HELPING FAMILIES INITIATIVE

Making Alabama's Education Laws Benefit Everyone

Annual Summer Conference

Agenda Overview

July 28-29, 2026 | United Way of Central Alabama

3600 8th Ave S, Birmingham, Alabama 35222

2

DAYS

Shared process
Technology tools
Partnerships
Outcomes

HELPING FAMILIES INITIATIVE
Making Alabama's Education Laws Benefit Everyone

The Conference at a Glance

July 28-29, 2026

A compact two-day program designed to align case officers, circuits, team leaders, partners, and HFI leadership around the process, tools, stories, and outcomes that move families forward.

Tuesday

July 28

9:00	Opening remarks
9:15	Case officer & circuit introductions
10:00	HFI process and workplan
11:00	Case management system, Part 1
12:00	Lunch provided
1:00	Case management system, Part 2
3:15	Success stories

Wednesday

July 29

9:00	Partnerships and outcomes
10:00	The story of ALICE
11:15	Interagency team process
12:15	Conference close

HELPING FAMILIES INITIATIVE
Making Alabama's Education Laws Benefit Everyone

Tuesday Morning: Setting the Foundation

Tuesday, July 28

The morning moves from welcome and introductions into the Robert L. Shaw Lecture and the first case-management system working session.

9:00-9:15 — **Opening Remarks**
John Tyson, Helping Families Initiative

9:15-9:45 — **Case Officer and Circuit Introductions**

10:00-10:45 — **Robert L. Shaw Lecture: The HFI Process and Workplan**
Cheryl Turk, Grady Lacher, Phil Feldman, John Tyson

11:00-12:00 — **The Case Management System, Part 1**
Mitzi Howard - Moss Rock Solutions

HELPING FAMILIES INITIATIVE
Making Alabama's Education Laws Benefit Everyone

Tuesday Afternoon: Tools, Practice, and Stories

Tuesday, July 28

12:00-12:45 — **Lunch Provided**
Time to connect across circuits and teams

1:00-3:00 — **The Case Management System, Part 2**
Mitzi Howard - Moss Rock Solutions

3:15-4:00 — **Success Stories**
Team Leaders and Case Officers

Afternoon emphasis: leave with a stronger shared understanding of the system, the workplan, and the stories that show the model in action.

HELPING FAMILIES INITIATIVE
Making Alabama's Education Laws Benefit Everyone

Wednesday: Partnerships, ALICE, and Interagency Work

Wednesday, July 29

Wednesday shifts the discussion outward: how partnerships change outcomes, what ALICE data can teach us, and how interagency teams coordinate support.

9:00-9:45 **Stronger Together: How Partnerships Change Outcomes**

Shannon Jenkins, President and CEO, United Way of East Central Alabama

10:00-11:00 **Between Surviving and Thriving: The Story of ALICE**

Alec Hopkins, United Ways of Alabama; Shannon Jenkins, United Way of East Central Alabama

11:15-12:15 **The Interagency Team Process**

Eris Beasley, Helping Montgomery Families Initiative Director; Ashley Dudley - Family Sunshine Center; Sandy Kent - Beacon Behavioral Hospital

HELPING FAMILIES INITIATIVE
Making Alabama's Education Laws Benefit Everyone

Five Conference Themes to Reinforce

Agenda through-line

1	**Alignment**	Opening remarks and introductions create a common starting point.
2	**Workplan**	The Robert L. Shaw Lecture anchors the HFI process and plan.
3	**Systems**	Two sessions focus on the case management system.
4	**Partnerships**	Wednesday highlights how collaboration changes outcomes.
5	**Outcomes**	Success stories and ALICE connect the work to real families.

Presenter framing: this is not just a schedule. It is a guided sequence from shared foundation, to practical tools, to collaborative outcomes.

HELPING FAMILIES INITIATIVE
Making Alabama's Education Laws Benefit Everyone

Speaker and Facilitator Snapshot

Who participants will hear from

HFI Leadership	John Tyson
Robert L. Shaw Lecture	Cheryl Turk, Grady Lacher, Phil Feldman, John Tyson
Case Management System	Mitzi Howard - Moss Rock Solutions
Success Stories	Team Leaders and Case Officers
Partnerships / ALICE	Shannon Jenkins and Alec Hopkins
Interagency Team Process	Eris Beasley

Closing Frame for the Overview

What participants should take away

By the end of the conference, participants should be ready to:

- Explain the HFI process and workplan in practical terms.
- Use the case management system with greater confidence.
- Share success stories that reinforce the mission.
- Connect partners, ALICE data, and interagency work to better outcomes.

July 28-29, 2026 | United Way of Central Alabama