ Kim Santijanna of HealthMPowers
- ◇ Courtney Harrison of A Kid's World Learning Center

• **TRACK: POLICY & ADVOCACY**

*Student Wholeness: The Power of Collaboration to Increase Student Achievement*

**ROOM: BOARDROOM**

- ◇ Dr. Starletta Jackson of Concentric Educational Solutions
- ◇ Dominique Holder of Concentric Educational Solutions
- ◇ Raiana Davis of Concentric Educational Solutions

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**3:15 - 3:25 PM SNACKS, TRANSITION & STRETCH BREAK**

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**3:25 - 4:00 PM CLOSING SESSION**

**ROOM: BALLROOM**

- **Reminders** - Dr. Bisa Batten Lewis, BCDI-Atlanta President
- **Closing Panel Session** - Sharon Hudgins-Beck, Moderator, BCDI-Atlanta
  - ◇ Thea Stevens, Infant Toddler Manager, Georgia Department of Early Care & Learning
  - ◇ Maisah Williams-Foote, Community Development, Manager, Council for Professional Recognition
  - ◇ Dr. Victoria Long-Coleman, Early Care & Education Specialist, Quality Care for Children
- **Closing Remarks** - Dr. Bisa Batten Lewis, BCDI-Atlanta President



**BCDI**

Black Child  
Development Institute  
ATLANTA

# 2024 Advocacy Day at the Capitol

## Wednesday March 6 @ 10 AM - 2 PM ET



[bcdiatlanta.org/events](https://bcdiatlanta.org/events)



# OPENING PANEL DETAILS

**OPENING PANEL HELD IN MEETING ROOM:  
BALLROOM**

## **So What: Cultural Relevance & Cultural Responsiveness in Child-serving Programs**

NBCDI and its National Village Network envision a world where every Black child participates in an early learning experience that supports who they are and who they can be. The Opening Panel will discuss challenges and opportunities for ensuring Black children are receiving a culturally enriched and relevant education, which is empowering and a vital component of their development.

### ***PANELISTS***

- **Laura Miller, Senior Director, Family Engagement and Leadership, United Way of Greater Atlanta**
- **Juanita Yancey, Executive Officer, Georgia Head Start Association**
- **Professor Sheila Thompson, Early Learning & Development Program Director, Mercer University**

### ***MODERATOR***

- **Sharon Hudgins-Beck, Coordinator of Programs, BCDI-Atlanta**

# TRACK: EARLY LEARNING

ALL EARLY LEARNING SESSIONS HELD IN MEETING ROOM:  
MARK C. POPE

## 9:55 - 11:10 AM - MORNING CONCURRENT SESSION

Promoting a Culture of Care for Early Care Educators

**PRESENTERS:** Dr. Jordan Murphy of Center for Interrelational Science and Pediatrics, LLC and Audrey Idaikkadar, MPH, MA of Resilient Georgia

## 11:20 - 12:35 PM MIDDAY CONCURRENT SESSION

Transformation and Responsive Coaching

**PRESENTER:** Angela Shelton of Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning

## 2:00 - 3:15 PM AFTERNOON CONCURRENT SESSION

Equity through Empathy: A path toward understanding others

**PRESENTERS:** Dr. Dina Walker-DeVose and LaShunda Morris of Georgia Southern University

# TRACK: EARLY LITERACY

ALL EARLY LITERACY SESSIONS HELD IN MEETING ROOM:  
CHILDS YOUNG

## 9:55 - 11:10 AM - MORNING CONCURRENT SESSION

Repairing Broken Mirrors and Windows: Creating a Culturally Responsive and Preserving Environment in Birth Through Pre-K Classroom Settings

**PRESENTERS:** Nathan Thompson and Alice Oliver of Rollins Center for Language and Literacy at Atlanta Speech School

## 11:20 - 12:35 PM MIDDAY CONCURRENT SESSION

Powered by Play: Responsive Interactions and TALK Strategies at School and at Home

**PRESENTER:** Yvonne Hart of Enrichment Services Program, Inc.

## 2:00 - 3:15 PM AFTERNOON CONCURRENT SESSION

The Power of the Puppet: Nurturing Language, Learning and Lore Through Puppetry Arts

**PRESENTER:** Ashley Jefferson of Nguzo Babies

# TRACK: FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

ALL FAMILY ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS HELD IN MEETING ROOM:  
PAUL A. DUKE

## 9:55 - 11:10 AM - MORNING CONCURRENT SESSION

Reinventing Welcome: A Forward-Thinking Approach to Family Support & DEIA Practices

***PRESENTER:* Kendra Cole of Prevent Child Abuse (PCA) Georgia**

## 11:20 - 12:35 PM MIDDAY CONCURRENT SESSION

The BEHAVIOR Code: Decoding and Nurturing the Cultural Dynamics of Black Child Behavior

***PRESENTER:* Dr. Onnie Poe of Filling in the GAPS**

## 2:00 - 3:15 PM AFTERNOON CONCURRENT SESSION

Cultivating Mindful Moments in Nature: Promoting Black Family Health and Well-Being Through Culturally Responsive Nature-Based Activities

***PRESENTERS:* Danielle Adamson and Kim Santijanna of HealthMPowers, and Courtney Harrison of A Kid's World Learning Center**

# TRACK: POLICY & ADVOCACY

ALL POLICY & ADVOCACY SESSIONS HELD IN MEETING ROOM:  
BOARDROOM

## 9:55 - 11:10 AM - MORNING CONCURRENT SESSION

Black Children, Black Families: Understanding the Deprivation of Mental Health and Substance Use Treatment in Black Communities. How can we turn this around?

**PRESENTERS:** Dr. Nedra Washington Goss and Dr. Shelia Lumar of the University of North Texas at Dallas

## 11:20 - 12:35 PM MIDDAY CONCURRENT SESSION

Exploring the Experiences of Black, Low-Income Parents' Access to Quality Early Childhood Education Programs (ECE)

**PRESENTER:** Dr. Keon N. Berry of Quality Care for Children

## 2:00 - 3:15 PM AFTERNOON CONCURRENT SESSION

Student Wholeness: The Power of Collaboration to increase Student Achievement

**PRESENTERS:** Dr. Starletta Jackson, Dominique Holder and Raiana Davis, of Concentric Educational Solutions

# CLOSING PANEL DETAILS

**CLOSING PANEL HELD IN MEETING ROOM:  
BALLROOM**

## **Now What: Cultural Relevance & Cultural Responsiveness in Child-serving Programs**

The ability for Black children to see themselves -- their culture, communities, and history – represented in their classrooms and curriculum strengthens identity formation as well as achievement. The Closing Panel will share opportunities and resources for ensuring Black children are receiving a culturally enriched and relevant education, which is empowering and a vital component of their development.

### ***PANELISTS***

- **Thea Stevens, Infant Toddler Manager, Georgia Department of Early Care & Learning**
- **Maisah Williams-Foote, Community Development, Manager, Council for Professional Recognition**
- **Dr. Victoria Long-Coleman, Early Care & Education Specialist, Quality Care for Children**

### ***MODERATOR***

- **Sharon Hudgins-Beck, Coordinator of Programs, BCDI-Atlanta**

# EARLY LEARNING SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

## **Promoting a Culture of Care for Early Care Educators**

In this workshop, early care educators and directors will explore the Community Resiliency Model (CRM) and how the model can contribute to a culture of care in the classroom and in an early care center. Developed by the Trauma Resource Institute in Claremont, California, CRM is a trauma-informed wellness intervention that introduces practical skills that are appropriate for use across the lifespan. Current evidence suggests that CRM wellness skills increase wellbeing and reduce somatic symptoms in professionals working in high-stress jobs such as front-line providers. Informed by attachment and social learning theories, and the latest neuroscience, CRM is also a developmentally appropriate wellness intervention for use in early care and learning settings for children birth to five. Presenters will share resources to support the wellbeing of early care staff and the social and emotional development of the children in their care.

**PRESENTERS:** Dr. Jordan Murphy of Center for Interrelational Science and

## **Transformation and Responsive Coaching Room**

Relationships are at the heart of effective coaching. Developing a supportive and culturally responsive climate is a critical component of being an effective relationship-based coach. This session is an opportunity to grow your capacity to create the conditions for transformational and responsive coaching practice. We will also explore how our cultural filters and identity markers influence how we show up for others.

**PRESENTER:** Angela Shelton of Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning

## Equity Through Empathy: A Path Toward Understanding Others

Alfred Adler says: Empathy is seeing with the eyes of another, listening with the ears of another and feeling with the heart of another. As a concept, empathy has the potential to powerfully impact our professional and personal relationships.

In this session, participants will be introduced to the concept of empathy as a strategy for understanding the experiences of others and engaging with others in meaningful ways. The presenters will define the construct of empathy, discuss its importance and applications in early childhood settings. This session is aligned with the Black Child Development Institute Conference theme of 'Thoughts Become Things', because participants will take part in an interactive activity to gauge their thoughts obtained through life and lived experiences and learn practical ways that these 'thoughts can become' positive empathetic relationships. This session targets Early Care and Child Development practitioners and leaders, Healthcare professionals, Agency and Community Officials, and Child Development Faculty, Trainers and Consultants.

**PRESENTERS:** Dr. Dina Walker-DeVose and LaShunda Morris of Georgia Southern University

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**LEAN is space for early education stakeholders to connect and share with each other. Start by posting your thoughts, sharing media, or creating a poll related to advancing equity in early care and education.**



[bcdiatlanta.org/lean](https://bcdiatlanta.org/lean)



**BCDI**  
Black Child  
Development Institute  
ATLANTA

**Leadership & Equity  
Advancement Network**



# EARLY LITERACY SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

## Repairing Broken Mirrors and Windows: Creating a Culturally Responsive and Preserving Environment in Birth Through Pre-K Classroom Settings

The term “Mirrors and Windows” was first coined by Emily Jane Style in her 1988 essay titled Curriculum as Window and Mirror. Mirrors refer to cultural preservation of self, while windows refer to exposure to the cultural experiences of others.

The Rollins Center for Language and Literacy has a systematic approach to providing consistent and effective windows and mirrors to children age Birth through Five using books, toys, activities, and other resources. This workshop will introduce a tried-and-true method of engaging families and teachers in a cooperative support unit that brings the message to each child that they matter and their peer’s matter. Participants will explore the issue of “broken windows and mirrors,” which we refer to as the inaccurate, single stories that are perceived about the Black experience. These broken mirrors are made up of stereotypes, implicit and explicit biases, lack of complete information, and the idea that there is a limited way to understand Black culture. Teachers, leaders, and other stakeholders in the Birth Through Pre-K field will walk away with more knowledge, skills, and applicable tools for providing accurate and effective Windows and Mirrors for the Black children and families they serve.

**PRESENTERS:** Nathan Thompson and Alice Oliver of Rollins Center for Language and Literacy at Atlanta Speech School

**TAKE  
ACTION!**

**@bcdiatlanta**

**SHARE YOUR  
STORY**



[bcdiatlanta.org/impact](https://bcdiatlanta.org/impact)

**GIVE  
TODAY**



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**BECOME A  
MEMBER**



[bcdiatlanta.org/members](https://bcdiatlanta.org/members)

## Powered by Play: Responsive Interactions and TALK Strategies at School and at Home

We can impact an entire generation in just five years! That is why the first five years of a child's life are so important. Research has found that as children of color progress through public education, they become increasingly undervalued by low academic expectations and higher perceived susceptibility to violence. This is especially true of Black boys. In this session, we will discuss the value of interacting responsively with our children at an early age, and how doing so lays the foundation for a more positive social and educational experience later in life.

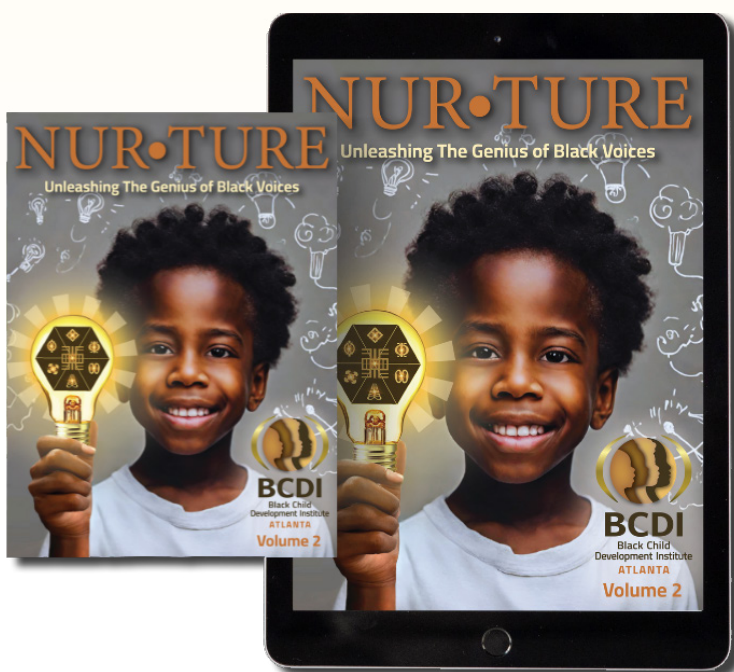
**PRESENTER:** Yvonne Hart of Enrichment Services Program, Inc.

## The Power of the Puppet: Nurturing Language, Learning and Lore Through Puppetry Arts

Our workshop, "The Power of the Puppet," invites you on a deep dive into the history of puppetry arts and its power to help children grow and learn. Through storytelling, hands-on activities and case studies, we will explore effective tools and resources to better support our children in exploring the richness of language, learning, and cultural traditions.

**PRESENTER:** Ashley Jefferson of Nguzo Babies

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To view or download  
*Nurture* Volume 2 for  
free, visit

[bcdiatlanta.org/nurture](http://bcdiatlanta.org/nurture)



# FAMILY ENGAGEMENT SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

## **Reinventing Welcome: A Forward-Thinking Approach to Family Support & DEIA Practices**

This workshop aims to help professionals gain a deeper understanding of how to engage and support families in building protective factors while incorporating diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) principles.

**PRESENTER:** Kendra Cole of Prevent Child Abuse (PCA) Georgia

## **The BEHAVIOR Code: Decoding and Nurturing the Cultural Dynamics of Black Child Behavior**

Introducing “The BEHAVIOR Code” workshop - an illuminative session designed for educators, caregivers, and community leaders who are dedicated to engaging Black students and their families more meaningfully.

The “BEHAVIOR Code” transcends standard behavioral models by weaving in cultural responsiveness, focusing on the unique experiences, challenges, and strengths of Black children.

Participants will:

- Break down myths related to Black children’s behavior.
- Explore historical and cultural influences on behavior.
- Harness strategies for meaningful family and community engagement.
- Apply culturally responsive behavioral interventions.
- View behavior through a holistic lens that accounts for cultural, social, and familial factors.
- Identify best practices for classroom management that honors cultural dynamics.
- Organize collaborative strategies between educators, families, and communities.
- Reflect on personal biases and learn to approach behavior with cultural humility.

This empowering workshop will unlock the BEHAVIOR Code, fostering a deeper understanding of Black child behavior while enhancing student and family engagement in culturally respectful and effective ways.

**PRESENTER:** Dr. Onnie Poe of Filling in the GAPS

## Cultivating Mindful Moments in Nature: Promoting Black Family Health and Well-Being Through Culturally Responsive Nature-Based Activities

This dynamic workshop will provide practical social-emotional strategies, tools, and resources designed to actively encourage healthy habits among Black children and families through mindful nature-based activities. Participants will explore small group learning stations with simple, engaging, and culturally responsive activities aligned with uplifting, thematic Black children's books that can be easily replicated in their homes, classrooms, and gardens.

These activities include:

- Sankofa Sensory Garden Bathing (Exploring Senses with Herbs)
- Mindful Moments in Nature (Experiencing Mindful Movement and Meditation in the Garden)
- From Seeds to Sprouts (Planting and Nurturing Seeds with Care)

**PRESENTERS:** Danielle Adamson and Kim Santijanna of HealthMPowers, Courtney Harrison of A Kid's World Learning Center

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**BCDI-Atlanta's Community Cafés offer an environment where parents, child-serving professionals and early education stakeholders can support each other's journey to improve and advance the quality of life for Black children and their families.**

**Find out more at**



**[bcdiatlanta.org/events](https://bcdiatlanta.org/events)**

# POLICY & ADVOCACY SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

## **Black Children, Black Families: Understanding the Deprivation of Mental Health and Substance Use Treatment in Black Communities. How Can We Turn This Around?**

According to Panchal, et al. (2023), "Concerns about mental health and substance use remain elevated three years after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, with 90% of U.S. adults believing that the country is facing a mental health and substance use crisis, according to a recent KFF/CNN survey. In the United States, 13.6% of the population (45.3 million people) identified themselves as Black or African American in 2021 (SAMHSA, 2023). Statistics tell us that about 25% of African Americans seek mental health treatment, compared to 40% of white Americans (Mass General Brigham, 2023). "Black children (under 13) are almost twice as likely to die by suicide than their white peers, according to the U.S. Surgeon General's Advisory on Protecting Youth Mental Health in 2021." The focus of this session is to identify the barriers of black families seeking treatment and how we can begin to eliminate the blockades that hinder the well-being of our children and families.

During this session, participants will learn:

- How stigma affects Black American Families?
- Which barriers of care exist?
- What can we do to eliminate these lines of defense?

**PRESENTERS:** Dr. Nedra Washington Goss and Dr. Shelia Lumar of the University of North Texas at Dallas

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**GIVING MADE EASY**  
**Text to Give**



## Exploring the Experiences of Black, Low-Income Parents' Access to Quality Early Childhood Education Programs (ECE)

This session delves into a qualitative study that delved into the experiences of Black, low-income parents in Georgia as they navigate access to quality early childhood education (ECE) programs. Employing in-depth interviews, this research meticulously unraveled the multifaceted dynamics through which income levels influence the lived experiences of Black parents in their pursuit of quality ECE opportunities. The implications derived from this study extend their relevance to policymakers, administrators, and decision-makers who wield the influence to bring about transformative changes in the realm of quality ECE program accessibility. By shedding light on the intricate interplay between race and income level in shaping ECE access, this study offers valuable insights aimed at fostering equitable educational opportunities for all children, ultimately contributing to a more inclusive and just educational landscape.

**PRESENTER:** Dr. Keon N. Berry of Quality Care for Children

## Student Wholeness: The Power of Collaboration to Increase Student Achievement

Concentric Educational Solutions (CES) is committed to ensuring that every youth, especially our Black students, not only receives a high-quality education but also benefits from robust non-instructional support systems. By embracing the whole student with initiatives designed to elevate student achievement, we believe that Black families have more opportunities to be more deeply immersed in the academic lives and emotional wellness journeys of their students. This session aims to provide valuable insights into strengthening the connection between Black children and families in both academic and emotional spheres. We will unveil the transformative power of collaboration in education by acting as liaisons for the holistic development of Black students. Our session will go over initiatives catered to Black families, including the exploration of Home Visits, Tutoring, and Mentoring, as integral components for achieving student wholeness. Through data analysis, we will showcase the positive impact of CES's concentricity framework model on mitigating chronic absenteeism, enhancing academic performance, and fostering positive behavior in a primarily Black student population. Attendees can expect a comprehensive overview that emphasizes the synergy between educational partnership and student development.

**PRESENTERS:** Dr. Starletta Jackson, Dominique Holder and Raiana Davis, of

# PRESENTERS

## EARLY LEARNING SESSION

*Promoting a Culture of Care for Early Care Educators*

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**Dr. Jordan Murphy**

Center for Interrelational Science and Pediatrics, LLC  
CEO



**Audrey Idaikkadar, MPH**

Resilient Georgia  
Regional Program Director

## *Transformation and Responsive Coaching*

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**Angela Shelton**

Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning  
Relationship-Based Professional Learning Specialist

## *Equity Through Empathy: A Path Toward Understanding Others*

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**Dr. Dina Walker-DeVose**

Georgia Southern University  
Associate Professor / Assistant Dean



**LaShunda Morris**

Georgia Southern University  
Graduate Student

## EARLY LITERACY SESSION

*Repairing Broken Mirrors and Windows: Creating a Culturally Responsive and Preserving Environment in Birth Through Pre-K Classroom Settings*

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**Nathan Thompson**

Rollins Center for Language and Literacy at Atlanta Speech School

*Birth Through Five Facilitator*



**Alice Oliver**

Rollins Center for Language and Literacy at Atlanta Speech School

*Birth to Five Facilitator*

*Powered by Play: Responsive Interactions and TALK Strategies at School and at Home*

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**Yvonne Hart**

Enrichment Services Program, Inc.

*Learning and Teaching Coach*

*The Power of the Puppet: Nurturing Language, Learning and Lore Through Puppetry Arts*

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**Ashley Jefferson**

Nguzo Babies

*Owner*

## FAMILY ENGAGEMENT SESSION

*Reinventing Welcome: A Forward-Thinking Approach to Family Support & DEIA Practices*

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**Kendra Cole**

Prevent Child Abuse (PCA) Georgia

*Project Coordinator, Strengthening Families Georgia*





**Dr. Onnie Poe**  
Filling in the GAPS  
*Founder/CEO*

*Cultivating Mindful Moments in Nature: Promoting Black Family Health and Well-Being Through Culturally Responsive Nature-Based Activities*

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**Danielle Adamson**  
HealthMPowers  
*Early Care and Education (ECE) Project Director*



**Kimbely Santijanna**  
HealthMPowers  
*Lead Health Educator, Early Care and Education*



**Courtney Harrison**  
A Kid's World Learning Center  
*Health Educator, Early Care and Education*

**POLICY & ADVOCACY SESSION**

*Black Children, Black Families: Understanding the Deprivation of Mental Health and Substance Use Treatment in Black Communities. How Can We Turn This Around?*

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**Dr. Nedra Washington Goss**  
University of North Texas at Dallas  
*Senior Lecturer*



**Dr. Shelia Lumar**  
University of North Texas at Dallas  
*Senior Lecturer*

## Exploring the Experiences of Black, Low-Income Parents' Access to Quality Early Childhood Education Programs (ECE)

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**Dr. Keon N. Berry**  
Quality Care for Children  
*Director of Parent Services*

## Student Wholeness: The Power of Collaboration to Increase Student Achievement

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**Dr. Starletta Jackson**  
Concentric Educational Solutions  
*Chief of Schools*



**Dominique Holder**  
Concentric Educational Solutions  
*Cluster Lead*



**Raiana Davis**  
Concentric Educational Solutions  
*Cluster Lead*

# FEATURED SPEAKERS & PANELISTS



**Dr. Bisa Batten Lewis**  
**BCDI-Atlanta**  
*President*



**Sharon Hudgins-Beck**  
**BCDI-Atlanta**  
*Moderator*

## *Partner Greetings*

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**Cori Cain**  
**United Way of Greater Atlanta**  
*Associate VP of Early Learning*

## *Opening Remarks*

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**Amy Jacobs**  
**Georgia Department of Early Care & Learning**  
*Commissioner*

## Opening Panel

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**Laura Miller**  
**United Way of Greater Atlanta**  
*Senior Director, Family Engagement and Leadership*



**Juanita Yancey**  
**Georgia Head Start Association**  
*Executive Officer*



**Professor Sheila Thompson**  
**Mercer University**  
*Early Learning & Development Program Director*

## Luncheon and Featured Speakers

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**Mindy Binderman**  
**Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students (GEEARS)**  
*Executive Director*



**Dr. Leah Austin**  
**National Black Child Development Institute (NBCDI)**  
*President & CEO*



**Thea Stevens**

**Georgia Department of Early Care & Learning (DECAL)**

*Infant Toddler Manager*



**Maisah Williams-Foote**

**Council for Professional Recognition**

*Community Development, Manager*



**Dr. Victoria Long-Coleman**

**Quality Care for Children**

*Early Care & Education Specialist*

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ALLIANCE FOR READY STUDENTS



***“Thoughts become things.  
If you see it in your mind, you  
will hold it in your hand.”***

**- Bob Proctor**



**The 5th Annual Culturally Responsive Early Education & Care Leadership Summit serves as an opportunity for us to learn together and to grow together so that we can to pour into Black families and communities.**

**When we work together, our thoughts become things and collectively we will manifest a bright future for Black children and families.**

# TAKE ACTION

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## SHARE YOUR STORY



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