Georgia Grantmakers Alliance 2017 Annual Meeting:
State of Mind: Child Mental Health in Georgia – 0 to 25

When: Friday, September 8 · 8:30am – 3:15pm (ET)
Where: Cox Enterprises Conference Center (6305 Peachtree Dunwoody Rd, Atlanta, GA)

2017 Speaker Bios:

Frank Berry Commissioner, Department of Community Health, State of Georgia

Frank Berry became Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Community Health in December 2016, following four years leading the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities for four years and more than 30 years of public service experience. He was previously the chief executive officer of View Point Health, one of Georgia’s largest community service boards. Berry sits on the board for the Department of Community Supervision and the board of the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors. He is a member of the First Lady’s Children’s Cabinet and the chairman of Georgia’s Behavioral Health Coordinating Council. Berry earned a master’s degree from Florida State University.

Mahlet Endale, Ph.D. Suicide Prevention Coordinator, Emory University Counseling and Psychological Services and Licensed Psychologist

Dr. Mahlet Endale joined Emory Counseling and Psychological Services in August of 2012. She did most of her training at the University of Georgia, earning a bachelor’s degree in psychology, a master’s degree in community counseling and a doctoral degree in counseling psychology. Endale worked at the Georgia Tech counseling center for four years as a staff psychologist (and outreach coordinator for two years) before coming to Emory. At Emory, she serves as the suicide prevention coordinator. In addition to seeing clients, she responds to students through an online, anonymous stress and depression screening via the Emory Cares 4 U website, coordinates and provides suicide prevention gatekeeper training for the campus, and trains and advises Emory’s Helpline.

Erica Fener Sitkoff, Ph.D. Executive Director, Voices for Georgia’s Children

Dr. Erica Fener Sitkoff is the executive director of Voices for Georgia’s Children, but she first joined the organization in October 2014 as policy and outreach director. With experience as a Ph.D. clinical psychologist and as an administrator and consultant to school districts on mental health and development disabilities, Sitkoff has been an outstanding leader of Voices’ policy agenda. She has helped Voices to facilitate policy change that improves access to quality services for children and families across all systems that impact healthy development, including health insurance and quality health care, early childhood development, child welfare, and juvenile justice systems. Prior to joining Voices, Sitkoff led the student support services transformation for the District of Columbia Public School System and worked as vice president of strategic growth and operations for a nationwide special education services company.

Judy Fitzgerald Commissioner, Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, State of Georgia

Judy Fitzgerald was appointed Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) by Gov. Nathan Deal in 2016. She has been with DBHDD since 2012, previously serving in the roles of chief of staff and deputy commissioner. Prior to joining DBHDD, she worked in a variety of health and human service settings. She served as Vice President of Strategy for View Point Health, one of Georgia’s 26 community service boards. She has also worked as a consultant on child and adolescent services in several states and was the executive director for the Mental Health Association of Georgia. Fitzgerald was privileged to begin her career in the Mental Health Program of The
Carter Center, working for former First Lady Rosalynn Carter on domestic and international advocacy and policy efforts to promote mental health and reduce the stigma of mental illness. Fitzgerald earned her master’s degree in social work from the University of Georgia.

**Rand Hagen Trustee, The Wilbur and Hilda Glenn Family Foundation**

Rand Hagen is a trustee of the Wilbur and Hilda Glenn Family Foundation, where she leads the foundation’s work on mental health issues and participates with other trustees to make grants in a variety of areas. Hagen is passionate about improving mental health outcomes for children and adults and serves on the Board of Trustees for Skyland Trail and on the Advisory Board of Emory University’s Child and Adolescent Mood Program. She holds a Ph.D. in school psychology from the University of Texas at Austin.

**Erin Harlow-Parker Clinical Program Manager-Advanced Practice, Consult Liaison Psychiatry, Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta**

Erin Harlow-Parker, APRN, MS, PMHCNS-BC, has been a child and adolescent psychiatric nurse for 29 years. She received her undergraduate degree from Rhode Island College and a master’s degree in child and adolescent psychiatric nursing from Northeastern University. She has been an ANCC board-certified child and adolescent psychiatric clinical nurse specialist for 24 years. She has worked extensively in inpatient and outpatient psychiatric specialty areas. She has been a member of the psychiatric consult team at Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta since 2007. In the last year, she has become a member of the Georgia Department of Education suicide prevention task force and begun to collaborate with the Georgia Bureau of Investigation and other state agencies to address the increase in completed suicides in our state.

**Ray Kotwicki, MD, MPH Chief Medical Officer, Skyland Trail, and Adjunct Associate Professor of Psychiatry, Emory University School of Medicine**

As chief medical officer, Ray Kotwicki oversees Skyland Trail’s clinical services, ensuring that the best, evidence-based treatments are being provided to patients. He joined Skyland Trail in 2007 and assumed full-time chief medical officer responsibilities in 2014. Kotwicki recently served as an associate professor at Emory University’s School of Medicine - Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, and as an associate professor at Emory University’s Rollins School of Public Health. He co-directed the four-year, longitudinal course “Becoming A Doctor” and led medical student education for the department for seven years. Kotwicki remains on adjunctive faculty at the Emory University School of Medicine, as well as at the University of Miami - Miller School of Medicine. Kotwicki is a Diplomate of the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, and has been elected an officer of the Georgia Psychiatric Physicians’ Association. From 2003 to 2006, he served as president of the board of directors for Positive Impact, Inc., the Southeast’s premiere prevention and mental health program for people infected or affected by HIV/AIDS.

**Tim Marshall, LCSW Director of Community Mental Health, Connecticut Department of Children and Families**

Tim Marshall, LCSW, is Director of Community Mental Health at the Connecticut Department of Children and Families. Marshall is a licensed clinical social worker who has provided treatment services to children and families in a variety of settings. He has worked for the department for over 23 years, serving in both local area offices and in the central office. He shares in the oversight of statewide mental health and substance abuse programs and co-chairs the Connecticut Suicide Advisory Board. He also leads Connecticut’s efforts in developing an integrated children’s behavioral health system of care under Public Act 13-178.

**Garry McGiboney, Ph.D. Commissioner, Department of Education, State of Georgia**

Garry McGiboney has a Ph.D. in school psychology and educational administration from Georgia State University and is a state certified mediator. Currently, he is on the Board of Directors of Georgia Family Connections Partnership, the Georgia
Chapter of Mental Health of America, and the DeKalb Community Service Board. Dr. McGiboney has over 30 professional publications on several topics. He is the author of the books *Lessons for Leaders and Governing Boards* and *The Private Side of a Public Education*. McGiboney has been featured in programming for Nickelodeon, A&E, PBS, Discovery Channel and the Learning Channel. He is recipient of several awards, including NAACP Educator of the Year, the National Association of School Psychologists National Friend of Children Award, Georgia School Counselors Advocate of the Year Award, Georgia Association of School Nurses Hero Award, and others. Recently, he was inducted into the Georgia Board of Regents’ Alumni Hall of Fame for his career-long efforts on behalf of children.

**Jeffrey Vanderploeg, Ph.D. Vice President for Mental Health Initiatives, Child Health and Development Institute of Connecticut**

Dr. Jeff Vanderploeg is vice president for mental health initiatives at CHDI and assistant clinical professor in psychiatry at the Yale University School of Medicine and the University of Connecticut Health Center School of Medicine. Vanderploeg’s work focuses on developing effective policies, systems and practices for the prevention and treatment of mental health conditions among children and adolescents and their families. He is particularly interested in developing effective and integrated models of mental health care delivery across child-serving systems. He oversees a wide range of initiatives at CHDI in the areas of evidence-based practice dissemination, school-based mental health and trauma-informed care. Jeff is a member of several committees and councils in children’s behavioral health policy development, including co-chairing the Quality, Access and Policy Subcommittee of the Connecticut Behavioral Health Partnership. Jeff received a doctoral degree in clinical psychology from Bowling Green State University, completed predoctoral and postdoctoral training at Yale University School of Medicine, and was a research faculty member at Yale before joining CHDI in 2009.

**Hon. Peggy Walker Douglas County Juvenile Court Judge**

Judge Peggy H. Walker is the Juvenile Court judge in Douglas County having served full-time since 1998. She graduated from Georgia State University with a master’s degree in education and a law degree. She served as president of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges in 2015. She represents NCJFCJ on STRYVE (Striving to Reduce Youth Violence Everywhere) Action Council, a national effort to end youth violence. She is a graduate Harris Fellow of the Zero to Three Class of 2005 and was a senior fellow at Emory University in 2008. She served as chair of the Georgia Commission on Family Violence for two years and served six years on the Commission, leading the effort to draft a state plan to end domestic violence. She received the Commission’s Gender Justice Award in 2015, a Big Voice for Children award from Voices for Children in 2016, and Emory University’s EPIC Award for Unsung Devotion for Those Most in Need in 2016. Judge Walker serves as vice chair for Child Fatality Review. She has been an active member of the Rotary Club of Douglas County for the past 24 years.