



### **Hope L. Crenshaw, PhD**

#### *Executive Director*

Hope is a native of Crenshaw, MS. She graduated from the M.S. Palmer High School in Marks, MS, received her B.A. in Sociology/Anthropology from Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, MN, and her M.A. in Sociology from Minnesota State University—Mankato. After enduring six Minnesota winters, she returned to the warmth of the Mississippi Delta and served as a 9th-12th grade English and Social Studies instructor for four years at her former high school. During this time, she earned her Ed.S. in Educational Leadership from the University of Mississippi—Oxford. Determined to learn more about equity and serving underserved communities, she pursued and completed her Ph.D. in Education Policy Studies from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, with a focus on equity and data driven decision making. Hope brings her background in teacher professional development as well as her experience in program evaluation to Teen Health Mississippi. In her capacity as Executive Director, Hope's responsibilities involve direct interaction with all interested stakeholders, donors, partner organizations, and other policymakers. She works with the Board of Directors to ensure Teen Health Mississippi is functioning according to their mission and goals and operating within budget and funding restrictions. Hope is also responsible for overseeing all Teen Health Mississippi programming and growth and supporting the Teen Health Mississippi staff. Hope is based in the Jackson, Mississippi, office.

### **Josh McCawley**

#### *Deputy Director*

Josh is a native of Omaha, Nebraska. He earned his B.S. in Biological Sciences from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. After graduating in 2006, Josh spent five years teaching, including in Webb, Mississippi, as a Teach For America corps member. While a classroom teacher, Josh saw firsthand the lack of health-related education, resources, and services his students had access to and the negative health, social, and economic consequences that had on their lives. Because of his classroom experience, Josh decided to pursue a Master in Public Health (MPH), with a concentration in Health Policy, from Drexel University. After earning his MPH, Josh joined the Teen Health Mississippi staff where he is working to advocate for local and state policies related to teen sexual health education and services that will impact all youth in Mississippi who are like so many of the students he taught back in Webb, Mississippi. Josh provides issue education and advocacy for local- and state-level policies related to teen sexual health, including issues surrounding sex education and access to healthcare, and provides training and technical assistance to youth-serving professionals to ensure they have the knowledge, skills, and resources to meet sexual and reproductive health needs of the youth they work with. Josh is based in the Jackson, Mississippi, office.



### **Monica Coleman**

#### *Director of Education & Training*

Monica is a native of and currently lives in Tunica, MS. She is a National Certified Counselor (NCC), Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC), Provisional Licensed Professional Counselor (PLPC), and Provisional Certified Addictions Therapist (PCAT). She has more than a decade of experience as an entrepreneur and earned her B.A. in Journalism from University of Texas at Arlington, a B.S. in Psychology from University of Houston, and a M.S. in Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling from University of Memphis. Monica supports THMS's efforts to expand access to and improve the quality of sex education and youth-friendly healthcare services for teens in Mississippi. She directs the Mississippi Sex Education Training Cadre in providing, designing and implementing training for evidence-based comprehensive sex education curricula, professional development opportunities for current and future sex education teachers, and workshops and resources for parents, community, mental health, and faith-based organizations. She also monitors and evaluates systems for THMS's education and training efforts while supporting the strategic growth of the organization. Monica is based in the Clarksdale, Mississippi, office.

### **Justin Lofton**

#### *Youth Engagement Coordinator*

Justin is a native of McComb, Mississippi. He earned his B.S. in Organizational Leadership from Lipscomb University in Nashville, TN. Over the years, Justin has been engaged with a variety of nonprofits from Nashville to Washington D.C., and Mississippi. He also served on Teen Health Mississippi's Mississippi Youth Council (MYCouncil), an initiative with Advocates for Youth, to work collaboratively with passionate youth activists from across Mississippi to support and promote high-quality comprehensive sex education for all young people, when he was in school. Today, Justin is responsible for coordinating the MYCouncil. He is also oversees the coordination of Mississippi Youth Summit (MYSummit), a statewide youth advocacy meeting, where young people learn advocacy skills to fight for issues important to them. Justin is based in the Jackson, Mississippi, office.

### **Whitney S. French, LSW**

#### *Focus4Teens Project Coordinator*

Whitney S. French is a native of Marks, Quitman County, Mississippi, where she currently resides. She is a social worker by trade, having earned her Bachelor of Social Work from Alcorn State University in 2010. After returning to her community from Alcorn, Whitney has worked in various capacities and settings including in-home behavioral interventions, acute mental health assessments and psychosocial education, home and community based Medicaid waiver services, and community health center case management. Whitney's passion is to help eliminate negative narratives of Quitman County, the Delta Region, and Mississippi as a whole.

Whitney's role at THMS is to facilitate interaction between clinical and community partners, consultants, evaluators, trainers, and project officers. Whitney ensures that the Focus4Teens Program is progressing toward its goals of increasing youth friendly sexual and reproductive health service access in Coahoma, Quitman, and Tunica Counties. In addition to her administrative roles, she assists with training facilitation to help adults that work with youth become more informed on issues teens face and approaches to navigating conversations and referrals with teens. Even though she does not provide direct services to youth, she does receive consultations from youth on how services can best reach their age group. Whitney is based in the Clarksdale, Mississippi office.



**Anupria Davenport**

*Pregnancy Assistance Fund Coordinator*

Anupria is a native of Greenville, MS. Anupria earned her Bachelor of Science in Biology from Rust College in 2015. After graduating, she decided to further her education at Jackson State University pursuing a Master of Public Health with a concentration in Epidemiology. After graduating with her MPH in 2017, Anupria has continuously worked with various community partners, stakeholders, and state/ local agencies developing partnerships. Anupria works in collaboration with the Mississippi State Department of Health's Pregnancy Assistance Fund (PAF) to ensure that organizations who serve expectant and parenting teens have the knowledge, skills, and ability to promote positive youth development. She develops a comprehensive resource guide for expectant and parenting teens, and youth-serving professionals in Mississippi. Anupria creates and provides local and state organizations, agencies, and individuals, capacity building trainings to support healthy outcomes for the youth they serve. She also monitors and evaluates all aspects of the resource guide and training materials for continuous quality improvement. Anupria is based out of the Jackson, MS, office.