



South Carolina Home Visiting Summit 2025

Achieving Greater Impact, Together

SEPT. 10-11 AT MARRIOTT COLUMBIA


Children's Trust
OF SOUTH CAROLINA

As South Carolina's leader for the prevention of child abuse and neglect, Children's Trust welcomes you to the 2025 South Carolina Home Visiting Summit. We have designed it to be a quality learning, networking and systems building opportunity for home visitors and early childhood interventionists in South Carolina. We hope you enjoy the summit and are excited to connect, network and learn to achieve greater impact, together.

Keynote Speakers

Gaelin Elmore

Speaker, trainer and thought leader

Gaelin Elmore is a dynamic and nationally sought-after keynote speaker, trainer and thought leader. He works with organizations and people to become belonging-informed in order to help children overcome trauma and unleash their potential.

Gaelin's passion and energy for his work stems from his heart for justice and lived experience, which has led his belonging journey to the National Football League, and now to stages, boardrooms and organizations all across the country. He aims to inspire, encourage and equip others to think differently about their work and its long-term impact on others.

Gaelin now lives in Burnsville, Minnesota, where he gets to experience the purest form of belonging as a husband to his wife, Micaela, and dad to their three children, Laniah, Tatum and Gideon!



Janet Nickell Horras

The Institute for the Advancement of Family Support Professionals

Janet Nickell Horras believes in the power of home visiting to transform and empower families.

She is a national leader in the home visiting field and co-founder of the Institute for the Advancement of Family Support Professionals and currently serves as the Executive Director. She is a founding board member for the Association for State and Tribal Home Visiting Initiatives and the creator of National Home Visiting Week.

Janet began her career in home visiting in 1989 as a home visitor. The families she was honored to serve taught her many life lessons that she still uses today. Janet has worked in different evidence-based home visiting models and held many positions within home visiting programs at national, state and community levels.

She is honored to share the home visiting message across the country, internationally and at the U.S. Capitol. She is passionate about supporting home visitors to provide quality services to families.

Janet is the mom of a blended family of 8 children and grandma to 15.



Featured Speakers

Eric Rowles

Leading to Change, President/CEO

Eric Rowles is a nationally recognized trainer, speaker and consultant whom has worked with more than 150,000 youth, adults, administrators, professionals, and policy makers within the past 15 years. His presentations are legendary – by combining the energy and innovation of a master trainer, while at the same time reaching each of us through his stories, research, and on-the-ground strategies.

One part motivational speaker, one part DJ, and two parts community organizer and parent of 2 daughters, Eric runs a customized consulting and facilitation practice that, through a network of over 20 dynamic and diversely talented trainers, works with for profit and non-profit organizations to achieve progressive and dynamic change.



Leading for Impact: A panel discussion on the shared vision for home visiting in South Carolina



Steven Ferruffino, D.P.C, LPC/S

Chief Transformation Officer

S.C. Department of Social Services



Sue Williams, MBA

Chief Executive Officer

Children's Trust of South Carolina



Facilitator

Pamela S. Gillam, MPA

Director

Center for Applied Research and Evaluation (CARE), Arnold School of Public Health, University of South Carolina



Danielle L. Wingo

Director, Bureau of Maternal and Child Health

S.C. Department of Public Health



Ann Vandervliet

Executive Director

South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness

Looking to Continue Your Professional Development?

The South Carolina Home Visiting Summit is just one part of Children's Trust's commitment to supporting home visiting professionals statewide. Through a partnership with the national Institute for the Advancement of Family Support Professionals, home visiting professionals in South Carolina have access to learning and resources to support their professional development.



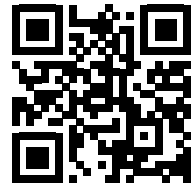
The Institute is your hub for personal growth, career advancement and professional happiness.

Through free online trainings and a personalized professional development plan, you can take control of your growth and advancement. The Institute offers Family Support Professionals everywhere with opportunities to learn new skills and advance their home visiting careers. Want more information about the Institute and how to enhance your learning and professional development? Visit schomevisiting.org/professional-development.



Ready to explore a career in home visiting? Already here?

Knock is a mobile-friendly networking app for home visitors, the perfect tool for anyone looking to break into the field of home visiting or for existing home visitors who want to connect with others and further their knowledge and careers.



knockhv.org

Learning Domains

The South Carolina Home Visiting Consortium has adopted the Core Competency Framework (developed by the Institute for the Advancement of Family Support Professionals) as the foundation for quality professional development of home visiting. Breakout session content is organized by the following learning domains.

Infant and Early Childhood Development

Relationship-Based Family Partnerships

Parent-Child Interactions

Effective Home Visits

Dynamics of Family Relationships

Professional Practice

Community Resources and Support

Wednesday, Sept. 10

Noon to 1 p.m.

Registration

ATRIUM

1 to 1:30 p.m.

Opening Remarks

CAROLINA BALLROOM

1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Opening General Session, Eric Rowles

Recreating Normal: Preparing for the Return, Revival, and Reinvention of Our Work

CAROLINA BALLROOM

What does the NEW version of your work look like in the midst of an unprecedented time? How have you not only pivoted, but also re-positioned for this next phase. This fast, interactive and reflective experience will showcase each of the stages of Re-Creation in your work!

2:30 to 2:45 p.m.

Break

2:45 to 3:45 p.m.

Breakout Session 1

CAPITAL BALLROOM ROOMS I-IV

3:45 to 4 p.m.

Break

4 to 5 p.m.

Breakout Session 2

CAPITAL BALLROOM ROOMS I-IV

Thursday, Sept. 11

8 to 9 a.m.

Breakfast and Registration

ATRIUM

9 to 9:15 a.m.

Opening Remarks

CAROLINA BALLROOM

9:15 to 10:15 a.m.

Leading for Impact Panel

CAROLINA BALLROOM

10:15 to 10:45 a.m.

Exhibitor Break

ATRIUM

Thursday, Sept. 11 continued

10:45 to 11:45 a.m.

Breakout Session 3

CAPITAL BALLROOM ROOMS I-IV

11:45 to 1:15 p.m.

Lunch and General Session, Janet Horras

R.E.S.P.E.C.T.- You've Earned It!

ATRIUM (BUFFET)/CAROLINA BALLROOM

Join us for a lively conversation about being a home visiting professional. What does being part of a profession mean to you? We will discuss strategies for increasing the appreciation and respect for being a home visiting professional and ideas for leveraging a tiered system for a career ladder without leaving home visiting or becoming a supervisor. Intrigued? Join the movement!

1:15 to 1:30 p.m.

Award Recognition

CAROLINA BALLROOM

1:30 to 1:45 p.m.

Exhibitor Break

ATRIUM

1:45 to 2:45 p.m.

Breakout Session 4

CAPITAL BALLROOM ROOMS I-IV

2:45 to 3:00 p.m.

Exhibitor Break

ATRIUM

3 to 4 p.m.

Closing Keynote, Gaelin Elmore

Be The Difference: Belonging is the Support We Need

CAROLINA BALLROOM

What determines if an individual is a "success" story or a "cautionary" tale? Is it talent? Is it resilience or grit? Is it simply luck? Gaelin Elmore knows that stories of caution and success have more things in common than we'd care to admit. He knows because he lived it. Mr. Elmore's powerful story has motivated and inspired thousands, but instead of using his story to focus on "success," he uses it to shed light on the importance of belonging and "support." Throughout this keynote, attendees will be challenged and inspired to be individuals who CARE about belonging, because belonging is 'the difference' between a story of success and a tale of caution

4 to 4:15 p.m.

Closing Remarks

CAROLINA BALLROOM

2:45 to 3:45 p.m.

RELATIONSHIP-BASED FAMILY PARTNERSHIPS ☐

Innovative Approaches to Systems Building Through Home Visiting

Kaitlin Watts

Institute for Child Success

Amber Pendergraph Leak

BirthMatters

Kimberly Freidman

Family Connects International

CAPITAL BALLROOM I

Explore how a collaborative approach can drive impactful, high-level improvements, with a local initiative serving as a key example of its effectiveness. Attendees will gain practical insights into how public and private funding can be combined strategically to maximize local impact, and how to use research and data to inform decision-making, ensuring that investments and programs are strategically aligned with the specific needs of their communities.

EFFECTIVE HOME VISITS ☐

Differential Engagement: Tailoring Communication for Family Connection

Ruth-Naomi James

Ruth-Naomi Consulting

CAPITAL BALLROOM II

This presentation will explore strategic approaches to effectively engaging families from diverse backgrounds, highlighting the challenges of fostering communication in ever-evolving family dynamics. Based on insights gathered from focus groups, interviews and information sessions, this session will share proven strategies for increasing engagement.

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE ☐

Better Together: Strengthening Collaboration between EI and HV

Abbie Lobach, MBA

Flourishing Families Early Intervention

Molly Huber, MSW

Children's Trust of South Carolina

CAPITAL BALLROOM III

This interactive session explores how Early Intervention (BabyNet) providers and Home Visiting programs can work together to better meet family needs. Through discussion of experiences, overview of available HV partnerships and case-studies, participants will learn strategies for collaboration, communication and aligning services to best serve children and their families.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES AND SUPPORT ☐

Responding to Maternal Morbidity and Mortality by Improving Screening and Referral to Care

Marie Hayes, PhD

MUSC - Women's Reproductive Behavioral Health

Katherine Wallace, LISW-CP/MPH

MUSC - Women's Reproductive Behavioral Health

CAPITAL BALLROOM IV

Maternal morbidity and mortality rates are worse in the United States than any other developed country, with substance use disorders (SUD), mental health conditions and intimate partner violence accounting for many pregnancy-related deaths. Learn about two programs offered in South Carolina designed to fill gaps in identifying PMHDs and PSUDs and removing barriers to accessing treatment and/or resources.

4 to 5 p.m.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES AND SUPPORT ☐

Beyond the Diagnosis: Foundational Supports for Individuals with Autism and Their Families in South Carolina

Stephanie Turner, LMSW/MPH/BCBA
S.C. Department of Disabilities and Special Needs

CAPITAL BALLROOM I

This training explores foundational supports available in South Carolina for individuals with autism and their families – beginning with universal prevention services and extending through recovery, maintenance and health-related supports. A special focus will be placed on diagnostic overshadowing, a critical issue in which symptoms of co-occurring conditions are mistakenly attributed to autism, leading to gaps in care and support.

RELATIONSHIP-BASED FAMILY PARTNERSHIPS ☐

Attachment Theory in the Context of La Cuarentena: Exploring Emotional Bonds and Resilience

Christian Garcia, LMSW

CAPITAL BALLROOM II

This session explores the intersection between psychological theory and cultural tradition, focusing on how the Mexican practice of la cuarentena supports early attachment between parent and infant. Rooted in Attachment Theory, this presentation highlights the importance of sensitive, consistent caregiving in the first months of life and how cultural postpartum practices like cuarentena create a nurturing environment for secure attachment to flourish.

EFFECTIVE HOME VISITS ☐

Calm Within Reach: Practical Self-Care for High-Risk Parents

Nina Spinelli MPA/Ry-200/ACE Health Coach
Midlands Chair
Citizen Review Panel

CAPITAL BALLROOM III

In the demanding work of home visiting, case managers often support families facing significant stress, trauma and uncertainty. Attendees will learn how to integrate simple, trauma-informed techniques into their visits that promote parental resilience, emotional regulation, and connection. Drawing on real-life scenarios, the session will offer concrete tools and messaging that case managers can use to normalize self-care and reframe it as a form of family well-being.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES AND SUPPORT ☐

Connecting SC: How Help Me Grow Supports Home Visitors and Families

Susan Callahan, MSW/IMH-E®
Help Me Grow
Marcie Ownby, MA/MS
South Carolina Infant
Mental Health Association

CAPITAL BALLROOM IV

Home visitors play a vital role in supporting child development, yet families often need ongoing resources once they transition out of home visiting programs. Help Me Grow SC serves as a key partner by providing a warm handoff, ensuring families stay connected to developmental services and community supports. By leveraging Help Me Grow SC's resources, professionals across disciplines –early educators, healthcare providers and social service agencies–can better coordinate care, improve child outcomes and build a more resilient early childhood workforce in South Carolina.

10:45 to 11:45 a.m.

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE



The Belonging Need: Understanding Belonging to Go From Surviving to Thriving

Gaelin Elmore

Gaelin Speaks

CAPITAL BALLROOM I

Belonging is a crucial, innate need that influences our daily decisions, motivation, problem-solving and overall well-being. Genuine belonging fosters resilience and positive health outcomes in us, and those that we serve. This workshop addresses the power of belonging through the 4-directional model; internal, horizontal, vertical and external. This workshop will empower participants to embrace belonging and bridge the gap for others while offering a fresh perspective and intention for impactful work.

PARENT-CHILD INTERACTIONS



From Neurons to Nurturing: The Vital Role of Adult Self-Regulation in Healthy Child Development

Joy Venable

Prisma Health, Bradshaw Institute for Community Child Health & Advocacy

CAPITAL BALLROOM II

Imagine feeling more confident in understanding the big feelings of the children and families you serve, and even your own! As home visitors, you're on the front lines, making a real difference right from the start. This engaging session will give you a clear and practical understanding of self-regulation – how we manage our own emotions and behaviors – and co-regulation – how supportive caregivers help children build these vital skills.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES AND SUPPORT



Postpartum Newborn Home Visiting Service by S.C. Department of Public Health Nurses

Janet Duff MSN/RN

S.C. Department of Public Health

CAPITAL BALLROOM III

This session will provide an overview of the Postpartum Newborn Home Visit (PPNBHV) and the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) Pre-Discharge Home Visit, a free service for new moms and their babies. Health department nurses provide visits to eligible families.

DYNAMICS OF FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS



Encouraging Parents to Draw on Their Strengths and Their Child's Strengths!

Kelly Pfeiffer

Go Interactive Training

CAPITAL BALLROOM IV

Parents who have experienced trauma and/or have high ACE scores are often highly discouraged and hyper aware of past mistakes and missed opportunities in their lives. This session will offer professionals a playful hands-on approach to help parents recognize their strengths and support parents in building upon those strengths for achieving goals and overcoming obstacles. Get those pencils and markers out and lets create!

1:45 to 2:45 p.m.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES AND SUPPORT ☐

South Carolina Resource Portals for Parents and Home Visitors

Janet Parenti
South Carolina First Steps

Susan Callahan MSW, IMH-E®
Help Me Grow

Bett Williams
Children’s Trust
of South Carolina

CAPITAL BALLROOM I

This panel will explore the common goals and unique approaches of Help Me Grow, First Five, and SC Parents in connecting South Carolina families to essential resources. Panelists will share how these innovative digital systems can quickly and effectively guide users to assistance and support. They will discuss how each promotes children’s development, bolsters families and helps individuals navigate care systems to enhance their well-being. The discussion will highlight their distinct roles and collaborative efforts to strengthen the resource network for families across the state.

RELATIONSHIP-BASED FAMILY PARTNERSHIPS ☐

Enhancing Family and Community Engagement Through The Four Agreements

Ruth-Naomi James
Ruth-Naomi Consulting

CAPITAL BALLROOM II

Home visitors play a vital role in bridging families, educational systems and communities—often serving as the first point of support and trust for families navigating complex needs. In this engaging and reflective workshop, participants will explore how The Four Agreements by Don Miguel Ruiz can be a powerful tool to enhance family and community engagement.

INFANT AND EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT ☐

The Building Blocks: Messages for Parents, Caregivers, and Communities About Early Childhood Development

Beth Moore
South Carolina First Steps

CAPITAL BALLROOM III

Helping families prepare children for kindergarten doesn’t start at age four—it begins at birth. This interactive session will explore how we can deliver simple, clear and actionable messages that support parents from pregnancy through age five. Participants will work collaboratively to identify common messaging gaps, prioritize what families most need to know at each stage and generate practical strategies for delivering these messages effectively in home visiting and parent education contexts.

PARENT-CHILD INTERACTIONS ☐

Play with Purpose: Strengthening Bonds and Boosting Development Through Everyday Interactions

Keonte Jenkins-Davis, LMSW
Omni Family Institute

CAPITAL BALLROOM IV

Play is not just a childhood pastime—it is a powerful tool for connection, growth and healing. In this interactive session, participants will explore the critical role of play in supporting secure attachment, early brain development and family resilience. Through reflection activities, group games and hands-on demonstrations, attendees will gain practical strategies for promoting parent-child play that is intentional, accessible and rooted in relational health.

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Thank You to Our Supporting Partner



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