

# THE JOURNEY SERIES

## SPEAKER DIRECTORY



### **A.W. “Kady” Abbott MA, LPC-S, NCC, BC-TMH**

Kady Abbott is a licensed counselor who has worked extensively in the field of mental health, addiction, criminal justice, and consultation for over 20 years. Kady Abbott began her early career as a prevention specialist with at risk youth educating them in the areas of self-esteem, drug abuse and conflict resolution. Kady went on to work with adults having substance use disorders and other addictions, eventually focusing on adults who have severe mental illness in the criminal justice system. In this complicated system, Kady Abbott has been able

to help, advocate and counsel greatly impaired individuals with addiction and mental illness. Mrs. Abbott works with individuals to enhance quality of life and has done a great deal of work over the years with educating families on mental health, substance use disorders, domestic violence, and generational curses within family systems. In addition to her private practice, Kady Abbott Counseling Solutions LLC, Kady is the Clinical Director at the Birmingham Fellowship House where she also coordinates the internship and volunteer programs. Currently, Kady coordinates collaborative community efforts and organizational change systems.

*Session: The Provider Perspective: Whole-Person Care*

*Organization Website: <https://fshbhm.org/>*



### **District Attorney Bill Adair**

Bill Adair, Jr. is a graduate of both The University of Alabama and The University of Alabama School of Law. He served in Walker County an Assistant District Attorney for two years and later as a Chief Deputy District Attorney for 14 years before being elected Walker County District Attorney in 2010. During his time with the District Attorney's Office Mr. Adair prosecuted multiple capital murder cases and the County's first DUI homicide case. Mr. Adair is an active member of the Alabama District Attorney's Association and has served as its vice-president and president. He has also served as president of the Walker County Bar Association. He served as a former member of the Walker County Fundraising Committee for United Way. Mr. Adair served as an adjunct professor at Walker College, which later became The University of Alabama at Birmingham and is now Beville State Community College. In addition to his other civic engagements, Mr.

Adair was the first Project Director for Daybreak, a local non-profit dedicated to serving victims of domestic violence, as well as a former president of its Board of Directors. He has also served on the board of directors of V.O.C.A.L., a statewide organization dedicated to establishing and protecting the rights of crime victims in the State of Alabama and he is the founder and president of the Board of Directors for the Walker County Children's Advocacy Center.

Additionally, Mr. Adair started the Deferred Prosecution Program in Walker County with an integrated citizens board for review of cases and taught Traffic Homicide for the Alabama State Trooper Academy. As a prosecutor, Mr. Adair has seen firsthand the victimization of our elderly citizens. In an effort not only to educate them, but also the public, law enforcement, care providers and family members Mr. Adair has worked in concert with M4A and the Walker County Chamber of Commerce in 2014 and again in 2016 to host Elder Protection Seminars. Not only were these seminars free to the public and provided much needed education and information to our elderly, but they also provided continuing education credits to all those medical, law enforcement and attorneys who participated.

*Session: Role of Law Enforcement in Addiction & Treatment*



### **Christopher Allen, LPC**

Christopher Allen is a licensed professional counselor and has been working for Bradford Health Services for 13 years. He has been working in the addictions field for 19 years at various programs including inpatient outpatient, abstinence-based and medication assisted treatment. He has been the director of the detox program at Walker Baptist Hospital since 2015.

*Session: The Provider Perspective: Whole-Person Care*

*Organization Website: <https://bradfordhealth.com/>*



### **Brent Boyett, DMD, DO, DFASAM**

Dr. Boyett practiced both dentistry and primary care medicine until he discovered his passion for Addiction Medicine in 2008. Now board-certified in Addiction Medicine, he is a forward-thinking speaker, researcher, and leader in Addiction Medicine. He is currently serving as the Medical Director for Bradford Health Services at the Madison, AL inpatient program.

*Session: Role of Health Professionals in Addiction & Treatment*

*Organization Website: <https://bradfordhealth.com/>*



## Lisa Bright

Lisa Bright is the founder and Chief Executive Officer for the Will Bright Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to breaking the barriers of recovery from addiction. After the loss of her son, Will to a heroin overdose, she and her husband Bill decided to take their tragedy and use it to help those struggling with addiction. In 2017 the Will Bright Foundation opened one of the largest transitional living facilities in Alabama, Restoration Springs located in Fayette, Alabama.

Prior to her foundation work, she owned and operated a drapery design business for 24 years, was featured in Southern Living Magazine numerous times with her cutting-edge drapery designs. She has been married for 38 years has 2 daughters and 4 grandchildren.

*Session: The Provider Perspective: The Opioid Epidemic, Then & Now*

*Organization Website: <https://willbrightfoundation.com/>*



## Paige Britton, CRSS

Paige Britton serves as a Certified Recovery Support Specialist in Walker County. She works for the Recovery Organization of Support Specialists (R.O.S.S.). In her position as an outreach specialist as well as an outreach supervisor, Paige serves in her community by helping individuals in their recovery of substance use disorders. She also assists peers in her community who do not have financial abilities by connecting them to treatment facilities certified by the Alabama Department of Mental Health. Paige uses her lived experiences as someone in long term recovery for over five years, using substances and also becoming substance free in Walker County, as a tool to help others seeking help and support.

*Session: How to Ask for Help & Start the Intervention Process*

*Organization Website: <https://ross4u.org/>*



## **Michael-Anne Green, CRSS**

Michael-Anne Green is a Certified Recovery Support Specialist through the Alabama Department of Mental Health. She currently works at Capstone Rural Health Center as a Peer Support Specialist. At CRHC she uses her lived experiences as someone in long term recovery to give patients hope that they too can turn their lives back around, helps bridge the gap between the patient and the health care provider, and leads support groups. Michael-Anne is married with

three children. She also co-leads Celebrate Life, a recovery ministry with her husband at Worship Life Jasper.

*Session: The Provider Perspective: Whole-Person Care*

*Organization Website: <http://www.capstoneclinic.org/>*



## **Camille Holcomb, LPC, ADC**

Camille Holcomb is the Outpatient Coordinator for the Fellowship House. She completed her Bachelor's in Psychology, as well as her Master's in Clinical Mental Health Counseling at UAB. She obtained her certification as an Alcohol and Drug Counselor, in addition to her Professional Counseling License. She began at Fellowship House as an intern, eventually moving from Intern, to Case Manager, to Team Leader, to Outpatient Coordinator. Having multiple roles has allowed her to see the importance of holistic recovery. As the Outpatient Coordinator, she feels fortunate to provide services while in an Opioid Epidemic.

*Session: Session: The Provider Perspective: The Opioid Epidemic, Then & Now*

*Organization Website: <https://fshbhm.org/>*

## Robyn James



Robyn James serves as the Development & Marketing Director for the Middle of Alabama Area Agency on Aging (M4A), one of Alabama's 13 local Area Agencies on Aging. Ms. James is responsible for all marketing, education and outreach initiatives, special project innovations, partnerships, and grant management. She serves as the agency's lead educator on a variety of issues that affect older adults, individuals with disabilities, and caregivers.

Ms. James also serves as a Lead Trainer and Program Manager for M4A's Dementia Friendly Law Enforcement and First Responder Training Program. In this role, she educates first responders on how to become dementia knowledgeable, sensitive, and responsive. She also educates them on issues caregivers face when caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's disease or related dementia.

Ms. James served over ten years as the State Director for several aging programs with the Alabama Department of Senior Services. She served as the State Liaison for Alabama's statewide Elder Justice Council where she coordinated 35 agencies and organizations to develop new initiatives, laws, and public policy to protect seniors from elder abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation. She led the effort to create Alabama's Elder Abuse Protection Toolkit for seniors and caregivers which was replicated in various states. Ms. James was the Founder and State Director of California's Seniors Against Investment Fraud (SAIF) Program. The SAIF program was chosen as a national model and has been replicated in several other states. Ms. James was appointed as the National Chairperson to assist all 66 state securities regulators with their senior fraud prevention initiatives.

Ms. James has dedicated her career as a public servant advocating for older adults and has served on multiple local, state, and national coalitions. Her passion to advocate and protect older adults, individuals with disabilities, and caregivers has gained her a reputation as one of the leaders in her field. Most recently, Ms. James was nominated as Shelby County Public Servant of the Year. She also received the honorary award as one of Alabama's Top 50 over 50 Award in the class of 2018. Ms. James holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Management. Ms. James also serves as a freelance writer with the Shelby County Reporter.

*Session: Addiction & Seniors*

*Organization Website: <https://m4a.org/>*



## April Knight

April Knight is the Director of Prevention Services at Northwest Alabama Mental Health Center. April Knight is the Director of Prevention Services for the Northwest Alabama Mental Health Center. She has worked in the field of Prevention for over 30 years. She serves the counties of Colbert, Fayette, Franklin, Lamar, Lauderdale, Marion, Walker, and Winston. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from the University of Alabama and a MSM in Business Management from Troy University. She also is one of less than five Certified Prevention Managers in the State. She currently has grants dealing with the prevention of underage drinking for school age youth (State of Alabama Block Grant), the prevention of underage drinking as well as binge drinking and drinking driving in the Beville State Community College system (Community College Initiative), the prevention of prescription drug misuse (SPFRX), the prevention of opioid misuse (Strategic Opioid Response Grant), and the prevention of opioid overdoses (Overdose Data 2 Action). She is a current member of the Board of Directors of the Alabama Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association. April loves Jesus, her family, rescuing dogs and cats, learning random languages, making stuff, and a good cup of Earl Grey.

*Session: Interventions for Reducing Risk Factors in Youth*

*Organization Website: <https://www.nwamhc.com/>*



## Brandon Lackey

Brandon Lackey served The Foundry Ministries for nearly two years as the Director of Changed Lives Christian Center, a homeless transitional housing ministry, before transitioning to his current role as Chief Program Officer in 2015. “In this position, my primary responsibility is to support the directors of our front-line ministries, so they can meet the mental, physical, social and spiritual needs of each of our program participants,” he says.

Before joining The Foundry, Brandon served for more than a decade with one of America’s oldest, largest and most successful Christ-centered recovery programs, Teen Challenge USA, where he held positions in direct services, communications and development. He holds a Bachelor of Science in the behavioral sciences from The University of Alabama at Birmingham and has been published by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine.

Advocacy for those without a voice is important to Brandon so he serves on the boards of the Alabama Rescue Services Association and the Alabama Association of Christian Recovery Ministries. As a founding member of the Alabama Association of Christian Recovery Ministries, he was instrumental in working with the Alabama Legislature to change Alabama’s mental health laws protecting religious freedoms and choice in recovery. He also created a set of peer reviewed standards for non-medical recovery organizations that emphasize best practices, transparency and accountability. He worked with the Alabama District Attorney’s office to classify the addictive compounds found in Kratom as a Schedule I controlled substance and continues to work closely with state officials in a watchdog role to

identify emerging threats to the public's health and safety. Most recently, Brandon has been named to Alabama Governor Kay Ivey's Commission on Opioid Abuse and Overdose with a focus on expanding access to treatment and recovery services.

Brandon has been married to Deidre, a nationally published photographer, since 2003 and has two children - soccer playing John Brooks and chess playing James.

*Session: The Provider Perspective: The Opioid Epidemic, Then & Now*

*Organization Website: <https://foundryministries.com/>, <https://aacrm.net/>*



## Attorney General Steve Marshall

Steve Marshall was sworn in as the forty-eighth attorney general of the state of Alabama on February 10, 2017.

Marshall received his undergraduate education at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and his legal education at the University of Alabama School of Law, graduating from both with academic honors.

Prior to taking office as attorney general, Marshall was the district attorney for Marshall County, a post he held for sixteen years. As district attorney, Marshall helped draft and pass the Brody Act—a law that makes it a homicide to kill an unborn child during an attack on the unborn child's mother. Marshall later became the first prosecutor to secure a death sentence under the Brody Act (in a case where a man murdered his pregnant wife and was charged with the homicide of both her and her unborn child). Five years later, when this landmark case was on appeal to the Alabama Supreme Court, Marshall—now attorney general—had the privilege of defending that conviction.

As attorney general, Marshall has embraced his role as the state's chief law-enforcement officer and has committed himself to making Alabama a safer place to live. In January 2018, Marshall launched the Initiative on Violent Crime with the mission to “help cities reclaim their streets, restore the rule of law, and . . . see their communities revived.” Since its launch, the initiative has resulted in the arrests of hundreds of violent offenders.

Marshall was recently elected to the executive committee of the Republican Attorneys General Association, a nod to his demonstrated expertise and leadership on a variety of national policy issues including the opioid crisis, illegal immigration, and religious liberty.

Marshall is a man of deep faith with an impeccable reputation. He is known as a standout in law-enforcement circles. On the day of his swearing-in, nearly every district attorney in the state came to the capital to show their support for him. He and has one daughter, Faith, and attends Church of the Highlands in Montgomery, Alabama.

*Session: Keynote*

*Organization Website: <https://www.alabamaag.gov/>*



## **Barbara Brown Medders**

Barbara is a lifelong resident of Jasper, AL and a graduate of Walker High School, Walker College, Leadership Walker County, and the Art Institute of Atlanta in Design. She served as a paraprofessional at Jasper City Schools for 13 years, as well as having served on both the Jasper Main Street Board and the Arts Alliance of Walker County Board. Barbara currently serves as Coordinator of the Bankhead House and Heritage Center for the Walker Area Community Foundation, where she has been for the last 6 years. Barbara is also a managing

partner of The Brown Company, LLC, a developer of commercial and residential properties.

*Session: How to Ask for Help & Start the Intervention Process (Moderator)*

*Organization Website: <http://www.wacf.org/>*



## **Patricia Montgomery, LPC**

Patricia Montgomery, LPC has been Clinical Director for Northwest Alabama Mental Health Center since April 2019. Patricia is a native of Fayette, Alabama, where she was reared, attended elementary and high school (1992 FCHS Graduate) and currently resides. She is a 1999 Graduate of Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University in Tallahassee, Florida. Patricia has been a Licensed Professional Counselor since 2006. She has worked in the area of mental health since 1995 and in the area of substance abuse since 1997. Patricia has worked as a day program coordinator, substance abuse therapist, Adult and Child outpatient therapist and Adult Outpatient Director during her 21-year employment with NWAMHC. She continues to have a passion for work with Substance Use Disorders due to the prevalence in her community and surrounding areas. She relies heavily on her faith and seeks to be a

mentor to those she comes in contact with. Patricia is married with one daughter. She enjoys spending time with her family, including her 2 Godchildren, as well as other extended family and friends. Traveling and cruising are her hobbies and she will be glad to resume Post COVID.

*Session: The Provider Perspective: The Opioid Epidemic, Then & Now*

*Organization Website: <https://www.nwamhc.com/>*

## Leslie Plaia, M.Ed., LPC

Leslie is the Program Director of the Recovery Resource Center, a program of the Crisis Center. Leslie is a Licensed Professional Counselor who holds a master's degree in community agency counseling from University of Montevallo and a bachelor's degree in theatre and English literature from Birmingham-Southern College. Prior to joining the staff at the Crisis Center, Leslie was the Clinical Director of Magnolia Creek Treatment Center for Eating Disorders and maintained an outpatient private practice working with individuals impacted by substance use disorders, process addictions, eating disorders, trauma, and other mental health issues. Leslie previously worked as a substance abuse counselor at UAB's Addiction Recovery Program and a substance abuse counselor and assessment specialist at UAB's Beacon Addiction Treatment Center (now Beacon Recovery). Therapeutic interests include eating disorders, substance use disorders, process addictions, trauma, women's issues, and media's influence on society. Leslie has completed specialized training in Motivational Interviewing, Dialectical Behavior Therapy, and psychodrama. Leslie's work at the Recovery Resource Center focuses on increasing access to treatment for all individuals with substance use disorders, minimizing barriers to treatment, and eliminating the stigma associated with addiction and recovery.

*Session: Role of Law Enforcement in Addiction & Treatment*  
*Organization Website: <https://recoveryresourcejeffco.com/>*



## Anastacia Rogers, LICSW

Anastacia M Rogers joined Capstone Rural Health Clinic in 2018 as a LMSW at the Parrish location. In 2020 Anastacia was promoted to the Director of Behavioral Health and Substance Abuse. She oversees all mental health and substance abuse staff in five locations in Walker County and Winston County.

Anastacia graduated from Rhodes University in South Africa with her Bachelor's in Psychology and Human Kinetics & Ergonomics. She obtained her honors in Psychology from the University of South Africa. Anastacia graduated with her Masters of Social Work from The University of Alabama in 2017, attained her LMSW in 2017, and her LICSW in 2020. Her concentration is in individuals and their families in the health care setting, and her interest is in integrated health care in Alabama's rural communities.

*Session: The Provider Perspective: Whole-Person Care*  
*Organization Website: <http://www.capstoneclinic.org/>*



### **Sherie Schaffer, MS, ADC, LPC-S, NCC**

Sherie Schaffer is the Director of Clinical Operations at Bradford Health Services where she oversees the clinical operations across Bradford's network. She has been working in the field of addiction for 19 years and is a certified addiction counselor, licensed professional counselor, and a supervising LPC.

*Session: State of Addiction: The Opioid Epidemic & The Crisis in Alabama*  
*Organization Website: <https://bradfordhealth.com/>*



### **Stephanie Schilling, CRSS, LMSW**

Stephanie Schilling is a Certified Recovery Support Specialist at the Recovery Resource Center who has recently started working within the criminal justice system in Walker County. The Recovery Resource Center completes intakes and state assessments for clients to be referred to substance abuse treatment for alcoholism and/or addiction. The Recovery Resource Center provides ongoing peer support to their clients as well. Prior to working with the Recovery Resource Center, Stephanie worked at Bradford Health Services for nearly 5 years. She is a recent graduate of the University of Alabama with her Masters of Social Work and is a Licensed Master of Social Work through the State of Alabama. Stephanie is a person in long term recovery. Her sobriety date is December 31, 2011.

*Session: How to Ask for Help & Start the Intervention Process*  
*Organization Website: <https://recoveryresourcejeffco.com/>*



## Kristan Shaw

Kristan Shaw is a 38-year-old mother of four, originally from Hanceville, Alabama. A graduate of Alabama Teen Challenge, and a born again Christian and minister. Kristan became the Executive Director at Hope for Women in 2014.

In her early years, she became rebellious and began experimenting with drugs. By the age of 18 she had progressed to using needles and was arrested many times over the next 5 years. By 23 she found herself in prison.

At the age of 26, Kristan was at a point that she could only look up, entering the Alabama Teen Challenge Program, and thankfully giving her heart to Christ.

Now, because of her love for Christ, she has a heart for the lost who find themselves in the same predicament she was in 10 years ago. She devotes herself to this calling and is dedicated to be an instrument to reach and help women with addiction issues.

*Session: The Provider Perspective: The Opioid Epidemic, Then & Now*

*Organization Website: <https://hopeforwomenllc.org/>*



## Mike Wilkerson, MD, FASAM

Board certified in Addiction Medicine and Internal Medicine, Dr. Wilkerson currently serves as the Corporate Medical Director of Bradford Health Services.

*Session: Addiction 101: Brain Science of Addiction*

*Organization Website: <https://bradfordhealth.com/>*



## Art & Carie Wimberly

Art Wimberly and his wife Carie live in Birmingham Alabama. They enjoy spending time with their 5 grown children, 8 grandchildren as well as 'Gracie the Cat' and 'Phoebe the Goldendoodle'.

Art has been working in the recovery field for over 17 years. The journey is deeply personal, beginning with he and his wife's entry into recovery to cope with the addictions of their sons, and then eventually to face his own hidden addiction. As a person in long-term

recovery, Art has experienced firsthand deep and lasting change from the sickness of addiction to a life of freedom and growth.

After a 30-year career in the mortgage banking industry and as a small business owner, he birthed the nonprofit organization T.H.R.I.V.E., which stands for Training & Help for Recovery In Various Environments. Through T.H.R.I.V.E. Art provides quality, affordable recovery coaching and counseling for individuals and families, and also collaborates with and offers training for groups and organizations seeking to plant or nourish recovery, prevention and wellness processes in their communities.

After a 20+ year career at AT&T, Carie retired to help care for grandchildren. She returned to work a few years later and in 2017, she joined the Addiction Prevention Coalition (APC) as the Director of Operations. APC is a non-profit that focuses on Awareness, Substance Abuse Prevention and creating Connection in the community around substance use issues.

*Session: Guardians of Addiction Loved Ones*  
*Organization Website: <https://apcbham.org/>*