Born and raised in Columbus, Dauntea Anthony Sledge has spent over 13 years in the foster care system, experiencing both persistent poverty and enduring numerous forms of abuse. As he aged out of foster-care at 19, Mr. Sledge felt like he was not fully equipped with the resources needed to be productive in society, nor did the emancipation process prepare him with real life experiences or resources. According to Mr. Sledge, "*Getting Ahead/Brides Out of Poverty* was the springboard for what I call my life training."

This life training that was much needed from learning about accountability and how his environment and people around him had major effects on his outcomes, obstacles, and successes. Getting ahead helped put the science and understanding to Mr. Sledge's life experiences. From hidden rules that described and helped him navigate the different cultures and understanding of what generally what each social-economic class holds most important. The importance of social capital and taking an inventory of your life and the good the bad the ugly. Not a point of complaint but a point of understanding of self and the world we live in to make steps to grow in advocacy among other things.

Since then, Mr. Sledge has become a non-profit professional with a rich and diverse background that includes serving as an independent trainer, a foster care alumnus, a child welfare trainer, consultant, advocate, motivational speaker, and curriculum writer. Through Mr. Sledge's Career, he has served as a Communications Strategist for at-risk populations and low-income families for over a decade, devoting much of his career to leadership development, community engagement, and the empowerment of low-income families Mr. Sledge has also worked closely with legislators in Washington D.C. to help shape policies that will better serve low-income families and help keep them adequately housed with the provision of wrap-around services. Mr. Sledge also resides on various Boards that promote better outcomes for current and former foster and adoptive youth, as well as low-income families.

Mr. Sledge continues to hold fast to a mission of empowering low-income families by working to connect them with the resources and support that will help them navigate their life decisions and improve their quality of life. In this regard, Mr. Sledge diligently commits to providing otherwise marginalized individuals with both representation and a voice in the decision-making processes that impact their lives. Mr. Sledge also advocates individuals as being the catalyst for change in their own lives and believes in supporting the individual initiatives of the families that he serves. Throughout his non-profit service to his community, Mr. Sledge has served in the following capacities:

- Served as Outreach Coordinator of the Ohio Chapter of Foster Care Alumni of America.
- Selected as a FosterClub Allstar of America to attend an intensive leadership training/internship at the FosterClub headquarters in Seaside, Oregon.
- Resided on Foster Youth Board at Capital Law School as consultant and President, also receiving their 2012 Champion Award.
- Received the Everyday Young Heroes Award from Youth Service America (YSA).
- Turn Around Teen Award from The Huckleberry House.
- Ohio delegate for the White House Young America Series representing Ohio in Washington D.C. as a consultant.
- Former President of the Franklin County Youth Advisory Board and Media Spokesperson of the O.H.I.O Youth Advisory Board.
- Interned/consulted for Mike DeWine at the Attorney General's office.
- Facilitated and trained for Village Network, FCCS and, National Youth Advocate Program.
- Alumni Trainer for Institute for Human Services through Ohio Child Welfare Training Program (OCWTP).
- Has consulted for Ohio and Franklin County CASA, Dave Thomas foundation, Poverty Solutions Center, CPO Management, Supreme

court of Ohio, and for the *Getting Ahead in a Just Getting by World* curriculum.

- Getting Ahead 2007- 2018.
- Director of Family and Youth Services at Central Community House 2021-2024