

MACCA news



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MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATION OF
CHILD CARE AGENCIES

*DEDICATED TO PROTECTING
AND INVESTING IN
MISSISSIPPI'S MOST
TREASURED RESOURCE...
OUR CHILDREN!*

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Letter from the President

I am honored to serve as the President of the Mississippi Association of Child Caring Agencies along with a wonderful executive team and board. I am humbled to get to lead our efforts to support the child welfare system in Mississippi and build a strong network of member agencies committed to ensuring our children and families thrive.

For years MACCA has brought together the leadership of the most respected child welfare agencies in Mississippi to collectively advocate for and serve the children and families of our state. Our agencies prioritize supporting families in staying together, reunifying families separated by crisis, and building permanent families for those who cannot be reunified. As the child welfare system has adapted the work of our agencies has changed, and therefore the role of MACCA in supporting the system and the agencies has to adapt as well.

When I took over the leadership of the MACCA board, I knew we needed to re-assess our current structure and operations to ensure it reflected the current child welfare system and the needs of our member agencies and those they serve. For the past six months, our board has been assessing our organization in its entirety...the mission, the priorities, the bylaws, and even the role of MACCA in Mississippi. Our Executive Board has continued that work and will be proposing a new strategic plan to our full board this summer that focuses on the future of organization.

Each agency has their role in supporting, reunifying and building families in Mississippi and MACCA is dedicated to supporting member agencies in this work. In the words of Socrates, "the secret of change is to focus all of your energy not on fighting the old, but on building the new." I am excited to see where MACCA is headed and how we will collectively build a stronger and more intentional system to help children and families thrive.

Thank you for allowing me to serve each of you.

Samantha Kalahar

According to Socrates "the secret to change is to focus all of your energy not on fighting the old, but on building the new."

I don't think that I could express my vision for our work in child welfare in Mississippi better than these words. As we work as a state to make our child welfare system better for all children and families, we have to have a vision of what we are trying to create, rather than just



Samantha Kalahar - President

*Mississippi Site Director,
First Place for Youth*

Board of Directors



Noot Dant



Berean Children's Home
A Family with a Heart

Patsy Mann



Children's Solutions

**Shea Hutchins &
John Damon**



CATHOLIC
CHARITIES, INC.
DIOCESE of JACKSON

Wanda Thomas



**Janice Wilder &
Erica Arrington**



**Jackie Smith &
Sherry Bonds**



**Samantha Kalahar &
Cotina Brown**



Terri Province



John Noblin



Gretchen Cooks



**Fredniki White &
Brittney Johns**



**Jeremy Edwards &
Tom Velie**

Board of Directors



Takevia Bell
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Jamie C. Himes &
Kelcey Neely



Sunnybrook

Myrle Grate &
Amy Turner



Sean A. Milner



Rhonda Stempkovski &
Paige McCormick



FOLLOW

US ON FACEBOOK

MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATION FOR CHILD CARE AGENCIES



MACCA in the Community



Southern Christian Services for Children and Youth, Inc., a non-profit organization that serves and equips vulnerable children and youth, plans to open “Sunrise Home” for adolescent girl survivors of human trafficking.

Jamie Himes, President & CEO of Southern Christian says, “In response to the love of Christ and the on-going request from law enforcement, Southern Christian Services for Children and Youth is using this funding to create Mississippi’s first safe home exclusively for adolescent survivors of human trafficking. This project would not be possible without the legislature’s funding through the Attorney General’s human trafficking grant and collaborations with Mississippians Against Human Trafficking and Sunnybrook Children’s Home. This safe home will allow young survivors to receive specialized and evidenced-based therapeutic services in an undisclosed location for up to 2 years. Southern Christian is grateful for the opportunity to create a new program for Mississippi’s children.”

MDCPS Spotlight

Congratulations to Devon Loggins, the new Deputy Commissioner of Clinical Support, Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services!

Devon is the former President and CEO of Methodist Children's Home and a Past Vice President of MACCA.





Jackie Smith, LSW, MSW

*Executive Director
Faith Haven, Inc.*

*Register
Today!*

Letter from the Conference Chair

As leaders, our plates are always filled with so much. It makes you contemplate your decisions, question your tone, and totally lose needed brain cells juggling it all. The MACCA Leadership conference this year is focusing on YOU! We will explore ways to get us back together. We have strategically planned this conference to free your mind and get great information to keep us on the straight and narrow. Please enjoy the entertainment, the networking, and de-stress techniques. You will be surprised at finding out there are other leaders dealing with the same struggles. Self Care is our conference focus, to make a better you, to make better leadership decisions and choices.

Safe travels and I can't wait to see you there.

**ONLINE
REGISTRATION**



**REGISTRATION
FORM**



MACCA in the Community

During the June 1, 2023, MACCA Board Meeting, Charlie Case with the MS Department of Child Protection Services presented “PATHWAYS” to expand the possibilities for stakeholder collaboration and improve communication with MDCPS partners.



On June 1, 2023, MACCA heard from the MS Youth Voice Board on their Pathways to Independence policy recommendation report for transition-aged foster youth. Youth leaders shared their life experiences within the MS foster care system including the events, people and policies that affected them both positively and negatively.

After a collaborative discussion, MDCPS leadership and Judge John Hudson shared recent developments within the agency and the court system which align with the recommendations and begin dialogue about other topics brought to light during the meeting.





PATHWAYS

Mississippi

Our Purpose

Paving the way for improved outcomes of Mississippi's children and families.

Our Goal

To create the opportunity for stakeholder collaboration, data sharing, and improved communication.



Take our
Survey!

- 1 Follow the QR Code below to take a short survey.
- 2 Invite your staff and coworkers to participate.
- 3 Complete by **Monday, June 19, 2023**

New to QR codes?

Open your device's camera app, then hold your device so that the QR code appears in the viewfinder. A notification will appear. Tap the notification to follow the QR code's link.



SCAN
ME!



MACCA in the Community



In March, we held our first MACCA Job Fair at Mississippi College. We had a great turnout and positive feedback from students!



Member agencies got a chance to inform students of internships and job openings they have. We also got a chance to have lunch with the Seniors of the Social Work Department.



In April, the Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services and Children's Advocacy Centers of Mississippi invited MACCA to help Light Mississippi Blue in Honor of Child Abuse Awareness Month!





MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATION OF
CHILD CARE AGENCIES

2023 MACCA LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Self-Care Edition

Relax-Renew-Refresh
IP Resort & Spa | Biloxi, Mississippi

August 23-24, 2023

Presented By:

BankPlus®



CONNECT OUR KIDS

Registration Open Now

www.macca4kids.org

LET'S WIND IT UP

Baseball Game



BILOXI
SHUCKERS

VS

PENSACOLA
BLUE WAHOOS

TUESDAY 22 AUGUST

MGM PARK BILOXI MS.
(KLOUD 7 SKYBOX)

TICKETS
ONLY

\$50

PRESENTED BY MACCA

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2023

DINNER & A MAGIC SHOW

SPECIAL GUESTS

COLE BLALOCK
(MENTALIST / MAGICIAN)

MUSIC BY

MAC MAGEE
SAXIPHONIST

IP CASINO AND RESORT
BALLROOM A-B

\$50 TICKETS
INCLUDE DINNER AND A SHOW



WITH MUSIC
AND FOOD

Thursday
24 AUGUST

STARTS @ 6PM

GROUND ZERO
BILOXI, MS.



MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATION OF
CHILD CARE AGENCIES

MACCA in the Community



On April 24, 2023, several of the MS Youth Voice board members went to the Mississippi Capitol to celebrate the signing of legislation that will make small steps toward improving outcomes and opportunities for youth exiting the foster care system.

As of July 1, 2023, individuals 18 years or older will be able to secure housing by having the authority to sign leases, rental agreements or mortgage contracts, or take ownership of real property. By allowing young adults the ability to find safe and independent housing, we are helping to keep them from homelessness, trafficking, and other dangerous situations.

Additionally, the Mississippi legislature enacted the Foster Care and Adoption Task Force to bring leaders together to find solutions within the child welfare system.



Diamond Anniversary: Sunnybrook Celebrates 60 Years of Providing a Safe Haven for Foster Youth

Sunnybrook is thrilled to announce the 60th anniversary of its founding, a milestone that marks six decades of providing safe and nurturing homes for foster children and their families.

"We are so proud to have served the children and families of Mississippi for 60 years," Sunnybrook Executive Director Dr. Myrle Grate emphasized. "We are grateful for the support of our donors, volunteers, staff, and community partners, without whom we would not be able to continue our mission of providing safe and loving homes for society's most vulnerable members."

2023 Legislative Recap

Summary of Bills Dropped in the 2023 Mississippi Legislative Session That May Affect MACCA Members

Mississippi Task Force of Foster Care and Adoption (2023 MS S.B. 2384)

This bill was dropped by Senator Boyd. It was signed into law on Apr 19, 2023. This bill established The Mississippi Task Force on Foster Care and Adoption. It provides for the appointment of members of the task force and how they will be appointed. The “Task Force” will study Mississippi’s Laws regarding foster care and adoption and their related areas. The Task Force will report its findings and any recommendations to the legislature and for related purposes.

The task force will have 18 members. One of the members is to be appointed by the president of MACCA (GO JAMIE!). The duties of the Task Force are specified in the statute. Law the Task Force is automatically repealed on Dec 31, 2023.

MACCA members that may be affected by this law include, but are not limited to, any agency that serves children and/or families in out of home placements; any agency that provides state custody diversion services; any agency that licenses foster parents, safe families or other related support service; any agency that provides adoption services and/or adoption services such as temporary housing.

Recommendation for the affected MACCA members: Build/Engage relationships with members of the committee and make sure they know your concerns and opinions. Remember, you are the expert in your field.

Board of Trustees of the Mississippi Adoption Licensure Authority (2023 MS H.B. 1342)

This bill was dropped by Representative Gunn and passed the House but did not pass the Senate. It created the “Board of Trustees of the Mississippi Adoption Licensure Authority”. This Board would create adoption licensure standards to create good, safe adoption practices in Mississippi.

The bill did not become law.

MACCA members that may be affected by this bill not becoming law included, but are not limited to, any agency that performs adoption services; any agency that provides temporary housing for children in families in need of adoption services and any other agency that does any service related to adoption.

Recommendation for affected MACCA members: Organize and discuss whether you want this bill, or some form thereof, dropped in the next legislative session. If so, discuss with MACCA whether this is a MACCA interest, locate a representative or senator to drop the bill and otherwise move forward now. Lobby it now, January is too late. Also, discuss with members of the Task Force to see if they will have a recommendation for the legislature and whether or not you can speak into that committee through your relationship with your contacts.

Baby Drop-Off and Save Haven (2023 MS H.B. 1318)

This bill was dropped by Representative Ford and was signed into law on April 19, 2023. Revised §43-15-201 to change the age of a child that can be “dropped off” from 7 days old to 45 days old. Authorize a baby to be dropped off in a baby safety device. A city or county can sponsor a baby safe device. Amend §43-15-203 & §43-15-205 to provide that MDCPS is the agency of contact. Revised §43-15-207 to revise the definition of “emergency service provider”. Amend §43-15-209 to establish prescribed duties to install a baby safety device. Amend §93-15-103 to clarify that surrender of a child under the “Baby Drop-off Law” is considered abandonment for the purpose of termination of parental rights. Amend §93-15-109 to clarify the authority of emergency service providers to receive babies for purposes of termination of parental rights. And other related purposes.

An adoption agency that is licensed by MDCPS is an emergency service provider for purposes of the Baby Drop-Off and Safe Haven Statute. Accordingly, such an entity can use a baby safety device as prescribed by the statute. An emergency service provider has the express right to receive the abandoned baby.

Agencies that may be affected by this bill include, but are not limited to, adoption agencies and anyone providing services related to adoption.

Recommendation for affected MACCA members: get legal advice in determining how this statute affects you. It was drafted to provide less restrictions on the parent who wants to “drop-off” their baby. Therefore, understand “Home”, “Emergency Service Provider” and the duties imposed for “Baby Safety Device”. Also, get legal advice on what it means that MDCPS is the legal contact and how that affects the parent’s right to abandon the child to you.

Tax Credit Bill (2023 MS H.B. 1671)

This bill was dropped by Representatives Gunn, Lamar, Felsher, Williamson, Hopkins, Eubanks, Boyd (19th), Miles and signed into law on Apr 19, 2023. This bill amended many tax credit bills and created a few. Below are the changes in existing bills and the creation of new tax credits that may be of interest to MACCA members.

- Pregnancy Resource Act §27-7-22.43
 - Removed requirement that pregnancy resource center or crisis pregnancy center had to be eligible to receive funding from the Choose Life organization
 - No more than 20% of gifts under this section are spent of administrative cost
 - File organizations publicly available IRS filing with the Secretary of State
 - Taxpayer can use property tax liability as credit
 - Annual cap is \$10m
 - Entity cap is 25%
- Children’s Promise Act §27-7-22.39
 - Qualified Charitable Organization (QCO)
 - Taxpayer filing individually or as head of household can receive a tax credit of up to \$1,200 (was \$400) for a donation to a QCO
 - Taxpayers that are married and filing jointly can receive a tax credit of up to \$2,400 (was \$800) for a donation to a QCO
 - Individual taxpayers can get a credit for up to ½ of their real property tax liability
 - Qualifying Foster Care Charitable Organization (QFCCO)
 - Taxpayer filing individually or as head of household can receive a tax credit of up to \$1,500 (was \$500) for a donation to a QFCCO
 - Taxpayers that are married and filing jointly can receive a tax credit of up to \$3,000 (was \$1,000) for a donation to a QFCCO
 - Individual taxpayers can get a credit for up to ½ of their real property tax liability

- Eligible Transitional Home Organization Act (2023 MS H.B. 1671 Section 3)
 - Sum of the qualifications
 - 501(c)(3)
 - Provides transitional housing for
 - Homeless persons aged 25 & under
 - Homeless families
 - Homeless and/or referred unwed pregnant women.
 - Does not include pay for or provide coverage of abortions, nor does it financially support any other entity that provides, pays for, or provides coverage of abortions.
 - Does not charge a fee for the services and/or benefits it provides as an eligible transitional home organization. The prohibition against charging a fee for services and/or benefits is limited to services and benefits the entity provides as an eligible transitional home organization and does not apply to any other services and/or benefits the entity may provide to persons not being served by the entity's transitional home services.
 - Tax Credits
 - Business entities taxpayers and individual taxpayers both can receive a tax credit of up to $\frac{1}{2}$ of their state income tax liability for donations made to an ETHO; or
 - Business entities taxpayers and individual taxpayers both can receive a tax credit of up to $\frac{1}{2}$ of their real property tax liability for donations made to an ETHO
 - The cap for a business entity tax credit is \$10M
 - The cap for the individual tax credit is \$1M
- 2023 MS H.B. 1671 Section 4 provides a tax credit to taxpayers who donate to a nonprofit medical care agency that provides care to low income residents
 - Business entities taxpayers and individual taxpayers both can receive a tax credit of up to $\frac{1}{2}$ of their state income tax liability; or
 - Business entities taxpayers and individual taxpayers both can receive a tax credit of up to $\frac{1}{2}$ of their real property tax liability
 - The cap for a business entity tax credit is \$3M
 - The cap for the individual tax credit is \$1M

This bill was drafted to encourage and support people and existing entities to engage in providing services to those in need. If you are not already engaged but would like to engage in these services, this bill will provide you with a way to create financial support for your effort and the freedom to engage your best practices. Accordingly, this bill affects all members of MACCA.

Recommendation for affected MACCA members: consider getting involved in one or more of these areas. Look at your current continuum of care for children and families and consider what you may be able to add. Not all requirements, duties and responsibilities are listed herein. No attempt is being made to do so. Accordingly, read each section carefully and get legal advice.



Share Your News!

Send us your latest updates,
upcoming events, and other info
you want to share with your fellow
MACCA members!

Email to contact@macca4kids.org