

# FUSE

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●Knowledge●Hope●Choice●Fulfillment●

## *Empowerment Through Knowledge*

[www.msmeegaconference.org](http://www.msmeegaconference.org)

**June 15-16, 2017**

**Marriott Downtown  
Jackson, Mississippi**

### **Pre-Conference Event! Dream Night at the Zoo, June 14, 2017**

The Mississippi disAbility MegaConference is the state's largest conference for people with disabilities, their families, and professionals. At the conference, speakers and vendors will share the latest information and innovations on many topics such as health care, education, employment, mental health, safety, and much more! The conference is a great way for people to make new friends and learn about services which will benefit the lives of people with disabilities in the future.

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**Alternate formats available upon request.**



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## FEATURED PROJECTS

### Creating a Spectrum of Possibilities (Mississippi State University)

With funding from the Mississippi Council on Developmental Disabilities, Mississippi State University (MSU) implemented the Creating a Spectrum of Possibilities program with two primary goals: 1) to provide services to at least 30 individuals with disabilities, and 2) to train future professionals to work with people with disabilities. Individual weekly services have been provided to over 100 people with disabilities over the course of a year with a waiting list of 37. Most recently, the clinic began administering comprehensive assessments. A total of 31 clients were identified for assessment services. Nine of those have been completed with 22 individuals on the waiting list.

Expanding beyond individual therapy, other services have been provided:

- the creation of a social skills group ages ranging from pre-school through high school
- completion of assessments
- partnering with Disability Support Services at MSU to provide services to 25 college students with autism.

These services are provided to over 125 different individuals a week. These numbers do not include the countless family members and professionals that are provided consultation and protocol training in efforts to further support services.

*Photo: Dr. Dan Gadke, School Psychology Graduate Students: Adam Weseloh, Emily Mathis, Margaret Bernheim, and Dr. Tawny McCleon. Not Pictured: Dr. Kasee Stratton*



### Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (University of Mississippi Medical Center)

Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) is an evidence-based intervention for children with co-occurring behavioral problems and developmental disabilities. The Mississippi Council on Developmental Disabilities funded this program to support the initial certification of three clinical psychologists to deliver PCIT. Since enrolling the first families in January 2016, needed treatment/services have been provided to 37 families and have been successful in lowering behavioral problems, increasing parent confidence, parenting skills, and efficacy, reducing risk of pre-school expulsions, and decreasing family stress. This project has built a treatment program that addresses a major health need, especially given the lack of access to evidence-based interventions for pre-school-aged youth and individuals with developmental disabilities.

Within the past year, consultation has taken place to provide CARE (Child-Adult Relationship Enhancement) training. CARE is designed as a prevention model for children at risk for developing behavioral concerns or to complement ongoing therapy services. CARE skills are derived from the therapeutic techniques at PCIT and will enhance the PCIT

treatment referrals. While PCIT training/certification is available only for UMMC's staff, CARE trainings are for any adults interacting with at-risk children including providers in the community outside of UMMC. The UMMC CAY (Center for Advancement of Youth) Clinic will also begin working with UMMC's Division of Speech-Pathology and Otolaryngology to pilot CARE trainings with speech, physical, and occupational therapists.



*Photo: Ms. Genevieve Garrett, Ms. Katie Parisi, Dr. Dorothy Scattone, Dr. Dustin Sarver, Dr. Nina Wong Sarver, and Dr. Patricia Logan*



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**IDS' LaVergne Named Mississippi's Act Early Ambassador**

In 2011, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) established the Act Early Ambassador program, a network of state-level experts that works together to improve early identification practices. Dr. Leslie LaVergne, a navigator and trainer at IDS, has been selected to serve as Mississippi's Act Early Ambassador to expand the reach of the "Learn the Signs. Act Early." program and promote messages and activities through collaboration within the state to improve screening, diagnostic, and referral services for young children with ASD and other developmental disabilities.



<http://news.usm.edu/article/ids-lavergne-named-mississippi-s-act-early-ambassador>



**Hicks Named Member of Inaugural National HUD Housing Committee**

Cassie Hicks, director of Housing at IDS, has been named as one of 12 members of the inaugural Housing Counseling Federal Advisory Committee. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) organized the committee as a result of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010. The advisory panel will work with HUD's Office of Housing Counseling to improve efforts to provide consumers with the knowledge they need to make informed housing decisions. IDS' housing programs have a special focus in working with homeownership initiatives for people with disabilities and their families.

<http://news.usm.edu/article/hicks-named-member-inaugural-national-hud-housing-committee>



**IDS Co-hosts the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Wheelchair Softball World Series**

IDS, in collaboration with Metro Area Community Empowerment (MACE) Foundation, teamed up to host the 40th Annual Wheelchair Softball World Series in Biloxi from August 10-13, 2016. Represented by the Deep South Hurricanes, comprised of the best athletes in wheelchair sports from Mississippi, IDS and MACE welcomed 19 teams, including Team Japan, to the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Despite nearly constant rain over the three-day tournament, the teams took to the fields to compete in 67 games. The Deep South Hurricanes finished in seventh place and are looking forward to the 2017 WSWS.

<http://www.myfox23.com/single-post/2016/08/16/Deep-South-Hurricanes-place-7th-Wheelchair-Softball-World-Series>

**IDS' Carley receives Emerging Leader Scholarship to Attend Annual Conference**

Taylor Carley, the self-advocacy coordinator at IDS, was recognized for his leadership contributions by receiving an Emerging Leader Scholarship. Taylor was one of only three people in the nation to receive this scholarship assisting with travel and registration to the 2016 Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) Annual Conference "Navigating Change: Building our Future Together" on Dec. 4-7, 2016 in Washington, D.C. The scholarship not only allowed Taylor to attend the conference but to present at his first national venue in the conference presentation titled "How Self-Advocates Are Influencing Others Through Storytelling."

<http://news.usm.edu/article/ids-carley-receives-emerging-leader-scholarship-attend-annual-conference>





**DISABILITY RIGHTS MISSISSIPPI**  
Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Disabilities



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Happy New Year from Disability Rights Mississippi (DRMS)! We have been proudly and passionately advocating for the rights of people with disabilities in Mississippi for 35 years.

In the past year, as a result of DRMS advocacy:

- ⇒ Over 1,100 people have received information, referral and/or individual representation from DRMS advocates and attorneys
- ⇒ Several school districts have closed separate “classrooms” which were essentially warehousing students with significant disabilities far away from typical students.
- ⇒ A detention center has improved its treatment of youth with disabilities.
- ⇒ Abuse and neglect investigations have resulted in personnel and policy changes, thereby improving safety for all served by those programs
- ⇒ Inmates with disabilities have received needed wheelchairs, prostheses, and accommodations that improve their chances for rehabilitation.
- ⇒ Employment opportunities for youth and young adults with disabilities have increased through a five year effort that led to systems changes.



We have many exciting plans for 2017, and will also face challenges and changes. We will continue to help as many individual clients as possible, work on long-term systemic issues, and address and expand efforts in some new areas, including guardianship and supported decision making, criminal justice system reforms, and implementation of new federal rules on waiver settings and employment opportunities.

Thanks to a grant from the George and Jackson County United Way, we will provide training in the late spring to educators, parents and law enforcement in those counties on Positive Crisis Intervention and Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports. Stay tuned for more details about this project, which we hope to replicate in other regions of the state.

In June, Executive Director Ann Maclaine will be retiring after eight years in Mississippi, which will provide an opportunity for exciting new energy to lead our dedicated staff. The DRMS Board has begun a search for her replacement – stay tuned for more information on that also.