“Doing What Matters for Alabama’s Children”
Tuesday, January 27, 2015
Bryant Conference Center
The University of Alabama
Tuscaloosa, Alabama

7:45  Registration, Breakfast and Exhibits

8:30  Invocation and Presentation of Colors
Pastor TBD
ROTC TBD

8:40  Welcome and America’s Promises
Teresa Costanzo, Executive Director, Tuscaloosa’s One Place
Dr. Charles Nash, Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, UA System

8:50  State of Children in Alabama
Melanie Bridgeforth, Executive Director, VOICES for Alabama’s Children
Introduction: Kristy Brown, Child Development Specialist, The University of Alabama Child Development Resources

9:20  DV research/ effects of secondary trauma on children
Dr. Debra Nelson-Gardell, Associate Professor, University of Alabama School of Social Work

9:50  Exhibits and Networking

10:10  Dallas and Tuscaloosa County Children’s Policy Council Approach to Juvenile Crime
Judge Bob Armstrong, District Court Judge, Dallas County
Judge Elizabeth Hamner, Tuscaloosa County Family Court

10:55  Run, Hide, Fight Active Threat Protocol
Sergeant Cary Baisden, Training Division Instructor, Tuscaloosa Police Department
Sergeant Ben Castleberry, Training Division Instructor, Tuscaloosa Police Department
Introduction: Tamika Alexander, Director 211 Information and Referral, United Way of West Alabama

11:25  Young Children: A Different Perspective
Dr. Marquita Davis, Executive Director, Jefferson County Committee for Economic Opportunity
Introduction: Ruthie Gaddis, Success By 6 Director, United Way of West Alabama

12:00  Lunch, Exhibits and Networking
1:00 Breakout Sessions

Recognizing Mental Health Needs in Children
   Gail Piggott, Executive Director, Alabama Partnership for Children

DV research/ effects of secondary trauma on children
   Dr. Debra Nelson-Gardell, Associate Professor, University of Alabama School of Social Work

“Working Together for Children”
   Judge Bob Armstrong, District Court Judge, Dallas County
Participants will learn how Dallas County has improved their community by moving from #67 in violent juvenile crime to #13 by creating the Dallas County Court Services. Insight from the Dallas County Court Services Administrator, Executive Director of Dallas County Drug Courts, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer for Dallas County, and the Executive Director of Dallas County Fatherhood Initiative will also be provided.

“An Introduction to the ALICE Program and Options Based Responses to an Active Threat in the School Environment”
   Sergeant Cary Baisden, Training Division Instructor, Tuscaloosa Police Department
   Sergeant Ben Castleberry, Training Division Instructor, Tuscaloosa Police Department
Sergeant Baisden and Sergeant Castleberry will introduce the ALICE program as an example of an options based approach to deal with an active threat in a school. Enhanced lockdown procedures will be discussed along with other options to responding to a school based attack.

“The Importance of Out-of-School Programming in Today's Educational Landscape”
   Paul Morin, Educational Consultant, Truman Pierce Institute, Auburn University College of Education
   Mark Ward, Education Specialist, Alabama State Department of Education
The need for high-quality Out-of-School programming in today's world has never been greater; as it plays a significant and important role in enriching and enhancing children's educational experiences. While providing a safe and healthy environment, Out-of-School programs promote creativity, and much needed critical thinking and life skills opportunities to prepare students for the world's competitive marketplace.
2:15 Breakout Sessions

“ASD: A Brief Introduction to Autism Spectrum Disorders and Structured Teaching”
Moderator: Suzanne Dowling, Autism Parent and Advocate
Whitney Meade, PhD, Clinical Associate Professor, University of Alabama Huntsville
Margaret Morr, MD, Autism Advocate and Mom
This presentation will expand upon the basics of autism with a brief introduction to Autism Spectrum Disorders and the principles of visual structure. Participants will learn about the current DSM-V diagnostic criteria and how visual strategies can provide the necessary structure to create teaching and communication opportunities. It will also explore how autism affects whole body function and possible strategies to improve overall well-being.

“Tuscaloosa Schools Approach to Behavior”
Janet Sherrod, Director of Student Services, Tuscaloosa City Schools
Greg Hurst, Coordinator of Student Services, Tuscaloosa County Schools
Presenters will give an overview of the student code of conduct and proactive programs to support positive behavior. In addition information will be offered on consequences for non-compliance in category of offenses for Class I, Class II and Class III offenses through the Helping educators Linking Parents (HELP) and Intervention, Mediation, Parent Involvement, Achievement, Changing Tomorrow (IMPACT) programs.

“Addressing the Health Needs of Our Children”
Dr. Milady Murphy, Director and Founder, Shelton State Community College Wellness Center
Lea Green, Wellness Specialist, Shelton State Community College Wellness Center
Candace Hamner, Adjunct Instructor, Shelton State Community College Wellness Center
Kelly Wingo, Adjunct Instructor, Shelton State Community College Wellness Center
This session will cover disease prevention strategies; exercise, nutrition and stress management techniques for children of all ages.

“Tackling Today’s Parenting Issues”
Moderator: Tamika Alexander, Parent, Director of 211 Information and Referral, United Way of West Alabama
Dr. Mary Elizabeth Curtner-Smith, Parent, Associate Professor and Graduate Faculty Member, Department of Human Development and Family Studies, The University of Alabama
Leslie Guy, Parent, Baby Talk Coordinator, Child Development Resources, The University of Alabama
TDB
A panel of experts will discuss issues that parents of children from birth to adolescents are facing today. Each panelist will share current trends they are seeing in families as well as take questions from the audience.

“My Brother's Keeper for Boys and Young Men of Color”