Katherine Holman, Ph.D., CCC-SLP
Panel Co-Facilitator

Erica Solliday, M.Ed.
Panel Co-Facilitator

**Breakout 2**
**Finding your Community:**
**Connections for and Insight from Caregivers of Children who Need Significant Supports**

This session will bring together a group of caregivers who are all in the midst of raising and supporting children with autism who need significant supports. Unfortunately, the stories and experiences of this community are not always given the adequate forum and space that they deserve. The intent of this panel will be to build connections for families who hear themselves in the stories shared and raise the awareness and understanding of those who have not had the opportunity to hear and learn from these lived experiences. The panel will be co-facilitated by Dr. Kay Holman and Ms. Erica Solliday and will feature incredible caregivers and their experiences.

- Participants who will attend this presentation will gain a better understanding of the experiences of families who are caring
- Participants who will attend this presentation will learn how best to support families who require more extensive supports and resources.
- Participants who attend this session and who have an autistic child who requires significant supports will have the opportunity to connect with other families who face similar challenges and share their own insights, if desired.
- Participants who will attend this presentation will be invited to commit to take one action step forward to increase awareness or access to a needed resources discussed in the session.

**Dr. Katherine Holman** is an assistant professor in the Department of Special Education at Towson University and a certified speech-language pathologist. She is the director of the Teacher as Leader in Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Master’s program and is a co-editor and author of the book, School Success for Kids with Autism. The focus of her clinical and research has been on developing effective interventions to improve social connections and communication in children with autism and strategies for empowering families.

**Erica Solliday** earned her master’s degree in Early Childhood Special Education from Johns Hopkins University. She started her career in the autism field as the program coordinator for the Achievements program at Kennedy Krieger Institute’s Center for Autism and Related Disorders. Erica went on to become a classroom teacher at the Forbush School’s autism preschool. She has worked for the last 10 years as an Early Childhood Resource Teacher for Baltimore County Public Schools.