



**AADCAP**  
American Association of Directors  
of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

*2024 Election of*

**President-Elect**

and

**Secretary-Treasurer**

*Terms of Office: 2024-2026*

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**CANDIDATE BOOKLET**

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## CANDIDATE BIO/STATEMENT FOR PRESIDENT-ELECT

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### **ROBERT CHAYER, M.D.**

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Dr. Robert Chayer is Vice-Chair and Chief of Child and Adolescent Services and an Associate Professor of Psychiatry at the Medical College of Wisconsin and the Chucker Aring Chair of Child Psychiatry at Children's Wisconsin in Milwaukee. He has served in the Division leader since 2009.

Prior to joining the MCW faculty in 2006 much of his clinical work was focused on the care of underserved populations and children and families involved in out of home care. Expanding access for children and families to high quality care in all clinical settings has been the Division's overarching theme for the past 15 years. Key achievements include the growth of the faculty by more than 400%, the development of a state funded primary care consultation program (Wi-CPCP) that supports over 920,000 of Wisconsin's children, the development of a post-graduate APNP training program and the development of a rural CAP Fellowship track to expand the number of Child Psychiatrists in Northern Wisconsin.

Dr Chayer's previous AADCAP leadership roles include serving as Co-Chair of the Administrative Committee for three years, the Co-Chair of the Clinical Committee for one year as well as serving on the Executive Committee as Program Chair for the 2019 meeting.

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## CANDIDATE BIO/STATEMENTS FOR SECRETARY-TREASURER

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### FELICITY ADAMS-VANKE, M.D.

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Thank you for the opportunity to run for Secretary/Treasurer of AADCAP. This organization has been a source of support and education for me since I joined in 2014. I hope to serve AADCAP by maintaining accurate records, using resources wisely, and creating value for our members.

My professional background includes serving as the division director of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at Carilion Clinic/Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine. Since joining AADCAP, I have served on the Administrative Committee and the as a co-chair of the Education Committee.

I completed medical school, residency, and fellowship at UNC-Chapel Hill. After training, I joined the faculty at VT/Carilion and have stayed there, pursuing a career that emphasizes patient care, graduate medical education, and administration. From 2010-2022, I served as the training director for the child and adolescent psychiatry fellowship at VT Carilion, and I have been division director since 2014. I currently serve as an associate training director for our psychiatry residency and have focused that work around creating a sustainable mentoring program that is integrated into residency training.

My clinical practice focuses on the care of individuals with developmental disabilities, and my advocacy work is focused on children in foster care. For many years I have consulted with local departments of social services to help ensure best practices and to create educational resources.

I am grateful to the mentors I have had at AADCAP. If selected, I will work for the present and future health of the organization.

Thank you for your time and your consideration.

### MARGARET “MEG” BENNINGFIELD, M.D.

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Dr. Meg Benningfield is Director of the Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. She joined AADCAP in 2017 and has been an active member, serving as co-chair of the Clinical Affairs committee, co-facilitator of the New Division Directors Round Table, and currently serves as Secretary-Treasurer for the organization.

She is a graduate of Vanderbilt University School of Medicine and pursued clinical training in psychiatry at Harvard where she completed residency in General Psychiatry at Massachusetts General Hospital and McLean Hospitals and a fellowship in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at Cambridge Hospital. In 2008, she joined the faculty at Vanderbilt and has pursued an academic career balanced between research, education, administration, and clinical practice.

Dr. Benningfield provides clinical care for youth and families in acute care and consultative roles and supervises trainees in our outpatient clinics. She leads the Pediatric Behavioral Health team for the Vanderbilt Health Affiliated Network. This team supports pediatricians in primary care across the region to provide behavioral health care and to improve access to community resources. Dr. Benningfield also serves as a member of the team at Vanderbilt's Center of Excellence for Children in State's Custody. At the COE, Dr. Benningfield provides consultation to Tennessee's Department of Children's Services regarding the mental health needs for youth who are in state's custody or at risk for entering state's custody.

Dr. Benningfield is also an active collaborator on multiple NIH funded projects aimed at discovering the neurobiological roots of risk and resilience.



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