

Tuscaloosa's Promise



CHALLENGE
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TUSCALOOSA



“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”