



RESTORATIVE PRACTICES

In partnership with the ICare Department, the Alternative Programs Office of ReEngagement supports training and implementation of Restorative Practices in East Baton Rouge Parish Schools. The use of Restorative Practices in schools and throughout the community encourages the use of strategies to support students and adults to learn from the experience that led to the conflict, examine attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors which may have contributed to the conflict. Our goal is to reduce suspensions and expulsions district wide and ultimately influence changing mindsets of adults and students in schools.

2019- 2020 EBR Licensed Practitioners



Maureen Laurent, M.Ed, LPP, LPC
Lead Restorative Practices Practitioner

Maureen Laurent is an educator with more than 35 years of experience in the Jefferson Parish and East Baton Rouge Parish public school systems. She began her career as a mathematics teacher at the middle school level and over the years developed an interest in promoting the health, safety, and wellness of students. She earned a Master of Education in Counseling from Loyola University of New Orleans and accreditation as a Louisiana Licensed Professional Counselor. She served as a professional school counselor in both Jefferson and East Baton Rouge until joining the I CARE program in 2011. As an I CARE Specialist she provides prevention services to students at five public schools. She is a Licensed Prevention Professional and is a certified instructor for Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST), SafeTALK, Youth Mental Health First Aid, Restorative Practices, Using Restorative Circles, and Facilitating Restorative Conferences. In 2016, Ms. Laurent helped to compile the Model School District Policy for Youth Suicide Prevention for the LA Dept. of Education.



Rosalind Wright, J.D.

Lead Restorative Practices Practitioner

Rosalind Wright is the Principal at Park Forest Elementary Creative Arts and Sciences Magnet. Her love for teaching and learning is evidenced by her lifetime commitment to children. Principal Wright has presented at the National Girl Bullying and Relational Aggression Conference and the National School Safety Conference. She has traveled extensively throughout Louisiana training school resource and D.A.R.E officers in the areas of chemical dependency, bullying prevention, suicide intervention and Restorative Practices. Her experience with Restorative Practices in schools have afforded her the opportunity to make and sustain relationships with stakeholders for the benefit of students. She firmly believes giving the community a share in the success of a school can increase student achievement and provide framework for future success. Rosalind graduated from Southern University A & M College with her Bachelors in Education and her Master's in Special Education. She further continued her studies and received a Juris Doctorate degree from Southern University Law Center and her Educational Specialist in Leadership degree from American College of Education.



Shelneka Adams, MS

Shelneka Adams was educated through the East Baton Rouge School System (EBR), graduated from Baker High School, and received a full track scholarship to Alabama State University. After completing her undergraduate degree she received a graduate assistantship with ASU's Athletic Department. It was during this time she was encouraged to write her first grant and develop her first program targeting urban youth. After completing her Master's in General Counseling, she moved back to Louisiana and began her career in the social services field. In 2017, Shelneka began working within the EBR School System. During this time she developed a Hardship List at her current school to identify students with minimal home support, assess their needs, and provide resources to combat barriers that make school attendance an issue for these students. She developed the RESET program - Restoring Every Student Every Teacher. This program aims to restore the student-teacher relationship after a student's suspension. Tools within the program are used to prevent behaviors before suspension becomes an option. Shelneka provides individual sessions, group sessions, yoga, meditation, and guided imagery to support her school's climate and culture team. She believes that, "no child is their past behavior; we must 'reset' our mindsets daily if we truly want to remove negative attitudes surrounding discipline and school". She also believes discipline should not be used as a control device in the school-to-prison pipeline, rather it should be used as an opportunity for growth and restoration.



Dionne Chaney, M.Ed.

Dionne Chaney has over seventeen years of extensive experience in the East Baton Rouge School System- serving as a Teacher, Administrative Dean of Students, Time Out Room Moderator, N.I.J Grant Project Manager, and District Safety Team Liaison. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education and a Master of Education degree in Administration and Supervision earning both degrees in five years. She is a proud graduate of Capitol Senior High class of 1991 and Southern University A&M College class of December 2002 and May 2005. Dionne actively served in the United States Navy for four years and now is a proud veteran. Dionne's life has a strong spiritual foundation which allows her to be a naturally effective and passionate RP trainer. Her goals as a RP Trainer are to: (1) help individual improve communication, (2) develop and implement new skills and tools to clarify expectations and create accountability, (3) deal with and resolve conflict using a restorative approach, and (4) create meaningful and positive relationships. Ultimately, she wants to help others develop into the best individual: student; teacher; leader; parent; family member; and/or community resident they can be by introducing them to the Restorative Practices.



Anita Green, M.Ed.

Anita Green holds a Bachelor's degree and received a Master's degree plus 30 from Xavier University. Her certification focused on Supervision of Instruction, Reading Specialist, and Educational Leadership. She is an educator that loves and cares for children who have been entrusted to her. As a librarian at Northdale Superintendent Academy she continues to awakening students' passion for literacy increasing their reading proficiency levels. Anita has worked in EBR school district since 2005 and has also worked in Orleans Parish school district for nineteen years as an Administrator and librarian. She is a strong advocate of implementing restorative practice in the school district and looks forward to positive changes.



Etopia Emery Johnson, M.Ed., MPA

Etopia Emery-Johnson was born and raised in Baton Rouge, LA. She received her K-12 education in the exemplary East Baton Rouge Parish School System. As a student, she always took pride in helping others both academically and socially. She has earned both a Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education and Master's degree in Public Administration in Nonprofit Management from Southern University and A&M College, and a Master's in Education in Curriculum & Instruction from Southeastern Louisiana University. Etopia has more than 15 years of experience in education as a classroom teacher and now serves as a Dean of Students. She has a passion for working with underprivileged students and being a sense of hope for them. She believes that every child can learn and be successful with academic and emotion. She also believes restorative practices is essential to maintaining and increasing student success both inside and outside of the classroom.



Jaleesa Hooker-Jones, M.Ed.

Jaleesa Hooker-Jones was born and raised in Hattiesburg, MS. After completing high school, she moved to Louisiana to attend Southeastern Louisiana University (SELU) and graduated with a degree in Family Studies. Immediately after college Ms. Jones followed in her mother's footsteps and started a career in Human Resources (HR). After working in HR for two years as a Recruiter, Trainer and HR Generalist, she soon realized that her childhood goal of becoming a teacher was her true passion. She returned to SELU to complete her alternative certification. This year she obtained her Master's degree in Education in Curriculum and Instruction from Louisiana State University, Shreveport. Jaleesa has served in many roles while teaching at Broadmoor High School for the past seven years. She was most recently promoted to Restorative Practices/Instructional Support Coordinator. Jaleesa believes that all children can learn when given the proper preparation and acceptance for who they are and where they are in their educational journey.



Kyla S. Oliver, M.Ed.

Kyla Oliver was born and raised in Shreveport, La. where she discovered a love for helping others. She is currently serving as an Assistant Principal in the East Baton Rouge Parish School System, and has served as an educator for 19 years. She is dedicated to ensuring successful implementation of academic progress as well as programs that support the development of the social and emotional development of students. Employing restorative practices, as well as training others on how to implement this program, has been a highlight in her career.



Opel Ridgley, LMSW

Opel Ridgley is a native of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Social Work from Southern University A & M College in 2006. She also earned her Master's degree in Social Work from Southern University of New Orleans. Over the years, she has had the opportunity to work in a variety of settings and gained experience from all of them. It is a part of her nature to care for others, helping to make their lives better and happier. As a school social worker, her goal is to make sure students and families have access to resources that will benefit them in school and society.



Shilonda Shamlin, M.Ed.

Shilonda Shamlin has served the East Baton Rouge Parish School System for 25 years. Her roles have included teacher, 12 years; principal, 10 years; and instructional specialist, 3 years. She currently serves as instructional specialist at the East Baton Rouge Parish Juvenile Detention Center. Her goal is to empower teachers to provide daily rigorous on level instruction to students who have tremendous achievement gaps, and who have met little or no success in the traditional classroom setting. Shilonda is passionate about building support systems to aid in the success of our most challenged youth. She advocates replacing traditional discipline strategies with Restorative Practices as a means to creating a cooperative learning environment. More important, she is convinced that Restorative Practices can provide a foundation to help young people grow and make positive changes in their lives.



Robert Lee Signater Sr., M.Ed.

Robert Signater is an Assistant Principal of Glen Oaks Magnet High school and 29-year employee of the East Baton Rouge Parish school system. He is a member of Lambda Alpha chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. Robert graduated from Southern University A & M College with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Master's degree in Educational Leadership. He is a former high school football coach, 6-time Coach of the Year, and holds 6 district championships. Signater also served as a member of the Louisiana National Guard for 8 years. He takes pride in resolving conflict with students using a more progressive approach to discipline. He feels students should learn from their mistakes and use them as lessons to react differently when presented with conflict.



Daisy Slan, Ed.D.

Daisy Slan was educated in the East Baton Rouge Public Schools. She attended Southern University Agricultural and Mechanical College earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Child Development. She received a Doctorate degree in Education Leadership from George Peabody College of Vanderbilt in Nashville, TN. Daisy has worked in Education for over 40 years. She worked as an elementary teacher both in a self-contained classroom, Title I reading pull-out program, an official with the Louisiana Department of Education in a Special Program to Upgrade Reading and the Bureau of Personnel Evaluation, Louisiana State University in Research and Development working on the Teacher Evaluation System, district supervisor of curriculum and instruction, and district superintendent. Currently, Daisy is employed with East Baton Rouge School District as the facilitator of the District's Instructional Leadership Program. Her goal is to make a difference in the lives of all children, youth, and adults to be safe, healthy, and educated.



Pamela Talbert, M.Ed.

Pamela Talbert is a graduate of Capitol High School and received her Bachelor's Degree and Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from Southern University A & M College. She believes all children are capable of learning and can be taught in an environment where they can grow physically, mentally, emotionally and socially. She has 24-years of experience in the East Baton Rouge Parish School System, serving as a bus driver, teacher, math coach, and dean of students. In her current role as assistant principal at Istrouma High School, Pamela has many opportunities to employ restorative strategies. She works to support educators with cultivating an environment where students are successful and are offered every opportunity to reach their fullest potential. Her aspirations as a Restorative Practices practitioner include bridging the gap of communication between teacher and students, and incorporate parent engagement to help redirect behaviors.



Angela Watts, M.A., M.H.C.

Angela Watts was raised in San Diego, California. She was immersed in different cultures, languages, and able to develop strong lasting relationships with people from all walks of life. As a youth she was recruited to become a member of Advancement Via Individual Determination (A.V.I.D.). A.V.I.D. is a nonprofit program that changes lives by helping schools shift to a more equitable, student-centered approach so they can prepare all students for college, careers, and life. She discovered her passion for counseling, while shadowing her school's counselor. Her career includes providing counseling services to individuals, groups, and families struggling with substance abuse/addiction, incarceration, educational, community, social and emotional issues. She is the School Counselor for an Alternative Programs elementary school with East Baton Rouge Parish Schools. She has a true passion for restorative practices and peace circles. She enjoys watching the metamorphosis take place as participants break out of their cocoon, as self-actualization increases to promote healthy social, emotional and cognitive development.



Darryl Wright, M.S., E.Ds.

Darryl Wright was born, raised, and educated in the schools of East Baton Rouge Parish. He began his work in the educational field by volunteering at a small non-public school where he decided to pursue teaching as a career. He has taught all grades, kindergarten through twelfth; and has become a stronger worker because of those many experiences. He is an accomplished musician who plays several instruments which include the piano, guitar, and flute. Presently, he serves as the Administrative Dean at one of the best alternative high schools in the East Baton Rouge Parish School System. His daily goal is to shine his light bright enough so others can find their path and follow it as they strive to reach their success. As a restorative practices practitioner, he believes the best way to help others is by working with them to reach their goal(s). By working together, nothing is insurmountable.

Request Training

[Click here to complete and submit the request form](#)



East Baton Rouge Parish School System Alternative Programs
Tamara Johnson, Executive Director for School Leadership

East Baton Rouge Parish School System iCare Office
Erin Pourciau- Bradford, Director