

**Chronic Homelessness Policy Academy Mississippi Team Members**  
(Revised 2/6/03)

Royal P. Walker, Jr., J.D., Associate Director (Timekeeper)  
Institute of Disability Studies  
The University of Southern Mississippi  
Box 5163, Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39406-5163  
Phone: (601) 266-5163, Fax: (601) 266-5114, E-Mail: [ids2@ihl.state.ms.us](mailto:ids2@ihl.state.ms.us)

- As Associate Director of the Institute, Mr. Walker brings significant background and expertise in dealing with issues of developing peoples' ability to become independent, productive citizens. Mr. Walker is also involved in policy development for community inclusion, community capacity building, and a continuum of care for persons who are homeless and in need of access to mainstream healthcare services.

Sandra D. Bracey, B.S., Operations Management Analyst, Principal  
Mental Health Division  
Mississippi Division of Medicaid, Office of the Governor  
239 North Lamar Street, Suite 801, Jackson, Mississippi 39201-1399  
Phone: 359-9549, Fax: (601) 359-1383, E-Mail: [lmsdb@medicaid.state.ms.us](mailto:lmsdb@medicaid.state.ms.us)

- Sandra Bracey is an Operations Management Analyst, Principal for the Mental Health Division at the Mississippi Division of Medicaid. Ms. Bracey has been with the Division of Medicaid for two years, primarily working in community-based mental health programs. She also has more than 10 years of experience working with individuals with mental health issues. Ms. Bracey received her Bachelor of Science degree in psychology from Jackson State University, Jackson, Mississippi.

Wanda Niblett Smith, RN, Health Care Policy Advisor (Chair)  
Office of Governor Ronnie Musgrove  
P. O. Box 139, Jackson, Mississippi 39205  
Phone: (601) 359-9228, Fax: (601) 359-3741, Email: [wsmith@governor.state.ms.us](mailto:wsmith@governor.state.ms.us)

- Mrs. Smith is Health Care Policy Advisor to Governor Ronnie Musgrove. She has been in her current position since September 2001. Ms. Smith has been a Registered Nurse since 1981. She brings experience in a variety of settings, including the Veterans Administration, geriatric nursing, behavioral health, home health, intensive care, cardiovascular recovery, and in-patient psychiatric care. From 1996 until 1999, she worked for Mississippi Division of Medicaid, Community Long Term Care, participating in audits of the home and community based waiver program. Ms. Smith also worked at the Mississippi Division of Medicaid, Mental Health Division, from 1999 until 2001, participating in audits of Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities in Mississippi, Florida, Texas, Louisiana, and Tennessee.

Roger McMurtry, Community Mental Health Director (Co-Chair)  
Department of Mental Health  
239 North Lamar Street, Suite 1101, Jackson, MS 39201  
Phone: (601) 359-1288, Fax: (601) 576-4040, E-Mail: [rmcmurtry@msdmh.org](mailto:rmcmurtry@msdmh.org)

- Mr. McMurtry has worked in the Department of Mental Health for over 30 years and has served the last 20 years at the Deputy Director level for program development and implementation. During the last eight years, he has been directly responsible for the statewide administration and planning of community in-patient and out-patient mental health services. He has also had a limited role in the substance abuse service system. The Bureau of Mental Health is responsible for the administration of the PATH Grant, or Project for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness.

Mr. Lucas Watson, Director  
E.J. Ivory Homeless Clinic, Jackson Hinds Comprehensive Health Center  
326 West Pascagoula Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39203  
Phone: (601) 914-1789 or (601) 362-5321, ext: 279, Fax: (601) 914-1792,  
E-Mail: [josephinejackson@hotmail.com](mailto:josephinejackson@hotmail.com)

- Mr. Watson is an advocate for persons who are homeless and who has an understanding of the treatment of substance abuse issues of persons who are homeless and their need for access to mainstream and specialized mental health services.

Vera Butler, Director of TNAF Policy, Division of Economic Assistance  
Mississippi Department of Health and Human Services  
P. O. Box 352, Jackson, Mississippi 39205  
Phone: (601) 359-4853, Fax: (601) 359-4435, E-Mail: [vbutler@mdhs.state.ms.us](mailto:vbutler@mdhs.state.ms.us)

- Vera Butler is the Director of TNAF Policy for the Division of Economic Assistance at the Mississippi Department of Human Services. Responsibilities include: serving as liaison between federal and state representatives; developing and implementing policy, work program activities and special initiatives; and reviewing and collecting data for federal reporting. She received a Bachelor's degree from Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi.

Sam Mozee, Jr., Community Services Division Director  
Mississippi Development Authority  
P.O. Box 849, Jackson, Mississippi 39205  
Phone: (601) 359-3179; Fax: (601) 359-3108; E-Mail: [smozee@mississippi.org](mailto:smozee@mississippi.org)  
Administrative Assistant: Ms. Vicky Boteler (601) 359-2369

- Sam Mozee, Jr. is the Director of the Community Services Division at Mississippi Development Authority. He received a Master's Public Policy and Administration, with a concentration in Community and Economic Development, from Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi. Mr. Mozee has been employed in his current position since August 2001. Mr. Mozee brings over 17 years experience working with federal, state, local, and nonprofit agencies;

experience in managing over \$60 million in grant/loan funds; grantsmanship activities totaling over \$12 million; specialized training in the areas of policy development, program implementation, and community and economic development initiatives; and expertise in managing special projects and initiatives.

Michael Raff, Deputy Director  
Department of Human and Cultural Services  
City of Jackson  
P.O. Box 17  
Jackson, Mississippi 39205-0017  
Phone: (601) 368-7409; Fax: (601) 960-1572; E-Mail: mraff@city.jackson.ms.us or sholden@city.jackson.ms.us

- Michael Raff is the Deputy Director of the Department of Human and Cultural Services for the City of Jackson. He is responsible for the Early Childhood Development, Family and Youth Services, and Senior Services Divisions. Mayor Harvey Johnson has directed the Department to focus on homeless issues of adults and children in the City of Jackson.

Gloria Adams, State Homeless Grant Coordinator  
Mississippi Department of Education  
Central High School Building  
359 North West Street  
P.O. Box 771  
Jackson, Mississippi 39205-0771  
Phone: (601) 359-2581; Fax: (601) 359-2587; E-Mail: gadams@mde.k12.ms.us

- Gloria Adams has served as the State Coordinator for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth Program in Mississippi since 1993. Her responsibilities as State Coordinator includes the coordination of services between the Department of Education and State social services agencies and other community organizations which provide direct services to homeless children and youth and their families. Ms. Adams also conducts workshops in local school districts, community organizations, and churches throughout the state on the awareness of educating homeless children. She received her Bachelors of Science in Business Administration and Masters in Education Administration from Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi.

**Other state team members (self-funded)**

Mrs. Shirley DeVille, Director of Programs (MCCSA, Inc.)  
Multi County Community Service Agency  
Member, Mississippians United to End Homelessness Coalition  
P. O. Box 905, 2900 St. Paul, Meridian, Mississippi, 39302  
Phone: (601) 482-9883, Fax: (601) 482-9861, E-Mail: sdeville@multi-county.org

- Ms. DeVille brings experience in the provision of services through a medical mall concept to the homeless community as well as a regional perspective of a

community dealing with the issues of access to mainstream services for persons who are homeless with chronic mental illness and / or substance abuse issues. Mrs. DeVille is key advocate and a catalyst for policy implementation.

Trisha Colwell  
Planning and Development Director  
Hinds County Human Resource Agency  
258 Maddox Road  
P.O. Box 22657  
Jackson, Mississippi 39225-2657  
Phone: (601) 923-1775, Fax: (601) 923-3925; E-Mail: trishac@hchra.org

- Patricia Colwell has been the Planning and Development Director for Hinds County Human Resource Agency in Jackson, Mississippi since 1994. She is responsible for planning and development of goals, objectives, and strategies that will achieve the mission of the Agency. She administers various homeless and juvenile programs for the Agency and is the Agency's primary grantwriter. Ms. Colwell serves as the facilitator for the Hinds, Rankin, and Copiah Counties *Partners to End Homelessness Coalition*, which oversees the HUD-required Continuum of Care homeless strategy. Ms. Colwell received her Masters of Education from Mississippi State University.

Lolita M. Ross, Executive Director  
Mississippi Association of Community Action Agencies  
P.O. Box 3782  
Jackson, Mississippi 39207-3782  
Phone: (601) 944-1747; Fax: (601) 344-1748; E-Mail: lomross@netzero.net

- Lolita Ross currently serves as the Executive Director for the Mississippi Association of Community Action Agencies (MACAA), which represents the twenty community action agencies providing services to low-income Mississippians. Most recently, MACAA was recognized for its work in low-income advocacy and was awarded the 2002 National Community Advocacy Award in Washington D.C.

**Members who will not attend the policy academy but will assist post-academy:**

Senator Rob Smith  
1401 U. S. Hwy. 49 South  
Richland, Mississippi 39218  
Phone:(601) 939-8445,Fax:(601) 359-3935, E-Mail: rsmith@mail.senate.state.ms.us

- Senator Rob Smith was a member of the Mississippi House of Representatives from 1980-1984 and a member of the Mississippi Senate since 1984. He represents District 35: Simpson, Copiah, Covington, and Rankin counties. He was born in Jackson, Mississippi. He graduated from Florence High School, Mississippi State University, and Mississippi College. He is a realtor and an accountant. He is a member of the Southern Legislative Conference, National Council of State Legislatures, and Southern Regional Education Board. Committees: Corrections, Fees and Salaries, Finance, Highways and

Transportation, Interstate and Federal Cooperation, Municipalities, Ports and Marine Resources, Public Health and Welfare.

Paul Matens

Coordinator of the Health Care for Homeless Veterans Program

1500 Woodrow Wilson Drive

Jackson, Mississippi 39216

Phone: (601) 362-4471,ext5504; Fax: (601) 368-4093, E-Mail: paul.matens@med.va.gov

- Paul Matens is the Coordinator of the Health Care for the Homeless Veterans Program. He has been in this position for 3-4 years. Prior to his current position, Mr. Matens was the Coordinating Social Worker/Coordinator of Outpatient Chemical Dependence Treatment Program. Most of his experience with the Veterans Administration has been in Mental Health/Substance Abuse area. Mr. Matens is also the liaison for the Social Work Trainee Program at the Veterans Administration in Jackson, Mississippi for graduate social worker students from Jackson State University and the University of Southern Mississippi. Mr. Matens is a member of Partners to End Homelessness Coalition (PTEH), on the Board of Directors for Alcohol Services Center in Jackson, and a member of the Mississippi Department of Mental Health, Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Advisory Council. He is married with two grown children.

Linda Townes, Director

Stubbs Homeless Program

P.O. Box 2837

Jackson, Mississippi 39207

Phone: (601) 351-8523; Fax: (601) 351-8528; E-Mail: stubbs@netdoor.com

- Linda Townes is Director of the Mississippi State Hospital Community Services Stubbs Homeless Program, a PATH-funded day program and drop-in center for adult homeless persons who are seriously mentally ill. She has worked with this population for 12 years. She is a founding member of the Partners to End Homelessness Coalition, which heads the continuum of Care for the City of Jackson and Hinds, Rankin, and Copiah counties in Mississippi. She is also the founder and facilitator of MISSIONLinks, an alliance of mental health service providers and emergency and transitional shelters.

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**Additional persons attending 2/21/03 Meetings: Unsure if to be added as members:**

Hope Best, HOPWA Coordinator

MDHS

570 Woodrow Wilson

Jackson, MS PH: (601) 576-7723; e-mail: hbest@msdh.state.ms.us

Ben Mokry, Senior VP

MS Home Corp

P.O. Box 23369 PH: (601) 718-4611; e-mail: bmokry@mshc.com

Paul Jones, Ex. Director

MS Religious Group

P.O. Box 68123  
Jackson, MS 39286 PH: (601)924-7430 e-mail: [pjones@misnet.com](mailto:pjones@misnet.com)

Alberstine J. Pickett, Director  
Department of Mental Health  
239 N. Lamar Street  
Jackson, MS 39201 PH: (601) 359-1288; e-mail: [ajohnson@msdmh.org](mailto:ajohnson@msdmh.org)

Eugene Lockart, Activist - (Formerly Homeless)  
441 N. Pascagoula Street  
Jackson, MS 39202 PH: (601) 495-7127