



2021 Annual AARC Training Conference

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Conference Notes

- Dress is casual attire.
- Your name tag must be worn at all events.
- Don't forget to complete the conference evaluation form at the conclusion of the conference.
- Questions? See Sharon Darrington, AARC Administrator.
- Keep your blue ticket with you for door prize drawings.
- Two red drink tickets for the opening reception are included in your registration fee.

Sunday October 24

9:00 am - 3:00 pm	Exhibit Hall Setup <i>Exhibit Hall B</i>
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Registration
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Welcome: Montgomery Mayor Steven Reed Opening Keynote Bryan Stevenson, Founder & Executive Director, Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) <i>Alabama Ballroom</i>
6:15 pm - 7:30 pm	Opening Reception <i>Sponsored by Trio Community Meals</i> <i>Exhibit Hall B</i>
7:30 pm	Evening on your own

Monday October 25



7:30 am - 12:00 pm	Registration			
7:30 am - 8:45 am	Breakfast with Exhibitors <i>Sponsored by AARC & the American Planning Association, Alabama Chapter Exhibit Hall B</i>			
9:00 am - 9:15 am	Opening Presentation: Flag Presentation, Marion Institute / National Anthem & Introduction <i>Lori Corley</i> , AARC Executive Board President <i>Alabama Ballroom</i>			
9:15 am - 9:30 am	Welcome & Introduction, Governor Ivey, State of Alabama <i>Alabama Ballroom</i>			
9:30 am - 10:00 am	Keynote Representative Mac McCutcheon <i>Alabama Ballroom</i>			
10:00 am - 10:15 am	Networking Break			
10:15 am - 11:30 am	Opening Plenary: Pandemic Pivot <i>Commissioner Jean Brown</i> , ADSS; <i>Lenzy Williams</i> , Crown Consulting Group <i>Alabama Ballroom</i>			
11:30 am - 12:45 pm	Lunch on your own			
Breakout Sessions	Community & Economic Development (Montgomery 5)	Organizational Effectiveness (Montgomery 6)	“All Things Aging” (Montgomery 7)	Head Start (Montgomery 1)
1:00 pm - 2:30 pm	Resilience: How to Develop Mental Fitness and Conquer Any Challenge <i>EDYTHE Nash</i> , E. Nash Associates <i>Ballroom B</i>			DHR, DECE & State Collaborative Meeting <i>Panelists:</i> <i>Deputy Comm. Faye Nelson</i> DHR <i>Sec. Barbara Cooper</i> , DECD <i>Dr. Pamela Truelove-Walker</i> , DECD Head of Pre-K <i>Dr. Trellis Calloway</i> Head Start State Collaboration Director
2:30 pm - 4:00 pm	2020 Census Deep Dive <i>Susannah Robichaux</i> CBER <i>Dr. Nyeshia C. Black</i> CBER <i>Louis Hines</i> , ASU CLPP Reapportionment Lab <i>Nancy Lawrence</i> ADECA	Organizational Marketing & Branding <i>Mary Ila Ward</i> , Horizon Point Consulting	Self-Care: Moving Beyond the Empty Cup <i>Sean Creech</i> Jacksonville State University	
4:00 pm - 5:30 pm	Peer Networking Conversation Cafés: Join peers in small group discussions on topics in your field of practice. Come ready to network with like-minded individuals and “talk shop” informally. Topics include planning & economic development, MPO/RPO, revolving loan funds, transit, human resources, finance, aging, & others. Check registration table for details.			
5:30 pm -	Evening on your own			

SAFETY & HEALTH MEASURES

Attendance at or participation in, the AARC in-person conference constitutes an agreement by the registrants to abide by AARC's and host property's efforts to comply with current CDC recommendations and any State of Alabama requirements and to engage in certain health & safety beneficial conduct while attending conference as requested by AARC such as wearing a mask, engaging in appropriate physical distancing and not attending the conference if feeling sick or showing certain symptoms.

Tuesday October 26

7:30 am - 8:45 am	Breakfast with Vendors <i>Sponsored by AARC Exhibit Hall B</i>			
8:00 am - 3:30 pm	Registration			
Breakout Sessions	Community & Economic Development (Montgomery 5)	Organizational Effectiveness (Montgomery 6)	“All Things Aging” (Montgomery 7)	Head Start (Montgomery 1)
9:00 am - 10:15 am	Opportunity Alabama: Investing in Alabama’s Opportunity Zones <i>Alex Flachsbart,</i> Opportunity Alabama <i>Llevelyn Rhone</i> Hale County Chamber of Commerce	Employee Benefits Beyond Salaries and Cost of Living <i>Mary Ila Ward,</i> Horizon Point Consulting	Updates on Advocacy, Legislation, COVID 19 <i>Sandy Markwood, US</i> Aging Ex. Director	The History of Head Start <i>Dr. Nannette Phillips</i> Fr. Ex. Director, AHSA
10:15 am - 11:30 am	Networking Break			
10:30 am - 11:45 am	Innovate Alabama Panel <i>Bill Poole,</i> Alabama Finance Director, <i>Senator Greg Reed, Charisse Stokes,</i> Montgomery Chamber, <i>Abe Harper,</i> Harper Technologies, <i>Miller Girbin,</i> EDPA. Moderated by <i>Zeke Smith,</i> Alabama Power	COVID Vaccination 101 Vaccine Education Presentation Legal, Medical, State Promotion/Outreach effort <i>Carolyn Bern,</i> Director, Officer of Community Affairs, Alabama Dept. of Public Health <i>Montgomery 7</i>		The Purpose of AHSA (Grantees and Partnerships) <i>Searcy Rushing,</i> AHSA
12:00 noon - 1:30 pm	Legislative Awards Senator Gerald Allen & Representative Kyle South. Keynote: Dr. David Bronner (RSA) <i>Sponsored by Alabama Power</i>			
Breakout Sessions	Community & Economic Development (Montgomery 5)	Organizational Effectiveness (Montgomery 6)	“All Things Aging” (Ballroom B)	Head Start (Montgomery 1)
1:45 pm - 3:00 pm	Rural Workforce Development: Challenges & Opportunities <i>Nick Moore,</i> Governor’s Office <i>Stephanie McCullough,</i> North AlabamaWorks <i>Tim McCartney,</i> AL Workforce Council <i>Ed Castile,</i> Dept of Commerce & AIDT	ARPA Local Government Funding Update <i>Kirk Fluford,</i> Legislative Services Agency	Case Management 101 <i>Lakiesah Williams</i> <i>Ballroom B</i> WellSky Update <i>Nick Nyberg,</i> ADSS <i>Montgomery 7</i>	Data and Support <i>Kelly Mumper,</i> Cheaha Regional HS Program <i>Searcy Rushing,</i> AHSA
3:00 pm - 3:15 pm	Networking Break			
3:15 pm - 4:30 pm	Diversifying Regional Economies through Outdoor Recreation <i>Brian Rushing,</i> UACED <i>John Kvach,</i> Singing River Trail <i>Hannah Kirby,</i> TN RiverLine	Bridging the Staff Divide through Mentorship <i>Mary Ila Ward,</i> Horizon Point Consulting	FY 2022 Program Overview <i>Presley Rebman & Lakiesah Williams</i> <i>Ballroom B</i> WellSky Update <i>Nick Nyberg,</i> ADSS <i>Montgomery 7</i>	HS/EHS Panel Discussion <i>Dr. Bernard Houston,</i> DHR <i>Kim Dodd,</i> CAPNA <i>Kelly Mumper,</i> Cheaha Regional HS Program <i>Searcy Rushing,</i> AHSA
5:00 pm	Evening on your own			

7:45 am - 10:30 am	Registration
7:30 am - 8:00 am	Breakfast Sponsored by ATRC, PeerPlace & The Cosby Company <i>Alabama Ballroom</i>
8:00 am - 8:15 am	Welcome/Opening <i>Lori Corley</i> , AARC Executive Board President
8:15 am - 8:30 am	Networking Break
8:30 am - 9:30 am	Closing Panel: National Partner Agency Panel (NADO, N4A, Head Start) <i>Joe McKinney</i> , Executive Director, NADO <i>Thomas Sheridan</i> , Deputy Director, NHSA <i>Sandy Markwood</i> , CEO, US Aging
9:30 am - 10:00 am	Conference Closing & Door Prizes <i>Lori Corley</i> , AARC Executive Board President

Executive Committee

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EARPDC, Executive Director

Ms. Michelle Jordan, Vice President
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Conference Keynote Speakers 2021

SUNDAY KEYNOTE

Bryan Stevenson

Bryan Stevenson is the founder and Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative, a human rights organization in Montgomery, Alabama. Under his leadership, EJI has won major legal challenges eliminating excessive and unfair sentencing, exonerating innocent death row prisoners, confronting abuse of the incarcerated and the mentally ill, and aiding children prosecuted as adults.

Mr. Stevenson has argued and won multiple cases at the United States Supreme Court, including a 2019 ruling protecting condemned prisoners who suffer from dementia and a landmark 2012 ruling that banned mandatory life-imprisonment-without-parole sentences for all children 17 or younger. Mr. Stevenson and his staff have won reversals, relief, or release from prison for over 135 wrongly condemned prisoners on death row and won relief for hundreds of others wrongly convicted or unfairly sentenced.

Mr. Stevenson has initiated major new anti-poverty and anti-discrimination efforts that challenge inequality in America. He led the creation of two highly acclaimed cultural sites which opened in 2018: the Legacy Museum & the National Memorial for Peace & Justice. These new national landmark institutions chronicle the legacy of slavery, lynching, and racial segregation, & the connection to mass incarceration & contemporary issues of racial bias. Mr. Stevenson is also a Professor of Law at the New York University School of Law.

Mr. Stevenson has received over 40 honorary doctoral degrees, including degrees from Harvard, Yale, Princeton, the University of Pennsylvania, and Oxford University. He is the author of the critically acclaimed New York Times bestseller, *Just Mercy*, which was named by Time Magazine as one of the 10 Best Books of Nonfiction for 2014 and has been awarded several honors, including the American Library Association's Carnegie Medal for best nonfiction book of 2015 and a 2015 NAACP Image Award. *Just Mercy* was recently adapted as a major motion picture. He is a graduate of the Harvard Law School and the Harvard School of Government.



MONDAY KEYNOTE

Governor Kay Ivey

On January 14, 2019, Governor Ivey was officially sworn in for her full term. Kay will continue to bring conservative leadership with effective results to make this generation more productive and the next generation more prosperous.



Representative Mac McCutcheon

Mac McCutcheon was elected by his colleagues as the Speaker of the Alabama House of Representatives in August of 2016. He first ran for the Alabama House in 2006 and serves House District 25 which encompasses the communities of Madison City, Huntsville, Capshaw, Monrovia and East Limestone. He is a native of Madison County and lives in Monrovia.

McCutcheon serves as Chairman of the Joint Transportation Committee as well as on the Advisory Boards for the Department of Senior Services and the Alabama Transportation Rehabilitation and Improvement Program (ATRIP).

McCutcheon is a United States Army Veteran and was a farmer and an associate pastor. He spent 25-years with the Huntsville Police Department in fields ranging from hostage negotiation to serving as a probation officer before his retirement. He is a member of the American Legion, Fraternal Order of Police, Alabama Peace Officers, North Alabama Emmaus Community, Tennessee Valley Smallmouth Bass Club and City of Madison Chamber of Commerce. McCutcheon holds an A.S. Degree in Criminal Justice from Calhoun Community College and a B.S. Degree in Criminal Justice Administration from Trinity University.

McCutcheon and his wife Debbie are the parents of two children and the proud grandparents of a granddaughter and a grandson. They are members of College Park Church of God in Huntsville. In his free time, McCutcheon enjoys fishing, camping, golf, spending time with his family, and traveling with his wife.



TUESDAY KEYNOTE

David George Bronner

David George Bronner has been the Chief Executive Officer at the Retirement Systems of AL (RSA) since 1973. Through the last five decades, he has worked with eight governors, almost 200 RSA board members, and hundreds of RSA staff members to provide retirement benefits to AL public servants. In addition to growing Alabama's public pension fund, Bronner and RSA have assisted the state's economic expansion by recruiting and financing corporations in AL. Some of the many awards earned by RSA under Bronner include the 2017 Institutional Leadership Award by the International Economic Development Council for leadership in regional economic development and the American Economic Development Council Leadership in Economic Development Award in 1995. RSA received the Southeast Tourism Society Shining Example Award in 1997; was inducted into the AL Tourism Hall of Fame in 1999; and received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the AL Dept of Tourism in 2010. Bronner was named the AL Sports Hall of Fame Distinguished Alabama Sportsman in 1994 and Citizen of the Year by the Alabama Broadcasters Association in 1999. Bronner was inducted into the Alabama Academy of Honor in 2007.



WEDNESDAY KEYNOTE PANEL

Joe C. McKinney

Joe McKinney serves as Executive Director of the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO). Headquartered in Washington, DC, NADO provides advocacy, education, research, and training for the nation's 540 regional planning and development organizations. Joe has thirty years of experience having served in city, county, regional and national association and government management since 1991. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Public Policy Analysis from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and is a candidate for a Master's Degree in public administration from UNC-Chapel Hill. Prior to his appointment as Executive Director of the National Association of Development Organization, Mr. McKinney served as Executive Director of Land-of-Sky Regional Council in Asheville, North Carolina from January 2003 until October 2012. Under his leadership, Land-of-Sky became recognized nationally for its innovation and program expansion in areas such as planning and economic development, workforce development, transportation and transit, aging services, volunteer services, and geographic information systems.



Tommy Sheridan

Tommy Sheridan is the Deputy Director for the National Head Start Association (NHSA) in Alexandria, VA where he has worked since June 2009. Tommy plays a significant role in strategizing, developing, & implementing the Head Start community's vision for the future of Head Start & early learning with a focus on ensuring all vulnerable children & families have access to Head Start's comprehensive model of support for the whole child, family, & community. Tommy also works with the Head Start community to lobby, educate, & inform Congress, the White House, and the Federal Admin. about the realities facing Head Start & early learning. During his tenure at NHSA, annual funding for Head Start has increased nearly 40% & Head Start has become seen as a rare bipartisan program with deep support across the political spectrum. Prior to his career at NHSA, Tommy worked in the Minnesota State Senate & as a sales manager. Tommy received an Honors Bachelor of Arts from Saint Louis University & a Master of Public Administration from George Washington U. with a focus on social policy leadership.



Sandy Markwood

Sandy Markwood is a national advocate for aging issues & a champion for ensuring that older adults have the best supports to age well at home and in their communities. As CEO of USAging since 2002, she is committed to ensuring that our society values & supports people across the lifespan. This commitment includes advocacy with multiple administrations & on Capitol Hill for the passage of legislation aimed at supporting older adults, including access to critical information, in-home services & caregiver support.

Sandy has led numerous campaigns to support the needs of older adults, including combating social isolation, encouraging healthy aging, supporting caregivers, promoting livable communities, & access to transportation and housing. Sandy has focused on community planning practices including creating dementia friendly communities and maximizing the benefits of volunteering while preventing elder abuse & neglect. Sandy's goal is to ensure that older adults have the ability to age with maximum independence and quality of life. Sandy has more than 30 years' experience in the development & delivery of aging, health, human services, housing and transportation programs in counties and cities across the nation.



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Conference Speakers 2021 *continued*

Senator Gerald Allen

Serving Tuscaloosa, Pickens & Lamar Counties District 21, Senator Allen grew up in the small rural community of Cottondale. He attended the University of Alabama where he earned his B.S. degree in Education. In 1980 he began a small marketing business, CASHCO, which he still owns. Married Sheila Bailey in 1973 and they have 3 children and 6 grand children. He started his political career in 1994 where he won the House seat for District 62. He served for 16 years before running for Senate in 2010. He won re-election in 2014 & 2018. During his two decades of service to his district, Senator Allen is still involved in various community & civic activities. He is a member of the West Alabama Chamber of Commerce and Citizen Club and The University of Alabama Alumni Association. During his service, Senator Allen has sponsored and passed numerous bills of local and statewide importance. He headed the legislation that fulfilled the state's commitment to the Mercedes Benz project & opened the door to other Automotive manufacturers locating here. Sponsored legislation to tighten requirements on sports agents operating in Alabama & carried the Photo ID bill for 15 years. It was finally passed in 2011.

Felecia S. Barrow

Felecia S. Barrow is the current Disability and Preparedness Specialist for Alabama, with the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO). Ms. Barrow has over 20 years' experience as an operations professional, which began as an appointee in the AmeriCorps/ National & Community Service Office. As an Associate Director with the Alabama Medicaid Agency, Ms. Barrow was instrumental in the management of home and community-based service waiver programs and establishing new grant programs for people with disabilities in the state. As Program Director with the Montgomery Area Community Wellness Coalition, Barrow directed various grant programs in School Health, Community Health and Worksites Wellness. Felecia is the owner of Barrow Consulting, an SBA-certified Woman-Owned Business and DOT-certified Disadvantaged Business Enterprise. Barrow earned a Master of Public Administration degree with a Graduate Certification in Health Care Administration and Policy (Auburn University at Montgomery), and a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology/ Pre-Med (Jackson State University, Jackson, MS). Barrow has two daughters; & is an active member in church, as well as her sorority.

Carolyn Bern, MPA

Carolyn was appointed Director of Governmental Relations & Community Affairs for the Alabama Department of Public Health in 2019. Prior to this, Carolyn established the ADPH Office of Community Affairs in 2016 to focus on healthcare transformation & evolving roles of public health in regional care organizations and other population-focused healthcare initiatives. Carolyn served as the Office of Primary Care and National Health Service Corps Coordinator and as coordinator of the statewide 2015 Community Health Improvement. Prior to joining the Office of Primary Care and Rural Health, Carolyn directed several early care and health projects including the Birth to Five Initiative, the Kids and Kin Initiative, the Immunize by Two Campaign, and Healthy Child Care Alabama. Carolyn created the Voluntary Certification Program for the Kids and Kin Initiative which was named by ABT and Associates as one of 150 National Innovative Initiatives. Carolyn graduated from Vanderbilt University with a BA in Economics and has a Master's degree in Public Administration from Auburn University Montgomery. Carolyn currently serves on the boards of the Alabama Rural Health Association, the Statewide AHCA Advisory Committee, the Alabama Public Health Association, and is a former member of the 3RNet National Membership Committee. She was appointed to the Governor's Executive Team for the Alabama Campaign for Grade-Level Reading. Carolyn is married to Dr. Jeffrey Bern of Montgomery and they have two children, two adorable grandsons, and two "rambunctious" doggie rescues, one from the Montgomery Humane Shelter and the other from the rural roads of Alabama.

Dr. Nyeshia C. Black

Dr. Nyeshia C. Black is the Director of Demographic Research at CBER. She weaves these perspectives to understand human behavior and population dynamics through thoughtful research, rigorous data analysis, and rich storytelling. Nyeshia holds Ph.D. and M.A. degrees in demography and sociology from The PA State University, where she was awarded a prestigious fellowship from the National Science Foundation. She also earned a degree in economics from the Culverhouse College of Business at the University of AL, where she received a host of recognitions, including a Senior Faculty Excellence Award in Economics. She had extensive training in quantitative research, including a certificate in advanced spatial pattern analysis for population scientists from the University of CA, Santa Barbara, and a business research certificate from UAB. Dr. Black lives in Birmingham, where she remains civically engaged. She serves on the advisory council of GASP; has a six-year appointment on the Birmingham Planning Commission and the Zoning Advisory Committee, and serves on the Board of Directors for the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute.

Jean W. Brown

Governor Kay Ivey appointed Jean Brown to serve as the commissioner of the Alabama Department of Senior Services in 2019. Prior to this, Brown worked in the legal division of the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency. She had previously served as chief legal advisor to three

secretaries of state. Brown was born and raised in Birmingham. She received her bachelor's degree from Samford University and her law degree from the University of Alabama. Upon graduation, Brown served as assistant attorney general for twenty years. Brown was then elected to the Court of Criminal Appeals and then elected as the first Republican woman to serve on the Alabama Supreme Court. Brown is the wife of the late Terry Brown. She has two daughters and two grandchildren. She is a member of First Baptist Church of Montgomery where she has taught Sunday School for over thirty years.

Dr. Trellis Calloway

Dr. Trellis Calloway has been employed with the Dept. of Early Childhood Education for 20 years, helping to develop the state Pre-K program that is ranked high in quality across the nation, meeting the needs of young children and families in Alabama, and now serving as the Alabama Head Start Collaboration Director. In her current role, Dr. Calloway serves as liaison between federal and regional Offices of Head Start, and individual Head Start programs, helping to ensure adherence to federal program performance standards and the delivery of high-quality early childhood education services throughout the state. She helps foster collaboration across state agencies in the areas of health care, child welfare and childcare, disabilities, professional development, homelessness, community services, early childhood systems, family literacy, and education/school transitions.

Dr. Barbara J. Cooper

Dr. Cooper was appointed Secretary of the AL Dept. of Early Childhood Education by Governor Kay Ivey on July 1, 2020. She has served the Department of Early Childhood Education since 2018, directing the nationally recognized high-quality Alabama First Class Pre-K program. She previously served as the department's Director of the Office of School Readiness and is the Birth to Grade 12 Advisor for the Alabama Governor's Office of Education and Workforce Transformation. Dr. Cooper's administrative career is extensive, as she previously served as Deputy State Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer of the Alabama State Department of Education, Chief Administrative Officer for the Montgomery Public Schools Intervention, Deputy Superintendent of Huntsville City Schools, Chief Equity and Engagement Officer of Aurora Public Schools (Colorado) and a Principal with Denver Public Schools. She has teaching experiences ranging from early childhood education through post-secondary.

Sean Creech

Sean Creech is three parts social worker, two parts educator, two parts policy geek, and four parts advocate. Too many parts? Sean has been a professional social worker for fifteen years. During his career, he has worked in state-level government organizations with child & adult protective services, in for-profit skilled nursing facilities, in local nonprofits serving survivors of sexual & intimate partner violence, & in social work admin. & consulting for non-profits & governments. Sean currently serves as a faculty member in the BSW & MSW programs at Jacksonville State. He is a 2006 BSW graduate from Jacksonville State, a 2014 MSW graduate from the University of New England, and a doctoral student at the University of Alabama.

Alex Flachsbarth

Alex Flachsbarth is the Founder and CEO of Opportunity Alabama, Inc., a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to creating an impact-based Opportunity Zones ecosystem to provide access to capital to low-income communities. Prior to founding OPAL, Alex was a corporate attorney for several years with Balch & Bingham LLP in Birmingham, specializing in tax credit & economic development work. During his tenure at Balch, Alex's clients ranged from real estate developers & major utilities to local governments & nonprofit hospital systems. His focus was on creating unique financing solutions (like revolving loan funds & new uses for state or local incentives), building capital stacks (with state & federal tax credit programs like Historic and New Markets Tax Credits), and writing grants for high-impact projects.

Alex was a member of Teach for America's charter corps in AL, where he taught high school mathematics in one of the most impoverished rural counties in America. A native of Northern California (but a naturalized Alabamian), Alex received undergraduate & masters degrees in economics from The University of AL, where he was a two-time member of the USA Today Collegiate All-Academic Team and Premier Award winner. He received his J.D. from Washington and Lee University School of Law, where he was a Maria Leonard Scholar & was elected to the Order of the Coif. Alex sits on the Board of Directors of Main Street Alabama & is a member of the Public Affairs Research Council of Alabama's Roundtable.

Kirk Fulford

Kirk Fulford is the Deputy Director of the Legislative Services Agency Fiscal Division, a nonpartisan office established to provide independent, accurate, and objective information to members of the Alabama Legislature. Fulford received his Masters and Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Auburn University at Montgomery.

Miller Girvin

Born and raised in Birmingham, Miller Beale Girvin is the Executive Vice President of Innovation and Entrepreneurship at EDPA. A graduate of Princeton University, Miller started

Conference Speakers 2021 *continued*

her career in Washington, DC, with then-Speaker of the House, Dennis Hastert, before moving into the communications and public affairs realm. When her husband Josh joined a start-up in Birmingham in 2011, Miller moved back, working remotely until joining the Alabama Capital Network in March 2017, serving as CEO. In addition to membership in the Rotary Club of Birmingham, where she is current Board Secretary, Miller serves on advisory boards for the Innovation Depot, the EDGE Incubator in Tuscaloosa, UAB's O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center, Oakworth Capital Bank, and Lakeshore Foundation.

Abe Harper

Abe Harper is president and CEO of Harper Technologies, a comprehensive IT support and consulting firm based in Mobile. He has been working in the IT industry since he was a teenager and has expanded his business from serving residential clients to serving small-to-medium-sized businesses, nonprofits and government entities throughout Mobile and Baldwin counties, as well as surrounding counties in neighboring states.

Louis Hines

Louis Hines is the Manager of Demographic Research Services for the AL State University Center for Leadership and Public Policy's (CLPP) Reapportionment Lab. He specializes in redistricting (county commissions, county school boards, city & town councils), trend analysis, infographics & data visualization, data extraction, & custom map printing.

Dr. John F. Kvach

Dr. John F. Kvach is the Executive Director of Singing River Trail. Before coming to the Singing River Trail, Dr. Kvach spent ten years as Associate Professor of Southern History at the University of Alabama in Huntsville and the last two years as Vice President of Liberty Learning Foundation. He has authored two books, multiple articles and blogs on history, southern culture, and American society. He also worked as a Park Ranger along the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Park along the Potomac River, and has served as a historical consultant on many historic preservation and public history projects.

Hannah Kirby

Hannah Kirby serves as the Funding Strategist and Grants Manager for the Tennessee RiverLine, an initiative of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville and TVA. She has experience in nonprofit fundraising, relationship management, donor cultivation, and grant writing. Previously, she coordinated programming and corporate sponsorships for the Global Supply Chain Institute at the University of Tennessee's Haslam College of Business. She also served in development roles with Haven House Domestic Violence Services and the Obama Foundation. Hannah holds a BA in Environmental Studies and Political Science from Maryville College, as well as a certificate in nonprofit management from the Nonprofit Leadership Alliance.

Nancy Lawrence

Nancy Lawrence is a Solutions Developer for ADECA – Alabama Department of Community Affairs. She is a graduate of the University of Alabama & a certified Geographic Information System Professional. She was the technical lead for the 2020 Local Update of Census Addresses Operation. She also played a role within the Alabama Counts Committee. Nancy is readily available to assist local government with census related concerns.

Stephanie McCullough

Stephanie McCulloch is Executive Director of the North AlabamaWorks Regional Workforce Council, facilitating communication between educational & training providers & local businesses to produce a workforce to support industries. North AlabamaWorks is a nonprofit created to fill the workforce needs of Region 1, the 13-county region comprised of Colbert, Cullman, DeKalb, Franklin, Jackson, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Limestone, Madison, Marion, Marshall, Morgan, & Winston. McCulloch served as assistant director of North AlabamaWorks for the past four years. Before devoting her efforts to workforce development, McCulloch was a city planner for the City of Birmingham. She holds a bachelor's degree from the University of AL in public administration & urban/ regional planning and is working toward a master's degree in geospatial science at the University of North AL. Coming from a small town in North AL, McCulloch developed a passion for regional planning, particularly rural development.

Kaye Melnick, RN, MSN

Kaye Melnick, RN, MSN is the current Chief Nursing Officer for the AL Dept of Public Health. She has been in this role for 4 years. Prior to that, she worked in the Dept. for the Children's Health Insurance Program. In her role as Chief Nursing Officer, she strives to uphold the mission of Public Health Nursing to assure conditions in which individuals, families, and communities can be healthy utilizing the unique expertise of public health nurses to assess, plan, and implement programs which promote health and prevent disease. Kaye has 35 years' experience as a registered nurse. She has spent 20 years of her nursing career working in public health. Kaye is married to Kent Cramer and they have two daughters.

Nick Moore

Nick Moore is a native of Enterprise. He served as a Teach for America corps member in Lowndes County, where he taught secondary social studies, government, & economics at Central High School. After completing his tenure in Lowndes County, Nick received a Teach for America Capitol Hill Fellowship. During and after his fellowship, he covered education, health care, and workforce development in the Office of Representative Martha Roby. Nick later served as Senator Luther Strange's Legislative Assistant for healthcare, education, & labor. He currently serves as director of Governor Kay Ivey's Office of Education & Workforce Transformation. Nick and his wife, Emily, live in Montgomery, Alabama.

Edythe Nash

Edy Nash brings more than thirty years of experience in leadership development, organization development and executive coaching. She has worked with leadership teams including retail, finance, healthcare and not-for-profit. Edy founded E. Nash Associates in 2001. She is a past president of the Tennessee Chapter of the International Coach Federation & the Middle Tennessee Chapter of the American Society for Training & Development, & has served on the Board of several local organizations including FiftyForward, a not-for-profit organization that supports, champions and enhances life for those 50 and older, and CABLE, Tennessee's premier leadership organization for women's professional advancement. In addition to coaching executives and their teams, Edy has coached MBA students at Vanderbilt University's Owen Graduate School of Management, new business owners for the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce, and currently coaches executives at the Center for Executive Education at Belmont University.

Faye Nelson

Faye Nelson serves as Deputy Commissioner for Family Resources for the Alabama Dept. of Human Resources, managing the TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) Program, the Food Assistance Program, Quality Control, Child Care Services Program, and Child Support Program for the State. She began her career with the department in 1979 as a social worker with the Dallas County Department of Human Resources. During her 42 years tenure with the department, she has held various positions of increasing responsibility, including Child Welfare worker, Children & Adult Protective Services supervisor, Adult Protective Services Program Specialist, Lowndes County Department of Human Resources Director, and Child Support Enforcement Division's Director. Her service includes membership or proxy membership on various boards, which includes the Children's Policy Council, the Alabama Partnership for Children, the Workforce Development Board, the Governor's Office of Education and Workforce Transformation Board, Rural Transportation Committee, and others. Mrs. Nelson received her Bachelor of Science Degree and her Master of Social Work Degree from the University of Alabama. She is certified as a Licensed Master Social Worker. She is a graduate of Leadership Alabama and of the first Leadership Lowndes County class. Mrs. Nelson is married to Arthur Nelson Sr. They are the proud parents of eight and grandparents to 16.

Nick Nyberg

Nick Nyberg is the Programs and Planning Division Chief at the Alabama Department of Senior Services (ADSS) where his responsibilities include grant writing and managing the development and coordination of the statewide Older Americans Act (OAA) and other grant programs for older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers in the state.

Prior to joining ADSS, Nick served at the South Central Alabama Development Commission (SCADC) Area Agency on Aging for more than 15 years. Throughout his 17+ years working in the field of aging, Nick has received certifications in Case Management, Long Term Care Ombudsman, Person-Centered Counseling, & the Alliance of Information and Referral Services (AIRS) international Certification for Community Resource Specialist in Aging and Disabilities (CRS-A/D). He has served on numerous boards and councils and continues to serve to help AL continue to make strides in helping older adults and people with disabilities live with dignity and independence. Nick is a graduate of Troy University.

Dr. Nannette Phillips

Dr. Nannette Phillips has over 25 years of Head Start experience within leadership as an Executive Director & support staff positions. Dr. Phillips serves on several boards, task forces & within associations. To name a few, President of Region IV Head Start Association, President of the AL Head Start Association, a member of the AL Partnerships for Children Board, the AL Head Start/Pre-K Task Force, Oral Health Coalition of AL Board, AL Grassroot representative for OPEN oral health network, AL Department of Early Childhood Education Inclusion Task Force, and Children's Policy Council. After retiring as an Executive Director, her passion has led her to create Sustainable Transformations, LLC, offering emerging leadership, professional training & development, technical assistance, & mentoring to diverse organizations such as Head Start, Early Head Start, Child Care Partnerships, Day Cares, Municipalities, Sole Proprietors and Community Development Corporations, just to name a few. Her driven spirit has led to being recently selected as the first Executive Director of the AL Head Start Association. Dr. Phillips holds a BA degree from Tuskegee U, MBA degree from Troy U, and a DBA degree with Leadership concentration from Walden U.

Conference Speakers 2021 *continued*

Director Bill Poole

Bill Poole serves as director of the Alabama Department of Finance after representing the citizens of House District 63 in the Alabama House of Representatives. As the state's chief financial officer, Poole advises the governor and the Alabama Legislature in all financial matters and is charged with protecting the financial interests of the state of Alabama. During his time in the House of Representatives, Poole served as House Ways and Means education chairman.

Presley Rebman

Presley Rebman is the Ex. Director of AL Select Networks (ASN). ASN is the contract holder for the AL Medicaid Integrated Network (ICN) contract. This statewide contract went live in 2018, servicing 23,000 members in the home & nursing home settings. The program provides services to recipients in the home settling as long as possible. The formation of ASN is unique when compared to similar programs across the country. Presley is involved in other AL Medicaid care coordination contracts that cover over 300,000 members throughout AL. These recipients qualify for services based on their reason for eligibility, including chronic conditions, maternity, healthy children, and family planning. Presley has spent nineteen of his twenty-five years at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of AL in the government sector. During this time period, he has played an integral part in six startups designed specifically in response to government contracts. He has experience in healthcare administration, particularly in healthcare data analysis, utilization, care management, & workflow improvements. Presley graduated from Auburn University with a Bachelor of Science in Marketing. He is a Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE), Accredited Health Care Fraud Investigator (AHFI) and Project Management Professional (PMP).

Senator Greg Reed

Sen. Greg Reed (R-Jasper) was first elected to the Alabama Senate in 2010 and is Senate President Pro Tempore. He is a native of Jasper and a member of the Rules, Jefferson County Legislation, Confirmations, Transportation and Energy, Healthcare and Local Legislation committees. Reed was Senate sponsor of the Alabama Incentives Modernization Act.

Llevelyn Rhone

Llevelyn Rhone is Founder and President of the Hale County Chamber of Commerce, leading the organization's efforts to facilitate economic opportunity & civic engagement. He has extensive experience in operations, community & economic development, project management, entrepreneurship, & management consulting. Additionally, Llevelyn is a Director for Direct Invest Development, an impact focused, sustainable real estate company. Previously, Llevelyn was Founder of Kalenjin and Company, a business consultancy, where he provided leadership for complex, innovative economic growth projects and management of multi-firm project teams. Earlier Llevelyn was the owner and later the Vice President and COO of a utility construction company. Utilizing his executive leadership experiences with Fortune 100 firms, such as Accenture, McDonald's, Baxter and the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, Llevelyn's civic & community engagement includes several director and leadership posts with non-profit organizations addressing community well-being, economic development, & entrepreneurship. Llevelyn currently serves on the AL Community College System Board of Trustees; the Industrial Development Board of Hale County; as an advisor to the West Central Region of the Economic Development Association of AL Rural Development Initiative; and as a Delta Regional Authority's Leadership Institute Fellow. An AL Black Belt native & Greensboro resident, he holds an MBA from The University of Chicago Booth School of Business, and a BS in Mechanical Engineering from Duke University.

Susannah Robichaux

Susannah Robichaux is a socioeconomic analyst at CBER. Her work includes synthesizing disparate data, such as employment, GDP, population, and other demographic data, and interpreting findings to inform policies and decisions for funded research projects and public requests. Susannah serves as the lead of the Alabama State Data Center (ASDC), which is the official partnership between the state of Alabama and the U.S. Census Bureau. Susannah also conducts the Alabama Business Confidence Index (ABCI) survey, a quarterly survey of over 500 Alabama business leaders that encapsulates forecasts for the Alabama economy in an intuitive index. Those ABCI reports are available for free via the ABCI page on CBER's website. Susannah holds a Masters degree in Applied Economics from the University of Alabama.

Brian Rushing

Brian Rushing has held the position of Director of Economic Development Initiatives at The University of AL Center for Economic Development since 2015. Brian came to UACED with a background in the natural sciences, environmental / conservation planning & management, recreational development, business management, project management, real estate acquisitions, partnership building, and fundraising. He focuses on facilitating outdoor recreation planning & development initiatives with local governments, state & federal agencies, & private partners, providing project leadership & technical assistance to

advance these efforts. Through these efforts, Brian is helping AL communities take better advantage of the growing recreation and nature-based tourism markets while improving quality of life for our citizens. A native of Alabama, Brian holds a B.S. from the University of the South in Natural Resources, an M.S. from Louisiana State University in Environmental Planning and Management, and an M.B.A. from The University of Alabama.

Searcy Rushing

Searcy Rushing is the Head Start and Early Head Start Director, for Southeast AL Regional Planning and Development Commission, member of the Office of Head Start Region IV Board of Directors & currently serves as the AL Head Start Association President. Searcy has over 17 years of chief administration leadership in public administration, strategic planning, fiscal accountability, program management, budget creation & multi-system oversight for highly complex operations. He has a bachelor's degree from Auburn University Montgomery; and a UCLA Anderson School of Management Head Start Fellow. Searcy has served as Environmental Health & Safety Manager, Assistant HS/EHS Director & Interim HS/EHS Director for the Montgomery Community Action Agency; Associate Managing Director for the Auburn University Early Head Start Family Childcare Partnership Program; & Chief of Services & State Motor Pool Director for the AL Dept. of Finance.

Zeke Smith

Zeke Smith has more than 35 years of service with Alabama Power. He is responsible for the company's Environmental Affairs, Charitable Giving, Corporate Affairs, Governmental Relations, Public Relations and Regulatory Affairs functions. Smith is chairman of the Alabama Power Foundation board, in addition to serving on many external boards.

Rep. Kyle South

Representative Kyle South was elected to the Alabama House of Representatives on November 4, 2014. He was born and raised in Fayette and received a degree in marketing from the University of Alabama. Since 2004, Representative South has served as general manager of West Alabama TV Cable. He is the father of two children, Ava Grace and Kylie.

Charisse Stokes

Charisse Stokes is executive director of TechMGM, the collaboration of local, industry, educational and governmental entities working to leverage Montgomery's technology assets to focus on economic, workforce and community development. Over the past 20 years, Stokes has held numerous IT and programming positions across the Department of Defense, industry and nonprofit organizations.

Dr. Pamela Truelove-Walker

Dr. Pamela Truelove-Walker is Director of the Office of School Readiness in the Alabama Dept. of Early Childhood Education. Pamela holds post-graduate degrees in Psychology, Human Environmental Science, & Education from The University of AL (B.S. & M.S.), The University of West Alabama (M.S.) and Argosy University (Ed.D.). Since 2017, she has worked with ADECE as a monitor, trainer, presenter, region director, & interim assistant director of the Office of School Readiness. Dr. Truelove-Walker has over 20 years of leadership in early care & learning models including Head Start, Early Head Start, faith-based preschool, & First Class Pre-K. She has served as an adjunct faculty member at the University of AL & has an extensive background with management of state & federal funded grants.

Lakiesha Williams

Lakiesha Williams, MSW, LICSW, PIP, MPA is a social worker licensed in Alabama at the clinical level (Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker-LICSW) with a certification for Private Independent Practice (PIP). She obtained her Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) and her Master of Public Administration (MPA) from UAB, & she earned her Master of Social Work (MSW) from The University of AL. She offers 13 years of professional experience in the areas of child welfare, adoptions, long-term care planning for seniors and their families, bereavement and grief counseling, veterans' services, & medical social work.

Lenzy Williams

Lenzy is a Master Safety Training Consultant with Crown Consulting Group and is a nationally recognized professional with 30 years experience. He has served as a Transit Operator, Training Supervisor & Safety Manager. He serves as a Master Trainer for CTAA & Crown Consulting Group to develop & provide trainings for Alabama Dept. of Transportation and the University of Alabama Huntsville. His training clients include Mississippi State, Auburn University and University of Nebraska as well as various State Department of Transportations. He is a 2-time CTAA National Roadoe Champion and Driver of the Year. He has served on the CTAA Roadoe Committee overseeing the CTAA National Roadoe mobility device securement testing. His training passions and expertise include ADA training, mobility device securement and the recognizing and reducing of liability. Lenzy is respected in his field and has also served as an expert witness and consultant concerning personal injury cases involving mobility devices. His experiences allow for a knowledgeably, motivational and humorous workshop.



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AARC 2021 Training Conference Evaluation

The Alabama Association of Regional Councils thanks you for attending the AARC 2021 Annual Training Conference. We hope your experience was educational as well as enjoyable. We want to provide the very best training conference possible each year. To assist us we ask that you complete this evaluation form and place it in the collection box at the Conference Registration desk or email it to AARC at sdarrington@alarc.org.

1. Was this your first time attending an AARC Training Conference? (check one)

☐ Yes ☐ No (If "No" how many have you attended)

2. How would you rate the following? (check one in each category)

Conference Quality

☐ Excellent
☐ Good
☐ Average
☐ Poor

Conference Presenters

☐ Excellent
☐ Good
☐ Average
☐ Poor

Facility

☐ Excellent
☐ Good
☐ Average
☐ Poor

3. Were opportunities provided to network with others in your profession?

☐ Yes ☐ No

4. List least three things you learned at the conference.

- _____
- _____
- _____

5. Which breakout session(s) did you find most informative?

- _____
- _____
- _____

6. What are your recommendations to increase attendance at AARC's Training Conference?

7. Based on your experience this year, do you plan to attend the AARC Training Conference next year?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Additional Comments _____

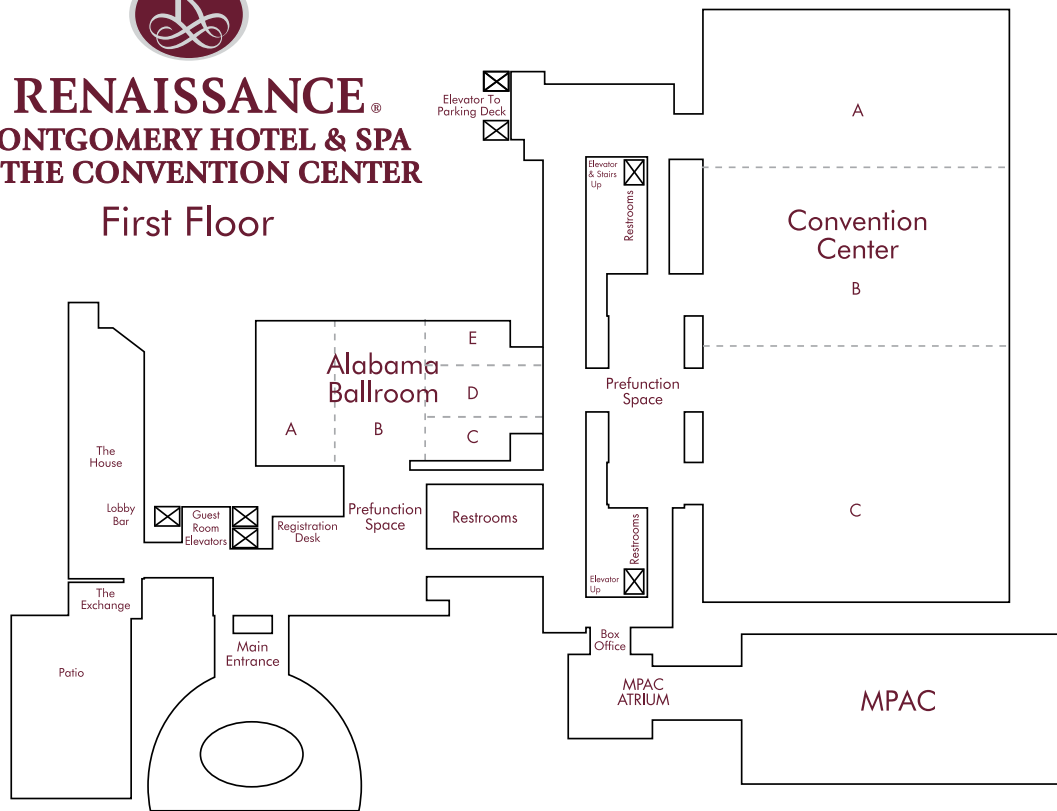
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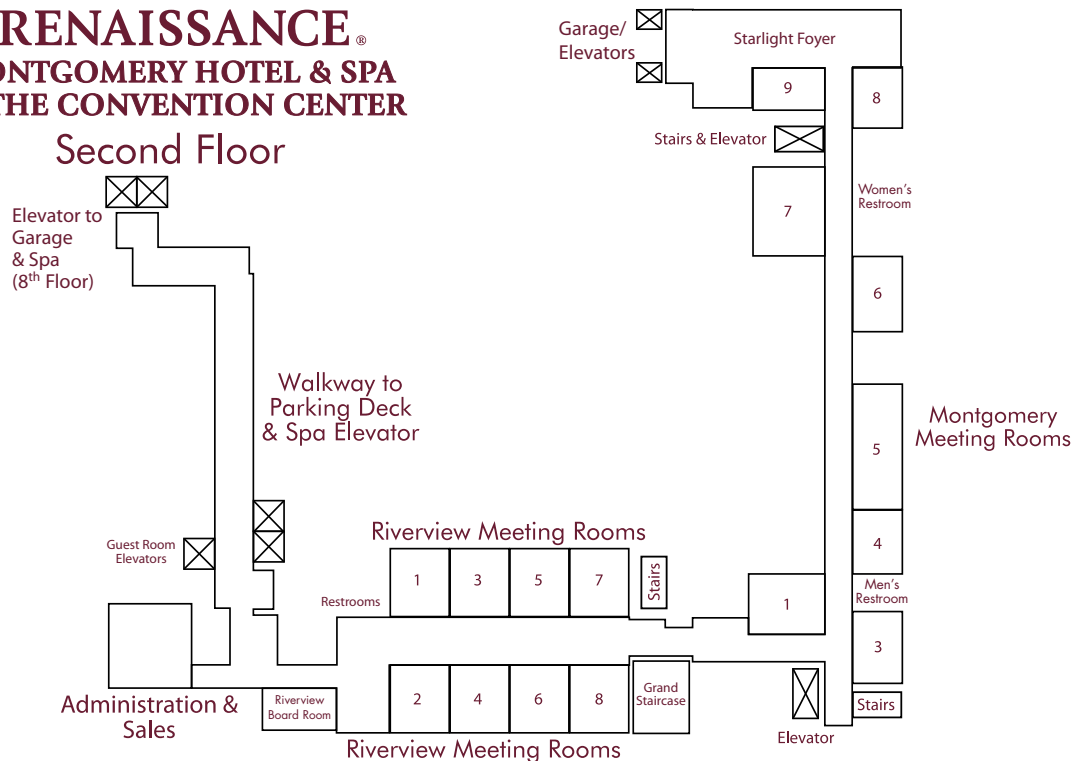
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