

Family Training

April 9, 2015
8 AM to 4 PM

FAA Board Meeting

Thursday, April 21, 2016

6:00 - 7:30 PM

Open to the public
Public Comments are
encouraged
fax or email questions
info@faams.org
601-955-0919

Children's Mental Health Awareness

Fair

Fondren First

Thursday

May 5, 2016

5:00 - 8:00 PM

Let us know if your
organization wants a
table!

Mississippi Children's Home Services

Summit

May 6, 2016

Hilton Jackson

NAMI State Conference Build It Together

May 12-13, 2016

Jackson Medical Mall
UMMC Conference Center

Mississippi disAbility MegaConference

June 16-17, 2016

Marriott Downtown
Jackson

What Can Parents and Caregivers Expect to Gain from this Training?

- 1) To learn what family and youth driven care means and to be able to tell if they are receiving it.
- 2) To understand what a System of Care is and the unique and important leadership role of families in it.
- 3) To increase their awareness of ways to improve our system, including attending and serving on boards, committees, task forces, and councils.

NEW YEAR OPEN HOUSE: FUN AND INFORMATIVE



Our hope for this year's Open House was that families and policy makers would have the opportunity to visit and to share ideas. We are happy to report that our New Year Open house was a huge success. Our office at East River Place in Jackson was filled with families, policy makers, fellow organizations, friends, and staff excited to come together to support our mission: to make sure all families are partners in every aspect of their children's care.

Southern Christian Services

Looking to the Future
Conference
June 15-17
Natchez, MS

MONTHLY SNAP SHOT

27 Presentations by Staff

283 Audience Members
Reached

2 Workshops/Training
Attended by Staff

184 Calls Assisting Families

19 New Families
Requesting Assistance

46 Face to Face Meetings
with Families

1,545 Brochures
Distributed

8,741 Reached on
Facebook

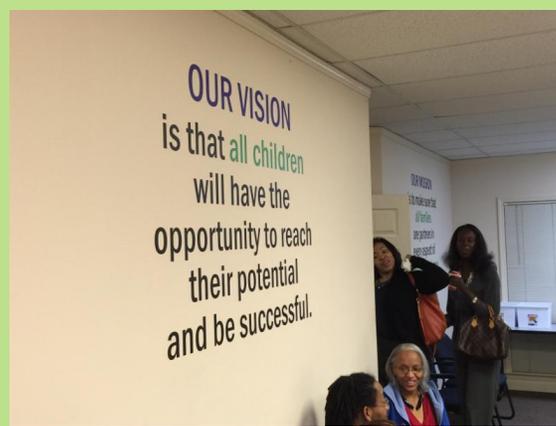
QUICK LINKS

HELP US REACH 500
LIKES!!



www.faams.org

[Kroger](#)



Families and policy makers had open and honest conversations about ways our current system is not meeting the needs of our children and how we can work together to change this. Watch our Facebook page for more information and feel free to contact us with your ideas and suggestions at 601-355-0915 or at info@faams.org.

If you'd like to sign the petition to release the Technical Assistance Collaborative's Independent Assessment of the Children's Behavioral Health system, click [here](#).

MISSISSIPPI BUDS IN FULL BLOOM



According to [Zero to Three](#) National Center for Infants, Toddlers and Families reports "Young children are being expelled from preschool and child care programs at an astonishing rate, often because of challenging behaviors such as aggression, tantrums, and noncompliance. This practice deprives young children of the benefit of early childhood education and may leave unaddressed the mental health issues that lead to challenging behaviors".

Addressing this critical need is the mission of Mississippi BUDS (Beginnings Determine Success). Mississippi BUDS is a joint effort among the City of Jackson, Mississippi Families for Kids (MFFK) and Families as Allies, Inc. (FAA). These three entities collaborated on a grant application to SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) and their efforts were rewarded with one of only 22 grants that were awarded

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nationwide.

Through Mississippi BUDS, the partners are developing a pilot program for very young children that is intended to serve as a template for other communities to follow. The organizations will build upon existing services and practices for young children that are already in place, and will use the pilot program to inform further planning as the model is rolled out in other parts of the state.

Mississippi BUDS is also partnering with other organizations, both public and private, that are already working on children's behavioral health, physical health, and educational issues as part of their focus. The three partners have made workforce development a critical part of the project because expertise in this area is almost non-existent in the state. A year-long training series for a 50-person cohort of clinicians addressing existing needs is already in progress.

The city's Department of Human and Cultural Services director, Dr. Adriane Dorsey-Kidd is the Principal Investigator for Mississippi BUDS and is working in close collaboration with Mississippi Families For Kids' executive director, Dr. Linda West and Families as Allies' executive director, Dr. Joy Hogge. Laura Smith is the Project Director.

STAFF OPPORTUNITIES: REACH MS



Family Partner, Tara Manning, completed a two day training with REACH MS this past January. REACH MS (Realizing Excellence for ALL Children in Mississippi) is a Personnel Development Grant operated by the University of Southern Mississippi's Department of Curriculum, Instruction and Special Education. Its primary focus is on

supporting school and district-wide implementation of Positive Behavioral Intervention and Support (PBIS) at the elementary, middle, and high school levels.

This January REACH offered a two day training- Tier 3 Systems and Interventions for Behavioral Support. This training provided participants the opportunity to begin to build systems necessary to provide Tier 3 behavioral supports and services. For Tara, the training was especially helpful because it offered her insight into processes educators are using to build systems necessary to provide Tier 3 behavioral supports and services. As an advocate, this information is critical to helping her guide families as they navigate through the education system.

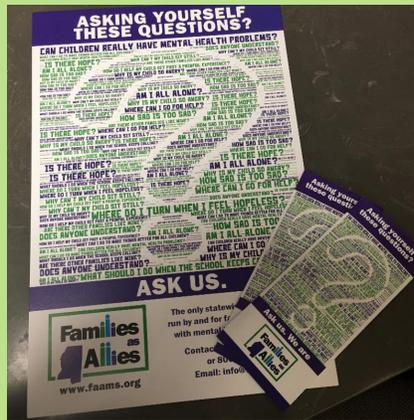
As a result of the training, Manning learned that the Tier 3 process is an intervention to ensure success for all students, noting how important it is for teachers to identify students early to make sure they get the help needed for them to be successful. The first step in the process is to define the problem and then ensure that prevention and intervention strategies are provided in a timely manner and to the students who need them. Of utmost importance, schools should establish a clear process for a) determining which students are experiencing difficulties, b) selecting intervention strategies or supports and matching them to students, and c) evaluating whether the intervention strategies are helpful to students.

A FEW NEW FINDS AT FAA



For the first time in FAA history, we have t-shirts for sale. YAY!! Our new t-shirts were made right her in the city of Jackson by supporter and friend Chane. The t-shirts are on sale for \$15.00 at our offices. All sales go toward accomplishing our mission and vision and further supporting the families we serve.

We also have new brochures and posters. We can either mail or bring these items to you. To make a request, please email us at info@faams.org.



Your continued support is much need and greatly appreciated.

Thanks

ZERO TO THREE TRAINING FOR BUDS STAFF



[ZERO TO THREE](http://www.zerotothree.org) is a national, nonprofit organization that provides parents, professionals and policymakers the knowledge and know-how to nurture early development. Their Mission is to ensure that all babies and toddlers have a strong start in life.

Recently, two of our staffers got a chance to experience what ZERO TO THREE has to offer. In December, Nikki Flippins and Laura Smith, had the opportunity to travel witness the Zero to Three in person. Attending the 30th National Institute

Training (NTI)/ Zero to Three Conference in Seattle Washington December 2-4, 2015, brought about an opportunity for the staff to learn from and network/collaborate with other professionals who are working in the field of early infant mental health.

Staffers attending the conference were also exposed to information not available in the traditional mental health conference arenas. It allowed them to be explore new and innovative ideas, which may be used or considered as work in the of State of Mississippi is being done to build a System of Care to help and support the families of children zero to five, who are deserving of the necessary services to ensure the success of their children, in every aspect of their lives.

Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) Revised Seclusion and Restraint Policy Available for Public Comment



Families as Allies would like to publicly thank the Board of MDE, Superintendent Dr. Carey Wright and Dr. Wright's executive management team for their transparency and ongoing commitment to community engagement as this process has unfolded. Please make your voice heard. Public comments are due by April 15, 2016. Press release, policy and instructions for submitting comments can be found [here](#).