

NEWSLETTER



2025

35th ANNIVERSARY
MACCA

Honoring our legacy, Empowering the future

**MISSISSIPPI ALLIANCE FOR
CHILD AND COMMUNITY
ADVOCACY**

LETTER FROM PRESIDENT

35 YEARS OF SERVICE

MACCA LUNCHEON RECAP

MEMBER NEWS

2025 CONFERENCE SAVE THE DATE

BOARD MEMBERS



SHEA HUTCHINS, PRESIDENT

Dear Friends and Partners,

It was so great seeing many of you at our 35th Anniversary Celebration in April! The luncheon was a great way to celebrate the many accomplishments of MACCA and our partners, without whom we could not do our work. Commissioner Andrea Sanders brought a meaningful keynote. We ended the event with recognition and awards to those who have supported the work of MACCA and helped make Mississippi brighter for children and families.

May is a busy month- graduations, Mother's Day, school is ending, and summer is about to begin. May is also Foster Care Awareness Month. This month is a time to recognize the resilience of children and youth in the foster care system and those individuals who support them. Many of our members recruit and support foster families, who selflessly give of themselves, providing a safe, loving home environment for a child who has been placed in the foster care system. If you know a foster family, then thank you for all they do. If you know someone interested in becoming a foster parent, we have several organizations to which you can reach out.

In addition, May is also the time we recognize Children's Mental Health Awareness. Children and young people in our country are experiencing an unprecedented mental health crisis; there has been a continued rise in the number diagnosed with anxiety, depression, and other mental health conditions. An estimated one in five youth has a diagnosable mental, emotional, or behavioral disorder- yet many do not receive the help they need. MACCA has many members who are serving children who have mental health needs. Many times, our children in foster care also have a mental health disorder, typically from the trauma they have been a part of in their young lives. It takes all of us to work together to ensure our children, youth, and families receive the care they need and deserve.

Our mission—to elevate the voices of children, families, and communities in shaping the systems that serve them—has never felt more urgent. Across Mississippi, advocates, professionals, and caregivers continue to show up with courage, compassion, and determination. Together, we are strengthening the foundation for children's well-being and advancing policies and practices that put families first.

Lastly, I am looking forward to our upcoming Leadership Conference, "Lights, Leadership, Action", where we'll bring together stakeholders and upcoming leaders from around the state to share insights, celebrate progress, and chart a collaborative path forward. These gatherings are a reminder that real change happens when diverse voices are heard and valued.

In this season of activity and warmer weather, let's recommit ourselves to advocacy that is bold, hopeful, and grounded in community. I invite each of you to stay engaged, lift your voice, and continue building a Mississippi where every child has the opportunity to thrive.

With gratitude and hope,

Shea Hutchins
Board President

Mississippi Alliance for Child and Community Advocacy





35 YEARS OF SERVICE

Five Years of Impact

Children and Families
Served Since 2019
100,000+

Children and Families
Served in 2024
26,169

190% Growth since 2020

11,764 Permanent Homes



www.macca4kids.org



35TH AWARDS LUNCHEON RECAP





35TH AWARDS LUNCHEON RECAP





VFA POLICY UPDATE

REORGANIZATION, PERSONNEL CUTS HIT HHS AND ACF

The Trump administration has begun implementing substantial personnel cuts that are affecting numerous federal agencies across the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), including the Administration and Children and Families (ACF). The effects of the cuts are not yet fully known, but they are likely to affect child welfare and adoption programs substantially.

The effort began on Thursday, March 27, when HSS announced cuts in agency personnel as part of a larger effort to transform and realign the department in accordance with Secretary Robert F. Kennedy's Make America Healthy Again (MAHA) initiative.

Overall, the administration plans to reduce government staff positions at HHS from 82,000 to 62,000. It is also planning a substantial agency reorganization, with the number of divisions reduced from 28 to 15.

At least as initially described, the workforce reductions and reorganization appeared to be primarily focused on the agencies most directly related to the administration's MAHA agenda, specifically the Food and Drug Administration, Centers for Disease Control, and National Institutes of Health.

As workforce reductions began to be implemented on Tuesday, April 1, however, it became apparent that the impact is wider than originally anticipated. The Administration for Children and Families, which was not cited as a primary target in the original announcements, appears to be suffering significant staff cuts, many of which seem likely to directly affect child welfare-related programs. These include:

Overall Staff Reductions: According to official estimates, ACF employs approximately 1,700 staff, including 1,200 federal employees and 500 contractors. According to several sources within the agency, it has reportedly lost an estimated 500-600 personnel during the current reductions in force. Some of these were through voluntary separations and early retirements.

Program-specific Cuts: Several program offices within HHS have been closed entirely. This reportedly includes staff related to the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) program, which has seen its workforce reduced to either zero or one staff person, depending on the source. SSBG provides about 10 percent of federal support for child welfare programs. The Children's Bureau Division of State Systems (DSS), which supports state and tribal child welfare information systems, has also reportedly been eliminated. Other ACF offices reportedly affected include Head Start, the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), and the Office of Child Care.

Regional Offices: Half (five) of the ten regional offices, which work to support states and tribes, have been closed. These include offices in Boston, New York, Chicago, San Francisco, and Seattle (regions 1, 2, 5, 9, and 10). Duties formerly assigned to these offices are being reassigned to other regional offices.

Grant Terminations: According to one well-placed source within ACF, the agency has developed a "cut list" related to its federal grants. The list is reportedly divided into three categories – a "green" list, which are grants protected by statute (presumably mandatory/entitlement-funded); a "yellow" list, which includes discretionary grants that are annually appropriated and could be cut; and a "red" list, which the administration is committed to cutting. Red list grants and some on the yellow list will reportedly be ended September 30. None of the current grantees have been informed of their status.

Medicaid: CMS, which includes Medicaid, will lose 300 employees. However, according to the original HHS announcement, "Medicare, Medicaid, and other essential health services remain intact."

Communications from HHS have been limited since the new administration began on January 20. HHS communications offices have also experienced significant staff reductions, so external communications from ACF and the Children's Bureau are likely to be limited.

The administration's workforce and budgetary changes are nevertheless being closely monitored by Congress. On April 1, the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee announced that it will be holding a hearing on the HHS efforts on Tuesday, April 8. Sens. Bill Cassidy (R-LA) and Bernie Sanders (I-VT), the committee chair and ranking member, have invited Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. to testify.

"The news coverage on the HHS reorg is being set by anonymous sources and opponents are setting the perceptions," Senator Cassidy said in a statement. "In the confirmation process, RFK committed to coming before the committee on a quarterly basis. This will be a good opportunity for him to set the record straight and speak to the goals, structure and benefits of the proposed reorganization."

MEMBER NEWS



**REGISTER
NOW**

RESPONDING *to an* **ANXIOUS GENERATION**

Children's Mental Health Summit
July 16 - 18, 2025

Featuring Keynote Speakers

KATHERINE MARTINKO

*Author of Childhood Unplugged: Practical Advice to
Get Kids Off Screens and Find Balance*

GERRY BROOKS

Principal and Motivational Speaker

VANESSA MCNEAL

*Speaker, transformational work and life coach,
and founder of Authentically You*





MEMBER NEWS



Benefitting **Sunnybrook**

Sunnybrook Children's Home celebrates more than 60 years since its founding in 1963, a milestone that marks six decades of providing safe and nurturing homes for foster children and their families.



< Register here!



Save The Date
20TH CATHOLIC CHARITIES
BISHOP'S
BALL

Honoring
Blue Cross Blue Shield of MS
& Malcolm White

Saturday, the nineteenth of July
two thousand and twenty-five

The Two Mississippi Museums

★ Jackson, Mississippi

Tickets Price: \$125

Cocktail Hour / 6:00pm

Auction / 7:00pm

Live Music By Patrick Harkins Band

MEMBER NEWS

Save the Date



Wendy's



children's golf classic

Join us for a 4-man scramble, 18-hole golf tournament complete with food, drinks, prizes, and gifts benefiting MFFK's child permanency efforts.



THURSDAY
OCTOBER 9, 2025
10:00 A.M.

At Lake Caroline Golf Club - Madison, MS

Team and individual registration and sponsorship opportunities available. All purchases are tax deductible. Registration deadline: October 3, 2025.

Visit mffk.org to REGISTER and learn more.

PRIZES

1st, 2nd, and 3rd place, closest to the pin, longest drive, hole-in-one

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

10:00 a.m. - Registration

11:00 a.m. - Lunch

12:00 p.m. - Tee time

4:00 p.m. - Awards/Auction





MACCA

Mississippi Alliance for
Child and Community Advocacy

MILC25

Lights | Leadership | Action

2025 MACCA LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

REGISTER TODAY

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LINK
NAVIGATING FAMILIES to success

AUGUST 20-21, 2025

BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20

- 9:00 am | Exhibitor Set-up
11:00 am | Registration (Board Meeting)
12:30 pm | "Parents Adopted - More to the Story"
Welcome with Stacey Barr
1:30 pm | So you love TBRI, now what?
Speaker: Hope Village TBRI Practitioners 1 CEU
2:45 pm | "What Sends You Over?"
Speaker: Jackie Smith LSW, MSW 1.5 CEUs
4:15 pm | Free Time
5:00 pm | Welcome Reception

THURSDAY, AUGUST 21

- 7:30 am | Breakfast
9:00 am | "Brave Spaces, Better Outcomes; Leading with Communication and Conflict Resolution Skills"
Speaker: Rodney Washington, MA, MS, EdD 1.5 CEUs
11:30 am | Exhibitors Lunch
12:30 pm | "Humanity-Informed Practice to Our Organizational Leader and Practitioners"
Speaker: Karla McCullough, Ph.D. 1 CEU
1:45 pm | **Speaker: Commissioner Andrea Sanders 1 CEU**
2:45 pm | Free Time
6:00pm | The Encore Event (Red Carpet)
Dress to impress - formal attire suggested!
7:00pm | Dinner and Keynote: "The QUAD Shift: Reimagining Self-care and Combating Burnout in Social Services"
Speaker: Regina L. Lacking, LMSW 1 CEU

Schedule is subject to change.

7 CE Hours Pending Approval

MEET THE SPEAKERS

PRESENTED BY:

BankPlus[®]



CANOPY
Children's Solutions



STACEY BARR



HOPE VILLAGE
TBRI PRACTITIONERS



JACKIE SMITH, LSW, MSW



RODNEY WASHINGTON, MA, MS, EDD



KARLA MCCULLOUGH, PHD.



COMMISSIONER ANDREA SANDERS



REGINA L. LACKING, MSW



Share Your News!

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

Email to taylor@tenonestrategy.com



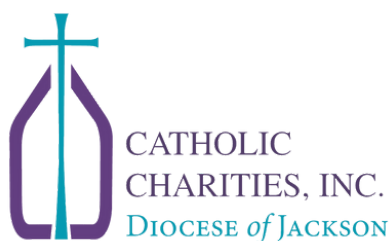
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US ON FACEBOOK

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