



Ayo Afejuku Gathing, M.D. is not only a board certified child, adolescent and adult psychiatrist; she is an author, humanitarian, wife, loving family member, and friend to many. Dr. Gathing earned her Bachelor's of Science in Biology from the Georgia Institute of Technology and her Medical Doctorate from the Morehouse School of Medicine where she received the Pfizer Minority Medical School Scholarship, both in Atlanta, GA. She completed her general psychiatry residency at Emory University from 2006-2009 where she received many accolades and awards was a class representative, and aided in residency recruitment. She chose to further specialize in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry in a fellowship in 2009 to follow her dream to work with children with severe mental illnesses and become an expert in building healthy families. In 2011 Dr. Gathing served as the chief resident of her program where she taught fellow residents, participated in administrative processes, and gained more experience in mental health systems. During fellowship she began her involvement in national advocacy for children with mental illness, by participating in advocacy training for psychiatrists and traveling to Washington D.C. for the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry's (AACAP) Advocacy Days at the capitol. She has also been a two time recipient of the AACAP educational outreach award, received a travel grant from Georgia Psychiatric Physicians Association (GPPA) for advocacy, and presented a clinical case conference at the AACAP 57th Annual Meeting in New York City.

Dr. Gathing continues to be passionate in advocating for vulnerable and underserved populations as well the well-being of individuals and families. She is dedicated to serving her community with efforts to overcome the stigma of mental illness, and strives for on par treatment of mentally ill individuals. She is a Medical Director in healthcare administration where she oversees the appropriate delivery of mental health services to indigent and special needs populations, and serves on the Behavioral Health Advisory Committee for the state of Texas. Dr. Gathing has instituted numerous programs within organizational systems like juvenile justice and child and family services in order to bridge the disparities gap in behavioral health. She considers service a calling and has participated in a medical mission trip, obtained awards and grants for educational outreach, and contributed to community and research projects. Dr. Gathing co-authored a case report published in *Psychosomatics* in 2013: Bifrontal Meningioma presenting as Post-Partum Depression with Psychotic Features, and has other works in development. She hopes to add to the scholarship of and education about mental health and wellness.

While continuing her career in medicine, she strives to be a pioneer for positive change within the healthcare system, the legislature, and her community.