

# National speakers set to tackle tough issues at 2019 Children’s Mental Health Summit

The Sixth Annual Children’s Mental Health Summit, hosted by Canopy Children’s Solutions (Canopy), will take place Wednesday and Thursday, May 8-9, at the Hilton Jackson Hotel in Jackson.

The theme for this year’s event is Speak Up! Speak Out! Erasing the Stigma of Mental Health.

This two-day event will feature a full-day conference on Wednesday, May 8, with a half-day of post-conference breakout sessions on varied topics that affect Mississippi families and children on Thursday, May 9. The conference will feature a host of talented and insightful speakers including Miss Mississippi Asya Branch, Special Agent for the FBI Christopher Freeze, political analyst for NBC News Elise Jordan, Canopy Autism Solutions Director Dr. Jim Moore, former Supreme Court Justice Randy Pierce and Canopy Chief Engagement & Diversity Officer Taheti Watson who will each cover a different element of how stigma impacts our society and how we can overcome the cycle of stigma.

“The stigma tide of mental health is finally turning,” said Canopy CEO John Damon, Ph.D. “This generation of children is demanding it. Today’s youth are tired of seeing their friends die from suicide, drop out of school because of substance dependence, or fall short of all they were called to be because they failed to receive the help they needed to thrive. Sadly, 1 in 5 children are struggling with a significant mental health challenge. Even worse, 80% of those children never get the help they need. The reason is clear – the stigma of mental health has blinded us from treating mental health like we do every other health-care problem. This year’s Summit, ‘Speak Up! Speak Out!’ will be a galvanizing event with a cross-section of industry thought leaders who will build momentum to erase the stigma of mental health. One day, we will no longer need to use the word “mental” to describe health - that tide is turning.”

New for 2019, Canopy, in partnership with Mississippi Department of Mental Health, will offer train-

ing in Youth Mental Health First Aid. This curriculum is not designed for mental health clinicians but rather designed to provide basic mental health training for teachers, coaches, caregivers, school resource officers and individuals who regularly work with youth. The free training course is made available through the Mental Health Awareness Grant and will qualify for eight hours of continuing education (CE) credit for educators and school resource officers through Jackson State University’s School of Lifelong Learning and the Mississippi Department of Public Safety. This day-long workshop will take place on Thursday, May 9. Space is limited to 30 participants and will be offered on a first come, first served basis; pre-registration through the Children’s Mental Health Summit website is required.

The Summit and post-conference breakout sessions are formatted to address topics beneficial to mental health professionals, social workers, educators and school counselors, parents and foster parents, child advocates,

members of the youth criminal justice system and law enforcement, media, and other professionals working with youth. Continuing education credits will be available for social workers, licensed professional counselors, licensed educators and Department of Mental Health-credentialed professionals. Full details regarding CEs are available on the event’s website under the General Information tab.

Registration for Wednesday’s Summit is \$100 per participant, which includes the cost of materials, break refreshments, lunch and CEs. Registration for Thursday’s breakout sessions is \$50 per participant and includes materials, break refreshments and CEs. Both the Summit and post-conference breakout sessions will begin at 8:00 a.m. with registration opening at 7:00 a.m. Pre-registration is strongly encouraged at [www.helpkidsthive.org](http://www.helpkidsthive.org).

For complete information on the Children’s Mental Health Summit, including registration, continuing education credits, presenters and information on overnight accommodations, please visit [www.helpkidsthive.org](http://www.helpkidsthive.org) or contact Kym Williams at 601.352.7784.

# 2018 State of Preschool Report recognizes Mississippi as one of top states for high-quality pre-K

The National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) recognized Mississippi in its latest report on pre-K quality as one of only nine states whose publicly funded pre-K program meets the majority of NIEER’s quality standards for early childhood education.

The latest ranking is published in the NIEER report, The State of Preschool 2018. The annual report tracks state-funded preschool access, resources and quality.

NIEER evaluated Mississippi’s Early Learning Collaborative (ELC) programs, which are partnerships among school districts, Head Start agencies, child care

centers, and non-profit organizations.

NIEER recognized Mississippi’s ELCs for meeting nine out of 10 quality standards for early childhood education. Five other states met nine NIEER standards, and only three met all 10.

“Mississippi’s Early Learning Collaborative program has become a national model for providing high-quality early childhood education,” said Dr. Carey Wright, state superintendent of education for Mississippi. “High-quality early childhood education has a long-term impact on student achievement. Increasing access to high-quality pre-K is one of the

key drivers of rising student achievement in Mississippi.”

Mississippi met all 10 NIEER standards in 2015 and 2016, and nine out of 10 in 2017. NIEER added coaching for teachers to its standard for professional development in 2017.

Mississippi expects to meet all 10 NIEER benchmarks in the 2019 State of Preschool Report because the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) hired a team of early childhood education coaches at the start of the 2018-19 school year.

MDE’s early childhood education coaches are funded through a \$6 million grant from the W.K. Kellogg

Foundation to help develop the state’s early childhood education infrastructure. Major grant activities include coaching support for teachers statewide in a variety of pre-K settings.

The Legislature passed the Early Learning Collaborative Act in 2013, which provided \$3 million to establish a limited number of ELCs in underserved areas throughout the state. Based on the immediate results just two years later, the Legislature increased funding to \$4 million, and increased it to \$6.5 million for FY19.

Mississippi’s Early Learning Collaborative program served 5% of 4-year-olds

DURANT NEWS  
by Rowena Hill

We really need a good restaurant that will be open for several hours a day. I hope someone will give it some thought. It used to be several open here.

Prayers and best wishes to Mrs. Betty Laura Williamson. I haven’t seen her for some time. Hope she will soon be out and about again soon. We miss her.

Love and best wishes are for Mrs. Katherine Cagle. It was told to me and others that she is really not well and is also getting help somewhere in the Jackson area. She is missed by many friends and pray she’ll be feeling better and can return to her home, family and friends. Many love her and already miss her.

The Illinois Central Railroad Depot is getting a new face lift and looking much better. Hope it will be in operation again soon, fully renewed and looking good.

The Easter musical at Main St. Baptist Church in Goodman last Wednesday night was well attended and enjoyed. Goodman church and 1st Baptist Durant sang together. There are so few in the choir now, they sing together for special programs.

Love, sympathy and prayer are for Mrs. Judy Broyles because of the recent death of her brother Clarence Byrd. Burial was at Odd Fellows Cemetery in Lexington.

Joey Hill drove a car to San Diego, California this week for Jaime and Warren Conner. They are beginning a new business and needed another car.

Love and prayers continue for Mr. and Mrs. Joe

Crowder that they will be feeling much better shortly. Their many friends miss them and hope to see them out and about. Prayers are with the entire family. We miss seeing and being with them.

To the family of Mrs. Maurine Shows, we miss her already. Mrs. Shows was a sweet and knowledgeable nurse and the Lexington hospital. She retired a few years ago after serving as nurse director for many years. I loved and appreciated her very much. Also, Mr. Shows worked there in the lab. They were both very special people and good with the patients and coworkers.

It was good to see Libby and Bruce Hill’s picture in a recent *Holmes County Herald* edition. They looked well. Hope they are happy and feeling well since they moved to Madison a while ago. Come back to see everyone when you can.

My entire family (children and families) enjoyed Easter Day with me together except Mike. He isn’t at all well and stays pretty much close to home in Jackson. We all missed being with him, also Jamie Hill Conner and her family. They live in San Diego and Jodie and Derek May and family are foreign missionaries and live too far away.

We all enjoyed our interim pastor at 1st Baptist Church Sunday. Come and worship with us if and when you aren’t going to your church. We will meet at the Durant City Hall for National Day of Prayer at 12 noon on May 2.

in 2017-18, up from 3% the previous year. When combined with district-funded pre-K programs, approximately 18% of Mississippi 4-year-olds attended public pre-K programs in 2017-18. The Mississippi State Board of Education has made increasing access to high-quality early childhood education one of its top priorities and has leveraged philanthropy to build the state’s early childhood education infrastructure through coaching and professional development and by providing guidance and support to school districts.



## Budget billing for utilities?

Dear Dave,  
I’m just starting my debt-free journey and trying to lay out a budget. What are your thoughts on budget billing for utilities?

Ryan

Dear Ryan,  
I think it’s wonderful! There’s absolutely nothing wrong with it at all. For a lot of folks, especially those in your situation, it helps smooth out utility payments and make them a little more manageable.

In most budget billing scenarios, they add up your utility bill for the last 12 months

and divide that total by twelve to determine a fixed billing amount for the next twelve months. It can make things so much easier when you’re first starting to live on a budget, and you don’t have a lot of wiggle room where your finances are concerned.

I’m glad you’re taking steps to get control of your money, Ryan. You can do this!

## Emergency fund for business?

Dear Dave,  
I have my own small business. My annual sales are just over \$100,000, and I

have a couple of months in administrative and general expenses set aside. Should I have an emergency fund for my company, too? If so, how much?

Taylor

Dear Taylor,  
This is a great question! I like the idea of a small business having six months of expenses set aside in an emergency fund. A financial cushion like that provides peace of mind and options. Also, it eliminates the need for borrowing money. With that kind of cash sitting around, you basically become your own line of credit.

When it comes to personal finance, I usually recommend setting aside an emergency fund of three to six

months of expenses—depending on a person’s overall financial condition. But the basic idea is the same, regardless of whether you’re talking about personal finance or the financial health of your small business.

An entrepreneur has enough to worry about on a day-to-day basis. Having a fully-funded emergency fund for your business can turn a disaster into nothing more than a minor inconvenience!

—Dave

*\*Dave Ramsey is CEO of Ramsey Solutions. He has authored seven best-selling books, including The Total Money Makeover. The Dave Ramsey Show is heard by more than 13 million listeners each week on 585 radio stations and multiple digital platforms. Follow Dave on the web at [daveramsey.com](http://daveramsey.com) and on Twitter at @DaveRamsey.*

CASH PLUS  
TITLE PLUS  
205 Tchula St., Lexington, MS  
(across from Double Quick)  
662-834-9045  
Payday Loans up to \$400.00  
Title Loans up to \$2,500.00  
WE DO 30 DAY LOANS!!!  
NO Credit Check  
Refer a friend, earn a free \$20.00!