

Marnie Braswell is the Child, Adolescent and Emerging Adult Coordinator for Community Service Board of Middle GA. She has been employed with CSBMG for 23 years. She began her work with youth in the Day Treatment programs serving the SED population. Marnie continued her work with the Child, Adolescent and Emerging Adult Programs through the many changes which occurred with the delivery of services and the introduction of managed care and Fee for Service to the Child and Adolescent population. Throughout these challenging times, Marnie and her team remained determined to sustain the same level of quality and efficient service delivery for the youth in the sixteen-county area that her agency serves. Rather than cutting or discontinuing services, Marnie and her team built a strong community partnership collaborative infrastructure and expanded community services in each of the counties through Apex school-based services, the SOAR Mental Health Resiliency Clubhouse, Den Peer Drop In Center, the AIME Project and the System of Care movement. As a result, services were expanded and CSB of Middle Georgia is now one of the largest C&A Providers in the State of Georgia.

Kelly Canady has been a school licensed social worker for the Dublin City School system since 1998. He has also been the sexual abstinence educator for over 15 years, utilizing various programs among middle and high school students. In this capacity, he promotes an age-appropriate, open discussion rapport with his students about at-risk behaviors and relationships. He is the Dublin High School faculty representative for the “Sources of Strength” suicide prevention program and serves on the “Voices of Hope” Suicide Prevention Coalition of Dublin-Laurens County. Kelly was a task-force member for the development of the Stepping Stone Children’s Advocacy Center in Dublin, and currently serves as the Board Chairman. He also serves on the Laurens County Child Fatality Review Board and the Laurens County Child Abuse Protocol committee. He is a member of the School Social Workers Association of Georgia and serves as chairman of the Child Abuse Prevention Committee of the Dublin Exchange Club. Kelly has a passion to achieve the vision statement of the Stepping Stone CAC: to one day live in a community where children flourish free from child maltreatment in all its forms.

Anthony Catlin holds his CPS-Y (Certified peer specialist youth) and (CPS) certification which focuses on supporting adolescent, young adult, and adult individuals living with a behavior health challenge/ substance use diagnosis/ and even suicidal challenges. Anthony educated himself on these challenges to become an asset and grow within the workforce. Since then Anthony has received from Viewpoint Health the CEO Extra Mile Award and from NAMI Rockdale/Newton the Rising Star Award. Anthony has recently joined the AIME initiative is excited to be a part of raising awareness and educating people on mental health challenges. Anthony is incredibly passionate about the work he does because of his lived experience; he looks at life as if he has gone from the ground to the castle and feels it is his duty to pass the torch of recovery along to his peers. Anthony understands the darkness of mental health and believes it is his calling to spread the message of hope and recovery to his community, the state, and the world.

Matthew Clay is the AIME Project Director at the GA Dept. of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities. Mr. Clay earned his Bachelor of Science in Psychology from the University of Georgia and his Master of Science in Performance Psychology from Florida State University. In his current role he oversees the implementation of the AIME System of Care Expansion grant that operates out of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities. The premise of AIME is expanding SOC philosophies into rural Georgia. He has a demonstrated history of leading grant funded projects, building capacity through strategic partnerships, implementing evidence-based practices, and developing creative social marketing campaigns to maximize project potential.

Marlana Colzie is a native of Swainsboro, Georgia. Marlana is an individual with a lived experience and is living with PTSD and Bipolar Disorder. Marlana is a 2017 graduate of the Respect Institute. She is an advocate for survivors of sexual abuse, children's mental health and the mental health recovery movement. Marlana attended the Emanuel County School System, Swainsboro Technical College and Miller-Motte College. Marlana's most cherished role is that of mother and as an ally for her brother who is living with schizophrenia. Marlana aspires to attend East Georgia College in the fall of 2020 and pursue a degree in Recreation Therapy. She also aspires to become a Certified Peer Specialist and plans to work in Georgia's Behavioral Health System.

David Crooke has worked in Georgia's public Behavioral Health system for 30+ years. He has served individuals with mental illness, addictive disease and developmental disabilities during the course of his career. He has worked in a wide variety of settings during his career, including the provision of outpatient behavioral health services, hospital-based services and has provided community based residential services. David served as a Deputy Executive Director/Clinical Director for a Community Service Board and was responsible for all aspects of that agency's clinical service delivery. David is the co-founder of CarePartners of Georgia and has served as that organization's Chief Executive Officer since 2003. In 2003, David developed CarePartners of Georgia's School Based Mental Health services and is considered a leader in the provision of School Based Mental Health Services and Tele-mental Health. He has made presentations to various state and national audiences on school based mental health services. In 2015, he served on a panel of experts on School Based Mental Health Services at a forum in Washington D.C that was attended by members of Congress and the Obama Administration. David received his Masters of Science in Clinical Psychology from Augusta University and is a Licensed Professional Counselor and a Certified Professional Counselor Supervisor. David is currently on the Board of Directors for Middle Georgia-Easter Seals and has previously served on the Board of Directors of Together Georgia and served on the Advisory Board of the Governor's Office of Child Advocacy. David is honored and humbled to have been awarded the Georgia Mental Consumer Network's Humanitarian of the Year Award in 2003 and the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2019 Georgia Systems of Care Conference.

Lei Ellingson joined The Carter Center Mental Health Program in May 1998. Early in her career, Ms. Ellingson worked in the field of special education, specializing in adolescents with serious

emotional disturbance and learning disabilities. From there, she worked as a private consultant on public policy issues with an emphasis on children's issues, including such topics as school tobacco policies. Before joining The Carter Center, Ms. Ellingson worked for the Georgia State Legislature's Budgetary and Reconciliation Oversight Committee where she conducted program and policy evaluations of child-serving agencies.

As Senior Associate Director for The Carter Center's Mental Health Program, Ms. Ellingson's duties have included planning and implementing a series of national policy discussions in collaboration with the U.S. Surgeon General and a broad array of other stakeholders on children's mental health issues.

Ms. Ellingson earned her master's degree in Public Policy from the Terry Sanford Institute at Duke University, a Master's of Science degree in Special Education from the Johns Hopkins University, and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Mount Holyoke College.

Ronda Hightower currently serves as the Interim Superintendent for the Laurens County School District. She earned a doctorate degree in Educational Leadership from Georgia Southern University. She also holds an undergraduate degree in Early Childhood Education from Brewton Parker College, as well as a masters and a specialist degree in Educational Leadership from Georgia College and State University.

Dr. Hightower's journey in education reflects experiences from many different perspectives of public education including BOE secretary, paraprofessional, teacher, assistant principal, principal, director, associate superintendent, and now interim superintendent. Her professional experiences include service to many different councils including the Governor's Education Advisory Council and the Teacher Education Program Advisory Council for Middle Georgia State University. Other professional experiences include multiple presentations to organizations and civic groups including a presentation for the 2017 Georgia Association of Curriculum Supervisors Conference, and most recently the 2019 Georgia Association of Educational Leaders Conference.

Dr. Hightower firmly believes in improving the lives of children, and firmly attests there is neither a more honorable nor more powerful avenue to fulfill this calling than through education.

J.B. Jenkins, 13 years old, is a son, grandson, brother, Bleckley County Middle School football nose guard and kicker, Bleckley County Middle School tennis player, an A-B student, member of the Bleckley County Superintendents Student Advisory Team, and the Bleckley County Middle School Principal Pack. J.B. is inspired to tell his story to let others know how school based behavioral health services have impacted his life for the better.

John M. Jordan Jr. is in his 21st year of education and has served as a Classroom Teacher, Assistant Principal, Principal, and currently serves as Assistant Superintendent. Originally from Swainsboro, Ga, Dr. Jordan has spent most of his life in Rural Georgia with professional experiences in Bulloch County, Tattnall County and Candler County. Dr. Jordan is a Triple Eagle receiving his Bachelors (Social Science Education), Masters (Education Leadership), and Doctorate (Education Leadership) from Georgia Southern University. Currently serving as

Assistant Superintendent for the Candler County School District, Dr. Jordan oversees student services inclusive of Special Education Programming, Multi-Tiered Student Supports (MTSS) and Student Assessment. Currently as Assistant Superintendent and serving previously as Principal for Metter High School for 10 years, Dr. Jordan has worked closely with and is an advocate for Care Partners of Georgia.

Garry McGiboney is the Deputy Superintendent of the Office of School Safety and Climate at the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE). Prior to joining the GaDOE, he worked in elementary, middle, high, and alternative schools. Dr. McGiboney was appointed by the Governor of Georgia to serve on the Joint Study Committee on Mental Health Access, Study Commission on Leadership, 2020 Census Commission, Senate Study Committee on Dyslexia, and the House Study Committee on Youth Gangs and Violence. He serves by appointment on the Georgia Supreme Court's Justice for Children Committee; Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative Committee; Children in Need of Services Collaborative, Get Georgia Reading Campaign Cabinet; Georgia Accrediting Commission, and others. Dr. McGiboney has over 30 professional journal publications on youth-related issues, and he is the author of eight books. His most recent books are *The Psychology of School Climate* and *Leadership Research and Case Studies: An Epidemiological Perspective*, both published by Cambridge Scholars Publishing. Dr. McGiboney is the recipient of many awards, including awards from the National Association of School Psychologists, Georgia School Counselors Association, Social Workers Association of Georgia, Georgia School Nurses Association, Mental Health America, United States EPA, and others. Recently, he was inducted into the Georgia Board of Regents Hall of Fame for his life-long efforts on behalf of children.

Camille Pendley is a policy analyst at Voices for Georgia's Children. Prior to joining Voices, Camille worked in research and communications fields – as an investigator for a global investigations firm, a communications specialist at a legal aid organization, and a journalist. As a freelance reporter, Camille's work was published in the Guardian, the Washington Post, the New York Times, and Atlanta Magazine, among others. Now, as an advocate, Camille aims to put these experiences to use helping to effect change for Georgia's kids.

Anita Speed started working at the Detox Unit of CSBMG in Dublin Ga in July 2016. She graduated in 2015 with honors, earning her Associate degree in Psychology. She is currently working on getting her bachelor's degree in Psychology. Ms. Speed is a member of the Child and Adolescent Team at Community Service Board of Middle Georgia and works to help families and individual children. In 2018 she began speaking to parents about her own family's experiences as they related to behavioral health and the difficulties they faced; she hopes to remind parents that through hard times it is important to maintain a healthy balance of self-care. Ms. Speed's son is now two years into his recovery and she recently became a Parent Engagement Specialist for the DBHDD. Ms. Speed hopes her experience can reach and help as many families as possible as she continues to advocate for parents and children struggling with mental health issues.

Connie Smith is the Apex Program Manager for CSB of Middle Georgia. She has been employed with CSBMG for almost 5 years serving in the same capacity. In this role, Mrs. Smith is responsible for overseeing school based behavioral health services in 13 counties, 60 schools. Mrs. Smith is also the Executive Director for Laurens County Family Connection and has been in this role for the past 16 years.

Mrs. Smith earned her bachelor's degree in Social Work from Savannah State University (formerly Savannah State College) in May 1994 and her master's degree in Psychology and Counseling (emphasis in clinical mental health) from Troy University in May 2014.

Steve J. Smith is completing his fifth year as superintendent of Bleckley County Schools after serving for six years in that role for Wilcox County Schools. In addition to his superintendent duties, Dr. Smith conducts workshops for many boards of education and professional organizations throughout Georgia about school finance. Prior to becoming an educator, Dr. Smith was an executive in the financial services industry, and he is also a minister who is serving his 12th year at a church in a neighboring county.

Marquita Timmons serves as one of the two School Social Workers for Laurens County Schools. She earned her master's degree in social work from Savannah State University along with actively holding licensure from the State of Georgia in this area. Also, she holds an undergraduate degree in psychology with a minor in sociology from Georgia Southern University. She enjoys working collaboratively with all of her community partners, Community Service Board of Middle GA, Stepping Stone, DFCS, and Family Connection to name a few. For it is when we work smarter and harder together, the child and family become stronger and healthier.

Michael Waller is the Interim Executive Director at Georgia Appleseed he leads the team in the development of innovative policy solutions and tools to keep Georgia's children safe at home and in school, and out of the criminal justice system.

Prior to Appleseed, Michael was a prosecuting attorney at the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) for eight years, leading investigations and lawsuits across the country to stop companies and individuals from defrauding economically vulnerable consumers. Before the FTC, Michael was a staff attorney at the Atlanta Legal Aid Society, representing indigent clients in housing, domestic violence, and consumer rights cases. He came to Legal Aid from WilmerHale, an international law firm based in Washington, DC.

Michael graduated with a B.A. from University of the South (Sewanee), an M.A. in international affairs from Syracuse University (Maxwell School), an M.T.S. in theological studies from Vanderbilt University Divinity School, and a J.D. from American University's Washington College of Law.

Arianne Weldon, director of the Get Georgia Reading Campaign, is with Georgia Family Connection Partnership—the lead organization for the Campaign. Her work includes connecting decision-makers across Georgia to create the conditions essential for all children to succeed. In this

role, she applies her background in epidemiology to help leaders across the state use data and research to employ new—many times unexpected—solutions. Arianne serves by appointment as a board member for the Sandra Deal Center for Early Language and Literacy and is a recipient of the Georgia Association of School Nurses Hero Award and the Georgia Senate’s Yellow Rose Nikki T. Randall Servant Leader Award. Arianne holds a master’s degree in Public Health from Emory University and a bachelor’s degree in Sociology from Georgia State University.

Frederick C. Williams is currently the Superintendent of Dublin City Schools. He is a product of the Broward County School System where he attended Nova High School. Upon graduation, he earned an athletic scholarship to Clark Atlanta University. In 1993, he started his teaching career with the Dublin City School System as a Physical Education Teacher and Football Coach for the Dublin Fighting Irish Football Team. Dr. Williams furthered his education by obtaining a Master of Education degree from Troy University and a doctoral degree from Nova Southeastern University. He completed the Georgia State School Superintendent Association Professional Development Program. He is the former award-winning principal of Susie Dasher and Dublin Middle School. Dr. Williams received the Georgia School Superintendents President’s Award in 2017. He currently serves on the Charter System Board of Directors, Georgia Department of Education Charter Advisory Committee Member, United Way Board of Directors and is an Ex-Officio Member of the Dublin-Laurens Chamber of Commerce.