



Mississippi Families  
for Kids

*Building Partnerships and Connections  
in Developing Strategies for  
Statewide Expansion of HMG MS*



- ❑ Welcome & Introductions
- ❑ About Us!
- ❑ Help Me Grow Mississippi History
- ❑ Statewide Partnerships
- ❑ Lessons Learned
- ❑ Next Steps
- ❑ Questions & Answers

# Who Are We?



Help Me Grow  
Mississippi

- **Nadeane Cattrell, LMSW**  
*Executive Director*  
Mississippi Families for Kids
- **Regina Lewis, LMSW**  
*Help Me Grow Mississippi, Program Director*  
Mississippi Families for Kids
- **Rodney Washington, Ed. D.**  
*Help Me Grow Mississippi, Program Evaluator*



Established in 1998, Mississippi Families for Kids (MFFK) is a statewide non-profit child and family service organization with the mission to ensure the permanency and well-being of children and families through educational development, specialized training and community-based services.

MFFK is funded through the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, Wendy's franchises, business contributions, individual donations, and our annual Children's Golf Classic.

- **Adoption**

- Wendy's Wonderful Kids

- **Clinical Services**

- Family & Individual Counseling
- Incredible Years DINA Therapeutic Program
- Parent/Teacher Training

- **Outreach**

- Relatives Raising Other's Children (RROC)
- Youth Support Groups
- Parent & Teacher Training

- **Help Me Grow**

- Respite Care Services



---

# WHAT WE DO?

*Help Me Grow  
Mississippi*

Overview

A hand holding a blue marker is shown drawing a red underline under the word "Overview" written in white chalk on a dark chalkboard. The background is blurred, suggesting an office or classroom setting.

**How we started!**

# Why Engaging Partners Matter?



Increased likelihood of buy-in on proposed projects.



Get feedback on the scope and depth of work so that it is specific to the community you plan to implement.



Increased knowledge and understanding on a particular issue or concern.



Diversity in input and feedback



Transparency and Increased Trust



Chance to participate in decision making

## Resistance to Partnerships and Collaboration

- Lack of understanding on the request to collaborate
- Fear of losing organization identity in the process
- Unclear Expectations
- Request is not seen an area of interest
- Competition/Conflict of Interest





# Approaches to connect with potential can depend on your previous work history

In most cases, your professional brand is leveraged as social capital in the community. How you handled previous connections will matter in the work moving forward.



# Collaboration

---

*Despair shows us the limit of our imagination. Imaginations shared create collaboration, and collaboration creates community, and community inspires social change.*

*Terry Tempest Williams*



# Collaboration Points:

1. Identifying opportunities for collaborative blending where the entire team is speaking the same language and not appearing as separate entities performing parts of the whole.



2. Defining measures of accountability where we are all measuring success in the same way for the whole collaborative and not a, “my part is working” attitude.

3. Creating specific agreements that define roles and responsibility so that there is no assuming who is assigned to complete program functions.

4. Establishing a means of information-sharing that is evaluated, assessed and used to further modify the service model.

A close-up photograph of several people's hands clasped together in a circle, symbolizing teamwork and partnership. The hands are of various skin tones, and the background is blurred, focusing attention on the central gesture. The text "Current Partnerships" is overlaid in white, centered on the image.

# Current Partnerships

# Power In Partnerships



**LOCAL**



**REGIONAL**



**STATEWIDE**

# Initial Phase of Partnerships



Established a listing of all organizations statewide working with birth to eight populations.



Divided that listing by their scope of work to determine best fit.



Invited members to serve on the leadership team that would also work on the core groups.



Each representative support perspective from many areas around the state.


# Centralized Access Point





# Finding Mutual Benefit

HMG Mississippi was able to leverage a partnership with the MAC Center based on two major points:

1. Broader reach in the community with a younger population
  2. Data Collection with the STAR that would track and report in ways that they were not currently collecting.
- 



# Establishing a Centralized Access Point

---

There was an intentional effort to move into a statewide expansion in a way that would be supplemental to the MAC Center but also maintain the fidelity of the HMG model.


---

Funding was used to create a formal memorandum of understanding with the MAC Center to serve as the primary centralized access point for HMG Mississippi.


---

The MAC Center component of this statewide expansion was initially intended to be scaled out over three phases.


# Programmatic Partnerships

- Mississippi Access to Care
  - Mississippi Thrive!
  - University of Mississippi Medical Center, Child Health and Development Promotion (CHDP)
  - University of Southern Mississippi, (USM) Institute for Disability Studies
  - MS Association for Infant Mental Health
  - Center for the Advancement of Youth (CAY Center)
  - Children's Foundation of MS – Kids Count/Risk & Reach
- 
- A large yellow triangle is positioned in the bottom right corner of the slide, pointing towards the top right.

# Local Partnerships

- City of Jackson (Ready to Learn)
  - University of Mississippi, School of Education
  - Families as Allies
  - Jackson Public Schools
  - Mississippi Urban League
  - Junior Auxiliary of Byram/Terry
  - Jackson-Hinds Comprehensive Health Center Healthy Start Program
- 
- A large yellow triangle is positioned in the bottom right corner of the slide, pointing towards the top right.

# State-Level Partnerships

- Mississippi Department of Health First Steps Early Intervention
  - MSDH Department of Children and Youth w/ Special Healthcare Needs (CYSHCN)
  - Mississippi Early Learning Alliance
  - Mississippi Department of Human Services (MDHS) Healthy Families Home Visiting
  - Mississippi Department of Child Protective Services
  - Statewide Planning and Development Districts
- 
- A large yellow triangle is positioned in the bottom right corner of the slide, pointing towards the top right.

# How they fit into the HMG Expansion Plan

- **Programmatic Partnerships** build the workforce and capacity to conduct screenings, establish networks of providers, connect to services, and disseminate data across the state.
- **Local Partnerships** serve as pilots for work that can be accomplished at a regional level with service providers who are familiar with families and services in their local communities
- **Statewide Partnerships** establish a precedence for prioritizing early identification, intervention, and training that can be incorporated and funded at the state and federal levels (i.e. Part C)

# Leadership Team

- Mississippi Department of Human Services/MAC Center
- MS State Department of Health
- MS State Department of Mental Health
- MS Department of Child Protective Services
- MS Department of Education, Office of Early Childhood
- University of MS Medical Center
  - Center for Advancement of Youth
  - Children's Clinic
- City of Jackson
- Office of the Governor
- Office of Congressman Bennie Thompson
- Tougaloo College, Delta Health Partners Healthy Start Initiative
- Jackson State University, School of Social Work
- University of Southern MS,
  - Institute for Disability Studies
  - Family 2 Family Health Info and Education Center



- HSR Consulting Group, LLC
- MS Primary Health Care Association
- Kids First Speech-Language Therapy Services, LLC
- Office of the Governor
- The Prosperity Center of Greater Jackson
- Jackson Hinds Comprehensive Health Center
- M.S. Nelums Foundation
- Holmes County School District
- Families as Allies

# How Data Collection is used to increase collaboration





Next Steps





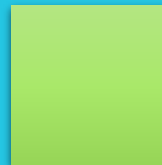
HMG Mississippi designed this model to impact racial equity strategies that improve and close service gaps by increasing access to services across service deficient communities.



In the initial planning year, a sound list of community partners consisting of state and local agencies, providers and advocates were invited to join our efforts and worked to offer insight and assessments of current trends in services for our state



Through extensive readiness assessments and technical assistance from the National Center, the MAC Center was identified as the best possible option to support our expansion plan.



The model was designed to a formal launch in October 2018. Currently, HMG Mississippi has positioned itself for statewide reach through its modified Expansion Plan.

Questions

?

?

Answers

?