



MEDIA ADVISORY: BUDS KICKOFF EVENT

Please join community leaders, parents and national experts at a kickoff event for a new early childhood initiative in the state, **BUDS**, this Thursday, March 19 at from 5-7 PM in the Albert's Room of Parlor Market. Brief remarks will begin at 5:30.

What is **BUDS**? **BUDS** is an infant and early childhood mental health initiative to ensure young children and their families have a healthy beginning. [The City of Jackson](#), [Mississippi Families for Kids](#) and [Families as Allies](#) partnered to begin the project and are now bringing a host of other organizations and individuals together to maximize the impact of **BUDS** throughout the state.

Dr. Joy Hogge, executive director of Families as Allies, Dr. Linda West, executive director of Mississippi Families For Kids, and Dr. Adriane Dorsey-Kidd of the City of Jackson are co-hosting the event.

Dr. West will announce exciting news about the [Help Me Grow](#) program.

All of the participants, including [Karen Frankel](#), an internationally recognized trainer, will be available for interviews.

The press is invited to the kickoff event. Please contact Dominic DeLeo with questions or media inquiries.



To schedule media interviews or for additional media information, contact:
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