



# Grambling State University

College of Professional Studies  
School of Social Work

&

Title IV-E Child Welfare Program

*Present*

## **2023 Title IV-E Child Welfare Symposium**

**“Confronting Trauma & Promoting Resilience Among Children and Families”**

Friday, March 24, 2023

Grambling State University  
Favrot Student Union  
Black and Gold Room  
8:00A.M.-5:00P.M.

*Luncheon Catered by Sodexo Magic*

## *Order of the Program*

*Professor Precious Wilkerson-Carr- Presiding*

<i>8:00 – 8:30</i>	<i>Registration</i>
<i>8:45- 9:00</i>	<i>Welcome- Dr. Jacqueline Garrison Associate Dean Grambling State University School of Social Work</i>
<i>9:00 – 10:00</i>	<i>Opening Session - Dr. Ralph Steele, Fellow (FAPA), Counselor, TV Host, and Author of 22 Books Overcoming Trauma: Macro Systematic Thinking, Feeling, and Healing 1 clinical CEU</i>
<i>10 :00- 10:15</i>	<i>Break</i>
<i>10:15 – 11:20</i>	<i>Keynote Speaker- Kemba Smith Pradia Executive Producer, Child Welfare Advocate, Consultant, &amp; Author of Poster Child: The Kemba Smith Story 1 General CEU</i>
<i>11:30-1:00pm</i>	<i>Luncheon Speaker - Terri P. Ricks, JD, MS-LHRD Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services “Helping Families Become Whole: Poverty- Informed Approaches to Service” 1 General CEU</i>
<i>1:00- 1:15</i>	<i>Break</i>
<i>1:15 – 4:30</i>	<i>Ethics Workshop- Andrew Wilson, LCSW Ethics Black and Gold Room 3 Ethics CEUs</i>

### *Workshop Session I*

*1:15 -2:15*

*Theater- Dr. Ora Rice & Dr. Natalie Yates  
Confronting Trauma through “Critical Thinking Lens”  
1 Clinical CEU*

*Lincoln Room- Dr. Sarah Foster, LPC, Clinical Lead, Cognitive Development Center  
Educate Yourself: Providing a Forever Home for a Child in Need  
1 General CEU*

## ***Order of the Program***

### ***Ouachita Room- Student Presentations***

***Topic: Title: Building Social Equity Amongst those with  
Intergenerational Traumas***

***Group Members: Aneisha Bell, Michelle Downs, Nia Johnson, Keonna  
Johnson, Breanna Samuels, Destiney Williams -Faculty  
Facilitator- Dr. Gayberyl Wesley Shyne***

***1 General CEU***

### ***Workshop Session II***

***Theater- Professor Precious Wilkerson-Carr, LCSW & Professor Tanya Brandy,  
LMSW***

***Kaleidoscope: A Clinical Overview of Adjustment Disorders and  
Family Responses to Crisis and Trauma***

***1 Clinical CEU***

***Lincoln Room- - Mr. Jarvis Spearman, MSW, CSW, Bereavement  
Coordinator, Heart of Hospice & Dr. Cheri Nyegaard-Holbrook,  
Ph.D.,  
LCSW***

***Developing Your Toolkit: Recognizing and Addressing Grief to  
Promote Resiliency in Children and Adolescents***

***1 General or Clinical CEU***

### ***Ouachita Room- Student Presentations***

***Topic: Addressing Challenges of Human Trafficking of Children in the  
Child Welfare System***

***Group Members: Mackisha Brumant, Andra Richards, Kayla  
Johnson, Zakarraah Ruffin and Vernita White-Taylor; Faculty  
Facilitators- Dr. Gayberyl Wesley Shyne & Dr. Elise Reed***

***1 General CEU***

### ***Workshop Session III***

***Theater- Dr. Stephanie Bundle & Dr. Gayberyl Wesley Shyne  
Alcohol and Substance Abuse Trends Among College Aged Students***

***1 CEU***

***Lincoln Room- Erika McFarland & Kris Anglin Barney of DART  
Confronting Trauma and Building Resilience in Domestic Violence***

***1 General CEU***

### ***Ouachita Room- Student Presentations***

***Topic: The Effects of a Lack of Attachment in Children***

***Group Members: Tamesha Hill, Billyona Jacobs, Sharon Johnson, and  
Lakisha McClinton; Faculty Facilitator- Dr. Elise Reed***

***1 General CEU***

***4:45***

***Closing Remarks***

## Presenters



**Dr. Ralph Steele** earned his Doctorate Degree in Psychology & Mediation (Law) in 2013 from Oxford University, Oxford, England. Dr. Steele is a current Fellow of the American Psychotherapy Association Fellow (FAPA). He earned his Master's Degree at Vanderbilt University in counseling in 1987 and his Bachelor's Degree in Biology from Concordia University in Nebraska.

Dr. Steele is a Board Certified Professional Counselor and experienced Professor of Mediation. At the University of Texas Arlington Dr. Steele teaches Mediation courses Basic, Advance

Family, Employment, Transformative, Negotiation, Landlord and Tenant, Civil Law, and Child Protective Service Mediation & Law. Dr. Steele has taught courses in Berlin, Germany, with the World Mediation Organization, at Jarvis Christian University, and within state departments for safety and corrections. Areas of instruction have included conflict resolution, ethics & Philosophy.

Dr. Steele has practiced clinically in the areas of rehabilitation, sexual assault, depression, and PTSD. Dr. Steele has served as Executive Director of the African American Family Counseling Center in Birmingham, Alabama, counseling single parents, youth, gang members, sexual harassment/assault victims, domestic violence survivors and patients with PTSD.

Dr. Steele has been honored with awards including the Outstanding Citizen Award in the city of Alexandria, Louisiana in 2002, the Community Service Award of Epsilon Epsilon Lambda in Waco, Texas and the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Entrepreneur of the Year Award, Nu Pi Lambda, Arlington, Texas. He is a proud member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc and author of 22 books. Dr. Steele hosts the TV show: *Wealth ThinkTank* on KAZQ 32 airing Sundays at 4pm CST, [www.KAZQ32.ORG](http://www.KAZQ32.ORG), [WWW.WME3CASH.COM](http://WWW.WME3CASH.COM).

## Terri P. Ricks, JD, MS-LHRD, Secretary Louisiana

**Department of Children and Family Services** Terri Porche Ricks was appointed Secretary of the Department of Children and Family Services in December 2022. She previously served as Deputy Secretary since 2016. Ms. Ricks has over two decades of legal, financial, human resources, policy and management experience. An accomplished legal and administrative executive with a proven ability to lead and manage complex organizations, Ricks served as Undersecretary of the Department of Social Services ("DSS" and now "Department of Children and Family Services"), from 2004 to 2008.



Ms. Ricks has played an essential role in the leadership and management of DCFS and has been responsible for enterprise-wide efforts since 2016. Those efforts include leading the restructuring of DCFS in 2016 and fundamentally reframing the Family Support Division to include a greater emphasis on workforce initiatives, a shift to more family-centered child support, increased client access through more robust customer service, and increased poverty competency of staff. Ms. Ricks represents DCFS on the Governor's Workforce and Education Subcabinet, a cross-agency collaborative effort primarily focused on harnessing Louisiana's untapped talent. She also led the efforts to create the department's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) unit. Responsive to Louisiana's needs, she has increased partnerships with community organizations, national foundations, and others to decrease poverty and increase equity and family stability.

She has served as the department's executive leader regarding disaster recovery matters, helping shape Louisiana's disaster recovery in the area of health and social services and gathering the attention and support of federal partners for recovery.

*Ms. Ricks has been a key force in expanding the department's use of technology to communicate both internally and externally, sharing information with staff and stakeholders about services and department actions, particularly in times of disaster. Working with nonprofit Code for America, she led the department's efforts to use technology to combat the loss of benefits when clients are still eligible. She also was an early champion of the department's adoption and implementation of a mass mobile alert communication system and played a major role in DCFS's partnership with Louisiana 2-1-1 to provide up-to-the-minute information to the public during emergency events. She now builds upon that partnership in leading the department in its No Wrong Door service delivery, introducing the use of the 2-1-1 resource and referrals, including a closed-loop referral platform powered by Unite Us, to better serve Louisiana.*

*Her work positioned DCFS to respond deftly to the COVID-19 pandemic, during which Ms. Ricks has managed the department's internal response, including policy changes, communication with leadership, and the development of an online COVID reporting system for staff.*

*Currently pursuing a Ph.D. for Leadership and Human Resource Development at LSU, Ms. Ricks previously served as Director of Human Resources and attorney at Baton Rouge Community College, as well as the General Counsel of the Louisiana Housing Corporation before returning to DCFS as Deputy Secretary.*

*Ms. Ricks began her public service career as an eligibility determinations examiner at DSS. Her first legal position in public service was as Assistant Attorney General at the Louisiana Department of Justice in public finance. She has extensive legal and policy experience with family-related matters, housing and government administration, contracts, labor-related matters and mediation.*

*A member of the Louisiana State Bar Association, Ricks received her Juris Doctorate from Tulane University Law School where she served as President of the Student Bar Association. She earned her undergraduate degree in psychology from Louisiana State University.*

*Ms. Ricks earned her Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the Workplace Certificate from the University of South Florida MUMA College of Business in 2021, and she was chosen to participate in the first Louisiana Public Health Institute Racial Justice & Health Equity in Louisiana Learning Lab in 2020 and the 2019 Health and Human Services Summit at Harvard University.*

*Ms. Ricks is a 2010 alumna of the Council for a Better Louisiana (CABL) Leadership Louisiana program, an Inaugural Fellow of the 2009 Louisiana Effective Leadership Program (LaELP) of Duke University's Sanford School of Public Policy's United States-Southern African Center for Leadership and Public Values & Southern University College of Business' Center for Entrepreneurial and Leadership Development. Ms. Ricks is a past member of the LSBA Alternative Dispute Resolution Section Council.*



***Kemba Smith Pradia*** went from college student to drug dealer's girlfriend to domestic violence victim to federal prisoner; and in 1994 she was sentenced to 24.5 years in federal prison. Kemba's case drew support from across the nation.

Often labeled the "poster child" for reversing a disturbing trend in the rise of lengthy sentences for first-time, non-violent drug offenders, Kemba's story was featured on a variety of television shows and in several publications. The support prompted then President Clinton to commute her sentence in December 2000, after having served 6.5 years in prison.



*Today, Kemba is a wife, mother, public speaker, advocate, consultant and author of Poster Child. She has worked with senior officials at The White House, the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, Members of Congress, and has led trainings for Federal and State Probation organizations across the country. Corporations such as Verizon, Traveler's Foundation, Proctor and Gamble, Bank of America and Gulfstream have sponsored her speaking at events across the country. She has received numerous awards and recognitions for her courage and determination as a motivational speaker and advocate. In 2019, Kemba was appointed to the Virginia Parole Board by Governor Ralph Northam and on January 14, 2022, she involuntarily separated from the State due to the transition of a new gubernatorial administration. Prior to her appointment, she served on the Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission and held the position of State Advocacy Campaigns Director with the ACLU of Virginia. Currently, she continues to serve on the Board of Directors for Virginia CARES, Drug Policy Alliance. She is also a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., the NAACP and Co-convenor of the Justice Roundtable.*

*Along with being an advocate for criminal justice reform, Kemba is the founder of her 501 (c) 3, The Kemba Smith Foundation. Ultimately, Kemba knows that there is a lesson in each experience in life, and she has embraced her experience, learned from it, and is now using that experience to teach others.*

**Andrew Wilson, LCSW**, a native of Shreveport LA has an undergraduate degree in General Studies from LSU and a master's degree in social work from Grambling State University in 2004. He became licensed in clinical practice by the Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners and began private clinical practice in 2010.

*Currently as the CEO of Social Work Professional Services LLC his agency is responsible for providing community-based behavioral health services, professional development services for individuals pursuing social work licensure, continuing education credits and test preparation for LMSW/LCSW Examination. Andrew has a history of providing contract work as a Clinical Manager with Mental Health Agencies where he supervised clinical staff, provided case management services and provided psychosocial educational training.*



*Prior to providing clinical service in the mental health sector, Andrew was employed with the Department of Children and Family Services for over twenty years as an Investigator, Family Services Specialist, Specialized Foster Care Unit, FC Supervisor, Regional Program Specialist and Continuous Quality Improvement Manager where he monitored child welfare staff practices, making sure field staff were utilizing best practices. He was responsible for training staff on implementing evidenced based child welfare initiatives. Prior to practicing child welfare in Shreveport, he also worked in Home Development in New York City.*

*Andrew is known to be deeply connected to the community he serves and has been awarded several accolades and acknowledgments for his service over the years. He has received several awards by the National Association of Black Social Workers, National Association of Social Workers and Alpha Kappa Alpha Volunteer Service Award. Presently he serves as the President Emeritus of the Association of Black Social Workers Shreveport Region and member of a Rules Committee and Inter-Organization Committee of the LABSWE. He is a former Board member of CASA, League of Women Voters, Hope for the Homeless and The Advisory Board for Grambling State University School of Social Work. He is passionate about enhancing emerging practitioner's professional development allowing them field placement at his practice. He is known for, social advocacy, mentoring others in social work and staying abreast of research to enhance the human condition. He enjoys traveling to Africa and studying African Centered Practice Theories.*



**Erika McFarland** has been in the Helping Field since she graduated from Grambling State University in 2014. She began her career as a shelter advocate at the Domestic Abuse Resistance Team (DART), directly out of undergraduate school. She later worked in Union parish as a counselor while she obtained her Master degree from the University of Southern California. After obtaining her graduate degree, she worked in Ouachita Parish for the Juvenile Justice Department, serving as a counselor at the juvenile prison. Erika later spent two years as a counselor in the Grambling State University Counseling Center, before returning to where her career started, DART. Where she has been serving as the Survivors advocate for the last three years. In addition to her formal career journey, Erika has also founded a successful non-profit here in Lincoln

Parish. StoryTellers - Life Changing has provided people a safe space to share their life stories, along with being a local resource guide for those in need and providing a community refrigerator to help tackle the food insecurity in Lincoln Parish. Lastly, Erika launched her personal brand, Erika Nicole.co, after publishing her first workbook, Getting to Know Me Vol. 1, in 2020. Erika has set out on a career path dedicated to helping others in and outside of the box. Through her professional career and social involvement, she has done just that

**Kris Anglin Barney** *was born in Alexandria, Louisiana and was raised in the Shreveport/Bossier area. She attended LSU in Shreveport and the University of Monroe. She has been married to retired Chief Master Sergeant Jeff Barney for 24 years and is the mother of Miranda, Tanner, and Emma. She, Jeff, and their children have lived in Louisiana, England, Turkey, Delaware, Florida, and North Dakota. In June of 2019, they retired back in Louisiana.*

*Kris is currently a Community Advocate with D.A.R.T (Domestic Abuse Resistance Team) in Ruston, Louisiana. She is an active advocate for Domestic Violence victims, having been a victim herself from 1993-1999, which resulted in the murder of her 3yr old daughter, Miranda. She has shared her story of survival and resiliency across the United States speaking at churches, vigils, prisons, youth centers, resiliency events, conventions, military bases, colleges and domestic violence trainings. She has done several news interviews speaking out and educating the public about Domestic Violence. She has organized and has participated in fundraisers benefitting women's shelters in Shreveport, Ruston, Arcadia, and Minot, North Dakota.*

*Kris has also worked with CAWS of North Dakota, a non-profit organization that services women and children in North Dakota, telling her story of survival and resiliency. She also volunteered her time at the Domestic Violence Crisis Center and women's shelter in Minot, ND where she and her husband were last stationed. In March of 2019, Kris won the Air Force Insurance Military Spouse of the year award at Minot Air Force Base, Minot, ND, for her community service and dedication to bringing more awareness to Domestic Violence. In January of 2020, she won the Charles Rex Scott Civilian of the year award for her dedication to helping and guiding victims of Domestic Violence providing them resources for safety. She is a member of the Caddo/Bossier Domestic Violence Task Force and was on the Board of Directors at D.A.R.T (Domestic Abuse Resistance Team) in Ruston, Louisiana until she accepted the position as Community Advocate. Kris has also written several articles about her personal experience with stalking, as well as the many different aspects of Domestic Violence. Her articles have been published in the Ruston Daily Leader over the past few years. Kris has also received her 501c3 non-profit license for the Miranda Faith Memorial Foundation, a foundation she created in memory of her daughter. Kris' passion has always been her children and her family, always putting them first and foremost, and has enjoyed every beautiful moment and experience of being a military spouse and mother. She has continued her work as a Domestic Violence advocate and resiliency speaker by bringing hope and guidance to those affected by Domestic Violence and Domestic Homicide.*





**Dr. Sarah Foster** is a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC), Clinical Lead Supervisor for the Cognitive Development Center, and a Mental Health Provider for the Ouachita Parish School Board. Dr. Foster has worked in mental health for 18 years in various settings such as criminal justice, mental health rehab, substance abuse, and the group home setting. She obtained a Doctor of Public Administration with a concentration in Public Policy and Administration from West Chester University. She also obtained a Master of Art in Counseling and Guidance with a concentration in Human Services from Louisiana Tech University, a Master of Science in Addiction Counseling from Grand Canyon University, and a Bachelor of Art in Psychology with a minor in Deaf Education from Grambling State University. Dr. Foster presented at the 2021

Gender Equity Conference and the 2021 Annual PASSHE Women's Consortium Conference. Her area of research focuses on maternal substance abuse policymaking and how those policies might persuade such women to conceal their addiction to avoid stigma and criminal retaliation. Over the years, Dr. Foster has had the opportunity of working with numerous DCFS, CASA, and adoption workers, continuing to flourish her love for child welfare and preparing her for her own journey of adoption.

**Jarvis Spearman, MSW, CSW**, is a graduate of Grambling State University. He currently serves as a Bereavement Coordinator with Heart of Hospice in Monroe, where he has helped families and patients for two years. Jarvis is also an Assistant Counselor at Johnny Robinson Boys Home, working under a Licensed Clinical Social Worker; being in this position for three years now, providing individual, group, and family sessions to clients and families. Being raised in the foster care system for 12 years with his siblings, he dedicated his time and passion to working at Louisiana Methodist Children's Home. There Jarvis worked in the Life Skills Program in Ruston, La 6.5 years as a Peer Support Specialist and Advocate for the Louisiana Foster Care System. He has held the title of President for the State of Louisiana Youth Advocacy group known as LEAF (Louisiana Elite Advocacy Force) for many years serving as a voice for former and current foster youth advocating to ensure the betterment of the foster care system. Jarvis has served as a speaker and panelist at multiple conferences throughout Louisiana, such as the QPI (Quality Parenting Initiative) Conference held in New Orleans; the Together We Can Conference in Lafayette, LA, and the Foster Parent Conference. He has also participated actively in a Task Force dealing with youth aging out of foster care in Louisiana. In 2017, Jarvis participated in the Foster Youth Intern Program held at the State Capitol in Baton Rouge, LA. There he gave a wonderful testimony that touched all who were in attendance. From this internship experience, he was a part of the force that pushed Senate Bill 109 into place, which extended foster care to age 21 for all youth in care on their 18th birthday. This voluntary program allows the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to provide intensive services to aid youths' transition to adulthood. As President of the LEAF board, Jarvis and his peers got the opportunity to create Louisiana's first Foster Youth Bill of Rights. Jarvis has gained many awards for his hard work. Jarvis has traveled out of the country on mission trips to serve and be a beacon of happiness to others. Through it all, he strives to be a better individual by giving back to the community and being a light in the lives of vulnerable populations.





*College of Professional Studies*

*School of Social Work Administration, Faculty, and Staff*

Dr. Carolyn Hester, PhD, LMSW  
Dean/Assistant Professor

Dr. Jacqueline Garrison, DSW, LCSW  
Associate Dean/ Assistant Professor

Dr. Ora Rice, PhD., LMSW  
Title IV-E Child Welfare Work Force Development Coordinator/ Lecturer

Professor Precious Wilkerson-Carr, LCSW  
Title IV-E Child Welfare Coordinator/ Lecturer

Dr. Elise H. Reed, Ed.D., LCSW-BACS  
MSW Director/ Assistant Professor

Dr. Gayberyl L. Wesley Shyne, DSW, LCSW, LAC, CCGC  
MSW Admissions Coordinator/ Assistant Professor

Dr. Natalie Yates, PhD., LCSW  
Interim Field Director/Assistant Professor

Dr. Cheri Holbrook, PhD., LCSW  
Assistant Professor

Dr. Stephanie Bundle, Ph.D., RSW  
Assistant Professor

Professor Tanya Brandy, LMSW  
Lecturer

Mrs. Laketha Richards, BA  
Administrative Assistant 4

Ms. Charlitame Rucker, BSW  
Administrative Assistant 2

Ms. Debbie Stevenson, MBA  
Administrative Assistant 3

## THANK YOU!

Thank you to our **Presenters, Attendees, Student volunteers, Faculty & Staff, and Community** for your support.

### Symposium Committee

Precious Wilkerson-Carr, Title IV-E Coordinator, Chair

Dr. Ora Rice, Title IV-E Workforce Development Coordinator, Co-Chair

Dr. Jacqueline Garrison

Dr. Elise Reed

Dr. Natalie Yates

Dr. Gayberyl Wesley Shyne

Dr. Stephanie Bundle

Professor Tanya Brandy

Dr. Cheri N Holbrook

Ms. Charlitame Rucker

A special thank you to the Favort Student Union Board, Sodexo Magic Catering Service,  
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