



Bridging the Gap Agenda

Day 1 - October 16, 2025

8:30 am	Sign In & Breakfast
9:00-9:15 am	Welcome & Announcements
9:15-10:30 am	General Session: Judges Panel (Judge Sean Courtney, Judge Michael Dickinson, & Judge S. Trent Favre)
10:30-10:45 am	Break
10:45-12:00 pm	General Session: Current Drug Trends (Brad Auringer)
12:00-12:45 pm	Lunch
1:00-2:15 pm	Workshop

Location: Topics	Presenter
Room A: Human Trafficking	Sarah Young, <i>MS Coalition Against Human Trafficking</i>
Room B: Interpersonal Violence	Jessica Henry, <i>Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence</i>
Room C: Drug Testing	Melinda Borja, <i>CASA of South Mississippi</i>
Room D: Resources for Children 0-5	Cathy Wilson, <i>Excel by 5</i>

2:15-2:30 pm	Break
2:30-3:30 pm	General Session: Prosecution of Child Abuse (Chris Daniel & Haley Broom)



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Bridging the Gap

Annual CASA Training Conference

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Day 2 - October 17, 2025

8:30 am	Sign In & Continental Breakfast
9:00-9:15 am	Welcome & Announcements
9:15-10:30 am	General Session: Autism (Alyece Smith)
10:30-10:45 am	Break
10:45-12:00 pm	General Session: Lived Experience in Foster Care (Daniel Harris)
12:00-12:45 pm	Lunch
1:00-2:15 pm	Workshop (1 hr. 15 min)

Location: Topics	Presenter
Room A: Homeless Coalition Resources	Cathy Pitalo, <i>Open Doors Homeless Coalition</i>
Room B: Forensic Interviews	Daniel Dooley, <i>Canopy Child Advocacy Center</i>
Room C: Drug Testing (Repeat)	Melinda Borja, <i>CASA of South Mississippi</i>
Room D: Mental Health Services	Jean Robertson, <i>Pine Belt Mental Healthcare</i>
Room E: Supportive Services	Michelle Eleuterius, <i>Catholic Charities</i>

2:15-2:30 pm	Break
2:30-3:30 pm	General Session: CASA Needs & Responses



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