

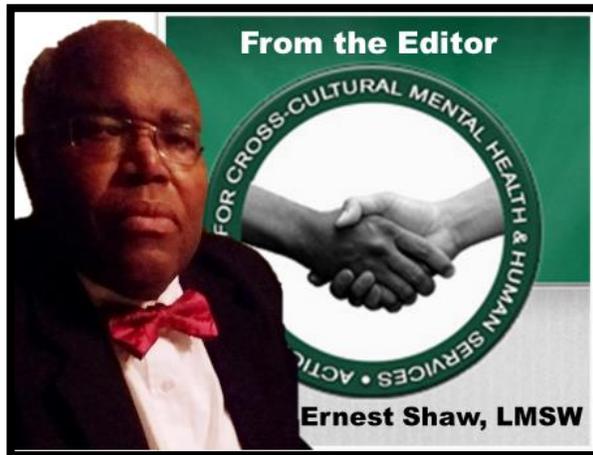


2020 was one of the most challenging years in our history. A worldwide pandemic raged throughout the entire year bring with death and sorrow everywhere. The killing of several unarmed blacks by police occurred with seemingly increasing frequency. Many of the killings sparked protest-some peaceful and others resulted in widespread violence, property destruction, and even other killings. There were calls for criminal justice reform amid charges of systemic racism. Calls for the reevaluation of the allocation of budgets of law enforcement agencies took on a new life as an effort to defund the police by defenders of the status quo. A bitterly fought presidential election was conducted during the above-mentioned pandemic. Voter turnout soared and the incumbent president was defeated in an election that was described as the most secure in our history. Yet the president refused to accept his defeat and he and his supporters plotted to overturn the results with disastrous consequences.

Despite continuing challenges the Action Council must maintain its mission. We must actively promote cultural competency and advocate for inclusiveness and diversity in the provision of mental health and human services. We must advocate for continued access to those services for all segments of our society, particularly groups that have traditionally been underserved.

We were able to hold the 42nd Annual Cross-Cultural Conference. This newsletter will provide our readers with a summary of the qualitative evaluation of the conference.

I urge everyone to continue to work to help us conquer the current pandemic and the forces that continue to divide us. Opportunities often come out of challenges. We routinely meet via zoom and we plan to continue the tradition of providing quality education despite the raging pandemic. Like churches and other organizations-we have learned to embrace technology and planning is underway to conduct next year's conference virtually. We thank everyone for their continued support, and we hope that the development of vaccines will enable us to assemble again soon.



Thank you for reviewing the 2020 edition of our newsletter. I am honored to serve as the editor and my goal is simply to continue to highlight the milestones, events, and activities of the individuals and organizations working on behalf of the mentally ill and others. This newsletter will also present a summary of the evaluation of the 2020 conference by the people who attended the conference. We believe that this is the most accurate way to determine the worth of events such as our conference.

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.

A Look at the 2020 Conference

The Action Council is dedicated to enhancing the management, delivery, and utilization of human services, by and for people of diverse cultural backgrounds in our state. One of the ways that we strive to meet our goal is to present an annual conference designed to provide participants and attendees with the knowledge, skills, and networking

opportunities that will enable them to provide effective services in their respective professions. We must determine the effectiveness of our effort by asking the people who spend money and time to attend our conference to tell us how we did. Here is what they had to say about the 2020 conference.

42nd Annual Cross Cultural Conference
FEBRUARY 13-16, 2020
 Myrtle Beach Sheraton Convention Center

**Expanding the Conversation:
 Strengthening Communities
 Through Informed Care**

How We Did

**The Verdict of
 Those Who Attended**
Ernest Shaw, LMSW

Student Track

**Fostering Resilience:
 Putting the "Self" Back into Self-Care**

Tiffany Hollis, PhD




**Great presenter
 and very enjoying.**

**Private Practice vs Community Counseling:
 The Good, The Bad, and the Ugly**



**Thommi Lawson, PhD
 Moderator**



Elizabeth Marriott

**Private Practice vs Community Counseling: The Good,
 The Bad and The Ugly**

**Wonderful training. Please have again next
 year.**

Learned a lot!

Part 2 needed for next year.



RECOGNIZING AND REPORTING CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT



JESSICA HILL, B.S., M.A.E.
The Children's Law Center
USC School of Law

Recognizing & Reporting Child Abuse & Neglect JESSICA HILL, B.S., M.A.E.

Very informative; Awesome presentation. Very helpful. Great information handouts!!

Very engaging and knowledgeable about topic which was very helpful to me. Would love to take a class with Jessica as instructor. Great Job!

Was outstanding!!!

Very well done with lots of good beneficial information.

OPENING PLENARY SPEAKER

MEERA NARASIMHAM, M.D.



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Department of Neuropsychiatry
and Behavioral Sciences



Absolutely well presented!

Good research information. Relates to future of discipline. Enjoyable.

Would love to have her do a series online.

Very informative. Definitely knew her stuff.

First time I've attended conference that applied connection between ...behavioral and medical health issues and recognizes and promoted integrated care to include all entities at same facility/location. Thank you.

Christina Strayer, Ed.D, LPCS, AAT, CCTP, DCC, EFP



Animals as Healers



Animal-Assisted Therapy
of the Triangle
Take time to paws

Very informative!

Loved this session. I would love to see more of this.

Amazing! Loved this so much. Cookie is so cute!

Brought dog for interaction-great example.

I've been interested in this for awhile. Now I'm going to begin process for myself and my dog. Thank you.

Alcohol and Drug



JILL CROSSGROVE, LPC, CAC-II



Great Presentation, Very informative, and Engaging.

Appreciated the section CBD oil as that is a big issue currently.

Jill did a good job...

Great information on classifications of new drugs.

Great experience! Learned a lot! Thank you!

Should be offered on multiple days so everyone has a chance to attend.

Pre-Conference Panel Discussion THE MANY FACES OF HOMELESSNESS & THEIR IMPACT ON EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES



Would have liked representation from throughout state and from law enforcement.

Great panel; very relevant to the issues & needs in our community.

Very timely subject. Would like handouts.

Very knowledgeable & enthusiastic-worth waiting for.

More library hubs in state! Great idea!

All good but lengthy....

DMH

**PRESIDENT'S LUNCHEON SPEAKER
TRIALS, TRIBULATIONS, AND
TRIUMPHS OF TREATING
TRAUMA**



DEBORAH S. BLALOCK, M.ED., LPCS

SCDMH Community Mental Health Services

Very well done. Thank you for information. I can use even though I am not a clinician.

Heavy but much needed topic.

Passion for helping others clearly evident. Emphasized importance of Cultural Competence & awareness.

Wonderfully presented, both technically and emotionally.

So inspired to know that having just joined DMH, I was able to hear a compassionate, knowledgeable speaker. Thank you so much.

Great presentation! Great food.



**Marjorie Hammock
President's Award Recipient
42nd Annual Cross Cultural Conference**

**Opioid Use Disorder & Medication Assisted Treatment
JACK EMMEL, MD**



Did a great job and kept it interesting.

Love his humor-especially on Valentine Day!

Very well done. Speaker did a great job especially since his time was cut by 40 minutes.

Will definitely be useful in my job. Thank you.

Great presentation. Great Slides.

Excellent engaging presentation. Good fit for audience.

Always engaging-great presenter.

Seeing the Military in Our Multicultural Lens

**LORELL CYNTHIA GORDON, PH.D.,
CACII, LPC, LPC/S, LMFT, LAC**



Great presentation. Approaches used with this population were helpful.

Excellent workshop.

Very informative. I am just curious if there is a resource for military ... for each Branch anywhere.

Did good job of engaging audience.

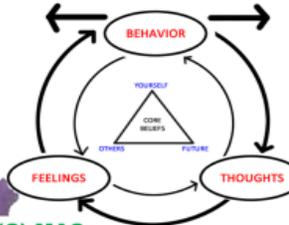
Was good and very easy to understand.



**Understanding DBT: Why Can't "They"
Just Stop Acting that Way**



ANNA HOUSE, MA, LPCS (C) MAC



Very engaged, good use of examples, scenarios.

Very informative, engaged the audience.

Great presenter! Loved openness.

So wonderful-made difficult topic enjoyable and lighthearted yet still serious and applicable.

**Excellent presentation without Slide Show!!
Student of Florence Technical College**

Great enthusiasm, animation, and keeping everyone interested and in tune with subject matter.

Thoroughly enjoyed group activities that allowed me to better understand DBT. She was awesome!

The BEST!!! Anna House is a keeper...Bring her back.

Wonderful examples of interventions that we can use in our practice. Thank You!

Was fantastic. Loved her attitude and energy.

Awesome presentation!!! Interaction was great.

Ethical Issues in Multicultural Counseling



DAVID A. KAHN, PH.D., LPC, LPCS

Webster University



Best one yet. "Still cold." 😊

Fantastic! Concise, yet informative.

Lot of important points made. Loved the Southern/hot vs. Northern/cold joke! Now I know why I talk fast. LOL it's the New Jersey cold I grew up in. Very engaging and relevant.

Great presentation! Very interesting! Knowledge increased!

Thoroughly enjoyed! Highly recommend!

Awesome presentation! Very knowledgeable about topic-ethical issues.

Older Adults and Opioids: Crisis, Risk, & Intervention

C. RAY TAYLOR, ED.D, LPA
Associate Professor of Psychology
University of Mount Olive



Great information. Great work!

Very informative. Explained dynamics of elder adults and opioids. Very clear alternative interventions.

Very knowledgeable. Very engaging. Great sense of humor which participants.

Great presence and ability to engage, particularly after lunch.



EDEN ANDERSON & ROBERT MEANEY of Shoreline Behavioral Health Services; **ADAM BLANTON** of SC Ohio Valley Physicians Health; **TROY BELTON & GEROD GORE** of Advantage Medical Group & **DR. JACK EMMEL**, The Charleston Center



Good panel with good diverse experiences and application.

Loved doctor, experienced clinicians, and especially peer support person.

Very open warm discussion on very difficult topic!!!

Very good, down to earth, hands on discussion...

Very informative & made me want more knowledge of subject!

Prioritizing Self-Care While Caring for Others
CARNELLA HICKSON, RN



Thank you!

Awesome!

Great presentation.

Did a wonderful job! Refreshing.

Thanks for stepping in.

Was more personal experiences vs. evidence based.

Appreciate her sharing personal experiences .



Very informative, helpful! Interesting. New to me.

Insight into a relatively unknown population. Fantastic!

Educational. Really enjoyed. Learned a lot.

Definite eye opener & very informative. More needed for future conferences!!! Maybe multiple sessions at different times.

Wonderful presentation. Would like to see a (Polyamory) & talk.

Managing Challenging Behaviors

JACKIE HENNAGAN-GADSDEN, LBSW, MA



Best workshop! Hope to attend more of hers in the future. Loved her real genuine, cross-cultural and trauma informed approach. I'd like to learn more from her...Makes me want to be a better mother.

Awesome and passionate speaker! Completely down to earth and real about managing challenging behaviors.

Wonderful and beautiful presentation.

This session was empowering, impacting and insightful. There is nothing I would do to change it because it is truly fine how it is.

SUPER!!! She made me cry!

Incredibly moving extremely helpful. An honor to hear her speak. 😊

Excellent! Consider her to present during a plenary session! ❤️

BEST PRESENTER of entire conference!!

Wonderful! Appreciated the openness and honesty in communication. 😊

Fabulous! She was clear and engaging. I'd love to have her back next year.

Awesome! Thank you.

POWERFUL, MOVING, DEFINITELY INVITE HER BACK!

Validated what I know is right. So glad I was here. Thank you.

Best of the best-Awesome.



Janet Mason was wonderful! She needs to be a part of the committee!! Give her my number!! Heather-843-550-7110

African American Women: The Intersection of Faith, Spirituality & Mental Health

GINA N. DUNCAN, MD, FAPA



Eastover Psychological & Psychiatric Group, PA, Charlotte, NC

Seriously pleased and impressed.

Great and informative.

Discussion was particularly effective.

This was really needed. Thank you.

Awesome!

Great workshop.

Extremely beneficial information, very professional presentation, and very relevant topic.

Excellent presentation. Further evidence of need to blend physical and mental health services. Black women are engaged in primary care system and that is the greatest opportunity to engage them in mental health services.

Need to consider as a main speaker.

Exceptional presentation. Helpful & informative.

AWESOME!!!



OTIS A. CORBITT LUNCHEON

KAREN STARKS, PHD, LCSW

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA School of Social Work

A MOUNTAINTOP EXPERIENCE



Very good presentation by speaker who filled in at last minute.

Was too critical and went on political rant.

Food better than first day.

Good information but too long and got off subject.

Motivated me to research what I can do to get involved in the community. The only improvement would be to have more crowd participation.

**CLOSING PLENARY SPEAKER
CULTURAL ISSUES IN DEATH PENALTY CASES
JAN VOGELSANG, MSW, BCD**



Vogelsang Consulting, Inc.
Jan Vogelsang, LISW-CP, BCD

The WITNESS STAND
A Guide for Cultural Social Workers in the Courtroom
JANET VOGELSANG, MSW, BCD

Addressed a lot of interesting statistical data and was very knowledgeable about the histories and other information presented. She did a fantastic job.

Very impactful and powerful.

Eye opening.

Speaker showed passion and in dept knowledge with experiences in this topic. Very eye-opening information.

Very impactful to my understanding how much of the black experience in America is still a negative one and much work needs doing. Thank you, Jan!!

Great closing plenary!! Thank you so much getting great speakers to add to our toolbox!

Well prepared and knowledgeable about death penalty issues.

Please bring back! She's a wealth of information and valuable experiences! Listening to her gave me chills. Her knowledge, compassion, and humor made a very difficult subject digestible.

Inspiring, Timely, Important work for Justice!

Very informative! She's woke!

Always very beneficial to be made aware of all cultural aspects of our nation.

Well presented-very knowledgeable about her expertise.

Overall 2020 Conference Evaluation

<u>4.0 Scale</u>	Excellent 4	Good 3	Fair 2	Poor 1		
			<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
Educational Value of Conference			3.94	3.96	3.8	3.9
General Sessions			3.86	3.88	3.75	3.83
Concurrent Sessions			3.92	3.91	3.83	3.84
Roundtable Discussions			3.76	3.82	3.5	3.73
Extent Workshops were as stated			<u>3.86</u>	<u>3.88</u>	<u>3.75</u>	<u>3.68</u>
Average:			3.87	3.89	3.72	3.8

Personal goals and objectives met during the conference?	Yes	No	Maybe
	51	2	0
Plan to attend the conference next year	42	0	12
Action Council Member	21	31	

Happening At SCDMH

On January 6, 2020, our president received from DMH spokesperson Tracy LaPointe three items of interest from their Mental Health Newslines.

The January 6, 2020 edition of the *Orangeburg Times & Democrat* announced that a Mental health court was planned for Orangeburg County. This program is designed to divert nonviolent offenders to treatment. Orangeburg Area Mental Health Center Director Willie Priester, a long-time supporter of our organization, said that he would expect to see action on the proposal by mid-year 2020.



Executive Director Willie Priester

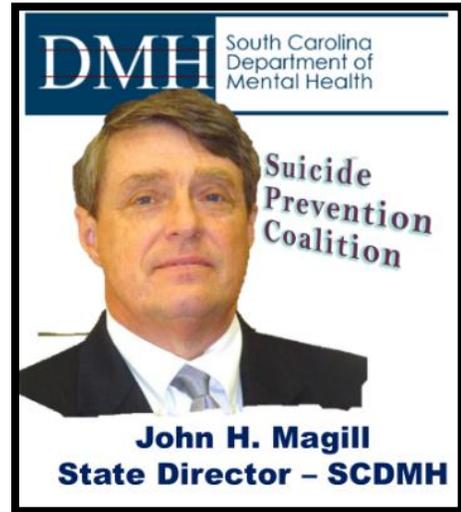


Principal Gary Culler

In 2019, Easley High School in Pickens County partnered with Prisma Health to form a Mental Health First Aid group to serve as a system of support for students. The December 28, 2019 edition of the Greenville News described the program. The school's principal Gary Culler listed mental health as the biggest challenge to our students' success.

In 2016, SCDMH,

the SC chapters of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, and Mental Health America formed the SC Suicide Prevention Coalition. SCDMH Director John Magill served as co-chairman of the coalition. Helen Rogers Pridgen, MSW, LMSW held a leadership role in the relaunch of the South Carolina Suicide Prevention Coalition and she spoke at our conference two years ago. The December 19, 2019 edition of the Lexington County Chronicle described the Coalition's aims to lower suicides by 20%.

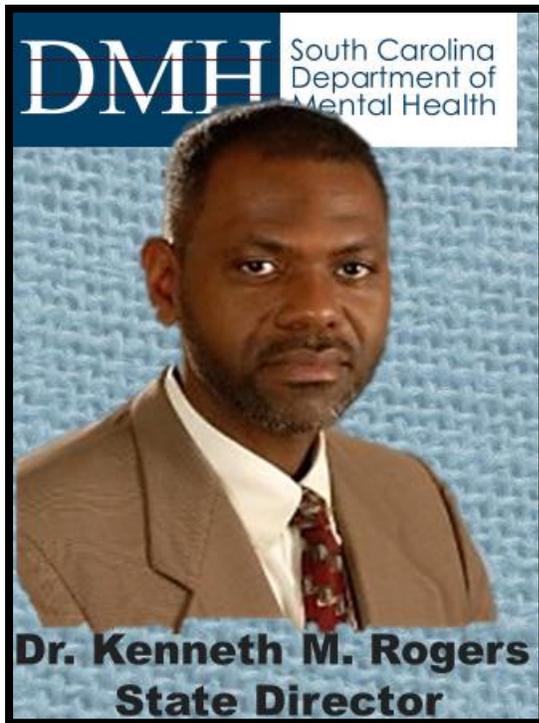


John H. Magill
State Director - SCDMH

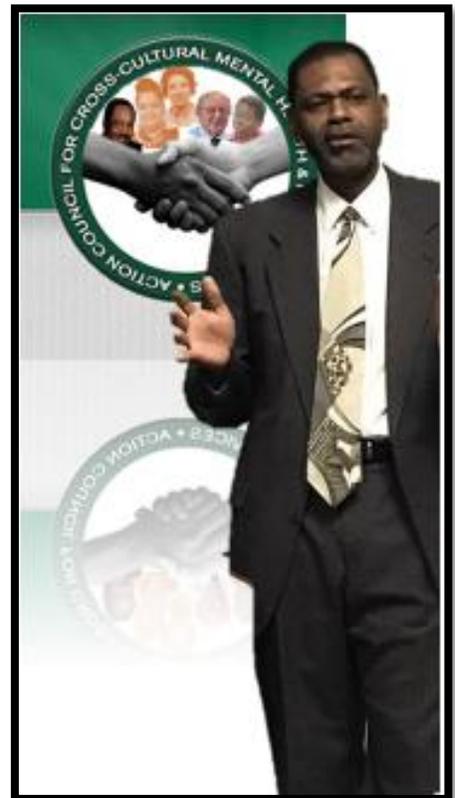
Dr. Kenneth M. Rogers named State Director at SCDMH

In January, The South Carolina Mental Health Commission selected Kenneth M. Rogers, MD, as the next state director for the South Carolina Department of Mental Health. Dr. Rogers began his tenure in April of 2020.

Dr. Rogers was born and raised in Dillon, South Carolina, He is a 1990 graduate of the University of South Carolina School of Medicine. In the 1990s, he completed both his General Psychiatry Residency and a Child Psychiatry fellowship at the William S. Hall Psychiatric Institute. Dr. Rogers is Board certified in both General Psychiatry and Child Psychiatry.



Dr. Rogers previously served as Chair of Psychiatry and Associate Chief Clinical Officer at the former Greenville Health System (now PRISMA). At the time of his appointment, he was the Chief of Psychiatry at Parkland Health and Hospital System and Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, Texas.



Dr. Rogers is no stranger to our organization and our educational events. During the 40th Annual Cross-Cultural Conference held in 2018, spoke on the topic DRAPETOMANIA TO SCHIZOPHRENIA: POLITICS, RACE, AND MENTAL HEALTH. His presentation was rated highly. One participant said he is “Always well prepared”, and another said, “Have him back again.”

We congratulate Dr. Rogers on his appointment, and we look forward to a continuation of the collaboration between SCDMH and our organization that was founded more than 40 years ago by a group of dedicated forward-thinking professionals, many of whom were employees of SCDMH.

To Lose a Mother

2020 was a challenging year for the world, our nation and many of us and our families. As editor of this newsletter, one of my tasks is to note the deaths of individuals affiliated with us and family members of such individuals. This year, I find myself in the strange position of writing about my own loss. On January 8, 2020, my 90-year-old mother died. That evening I was driving to my parents’ home in Williamsburg County when I hit a deer. That little animal did \$6500 damage to my car. My mother’s funeral was held six days later, and my father’s sister died the same day. However, amid my sorrow, my faith in

humanity was restored by many words and deeds of so many of my friends. I will never forget the feeling I experience upon seeing so many familiar faces from Columbia who drove more than 100 miles to such an out of the way place to be present on the worst day of my life. I will never forget the kindness of people that I am privileged to know.

Several other members of the Action Council family experienced losses during 2020. I express my sincere to each of you. To each of you who have suffered losses and we were not aware of your loss, we hope that you are making progress in your journey toward a level of healing.

Ernest Shaw



Looking Forward...

