

From the Desk of the President — James Starnes



James Starnes, President

Minimal effort would be required to substantiate a claim that the year two thousand twelve will offer challenges for the global society. The Action Council offers the Cross Cultural Conference as a tool to ensure that providers of human services are better equipped to help those they are privileged to serve. The Action Council planning committee

has released the program for the 34th Annual Cross Cultural Conference. The theme for the conference is “Mobilizing and Reconfiguring Existing Resources to Enhance Child and Family Well-Being”.

Contact hours and continuing education credits will be offered, as well as, knowledge, skills and networking opportunities.

Attendees will return to their communities with information they can use immediately.

Please review the conference information at the Action Council website at www.crossculturalactioncouncil.org.

This is an organization with thirty four years of experience providing training with a focus on culturally competent human service delivery. Become a member of the Action Council today and share ideas about future training.

With increased numbers of individuals seeking services, as evidenced by ever increasing caseloads and classroom sizes; service providers and educators must be trained to deliver services in a more culturally competent and effective manner with their current resources.

(Continued on page 2)

Our History is Worth Saving: Our Story Must Be Told

In 2006, a story in *The State* newspaper reported that the cost of recovery and preservation of *The Hunley*, a Confederate submarine, exceeded 100 million dollars. This is a tremendous sum of money. However, supporters of the project insist that this rusted piece of metal is such an important part of our heritage that preserving it is worth the cost.

The Action Council and the Cross Cultural Conference are also enduring institutions with a very rich heritage. Our history must be saved also. I would like to begin the process of preserving our history by asking each of you to send me

copies of photos, newspaper clippings, brochures, programs, early editions of newsletters, and your personal stories of the origins, the early years and founding figures of the council and the conference. I would like to begin by putting together a slide presentation to share with our members and supporters at future events.

Please send items of interest to me at

Ernestshaw2001@yahoo.com

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ernest Shaw



Ernest Shaw, LMSW, Editor



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(Continued from page 1) **From the Desk of the President**

The workshops delivered at the Cross Cultural Conference offer attendees this needed training, as well as the opportunity to network with other professionals in their field, hear best practice models, and participate in quality group discussion with experts in their identified area of practice.

Announcing the 2012 Cross-Cultural Conference

We have come a long way since the Cross-Cultural Conference was born on May 21, 1979, at a Greenville Thunderbird Inn Motel," Dr. Otis Corbitt proclaimed on so many occasions.

The 34th Annual Action Council Cross Cultural Conference will be held at the Landmark Resort Hotel in Myrtle Beach, SC, from March 1, 2012, to March 4, 2012. The theme for this year's conference is: *Mobilizing and Reconfiguring Existing Resources to Enhance Child and Family Well-Being.*

"The annual conference is a time-honored tradition for many professionals. Featured speakers include nationally known experts in a variety of fields including: Third Judicial Circuit Solicitor Ernest Finney, III; Judge Amy Land of the Third Circuit Drug Court; Virginia S. Prior, President, Black Administrators in Child Welfare, Inc; and Louise Johnson, MS, Director SC Department of Mental Health, Children's Services. Human services professionals, along with religious leaders and our board members will also contribute greatly to our educational effort and the whole conference experience by presenting twenty-one stimulating workshops divided into Clinical, Family, Community and Policy tracks. We will wrap up Friday



Louise Johnson, MS

and Saturday's offerings with Interactive Summaries. Willie Bethune, MSW, LISW, CP/AP will lead panelist, George Greene, Jr., Julius Jones, LMSW; Linda Salane, PhD; and Carl Jones, PhD, in critical analysis of presentations.



Mark Binkley, JD

Mark Binkley, JD, General Counsel and Program Director, South Carolina Department of Mental Health, will present a series of workshops for legal professionals.

Murry G. Chesson, MA, LMFT/S; and Ethel Blake Bellamy, MA, LPC/S; will present Licensure Training and Supervisor Licensure Training for Professional Counselors and Professional Counselors.

Willie Bethune, MSW, LISW, CP/AP and Carol Wright, PhD, LISW, CP; will present Licensure Training for Bachelor Social Workers, Master Social Workers, and Independent Social Workers Clinical Practice, and Advanced Practice.

A significant number of professionals use contact hours earned at the conference to satisfy their yearly requirements for licensure purposes. We believe that we play a major role in providing relevant educational opportunities to attendees while providing presenters with opportunities to present research findings and accounts of best practice models to professionals with direct care responsibilities.

Please join us in
Myrtle Beach!

Social Workers I Met On the Way To Myrtle Beach

Ernest Shaw, LMSW

I graduated from the University of Connecticut the year Jimmy Carter was elected president. All social work students learn about Jane Adams, the “Mother of Social Work,” and the settlement house movement. Hull House in Chicago, an institution founded by Adams and Ellen Gates Starr in 1889 was the best known of the settlement houses that provided assistance to so many people in need for so many years. Today as I was pondering some practical applications for this year’s conference theme, “*Mobilizing and Reconfiguring Existing Resources to Enhance Child and Family Well-Being*,” I learned that Hull House closed today after 122 years because it could no longer afford to stay open. This is more compelling evidence that today’s social workers, the descendants of Jane Adams, must do more with less. We must work smarter as we work harder.



In an earlier edition of this publication I wrote about the influence that social workers Nell Dabbs and Otis Corbitt had on my early professional life. As the current editor of the newsletter of the Action Council for Mental Health and Human Services; I take this opportunity to pay homage to several social workers that I crossed paths with elsewhere and again at the Action Council and the Cross Cultural Conference.

I spoke at last year’s conference and I told those who attended that the proposed Interstate 93 was actually being built to make it easier for people all over the nation to drive directly to The Cross Cultural Conference in Myrtle Beach. A future trip down the highway to Myrtle Beach may be the physical manifestation of a symbolic journey that several social workers and this one have already taken.

I met Dr. Corbitt early in 1976 when he came to visit with me when I was the new social worker at the Lee County Mental Health Clinic in Bishopville. Lee County was the last of the state’s 46 counties to become a part of the mental health system. I was one of the first full-time staff at the clinic and someone in Columbia had the foresight to know that I needed role models.

Malcolm Stasiowski was a social worker at William S. Hall Psychiatric Institute during the late 1970’s. He came to Lee County regularly as we reviewed discharge plans for hospitalized mental patients from Lee County. I once told him that I wanted his job if he ever decided to give it up. On his last visit to our clinic in December of 1979 he announced, “Ernest! Friday is my last day so you need to call Dolores if you want the job.”

I met Dr. Dolores Macey, Director of Social work Services, at William S. Hall Psychiatric Institute in January of 1980, and after two interviews I convinced her that she should hire me to replace Malcolm. I soon wore out both of my cars driving from Bishopville to Columbia and the resourceful Dr. Macey arranged for me to spend several nights in the historic Babcock Building at South Carolina State Hospital. She entrusted me to work with the patients under her care for seven years. During those years I met several interesting fellow social workers.



I was reintroduced to Otis Corbitt when Dr. Macey sent me to Benedict College to speak to his social work class. Dr. Macey “encouraged” me to offer my candidacy for the position of Secretary of the Board of Directors of the South Carolina Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. I was there when the Bill that licensed social workers was passed.

Meet Our New Board Members

The Board of Directors of the Action Council is tasked by the general membership to accomplish the mission, goals, and functions of the Council through and with the active, responsive support of the said membership. As such, they are empowered to make necessary policy and operational decisions. The continuing success of the Action Council is dependent upon the willingness of a diverse, active, talented, and dedicated group of individuals to serve as board members. The Nominations Committee and its chairperson, Mr. George Greene, presented a slate of three candidates to fill vacancies on the board and we are delighted to present to you the three newest members of the Board of Directors of The Action Council.



Christopher C. Mathis, Jr., PhD. is Senior Research Director, Center of Agricultural Systems Food Production, and Safety and Security at South Carolina State University. He earned a B.S. Degree from Johnson C. Smith University and M.A. and Ph.D from Michigan State University.

One of Dr. Mathis' areas of interest and research is the recruitment, retention, and graduation of underrepresented minorities in agricultural, natural resources, and related science fields.



Ellen Zisholt, M.A., earned a B.A. Degree at City College of New York and a Masters in Art Administration from City College of New York. She served as Managing Director of INTAR/Hispanic-American Arts Center, Director of Cultural Affairs for the City of Savannah, and Executive Director at the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company, the Monmouth County (N.J.) Arts Council,

the Count Basie Theatre, and the Rod Rodgers Dance Company. She is an international consultant and current Professor of Art, Museum Studies; and Director, I. P. Stanback Museum and Planetarium at South Carolina State University.

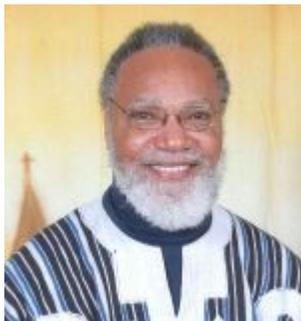
Dr. Christine Boone, ACSW, DSW is Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs/Professor of Social Work and former chairwoman for the social work department



NewsWorthy

Carl Jones Named to Executive Position at Clark Atlanta

Carl Jones was recently appointed Vice President for Enrollment Services and Student Affairs at Clark Atlanta University in Atlanta, Georgia. Dr. Jones, a graduate of South Carolina State University, had been employed as South Carolina State University in Orangeburg since 1990, most recently as vice president for academic success and retention programs. Dr. Jones is a member of the Board of Directors of the Action Council, former President and a frequent presenter at the Cross Cultural Council. The Action Council congratulates Dr. Jones and the Clark Atlanta family.



Dr. Jerome Herman Hanley Remembered

(February 24, 1950 - February 16, 2012)

Friend and popular past presenter at Cross Cultural Conferences.

Dr. Hanley was the first black licensed Clinical Child Psychologist in the State of South Carolina. He retired from the South Carolina Department of Mental Health after 28 years of service.

In memory of Dr. Hanley, donations can be made to Africa's Future-Unbuntu, 300 Forest Grove Lane, Columbia, SC 29210. As little as \$40 can cover the cost of a child's tuition for an entire year.

Visit www.educatingafricasfuture.org for more information.



“Don’t Sympathize – Immunize!”

Dr. Carol Apt, Professor of Sociology, SCSU



While about 90% of American children receive vaccinations for the most common diseases, such as: measles, mumps, diphtheria, chicken pox, and pertussis (whooping cough), there are some parents who refuse to have their children vaccinated. If such misguided parents feel that they are

protecting their kids, they are mistaken. Not only are they placing their offspring at risk for potentially serious, yet preventable diseases, they are also subjecting others to the possibility of catching whatever communicable disease their children have.

According to an article in the December 20, 2011 issue of the Post and Courier newspaper, in those twenty or so states that allow parents to opt out of having their kids vaccinated, there has been an increase in the number of parents who do so. And contrary to popular wisdom, they are not anti-establishment tree huggers for whom the 1960’s never really ended. They are likely to be middle class people with college educations, who give a variety of reasons for why they refuse to allow their children to be vaccinated. Some don’t like what they see as governmental interference in the lives of their children, while others subscribe to the erroneous belief that many diseases for which there are vaccines, like polio, were wiped out and could not possibly pose a threat to American children in the 21st century. Still others believe commonly-held myths about vaccinations. With thanks to Dr. Ari Brown, a pediatrician based in Austin, Texas, I’d like to debunk some of the most widespread misperceptions about childhood immunizations.

You don’t have to vaccinate your kids against diseases that no longer exist in the United States, like polio and diphtheria.

While they are no longer common here, they do exist in other parts of the world, and travelers can bring them back into this country. They spread quickly among people not vaccinated against them.

Childhood immunizations cause autism.

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Institute of medicine, this is absolutely not true; there is no science to support this allegation.

If your kid gets too many vaccines it can overwhelm his/her immune system, leading to illness.

Not true. Children’s immune systems can handle a much larger number of antigens (weak or killed viruses) than they would get from vaccinations.

(continued)

It’s better just to let your kid get a disease like chicken pox, and to let him/her recover from it naturally.

While chicken pox is usually less severe for kids than it is for adults, the possibility of complications, like bacterial infections, from chicken pox can be life-threatening for some children.

Some vaccinations, like the flu shot, give you a case of whatever disease they’re supposed to prevent.

Not so. Some people get flu-like symptoms after they get a flu shot, but that doesn’t mean they have the flu. The feelings of malaise and achiness are the body’s response to a protein in the vaccination. Actually, this is a good sign because it means that the immune system is working.

When you hear of parents whose alleged concern for their children is so great that they refuse to have them immunized, don’t sympathize. Encourage them to immunize.



2011: The Conference Participants Have Their Say

The 33rd Annual Cross Cultural Mental Health and Human Services Conference was held from February 27th – March 2nd 2011 in Myrtle Beach, SC. The theme for that conference was *Empowering Children and Families to Succeed*. The conference’s mission was to provide information, education, and practice skills based on outcomes of outreach studies, social policies, and models for best practices.

A series of workshops provided a format for the discussion of research outcomes, public policy issues, and practical skills. The conference was designed to equip participants with the awareness, knowledge, and skills to more effectively serve consumers and their families. The conference sought to expose participants to current theory and practice as they relate to the provision of mental health and other human services to diverse populations.

Participants were given the opportunity to rate each presentation as excellent, good, fair, or poor. Numerical values ranging from 4 to 1 assigned to the ratings. A review of those evaluations revealed that the Educational Value of Overall Conference was 3.81 out of a possible 4.0.

We greatly appreciate hearing from the people who support our conference by attending each year and we look forward to your attendance at the 2012 Cross Cultural Conference.

Ernest Shaw, LMSW, Editor

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Social Workers I Met on the Way to Myrtle Beach

In the mid 1980's one patient at the Adolescent Unit at William S. Hall Psychiatric Institute was the daughter of a woman who was incarcerated in the South Carolina Department of Corrections. I decided to schedule a session with the patient, her mother, and the mother's social worker from the Department of Corrections. Marjorie Hammock, the correctional social worker, cut through the red tape and brought the incarcerated mother to the hospital for our meeting. Marjorie Hammock was the Director of Social Work at the Department of Corrections by the time I went to work for that agency late in 1990. She invited me to speak with her staff shortly after I arrived. I will always remember Ms. Hammock as an advocate for her staff who were predominantly women working in brutal men's world and an even greater advocate for social work services for troubled inmates.



At an NASW Symposium in Columbia in the mid 1980's, Dr. Macey introduced me to Willie Bethune, Director of the Mental Health Clinic in Williamsburg County at the time. Dr. Macey told Mr. Bethune that I was from Williamsburg County, and he asked me if I wanted to come to work for him. Your job is the only one that I would be interested in, I remember telling him. Mr. Bethune rose to positions of prominence in the South Carolina Department of Mental Health. I have learned many lessons from his stories that he colorfully told as only he can tell. However, I will never forget one moment in time when a gesture by Willie embodied the essence of what I believe that social work is.

Mr. Bethune served as the Executive Director of the Pee Dee Mental Health Center. The Action Council was holding a retreat at his center several years ago when a distraught patient came by. The man said that he had gotten lost while trying to walk back to the residential care facility that he had recently been placed in. Mr. Bethune was leading a discussion when the patient arrived. As the director of the center, he could have directed one of his staff to handle the matter. Instead and without hesitation he excused himself from the meeting, told the patient to get in his car, and took him to his destination. He returned to the center and resumed the discussion that he had suspended earlier.

In the 1980's Dr. Macey asked me to meet with a young lady who came to interview for a job at Hall Psychiatric Institute. I met Shirley Furtick that day, and I encouraged her to come to work at William S. Hall Psychiatric Institute. Ms. Furtick would hold several important positions at the Department of Mental Health. During my years at the Department of Corrections, I knew her as someone who could provide access to mental health services for mentally ill offenders being released from prison at a time when the two agencies were not always on the best of terms. Ironically, at the 1992 Cross-Cultural Conference Shirley and I co-presented the workshop, *Criminal Justice and Mental Health: Are These Agencies Capable of Working Together?*



As I was leaving William S. Hall Psychiatric Institute in 1987, Sharon Rice-Brown was joining Dr. Macey's staff. Her first social work staff meeting was my last one.

I was invited to speak at the Cross-Cultural Conference for the first time in 2001 and I have been involved with the Action Council and the conference ever since. I soon learned that Dr. Macey, Ms. Hammock, Dr. Corbitt, Mr. Bethune, Ms. Furtick, and Ms. Rice-Brown were not only all here, but they were the heart and soul of the Action Council and the Cross Cultural Conference. Ms. Rice-Brown served as editor of this newsletter and she documented our history in these pages for several years. As her successor, I humbly attempt to follow in her footsteps.

I thank her, but most of all, I thank Dr. Macey for introducing me to her and all of these social workers who have given so much to the Action Council and the Cross-Cultural Conference.



2011 Women’s Leadership Conference A Success

The 2011 Women’s Leadership Conference – *Strengthening and Empowering the 21st Century Woman*, was held at Columbia College on May 14, 2011.

I printed a copy of the conference brochure and my schedule at work and my manager, a very dedicated woman, asked me about the conference. I explained to her that it was a conference sponsored by the Action Council, the organization whose board that I serve. “Don’t they know that you are not a woman,” she asked. I considered it a privilege to have had the opportunity to attend this conference with my wife and daughter.



“elaborating on leadership, breakthrough, confidence and competency.”



Linda Salane, PhD

Featured speakers for the 2011 Women’s Leadership Conference included Linda Salane, PhD of Columbia College, Chakisse Newton, President Cardinal Consulting, LLC, and Rev. Jacquie Hood-Martin.

One young lady wrote, “Dr. Salane provided me with tips about progressing individually and professionally. I am ready to take more risks.”

Charmane T. Bethea commented, “I have really enjoyed the knowledge and wisdom...poured into my life on today. It has really given me a better approach on my purpose and destiny. I am going to take this information and share it aboard in my community, my family, school system and my church facility. Thank you so much for elaborating on leadership, breakthrough, confidence and competency.”

Ms. Newton was the Luncheon speaker and her presentation was assessed this way. “And I thought I was a leader!! Well wait until tonight. I was (am) truly motivated to implement these steps toward greater leadership.” Another person wrote, “This presentation taught me to be a LEADER! And not to be afraid to take a step into helping and doing things yourself.”



Chakisse Newton



Rev. Jacquie Hood-Martin

Rev. Jacquie Hood-Martin, Executive & Christian Life Skills Coach, Author, Speaker, Trainer, and wife of journalist Roland Martin, presented a workshop and was also the closing speaker. “Mrs. Martin helped me a lot. She helped me to decide when I need to stand on my own two feet,” one person noted. Another wrote, “I liked this class. It showed me that I can stand on my feet because there’s always a way to do things independently but there’s nothing wrong with a little help.”

“This presentation taught me to be a LEADER! “

Asked to comment on the overall assessment of the first Women’s Leadership Conference, one person said, “Mr. Starnes, Ms. Livingston: Thank you so much for an opportunity to participant in the leadership conference. I have truly enjoyed myself. I will treasure this moment forever. I enjoyed the wonderful people I had a chance to meet.”



Nadine Livingston, MSW

JOIN US

MEMBERSHIP FEES

DUES	MEMBERSHIP TYPE
15.00	Senior Citizen
15.00	Student
20.00	Individual
50.00	Organizational
35.00	Family (2 or more)
5.00	Consumer

Who We Are

The Action Council for Cross-Cultural Mental Health and Human Services, Inc. (ACCMHS) is a voluntary organization dedicated to enhancing the involvement of minority citizens in the management, delivery and utilization of mental health and human services. The Council represents public and private business/industry and organization representatives, professionals, and volunteers who have an interest in cross-cultural issues.

The Council exists for the purpose of understanding diverse cultures, enhancing cultural relations and providing a forum for multi-cultural issues and management/personnel concerns. This includes educational training, resource management and networking toward providing service delivery and cultural awareness.

Why You Should Belong

Statewide and regional support is needed to make the Council's goals a reality. By your membership and interest, you join in enhancing the participation of professionals from diverse cultures in mental health and human services.



ACTION COUNCIL FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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