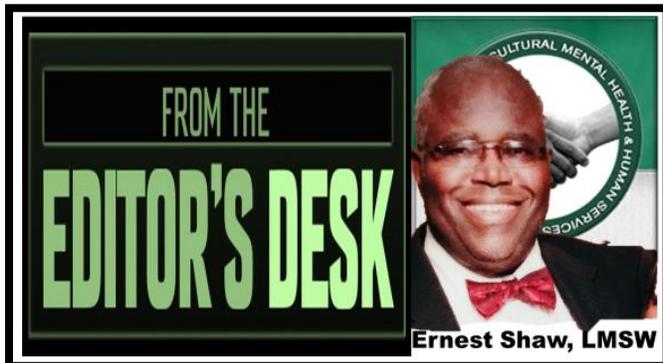




Welcome to the 2019 edition of the Action Council Newsletter. We hope that you will find it informative. In this edition of our newsletter, you will see a detailed summary of the evaluation of the 2019 Cross-Cultural Conference. This is a story written by loyal

attendees who spend their time and their money to attend conferences year after year. We are also happy to see the number of young people who continue to join us and provide us with evidence that we can be hopeful about our future. We are grateful to them and board members such as Dr. Lawson for their effort to attract young people. "First time attending! I will be back next year!" wrote one college student. In the words of our founder, it was "a mountaintop experience." The Education Committee is putting the final touches on the 2020 Conference and we hope that you will join us.

Thank you for reviewing the 2019 edition of our newsletter. I am honored to serve as the



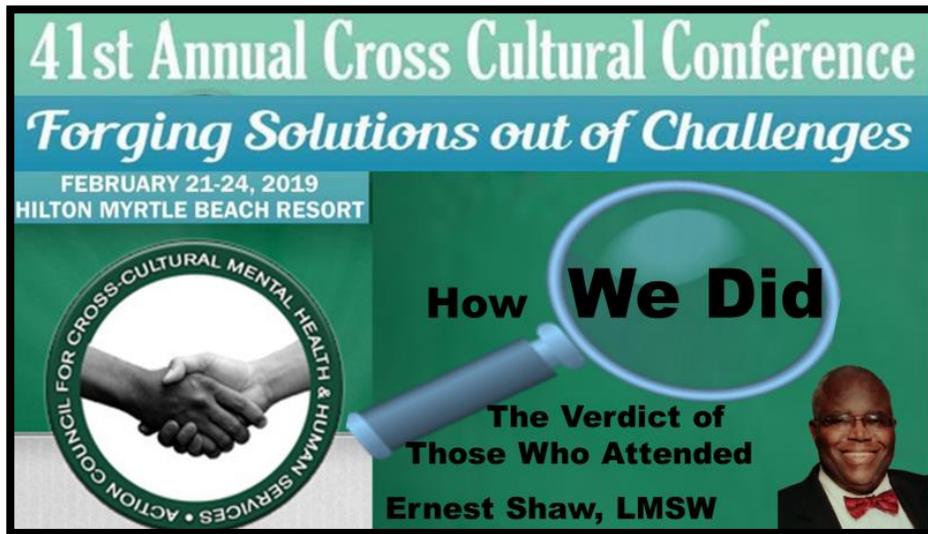
editor and my goal is simply to continue to highlight the rich history of the Action Council and the events of 2019. The primary goal of this organization is to promote cultural competency through the various educational events that we sponsor and present throughout the year. I thank those individuals and organizations who continue to contribute to our success and extend an invitation to everyone to

join us.

You can contribute to the content of the newsletter by submitting print-ready news items and photographs to me at Ernestshaw2001@yahoo.com. We know that you have

wonderful memories of great individuals and great events from our past that should be shared. We also know that you are doing wonderful things out there that we all need to know about.

Please remember that the opinions expressed in this publication are the opinions of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the policies of our organizations. We welcome corrections, opposing opinions, and constructive criticism.



The 41st Annual Cross-Cultural Conference was designed to provide participants with the knowledge, skills, and networking opportunities to enhance the delivery and effectiveness of services in their respective professions. We

believe that the most reliable measure of the effectiveness of our effort is the voluntary and frank assessment of the people who participated in our conference. Therefore, we would like to share with our readers the summary of the assessment of the 2019 conference that was presented to the Educational Planning Committee and the Board of Directors of the Action Council at our March 2019 meeting.

The educational events of the Pre-Conference were held on February 21, 2019. Jodi Flick,



LISW spoke on the topic **CLIENT VIOLENCE: KEEPING YOURSELF & OTHERS SAFE**. Jodi Frick is a Clinical Associate Professor with the School of Social Work at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. She is a member of the North Carolina Suicide Prevention Task Force; the Triangle Coalition for Suicide

Prevention and she facilitates the Chapel Hill Survivors of Suicide Loss Support Group. Her presentation was described as "a Good worship, engaging, informative-useful clinical

information.” One participant wanted “more cultural information”, and another noted “Very good information, but the session was too long after traveling to get here.”

The LGBTQ Youth Panel Discussion participants were Omar Troutman, Ph.D.; Pat Patrick, MSW, LISW, and Jane Clementi, R.N. Dr. Troutman is Clinical Director for the Child, Adolescent and Family Clinic Lexington County Community Mental Health Center.

Tyler Clementi, an 18-year-old Rutgers University freshman was the son of Jane and Joseph Clementi Tyler killed himself in 2010 after learning that his roommate had secretly streamed Mr. Tyler’s romantic interlude with another man over the Internet. In 2011, Jane and her husband's parents, Jane established the Tyler Clementi Foundation in New York.

Harold "Pat" Patrick currently provides consultative services to organizations enhancing trauma-informed services to children and families. He previously served as founder and director of Families First at the SC Department of Social Services. Their effort was described as “Very powerful. Should be repeated and expanded.” One participant thanked Mrs. Clementi for sharing her son’s story and described all the presenters as “delightful and informative.”

OPENING PLENARY SPEAKER SARA GOLDSBY MSW, MPH is the Director of SC Department of Alcohol and Other Drugs. Her presentation was rated as an "A-Plus" by one participant. Another person wrote, “I appreciate the presentation of a difficult topic with a new perspective and in a positive light.” A third participant wrote “Great information on cultural humility.”

Dr. Troutman followed up on his participation on the youth panel with his presentation titled *Addressing the Needs of LGBTQQIA Youth in South Carolina: A Multisystemic Approach to Conceptualization and Care*. Reactions to his presentation included “Every community needs Omar Troutman. Our communities and state still have barriers! A great job by Dr. Troutman!!” Another person expressed appreciation for his presentation and asked that he come to educate the staff at William S. Hall Psychiatric Institute. One reviewer praised his passion but expressed concern noting that “too many smoke screens are thrown out politically on all sides of the political spectrum.”

The Clinical Track also featured *Culturally Informed Psychotherapy* by Mark Nickerson, LISW, the Director of EMDR Advanced Training and Distance Learning. His effort was a continuation of a theme introduced in an earlier address. One participant wrote, “A lot of knowledge/information given.” His presentation was also described as “Very eye-opening,” “Excellent presentation!” and “Well done!”

Priscilla Murphy, LPCMH, MED, BSN, RN. Presented *A Check-Up From the Neck Up*. And she focused on issues such as the shame, myths, and family secrets related to mental health. Her effort was described as “Simply great. Thanks for bringing such an interesting presenter here.” Another participant wrote “Always love a presentation from a nurse’s

perspective. Love the honest perspective or self-reflection and knowing your own beliefs and attitudes.

Prescribing Mindfully: Addressing Mental Health from a Primary Care Perspective was presented by Dr. Jada Quinn, DNP. She was described as an exceptional speaker. “This was a great workshop. The presenter was very knowledgeable about her profession and applications to the real world” wrote a participant.

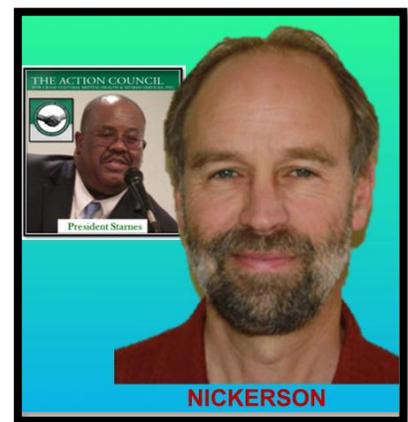
Sexual Health in Clinical Settings: Because Sex Matters! Was presented by Sarah E.



Wright, PSY.D., CST/S Licensed Psychologist, Certified Sex Therapist/Supervisor Live Wright Now, LLC. She noted that our culture, including health care providers, is surprisingly unpracticed at talking about sex. Her effort to address this issue was reviewed favorably. One participant noted “The most interesting presentation. The presenter is very open and

well-rounded on the subject.” Another participant added “Dr. Wright was amazing, funny, informative and kept my attention the entire time. My most favorite presenter of the weekend! “Invite her back!!” noted another attendee.

This writer was privileged to present some observations from an interest of mine in *the Historical Review of Educational Solutions Forged Out of Challenges in the Corridor of Shame*. One participant noted “Wonderful, organized workshop full of information about Corridor of Shame-positive and negative. Wonderful-repeat-expand. Excellent speaker-really knows his history. Enjoyed. Extremely informative for me since I am a California native. Thank you.” Another person described my effort as “The most excellent presentation. The best presentation of the conference.” Criticism included “Wish it could have been more clinical focused session-not sure how I will use this “clinically” in my professional practice.” And “I wanted to hear solutions. We mainly heard the accomplishments of people from the area. That had nothing to do with my job.”



The President’s Luncheon address was delivered by Mark Nickerson, LISCW. Mr. Nickerson spoke about the Interface of Social Justice Work, Social Psychology, and Psychotherapy. His presentation was described as “Very informative, useful and

interesting.” Another participant noted “The presenter was articulate, easy to understand and delivered his views well. Not a luncheon speaker.”

Critical Crossroads: The Intersection of Culture, Trauma, and Education was presented by Tiffany Hollis, Ph.D. Dr. Hollis is an Assistant Professor, Coastal Carolina University One attendee said “Well prepared. Could relate to the discussion topic(s). Prompted audience to engage with points of discussion.” Another person said that her performance rated an A Plus.

The next offering in the Clinical Track was presented by Attorney Rochelle Caton, the Director of the Office of Client Advocacy, Legislative Liaison SC Department of Mental Health who presented *The Law and the Rights of People With Mental Illness*. The goal of the presentation was “to eliminate the mystery of how the law works to free clinicians from the worry of liability to focus on good patient care.” One participant noted, “This was good information in terms of addressing the legality of issues about mental health.”

Karen Starks, Ph.D., LCSW presented *Compliance with the new NASW Code of Ethics:*



How to Avoid 'Situational Ethics' in Work Settings. One participant noted, “Made a boring subject very interesting and interactive.” Another participant wrote “The presenter was knowledgeable, but I did not agree with her “attitude” making social workers “more important” or “better” than LPCs.”

Standing on Shoulders: ROSC (Recovery Oriented Systems of Care) and Recovery Rising in the 21st Century was presented by Nathan Lee Tate, LMSW, LCSW, LCAS, CCS, MAC, ICAADC, MATC who is the Recovery Services Coordinator South Carolina Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services. His presentation was described as “Good talk” and the presenter was called “Humanistic fellow!” A third participant noted, “Presenter was very knowledgeable, gave a lot of good information, but boring.”

Erica Campbell, PH.D., MSW the Interim BSW Program Director and Assistant Professor School of Social Work, Fayetteville State University presented *Exploring “Racial Competency” Among Practitioners Serving Racial and Ethnic Minority Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) Women Survivors*. Her performance was described as “Very interactive discussion, very current, very informative.” Another participant added “Well throughout the case study. Upfront with an issue that needs discussing.” However, one participant said that she was “a bit dismissive of opinions different from hers” while another thought that “the age of presenter affected her ability to relate to this audience.”

The last offering in the Policy Track was *Self-care: Tools for Personal & Professional Well-being* presented by Kori Bloomquest, an Assistant Professor of Social Work at Winthrop University. One participant wrote, “The presenter was organized and made the session very interactive.” Another person noted that her presentation was the “Most important topic of the weekend.”

The OTIS A. CORBITT LUNCHEON SPEAKER was Macie Perry Smith, ED.D, LSW, C-SWCM Dr. Smith is a Certified Gerontology Social Worker, and a Dementia Dialogues Instructor in the field of disabilities and special needs. One participant noted “Great message from such a passionate professional. Happy to have had the opportunity to partake of this presentation!” Another person wrote “Could not have been anyway better. A very intelligent lady to be able to deliver so much valuable information with humor that still notes the concern/natural seriousness. Thank you!”



Other participants observed “Dr. Smith brought energy, information, and humor. It was excellent. Can’t wait to see you back here next year.” The final comment was “Best presentation so far. Absolutely fantastic! She knows her stuff.” Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are potentially traumatic and often culturally relevant events that occur in a child’s life when left untreated can have negative health and well-being outcomes throughout life. *The Impact of Trauma and Power of Resilience* Was presented by Pat Patrick, MSW, LISW. A participant noted, “The session provided excellent statistics of the ACE study and comparable outcomes.” One participant noted that the speaker was soft-spoken making him difficult to hear at times and added: “Otherwise presentation was very informative and useful.”

Diane M. O'Brien, LPC-S, NCC, CCMHC, ACS, CCTP is the Counseling Program Coordinator/Core Faculty/Clinical Director Webster University, Myrtle Beach Metropolitan Campus. She presented *Understanding Neuroscience and Neurocounseling in the Treatment of Co-Occurring Disorders*. Comments about her effort included, “Very sweet fully, and kind. enjoyed her presentation” and “I enjoyed the interactive and engaging presentation on a topic that can be difficult to grasp or boring for some. Thank you, Dr. O’Brien, for a great experience. Another participant felt that two sessions would have been better.



Tracy Richardson, MA, Ph.D. ABD Anderson Oconee Pickens Mental Health Center presented *Behavioral Health Response in a Family Assistance Center*. The speaker was said to have been “Well prepared and she was a great speaker.” Her presentation was

described as “One of the best presentations.” Another person noted that she presented “Loads of information! Very useful information that I could use in a crisis and non-crisis.”

Priscilla Murphy, LPCMH, MED, BSN, RN also presented *A Holistic Approach for Nurses: Who’s Assessing Mental Health Needs?* Responses to her performance included, “Very good information for today’s interaction with all types of clients. Kept the audience’s attention. Very passionate about her information.” Another participant noted “Outstanding presentation. Mrs. Murphy was amazing. Excellent! Love her.”

The Who, What, When, Where, and How of Homelessness was addressed by a panel consisting of Bruce Forbes, Special Projects Coordinator, SHARE; Yulaundra Heyward, M.ED., HS-BCP Retired – Assistant Director Francis Marion University Counseling & Testing Center; Tracy Richardson, MA, Ph.D. ABD Anderson Oconee Pickens Mental Health Center and Kimberly Parsons, LPC Family Justice Centers of Georgetown and Horry Counties.



The panel discussion was described as “Very informative.” Another participant noted the “Very interesting and pitiful story by Joey Smoak of Eastern Carolina Homelessness Organization. Amazing

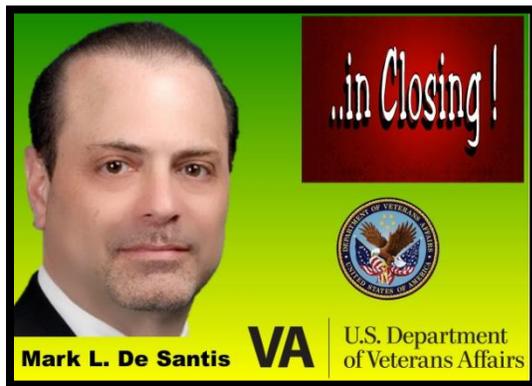
information.” A third person wrote “Very informative...homelessness is my passion. Keep having speakers on this topic.”



We are delighted that so many young people have attended the conference in recent years, and we appreciate the effort that Action Council Board Member Dr. Lawson has put forth to expand our presence among the student population. This year’s *Student Workshop* was presented by Renee P. Coletrain, MSW, an instructor at Midlands Technical College. We appreciate the comments made by the students including “I enjoyed and appreciate all that you said.” Another student wrote “This is such an important session for students. So glad it was given. She had great

energy. Very good presenter, very effective speaking and kept my attention.” Additional comments included “Speaker was very open, straight forward and engaging” and “Absolutely amazing! I loved and enjoyed it so much!”

Mr. Nathan Lee Tate the Recovery Services Coordinator at South Carolina Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services moderated a Panel Discussion titled *Addressing the Growing Opioid Crisis*. Panel members included Emily Blewitt and Jessie Marlowe of Shoreline Behavioral Health Services; M. Gerod Gore and Troy Belton of Advantage Medical Group and Strickland of SC DHEC and Troy Belton. Their presentation was described as “Very interactive and enlightening.” Another participant expressed a desire “to hear more from law enforcement.” There was also an expression of a desire to have “Sara Goldsby present to talk about the new community programs about to be rolled out.” “Great session!”, “Well done” and “Timely” were other terms used to describe the discussion.



The CLOSING BRUNCH, the final event of the 41st Cross-Cultural Conference was delivered by Mark L. De Santis, M.S., PSY.D. of the US Department of Veterans Affairs who spoke on the topic *Suicide Prevention Coordinator Suicide Prevention for Clinicians*.

“Suicide is an important clinical issue but perhaps not for a closing conference presentation” noted one person. Another

participant observed “I hate a talk about stats, but it was helpful to have the language relating to documentation for suicidal ideation vs. suicidal intent. Thanks.” Other comments included “Great presentation. Thank you for your personal history!” The final comment was “First time attending! I will be back next year! Super good beneficial information.”

We greatly appreciate the comments of the participants regarding the quality of the educational events presented at our conference. The comments were generally positive but, several were expressions of concern, and others could be characterized as constructive criticism. “It seems all they cared about was promoting social workers... I really was not happy with the lack of respect towards LPCs” noted one person while another wrote, “...when you advertise “Cross-Cultural” it should include ALL races. I did not see a representation for different cultures such as Hispanic, Asians...etc.”

Again, we appreciate all your comments. Each one is read, and the findings of the total evaluation is presented to our Board of Directors and planning committee. This summary is also published in our newsletters to inform our readers of the results of this participant-based evaluation.

We utilize an evaluation instrument yielding a numerical score that can be used to determine how well we did each year but can also be us to compare our performance from year to year. We will conclude this report by looking at the Overall Conference Evaluation

and the participants' perception as to whether their personal goals and objectives for the conference were met.

The overall Conference Evaluation yielded a score of 3.72 out of 4.0/ This was a slight decrease from last

year. Seventy respondents reported that their personal goals and objectives were met

2019 Conference Evaluation with comparison to earlier years

4.0 Scale	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor				
	4	3	2	1	2016	2017	2018	2019
Educational Value of Conference					3.68	3.94	3.96	3.8
General Sessions					3.59	3.86	3.88	3.75
Concurrent Sessions					3.76	3.92	3.91	3.83
Roundtable Discussions					3.46	3.76	3.82	3.5
Extent Workshops were as stated					3.72	3.86	3.88	3.75
Average:					3.64	3.87	3.89	3.72

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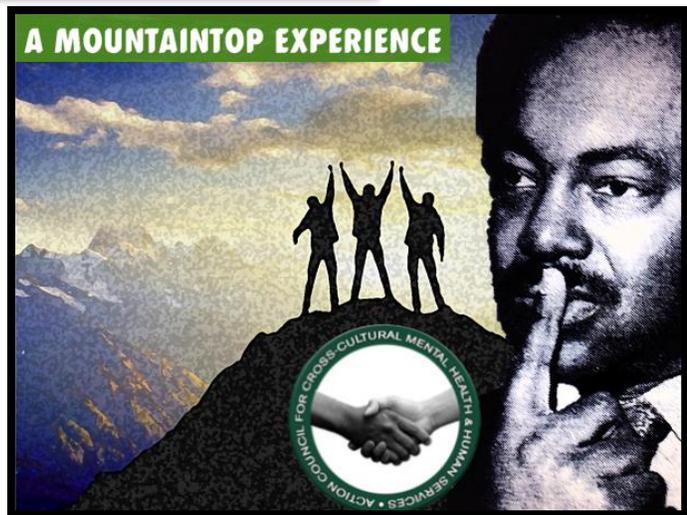
while only three felt that their personal goals and objectives were not met.

2019 Conference	Yes	No	Maybe
Personal goals and objectives met during the conference?	70	3	0
Plan to attend the conference next year?	53	3	17
Action Council Member?	27	44	

THE ACTION COUNCIL
FOR CROSS CULTURAL MENTAL HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES, INC.

At the 2019 conference, it was said that Joe James had attended more conferences than anyone else. Mr. James was asked about his history of attendance at past conferences and he

confirmed that he had attended 40 of the 41 conferences. He missed the one conference that was held outside of the state. In recent years, Mr. James, his wife, and his grandson have been a regular presence at the annual conferences. We appreciate Mr. James' steadfast dedication to the conference. We are proud of the fact that so many participants come back year after year. It is that combination of old "cousins" and newcomers that makes this conference the "mountain top" event that founder Dr. Otis



Corbitt talked about. Therefore, we are happy that 53 of 73 respondents plan to attend the 2020 conference. Only three do not plan to attend while 17 are unsure.

Alfreda King's Mother Remembered



Mrs. Jannie B. Smalls—affectionately known as “Aunt Swing” by her nieces and nephews and “Mrs. Tilly” by her children Jannie was born in 1937 in Orangeburg County.

Her 66-year marriage to Mr. Johnnie Smalls produced ten children including Alfreda. Mrs. Smalls returned to school to graduate from Roberts High School in 1971 when she was nearly twice the age of the typical graduate. Mrs. Smalls was active in Union Hill Missionary Baptist Church and the

Orangeburg-Calhoun Missionary Baptist Association. “Her greatest passion was caring for the sick and her babies.” “With every encounter, she showered her family and friends with compassion, protection, and nourishment through her motherly demeanor and homecooked meals.” She died on June 30, 2019, at the age of 81.

Remembering Edna Smith Primus

Ernest Shaw, LMSW, Editor

In the 2019 Conference Edition of this newsletter, I wrote in *Tearing Down Walls* of the passing of Former Congresswoman Elizabeth Johnston Patterson daughter of former Governor Olin D. Johnston who signed South Carolina’s “Sexual Sterilization” bill in 1935. Several hundred institutionalized women, the poor, and minorities were sterilized without their consent. Although forced sterilization went out of vogue by 1963, the law remained on the books. Elizabeth Patterson worked tirelessly to have the law signed by her father removed from the books. In 1986 the law was repealed, and Elizabeth Patterson said at the time “It’s part of our history... It shows we’ve made progress.”



We recently lost another major figure in this sad chapter in South Carolina's history. Edna Smith Primus died on November 29, 2019. Edna Smith was born in Yemassee and was educated in the local schools and at Mather Academy. She graduated from the University of SC and in 1972 she became the first black female to graduate from USC School of Law.

In 1973 Edna was associated with the SC Council on Human Rights and the local ACLU branch when she learned that Aiken obstetrician Dr. Clovis Pierce was sterilizing black women as a condition of receiving Medicaid and welfare benefits. This was done to prevent them from adding unwanted babies to the welfare rolls. Edna met one of these women and offered the legal services of the ACLU if she chose to sue the doctor. The physician complained to the SC Bar claiming that Attorney Smith was soliciting legal business for personal gain.

For her efforts, the disciplinary board of the state Supreme Court reprimanded Smith. She appealed and her case reached the US Supreme Court. Edna married Marcellus Primus in 1975 and became Edna Smith Primus. In 1978, the court overturned the sanctions against her and broadened free speech rights for non-profit attorneys. Her victory earned her a special place in legal history because of the ruling's effect on First Amendment rights. Dean Robert Wilcox of the USC School of Law said that Edna's case has been taught to future lawyers for 40 years.

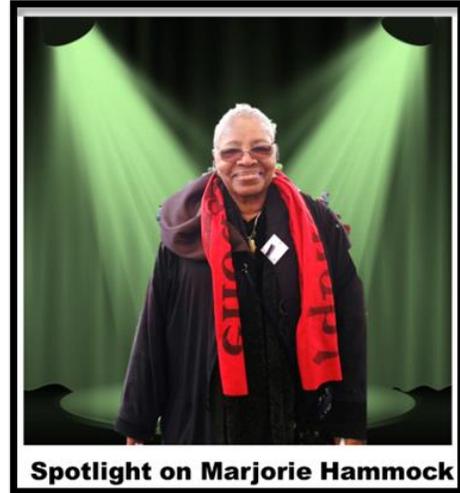
Attorney Primus continued her work on behalf of the often-forgotten people of our state for more than 30 years until she retired from Palmetto Legal Services in Columbia in 2006. Sue Berkowitz, a frequent supporter of our educational efforts wrote "I had the honor of calling Edna my boss for six years at Palmetto Legal Services and learned so much from her. She taught us all to care, show patience and compassion, and how to put our community's needs over our own."

Edna was described as "an exceptional mentor to up and coming attorneys at Palmetto Legal Services. Her influence can be seen in so many places. Her funeral was held on the same day as the hooding ceremony for the winter 2019 graduating class at USC School of Law. Her great-niece Assatta Herbert was one of the graduates. Ms. Herbert is the daughter of Tina Herbert, a graduate of North Carolina Central School of Law.

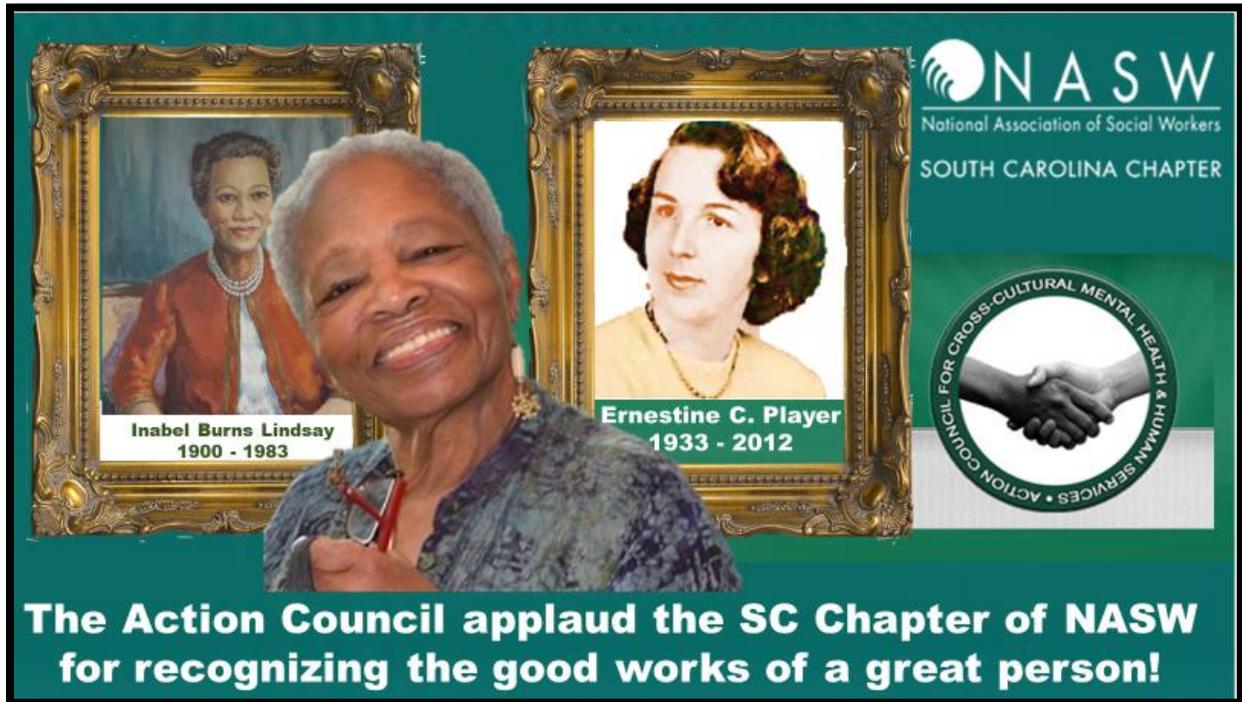
Spotlight on Marjorie Hammock

The South Carolina Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers 2019 Fall Update highlighted the remarkable career of Marjorie Britton Hammock, an individual who has been a major contributor to the success of the National Association of Social Workers and the Action Council for Cross-Cultural Mental Health and Human Services.

Marjorie attended Howard University's School of Social Work. The school's Dean was Inabel Lindsay the first African American female Dean of a School of Social Work. This remarkable woman was also a pioneer of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW). NASW was founded in 1955 and is the largest membership organization of professional social workers. Dean Lindsay encouraged Marjorie to join NASW.



When Marjorie moved to South Carolina she met Ernestine Player, the Social Work Director of the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC). Ernestine



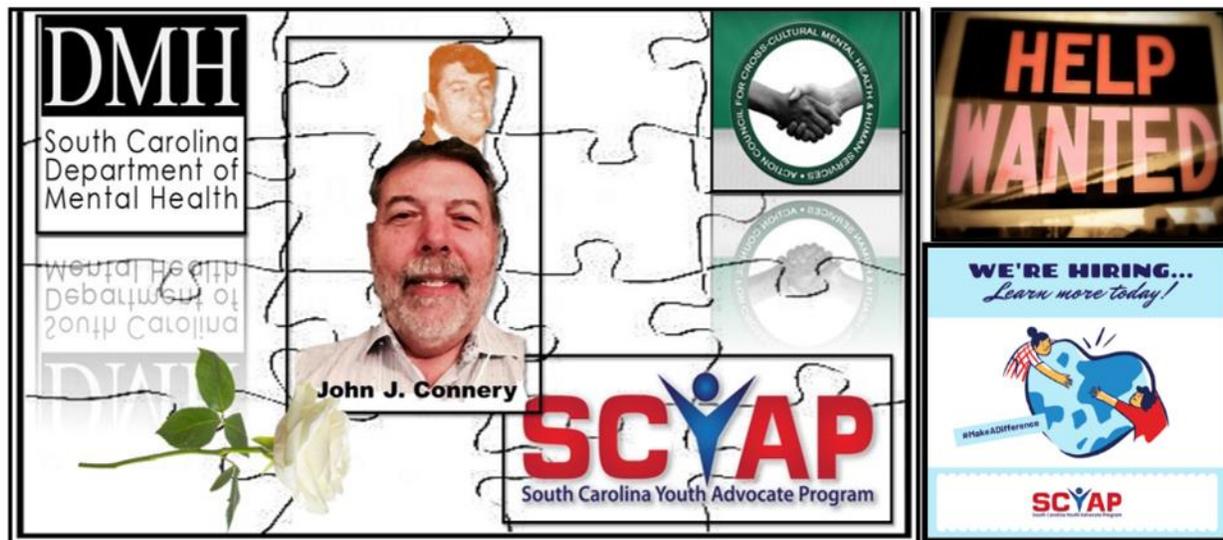
Player was one of the pioneers of the professional social work movement in South Carolina. Ms. Player encourage Marjorie to apply for the position of Executive Director for the SC Chapter of NASW. She served in that position for three years "promoting chapter development, lobbying, advocating, researching, and writing about the challenges

that face social workers in SC. Ms. Hammock. Dolores Macey and determined chapter members were instrumental in the passing of social work licensure in SC. securing national standards for licensure. Today, social workers in South Carolina are licensed and protected by law” stated the story in the NASW newsletter. I served on the Board of Directors of the SC Chapter of NASW and was the secretary at the time of the passage of the licensure law.

The contributions of Marjorie Hammock are numerous. The Action Council for Cross-Cultural Mental Health and Human Services is grateful for her work on our behalf and we share a kindred spirit with the SC Chapter of NASW in expressing appreciation for her efforts to improve the lives of people who are often forgotten in our society.

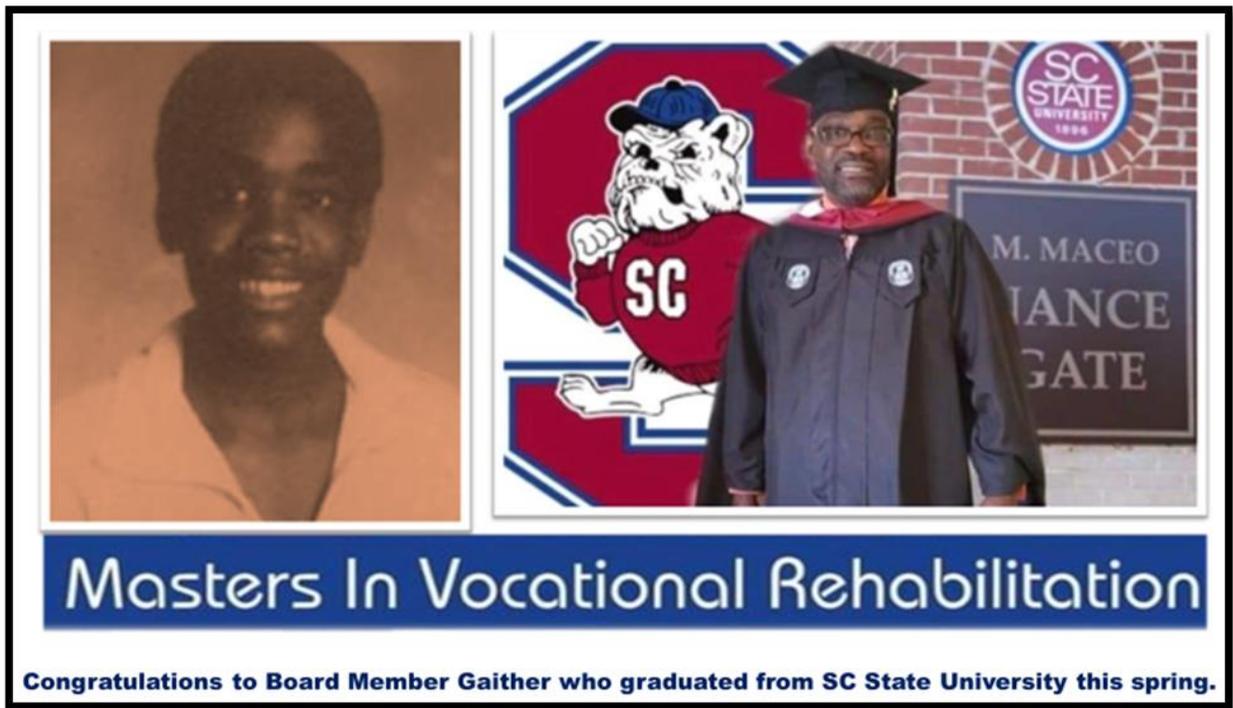
Spotlight on John Connery

Action Council Board member John Connery had a distinguished career at SCDMH. He retired and transitioned seamlessly into the next phase of his life. He went to work for the South Carolina Youth Advocate Program (SCYAP), the state’s premier provider of foster care and community-based services since 1990.



Mr. Connery and members of his staff appeared at a board meeting and provided an overview of the services provided by SCYAP. They are not only accepting referrals but are also looking for professionals with experience in working with children.

We were also saddened to hear of the death of Mr. Connery’s mother, Mrs. Irene P. Connery in Somerset, New Jersey on May 1, 2019, at the age of 96. President Starnes noted, “I know you will remember John and his family in your prayers.”



We Always Knew Tracy Knew How to Climb

Tracy Richardson was promoted to the position of Director of Transition Programs for SCDMH in May 2019. Her program falls under the Division of Medical Affairs. It consists of Transition Specialists Program, Care Coordination/Community Long Term Care Program, and the Patient Affairs Coordinator for SCDMH. The Transition Programs division serves as the bridge between the Department of Inpatient Services staff and Community Mental Health Center Staff to assist our patients with transitioning effectively and efficiently back into the community. Before her promotion, Tracy was the Community Services Manager at the Anderson-Oconee-Pickens MHC. She has been employed with SCDMH for 25 years.



The Board of Directors of the Action Council congratulates Tracy for this well-deserved promotion, and we look forward to her continued contributions to the

success of SCDMH as that agency continues to provide access to the best care during these challenging times.

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My Story, My Way: Conceptualization of Narrative Therapy with Trauma-Exposed Black Male Youth

Laurie Garo The University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Thommi Lawson Webster University

This manuscript conceptualizes narrative therapy as a therapeutic intervention for race-based trauma experienced by trauma-exposed Black males. Urban youth, particularly Black males in high-risk communities, frequently witness community violence and endure multiple ongoing traumas, including those that are race-related. Such trauma may be overlooked or exacerbated in schools through teachers' implicit bias, inappropriate zero-tolerance disciplinary measures, out-of-school suspension, and

misdiagnosis of trauma-related mental illnesses (e.g., anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder) as attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. This research explores race-based trauma from a blended theoretical framework incorporating trauma and narrative theories. Narrative therapy is presented as a collaboration-based counseling approach that emphasizes client experiences. Traditional talk therapies typically ignore race-based trauma as experienced by Black males. A culturally responsive narrative therapy model is proposed that incorporates the client's preferred mode of story-sharing, such as poetry, song/rap, drama, dance, writing, and illustration. Model significance and recommendations for school administrators, counselors, and therapists are provided.



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