



John D. Damon, PhD Chief Executive Officer

John Damon's clinical and executive leadership experience spans more than 25 years. Joining Canopy in 1993, he began as a therapist at the CARES Center Jackson. He went on to become Clinical Director and serve in the capacity of CARES Center Director and Chief Operating Officer before transitioning to Chief Executive Office in 2013. As the primary public figure for the organization, John plays a critical role in fostering relationships between Canopy and other leading healthcare providers, political entities and professional thought leaders and organizations.

Canopy Children's Solution is Mississippi's largest and most comprehensive non-profit provider of children's behavioral health, education, and social services. Dr. Damon works closely with all three branches of government, business thought leaders, and community stakeholders to develop sound public policy, clinical best practices, and catalytic partnerships aimed at helping every child and family reach their full potential.

He has served as president of the National Association for Children's Behavioral Health, president of the Behavioral Health Society of the Mississippi Hospital Association, and president of the Mississippi Association of Child Caring Agencies. He was selected as a Top CEO by the Mississippi Business Journal. He currently serves on the Children's Justice Commission by appointment from the Mississippi Supreme Court. He has also served on other appointed task forces, including the Governor's Healthcare Task Force (chair, Mental Health), the Mississippi's Children's Mental Health Task Force, the Mississippi Autism Advisory Committee, and the Governor's Human Trafficking Taskforce.

Dr. Damon has served as adjunct faculty in undergraduate and graduate academic institutions, and he's been the featured presenter at many state and national conferences as well as the U.S. Senate Caucus Committee on foster care, mental health, and substance abuse. He has co-authored book chapters and Congressional white papers on best practices in children's behavioral health and has published in multiple peer reviewed journals.

Dr. Damon's undergraduate degree is in psychology, he has a master's in marriage and family therapy, and his Ph.D is in clinical psychology. He completed his residency in Child Psychology at University of Mississippi Medical Center.

He and his wife, Helaina, are the proud parents of five children and live in Madison, Mississippi. John is a Fellow of the fifth class of the Health Innovators Fellowship and a member of the Aspen Global Leadership Network.

ABOUT CANOPY CHILDREN'S SOLUTIONS: Canopy Children's Solutions' mission is to help children thrive and families overcome extraordinary challenges. Canopy serves over 5,000 children and their families annually through an array of behavioral health, educational and social service throughout Mississippi. For more than 100 years, Canopy has provided innovative solutions to many of Mississippi's most vulnerable youth. Learn more at mycanopy.org.