

Workshop Series

LET'S STAY CONNECTED!



Due to the COVID -19 closure, the Family Support Center along with our partners were unable to hold our **9th Annual Parent Empowerment Conference**.

In place of the conference, we are happy to present a **Parent Empowerment Workshop Series**, which features our conference speakers including the featured keynote speaker Dr. Jed Baker.

Register for the workshops today:
<https://tinyurl.com/ycrw6bmz>

Phone:

(202)540-0794 or (240)839-1458
(Spanish or English)

Pre-recorded and Recorded sessions also require registration. A link to the sessions will be provided on the date that the sessions are available.

Virtual Conference Sessions

Speaker	Title of Presentation	Date	Time	Format
Scott Showalter	Understanding Adverse Childhood Experiences	May 13, 2020	6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	Live Zoom
Yvonne Alleyne, Beth Diaite, and Scott Showalter	Make and Take: Time for Schedules, Meditating and Calming	May 14, 2020	6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	Live Zoom
Neal Lichter and Trish Kane	Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorders	May 15, 2020	Access Anytime	Pre-Recorded
Pamela Talley-SECAC	What Parents of Kids With Disabilities Need to Know About Education During the COVID-19 Closure: Technical Guidance from the Maryland State Department of Education	May 15, 2020	Access Anytime	Pre-Recorded
Dr. Sarah Wayland	"I Can't Do It All!" - Figure Out What You Can Do, What Really Matters, and How To Handle the Rest.	May 15, 2020	Access Anytime	Pre-Recorded
Dr. Jed Baker	Managing Frustration, Anxiety and Teaching Social Skills- Part 1	May 19, 2020	6:00 p.m.- 7:30 p.m.	Live Zoom
Dr. Jed Baker	Managing Frustration, Anxiety and Teaching Social Skills- Part 2	May 20, 2020	6:00 p.m. -7:30 p.m.	Live Zoom
Dr. Jed Baker	Managing Frustration, Anxiety and Teaching Social Skills- Part 3	May 21, 2020	6:00 p.m. -7:30 p.m.	Live Zoom
Dr. Jed Baker	Managing Frustration, Anxiety and Teaching Social Skills- Part 4	May 22, 2020	6:00 p.m. -7:30 p.m.	Live Zoom

Speaker	Title of Presentation	Date	Time	Format
Catherine Francoeur	Free library resources make for a great summer!	May 22, 2020	10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	Live Zoom and Recorded
Michelle Whitfield	Understanding the FBA/BIP	May 26, 2020	2:30 p.m.- 3:45 p.m.	Live Zoom and Recorded
Bonnie Larrimore, Heather Luke	How To Participate in a Virtual IEP Meeting?	May 26, 2020	2:00 - 3:00 p.m. English 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. Spanish	Live and Recorded
Dr. Joyce Cooper-Kahn	Why Do It Now, If You Can Do it Later? Understanding and Getting Past Procrastination.	May 30, 2020	9:00 a.m. - 10: 00 a.m.	Live Zoom
Yvonne Alleyne, Beth Diaite, and Scott Showalter	Teaching Compliance to Manage Challenging Behavior s	May 28, 2020	6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	Live Zoom
Marie Darza and Stephanie Howard Wines	Transition to Kindergarten	June 2, 2020	4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Live Zoom and Recorded
Dr. Joyce Cooper-Kahn	Strong Feelings and Weak Controls: How to Help Children and Teens with Emotional Regulations	June 6, 2020	6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	Live Zoom
Natasha Mirny	Moving and Learning Through the Rainforest	June 6, 2020	10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. (<i>presentation for children</i>)	Live Zoom
Keisha Frager, Vastine Koya	Zoom, Google Classroom, oh my! So how do you use these tools?	June 9, 2020	2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. English 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Spanish	Live Zoom and Recorded
Andrea Burrell	Five Tips for Parents and Caregivers to Incorporate Wellness Practices into Your Day	June 10, 2020	4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Live Zoom and Recorded
Mai Hall, Marlo Lemon	Learning occurs naturally all day long? How to make	June 11, 2020	2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. English	Live Zoom and Recorded

Speaker	Title of Presentation	Date	Time	Format
	the most of those opportunities.		2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Spanish	
Alicia Woolf and Andrea Burrell	Understanding Specially Designed Instruction	June 12, 2020	Access Anytime	Pre-Recorded
Kofi Dennis	I like to be me...When I grow up!	June 13, 2020	10:00 a.m. – 10:30a.m. (<i>program for children</i>)	Live Zoom
Missy Alexander, Heather Luke	How do we keep up? Easy Ways to Document Progress.	June 16, 2020 English & Spanish	2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. English 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Spanish	Live Zoom and Recorded
SECAC- W Troy Sampson	Caregiver Support: Tips to Help Those Who Give Care	June 2020	Access Anytime	Pre-Recorded

NOTE: Pre-recorded and recorded sessions will be available on our Family Support Center YouTube Channel. Please register for the event and you will receive login in information. Recorded sessions will be made available 48 hours after the live event.

Session Descriptions

Caregiver Support: Tips to Help Those Who Give Care

Presenter: W. Troy Sampson

Providing care for loved ones living with special needs is an honor and duty but one that can also be daunting and overwhelming. Caregivers often suffer stress, burnout, anger, resentment, disorganization, and health issues caused by caregiving. The objective of this presentation is to offer valuable tips and insight that can help those who are caregivers of loved ones living with special needs avoid things like burnout, anger, resentment, etc.

Five Tips for Parents and Caregivers to Incorporate Wellness Practices into Your Day

Presenter: Andrea Burrell

Description: During this session, participants will explore strategies to cope with stress and prevent burnout; identify ways to incorporate wellness practices into their lives, and engage in gentle chair mindful movement exercises

How do we keep up? Easy Ways to Document Progress.

Presenters: Missy Alexander, Heather Luke

Description: To be an effective partner with our child's teacher we need to keep the lines of communication open. This means we as parents need to be prepared to document our children's progress, what is working and what isn't. How do parents collect data? The Parents' Place of Maryland has created a document that is easy to use and will make data collection possible for all of us!

How to Participate in a Virtual IEP Meeting?

Presenters: Bonnie Larrimore, Heather Luke

Description: How can parents focus when the dogs are barking and the kids are crying? Join us as we discuss some easy ways to prepare for and participate during a Virtual IEP meeting.

Free library resources make for a great summer!

Presenter: Catherine Francouer, Media Specialist, PGCPs

Description: Discover how to access free ebooks, articles, research help, music, movies, and more!!!! PGCPs and the public libraries are a treasure chest of free, credible resources accessible by all students: find out about some of them during this session.

"I Can't Do It All!" - Figure Out What You Can Do, What Really Matters, and How To Handle the Rest.

Presenter: Sarah Wayland, Ph.D.

Description: As parents of kids with disabilities during the COVID-19 crisis, we are juggling more priorities than we were before. These might include working full time, helping our kids access their education, working to stay safe and healthy, meeting our household and community commitments, trying to figure out how to earn a living, and more. But let's face it - we can't do it all. In this presentation, I will walk you through the process of determining what your priorities are and what you can do. And then we will talk about how to navigate what you cannot do.

I LIKE TO BE ME...WHEN I GROW UP!

Presenter: Kofi Dennis, DC/MD/VA Wolf Trap Master Teaching Artist

Description: Join Kofi as parents and their babies help to bring their favorite books, rhymes, and songs to life with movement, instruments, scarves and streamers, singing and dancing together!

Learning occurs naturally all day long! How to make the most of those opportunities.

Presenters: Mai Hall, Marlo Lemon

Description: Just Breathe! We are NOT homeschooling, we are CRISIS schooling! Learn about ways to facilitate your child's learning during everyday activities.

Make and Take: Time for Schedules, Meditating and Calming

Presenters: Beth Diaite, Yvonne Allyene, and Scott Showalter

Description: Come and join us as we create schedules and calming spaces for our children. We will also take time for ourselves with some guided mediation and stretching. Dress comfortably! A suggested material list for the activities will be provided upon registration.

Managing Frustration, Anxiety and Teaching Social Skills (KEYNOTE- 4 Part Series)

Presenter: Dr. Jed Baker

Description: Individuals on the autism spectrum and those with behavioral challenges often present with difficulty regulating their feelings and interacting socially. This workshop describes how to handle meltdowns and design effective behavior plans to prevent these moments and reduce frustration and anxiety. The second part of the presentation details strategies to motivate individuals to learn, ways to teach social skills, how to generalize skills into the natural setting, and increase acceptance and tolerance from peers. Information will be imparted through lecture, interactive exercises, and video clips.

MOVING AND LEARNING THROUGH THE RAINFOREST

Presenter: Natasha Mirny, DC/MD/VA Wolf Trap Teaching Artist

Adults and children will experience dynamic imaginary travel to a rainforest, where they can explore a variety of animals and plants -- and learn about the importance of protecting this unique ecosystem, and other forest environments.

Goal: Share movement, drama and music experiences that families can use with children to enhance early learning and development

Strong Feelings and Weak Controls: How to Help Children and Teens with Emotional Regulation

Presenter: Joyce Cooper-Kahn, Ph.D.

Description: This session will focus on understanding and helping children and teens who have difficulty managing their own emotions. We will consider ways to manage outbursts in the moment and strategies to help build better emotional regulation over time.

Teaching Compliance to Manage Challenging Behaviors

Presenters: Yvonne Alleyne, BCBA, Beth Diaite, BCBA, and Scott Showalter

Description: This session will teach parents how to gain a child's compliance using several simple steps. Parents will walk away with knowledge of basic behavior principles that can be used to help children comply with requests and complete tasks.

Transition to Kindergarten

Presenters: Marie Darza and Stephanie Howard Wines

Description: Transition to Kindergarten is a workshop specifically designed for parents of children with special needs and their peers who are transitioning to kindergarten. During the workshop, parents will receive an overview of the transition process. There will be a Q&A session at the conclusion of the presentation.

Understanding Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES)

Presenter: Scott Showalter

Description: Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are traumatic events that occur in a child's life such as physical or sexual abuse, neglect, household dysfunction, or witnessing violence. Research has shown that these types of experiences have a direct impact on children's developing brains and immune system, increasing the risk for negative health and well-being outcomes as an adult. Adverse childhood experiences are common and cut across demographics such as income level, race, and culture. This presentation will provide participants with an in-depth look at the impact of ACEs on health and well-being, as well as explore factors that increase resiliency. Participants will leave with a deeper understanding of ACEs and what it means to help build and support resilient self-healing communities.

Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorder

Presenters: Neal Lichter and Trish Kane

Description: 1 in 50 children in Maryland are diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Undoubtedly, you are interacting with someone with Autism whether in your home, your neighborhood, your school, or your workplace. Understanding ASD is one way to improve your

interactions with someone on the spectrum. Our presentation will provide a practical and experiential opportunity for you to learn strategies and tips for success.

Understanding SDI for Parents

Presenter: Andrea Burrell and Alicia Woolf

Description: An overview of Specially Designed Instruction for students with disabilities will be provided. Parents will understand what Specially Designed Instruction is and how it is the basis for their child's special education program.

Understanding the FBA/BIP

Presenter: Michelle Whitfield

Description: Parents and caregivers will be provided with:

- an overview of the functional behavior assessment process
 - an overview of the process for developing behavior intervention plans
 - tips for collaborating with school staff in reference to FBAs & BIPs
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What Parents of Kids with Disabilities Need to Know About Education During the COVID-19 Closure: Technical Guidance from the Maryland State Department of Education

Presenter: Sarah Wayland, Ph.D.

Description: During the COVID-19 school closure, children with disabilities must be educated remotely. But what does that mean for kids with disabilities who may have a hard time accessing remote instruction? Teaching and delivering services remotely can be quite a challenge. In this presentation, you will learn about your child's rights per guidance from the US Department of Education and the Maryland State Department of Education. We will also talk about how to collaborate with your child's team so your child will get the services they need to access their education.

Why Do It Now If You Can Do It Later? Understanding and Getting Past Procrastination

Presenter: Dr. Joyce Cooper-Kahn

Description: Some children and teens seem to find every excuse to put off work and chronically wait until the last minute to start on tasks. In this session, we'll discuss ways to understand this pattern and discuss strategies to help get procrastinators back on track.

Zoom, Google Classroom, oh my! So how do you use these tools?

Presenter: Keisha Frager, Vastine Koya

Description: Navigating online learning is, in many ways, more challenging for parents. We will walk you through how to use Google Classroom as well as exploring other platforms that you may encounter in this time of COVID. This session will help you learn how to navigate them like a pro!

Presenter Bios

Missy Alexander

Missy is a Parent Educator working with families in Southern Maryland. She facilitates workshops and study groups on a variety of topics. Missy is active on many regional, state, and national councils and boards focusing on children with special needs. She has also been a guest lecturer at Towson University, Johns Hopkins University, and The College of Southern Maryland on parenting a child with autism. Missy is on the Board of Directors for the Learning Disabilities Association of Maryland. She is an active member, and former Chair, of the Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates (COPAA). Missy is the parent of a daughter on the autism spectrum.

Yvonne Alleyne

Yvonne Alleyne has worked with individuals on the autism spectrum for over 19 years. She received her B.A. in Psychology from Saint Mary's College of Maryland and a Masters in Special Education with a specialization in mild to moderate disabilities from Johns Hopkins University. Ms. Alleyne is a certified special educator in the state of Maryland, a Board Certified Behavior Analyst, and a Licensed Behavior Analyst in the state of Maryland. She worked in the Ivymount School Autism Program from 1999 through 2014 serving students aged 3 through 22. In 2014, she moved into a full-time role as a consultant for the Ivymount Outreach Programs, Inc. (currently known as Endeavors). In addition to her role as a consultant, she is an Instructor and Practicum Coordinator for students enrolled in the Post Masters Certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis at the Johns Hopkins University School of Education. Ms. Alleyne has extensive experience consulting for schools locally and internationally, individual home ABA programs, Maryland Autism Waiver Program, and various adult service agencies in Maryland.

Dr. Jed Baker (Keynote Speaker)

Jed Baker, Ph.D. is the director of the [Social Skills Training Project](#), a private organization serving individuals with autism and social communication problems. He is on the professional advisory board of Autism Today, ASPEN, ANSWER, YAI, the Kelberman Center, and several other autism organizations. In addition, he writes, lectures, and provides training internationally on the topic of social skills training and managing challenging behaviors. He is an award-winning author of five [books](#), including *Social Skills Training for Children and Adolescents with Aspergers Syndrome and Social Communication Problems*; *Preparing for Life: The Complete Handbook for the Transition to Adulthood for Those with Autism and Aspergers Syndrome*; *The Social Skills Picture Book*; *The Social Skills Picture Book for High School and Beyond*; and *No More Meltdowns: Positive Strategies for Managing and Preventing Out-of-Control Behavior*. His work has also been featured on ABC World News, Nightline, the CBS Early Show, and the Discovery Health Channel.

Andrea Burrell

Andrea Burrell is a passionate and driven educator of 20 years. Throughout her career, she has held several leadership roles in Prince George's County Public Schools, including Special Education Chairperson, Central Office Mentor Teacher, National Board of Professional Teaching Certification Cohort Lead and Mentor. She has also taught special education Continuing Professional Development courses for teachers fulfilling requirements for state certification. She is currently a Special Education Instructional Specialist with Prince George's County Public Schools who creates, plans, facilitates, coaches, and monitors the professional learning of district personnel charged with educating students with disabilities.

In addition to being a Nationally Board Certified Teacher, Andrea holds certifications in special education and school administration. She earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Special Education from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore and her Master's Degree in Teacher Leadership from George Washington University. Andrea is also a certified Social-Emotional Learning Facilitator and yoga instructor who is passionate about the well-being of others. She actively seeks opportunities to embed wellness practices into the professional learning she shares with educators, students, and families.

Joyce Cooper-Kahn, Ph.D.

Joyce Cooper-Kahn, Ph.D. is a clinical child psychologist, author, and speaker with specific expertise in the assessment and treatment of children and adolescents with ADHD, executive functioning deficits, and other developmental challenges. For over 30 years, she has specialized in helping children, families, and schools to build their competence. She is the author of two books on executive functioning: *Late, Lost and Unprepared: A Parent's Guide to Helping Children with Executive Functioning* written with co-author Dr. Laurie Dietzel, and *Boosting Executive Skills in the Classroom: A Practical Guide for Educators*, written with Margaret Foster, M.A.

In her work, Dr. Cooper-Kahn brings together science, clinical experience, and an appreciation for the daily demands of those raising and teaching children. Her passion lies at this junction: where psychology informs daily life.

She currently provides clinical services in Severna Park, Maryland, and serves on several local, national, and international boards of organizations that educate and advocate for children.

Marie Darza

Marie Darza has been servicing students in Prince George's County Public Schools as a Special Educator in the Early Childhood Department for the last 13 Years. She is a National Board Certified Teacher in the area of Exceptional Needs, Early Childhood to Young Adulthood. She holds a Masters Degree in Special Education and is certified in the areas of Early Childhood, General Elementary Education, Special Education, ESOL, and Admin 1. She is currently an itinerant special education teacher and services students with disabilities in PreK ages 3-5 who are in their boundary schools and in the community. Ms. Darza believes that "Every child is capable of learning to his maximum potential and it is our responsibility to help them be the best that they can possibly be.

Keisha Frager

Keisha is a working with families in Metropolitan Maryland. She was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan where she worked with a diverse population providing training, support and advocacy.

She graduated from Wayne State University with a Bachelor's degree in Sociology concentrating in childhood and families. She previously held a variety of roles assisting youth with mental illnesses and responding to crisis situations. She resides in Prince George County with her husband and son. She is a proud aunt to her 2 year old niece, who was born prematurely and now has developmental delay.

Catherine Francoeur

Catherine Francoeur has been the PGCPs Professional librarian since 2004. Her main focus is to assist all staff in their educational needs and to promote all of the wonderful resources available through PGCPs and PGCMLS!

Mai Hall

Mai Kapuao`ihilani Mei-Lin Hall a Parent Educator was born and raised on Oahu, Hawaii. As a former educator and mentor in preschool and grades K-6, a program manager, data analyst, grant writer for non-profits, and parent volunteer for the Hawaii PTI and Department of Education Special Needs Consortium, Mai brings a diverse perspective and over 14 years' experience to the field of early learning and non-profit work. Mai received both her B.Ed. and M.Ed. in Early Childhood and Curriculum Studies from the University of Hawai`i at Manoa. As a mom of two children with disabilities, her eldest daughter has Asperger's, ADHD, APD, and dyslexia with a side of anxiety and teenage angst. Her son has Autism, ADHD, hypotonia, and energy like no one can imagine.

Stefanie Howard-Wines

Stefanie Howard-Wines, M. Ed is a Special Educator within Prince Georges County, who for the past 10 years has assisted in assigned preschool programs with instructional support and appropriate recommendations to ensure the maintenance and success of young children with disabilities in their least restrictive environment. Mrs. Howard-Wines is trained in SEFFEL (Social Emotional Foundations for Early Learners), which is an evidence-based framework that promotes and supports the healthy, social-emotional development of all children. She holds a Bachelors Degree in Early Childhood Education; Graduate Certificates in Special Education for Culturally & Linguistic Diverse Learners and in Educational Administrative Leadership; as well as Masters Degrees in Special Education and Special Education and Severe Disabilities Certification (with an Emphasis on Autism Disorders). In her spare time, Mrs. Howard-Wines enjoys reading and spending time with her two sons, ages 5 and 8.

Bonnie Larrimore

Bonnie is a Parent Educator working with families on the Eastern Shore. She is a graduate of the National Leadership Institute on Developmental Disabilities and has served as a Maryland Partner for Policy Making. Bonnie is a trained mediator and a graduate of the Johns Hopkins Psychological Disaster Training focusing on the special needs population. She has also worked as a Natural Resource Police Reserve Officer incorporating outreach to children with special needs. Bonnie is a Reiki Master and the parent of a child with multiple disabilities.

Trish Kaine

Trish Kane joined Pathfinders for Autism in September of 2010. As the Deputy Director, she oversees the Resource Center and is directly responsible for coordinating the training programs and fun events. Since March 1995, she has advocated for her son with ASD and offers an understanding of supports and accommodations that work when facing the challenges of going out to eat, visiting the dentist, etc. As a trainer, Trish has been providing an understanding of ASD since 2012; audiences include first responders, educators, library staff, various government agencies, and, since June 2016, hospital systems throughout Maryland. Trish served on the Board of Directors for The Abilities Network, a local Maryland community and vocational support organization from 2010-2015. tkane@pfamd.org

Vastine Koya

Vastine comes to the Parent's Place with 18 years of lived experience managing children with significant mental and physical health needs. She has 6 children, 5 of whom have epilepsy and ADHD/ADD, and the oldest 2 have developmental delay and mental health issues. She has spent the better part of the past 18 years as a single working mother, balancing doctor's appointments, medication management, the public-school system, Social Security, Social Service, and social stigma. Vastine is from Annapolis, Maryland, where she discovered a love of helping people while working with the elderly. Vastine found her passion in helping others get through the struggles that she has already gone through. Due to the significant physical and mental health challenges of her children, Vastine became a stay-at-home mother where she obtained a wealth of practical knowledge. Today, Vastine lives in Glen Burnie with her children, all of whom are happy, healthy, and most importantly, stable.

Marlo Lemon

Marlo received her Bachelor's of Science degree from Coppin State University and Masters of Teaching and Administration from Loyola University. As an adjunct professor, she teaches the "Working with Families of Students with Disabilities" course at Towson University. In her most recent position, she served as a Parent Coordinator for Baltimore County Schools -Birth to Five office. In this position she encouraged, empowered and gave support to families of children with disabilities. As a Professional Development Facilitator she has trained and mentored teachers on literacy for Johns Hopkins University and Howard County Public Schools. In her position as Educational Specialist for the Maryland State Department of Education she worked in Title I schools, early childhood and special education. She is thankful for her years of teaching for Baltimore City and Baltimore County Public School Systems because it allowed her to impact so many children and families. She is a relationship builder and believes ALL children, can achieve. However, she is most proud of her role as wife for over 20 years and mother of her three children, one who has autism and another with learning disabilities.

Neal Lichter

Neal Lichter joined Pathfinders for Autism in October of 2013. Neal is responsible for the daily intake of questions and concerns from parents, caregivers, educators, professionals, and individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). As a trainer, Neal has provided an *Understanding of ASD* training since 2014. Audiences include students from Kindergarten-college, educators, police, first responders, medical personnel, and many others across the state

of Maryland. Neal is also responsible for helping to plan many of the workshops that Pathfinders for Autism collaborates on around Maryland. Neal is married, with two sons, one of which has Autism. nlichter@pfamd.org

Heather Luke

Heather is fluent in American Sign Language as her youngest child is Deaf. She is also the parent of a child on the Autism Spectrum and a child who is Gifted. She previously worked for the Anne Arundel County Infants and Toddlers Program as the Family Support Coordinator. Heather has a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work and holds a Master's degree from the University of Notre Dame of Maryland. Her husband has been in the Navy for over 20 years. Heather advocates nationally to raise awareness about the use of Restraint and Seclusion in public schools. She has been featured in Propublica, NPR, Associated Press, and the Washington Post about the issue.

Troy Sampson

Husband and father of 17 year-old son living with Autism; Advocate; Acting Chair of SECAC-PG; Member of First Baptist Church of Glenarden Special Needs Ministry; Facilitator of One World for Autism Dadvocates men's group

Troy Sampson has been the Acting Chair of the Special Education Citizens Advisory Council for Prince Georges County (SECAC-PG) for the past two years presiding over SECAC meetings, collaborating with PGCPs Special Education Department, engaging the community to participate in the educational process, and helping parents expand their knowledge of the education process. In addition, Troy serves in the Special Needs Ministry at the First Baptist Church of Glenarden teaching Sunday school to young adults and adults with special needs and participates in the Ministry's monthly Buddy Break Respite program. Troy is the parent facilitator of the Dadvocates Men's Group at One World Center for Autism that meets monthly to encourage Dads in their journey of love and support for their loved ones living with special needs and to share resources, tips, etc. to help them on their journey.

Scott Showalter

Scott Showalter, Ed.S., is a national award-winning school psychologist who received his undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan and graduate degree from the University of Kansas. He has over 12 years of experience working in school settings in Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS). In 2018, he began to serve as the Mental Health Coordinator for PGCPS where he is responsible for coordinating existing mental health services and referral procedures for mental health services for students. Specializing in behavioral consultation, crisis preparedness, response, and recovery, self-injury and suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention, Mr. Showalter often serves as the primary point of contact in the school system for mental health services and initiatives. He has delivered over 100 presentations on topics related to ADHD, behavior management, crisis response, self-injury, and suicide prevention. He is married with a 14-year-old son.

Pamela Talley

Pamela Talley is the current Co-Chair of the Special Education State Advisory Committee (SESAC). SESAC's mission is to advise and assist the Maryland State Department of Education, Division of Early Intervention and Special Education Services in administering, promoting,

planning, coordinating and improving the delivery of special education and related services to assure that all children with disabilities, three through 21 years of age, and their families have access to appropriate education and related services. She also serves on Prince George's County local SECAC board. Pamela has previously presented at Kennedy Krieger Institute "National-Tell-A-Story Day," Easter Seals Greater Washington-Baltimore National Conference, Developmental Disabilities Day in Annapolis, MD and Kennedy Krieger Institute CARD Autism Conference.

Sarah Wayland

Parent Coach. RDI® Consultant. Special Needs Care Navigator. Sarah Wayland founded her company, Guiding Exceptional Parents, to help parents learn how to confidently and effectively help their children with ADHD, autism, learning disabilities, and other brain-based differences at home, at school, and in the community. In addition to hosting trainings, lecturing, and working with individual clients, Sarah is co-host of the online Parenting Autism Summit, and co-editor of the book "Technology Tools for Students with Autism". You can learn more at www.guidingexceptionalparents.com.

Michelle Whitfield

Michelle has been a Prince George's County Public Schools' employee since 2004. She has previously worked in a Maryland non-public school for students with emotional disabilities and a Virginia private school for twice-exceptional students. Michelle has taught at the elementary, middle, and high school-levels. She is a certified trainer for Response Ability Pathways and Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) Nonviolent Crisis Intervention. Michelle is currently an adjunct professor for Notre Dame Maryland University and Augustana College. She is currently one of the professional development facilitators for staff training on conducting functional behavior assessments and developing behavior intervention plans. She is a parent of a child identified with a learning disability and a child identified with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder who have both successfully graduated from Prince George's County Public Schools. Michelle has three other children currently attending Prince George's County Public Schools including a child receiving special education services in a special education regional center.

Alicia Woolf

Alicia Woolf is an education leader and Board Certified Behavior Analyst who works with teachers and families to ensure children with disabilities have equitable access to education and their community. Spending over a decade in a variety of public school and nonprofit leadership roles, Alicia's mission is to empower and advocate for children. Alicia was selected for the Center for Innovation and Leadership in Special Education Fellowship at Kennedy Krieger Institute in 2014, and has presented original works at the Association of University Centers on Disabilities Conference, Baltimore County Public Schools, Prince George's County Public Schools, and Baltimore City Public Schools. She is currently a Special Education Instructional Specialist with PGCPs and a BCBA Supervisor for Proud Moments ABA. In addition to her extensive education and leadership experience, Alicia is certified in special education, secondary mathematics, elementary education, and school administration. Alicia holds a B.S. and M.Ed. in Special Education from the University of Maryland College Park and earned her post-graduate degree in Applied Behavior Analysis from Johns Hopkins University School of Education.

This workshop series is sponsored by:



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The Family Support Center

In Partnership with:

The PGCPS Office of Language Access and Engagement



