

The year 2020 has been a momentous one. At the beginning of this year no one could have

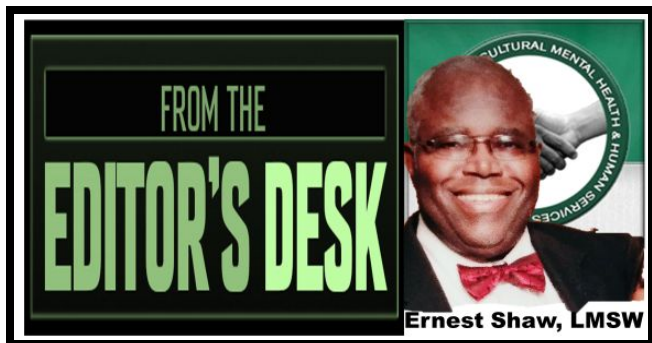


imagined that we would soon be engulfed in a worldwide pandemic that would cause suffering, death, great economic distress bring great changes in so many activities that we have long taken for granted. Yet even in a time of great distress, the action Council family must remain steadfast in our dedication to the belief that the mentally ill among us must be provided quality services provided by the most culturally competent professionals that we are able to recruit support and retain.

The year 2020 ended with a very deceptive presidential election in which the incumbent president ran for reelection, lost decisively but refused to accept the results of the elections despite his inability to provide any evidence of widespread fraud. Instead of working to ensure a peaceful transition to the next administration, he spurred his followers to attack the very foundation of our democratic process. We have an obligation to urge those that we attempt to help to exercise their constitutional rights but to also respect the rights of others and respect the rule of law.

This edition of our newsletter will highlight some of the events of 2020 such as the 41st Annual Cross-Cultural Conference evaluation report, the passing of former President of the Action Council Dr. Ida Wanamaker, the election of new board members and even the election of one of our own as the mayor of one of our favorite towns in our state.

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Thank you for reviewing the 2020 Conference Edition of our newsletter. I am honored to serve as the editor. My goal is simply to continue to tell the story of an annual event with a rich history that is more than 42 years in the making. The Annual Cross-Cultural Conference is the signature educational event of the Action Council.

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 for future events. This edition of the newsletter will provide our readers with an abbreviated account of what happened at last year's conference as we look forward to the 42 Annual Cross-Cultural Conference. A more detailed account was featured in the 2019 edition.

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. Thank you for reviewing the 2020 Conference Edition of our newsletter. I am honored to serve as the editor. My goal is simply to continue to tell the story of an annual event with a rich history that is more than 42 years in the making. The Annual Cross-Cultural Conference is the signature educational event of the Action Council.

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May 13, 2019

Ernie,

A friend of mine here in Greenville, Susan Marshburn—showed me your article “A Look Back” from the 2018 Conference



Edition of the Action Council Newsletter. It was good to see you as often I have told people you were the best at your job of anyone with which I have worked. I have very fond memories of working with you at the Community Cottage at William S. Hall Psychiatric Institute years ago. I was the Center Director of the Greenville Mental Health Center for over 20 years and about eight months ago I stepped down and now am a contractual psychiatrist at the center. It is a bit weird as it is the first time since I finished residency that I am not in an administrative position. To be honest it feels pretty darn good! I hope you and your entire family are doing well and it was great to see you still at work. I hope to cross paths with you again sometime...



your friend/colleague,

Al Edwards

# 41st Annual Cross Cultural Conference

## *Forging Solutions out of Challenges*

FEBRUARY 21-24, 2019  
HILTON MYRTLE BEACH RESORT



How **We Did**

The Verdict of  
Those Who Attended

**Ernest Shaw, LMSW**



2019 Conference Evaluation with comparison to earlier years

4.0 Scale	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor		
	4	3	2	1	2016	2017
Educational Value of Conference	3.68	3.94	3.96	3.8	3.88	3.75
General Sessions	3.59	3.85	3.88	3.75	3.76	3.92
Concurrent Sessions	3.76	3.92	3.91	3.83	3.46	3.76
Roundtable Discussions	3.46	3.76	3.82	3.5	3.72	3.86
Extent Workshops were as stated	3.72	3.86	3.89	3.75	Average: 3.64	3.67
					3.89	3.72

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.

## Celebrating the life of Dr. Wanamaker

We have lost one of the pioneering members of our family. Dr. Ida Jenkins Wanamaker died on August 28, 2019. She was born in Orangeburg County in 1939. The future President of the Action Council was educated in the Orangeburg County Schools and graduated from South Carolina State College with a Bachelor of Science in 1961. She earned a master's degree in Education from South Carolina State College in

1975. In 1981 she earned a Ph.D. in counseling education from the University of South Carolina.

Ida lived in Philadelphia for several years and worked in the Philadelphia Public



School System. There she also met and married the late Carl Wanamaker. Their marriage produced two children. In 1973, she returned to Orangeburg and was employed as a counselor at the Orangeburg Mental Health Center. She also taught at South Carolina State College for several years.

She served as the director of The Counseling Center at South Carolina State University from 1989 until 1991. She returned to the Orangeburg Area Mental Health Center to become the first African American to serve as executive director for 11 years until her retirement in 2002. She was a lifetime member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., where she served as president of the Orangeburg Alumnae Chapter from 1988 to 1992. She also served as president of the Action Council for Cultural Mental Health & Human Services Inc.

Dr. Wanamaker's daughter Debra Michelle Wanamaker-Johnson died on January 21, 2017. She is survived by her son, the Rev. Carl Wanamaker, and wife the Rev. Shelia Wanamaker of Charlotte as well as other relatives, friends, and a multitude of individuals who as a group would agree that the world is a bit better because Dr. Wanamaker passed our way.

Mr. James Starnes, the current President of the Action Council noted "The service she provided to the Action Council and the community is a blueprint for correcting many of the atrocities afflicting our nation. We proudly stand upon her shoulders as we strive to fulfill the mission of the organization she loved and served so well."

Mr. John Connery, who served as a board member of the Action Council worked with Dr. Wanamaker for many years wrote "Ida taught me many important lessons many

years ago. Although we will miss her influence on DMH and our state community will always be present.”

Ernest Shaw, a member of the Board of Directors of The Action Council and editor of this publication wrote “I spent the first part of my professional career as a social worker at the SC Department of Mental Health where I heard rumblings about deinstitutionalized mental patients ending up in prison. Consequently, the next phase of my career took me to the SC Department of Corrections where I worked with mentally ill offenders. Some of the most memorable ones were my former clients from mental health.

In my role as a trainer for the correctional mental health staff, I used every opportunity to tell anyone that would listen that there was only one group of mentally ill citizens but our state had the responsibility of treating some of them in the communities and others in our prisons. My first substantial interaction with Dr. Wanamaker confirmed my belief.

A mentally ill prisoner from Orangeburg County was released to the community at the end of his sentence. I made all necessary aftercare arrangements and provided written instructions for the young man as he was leaving prison. Weeks later, I received a distressing call from him stating that he was out of medication, was not feeling well, and did not know what to do. I called my contact at the SC Department of Mental Health’s central office in Columbia. Almost immediately Dr. Ida Jenkins Wanamaker, the Director of the Orangeburg Area Mental Health Center was on the line and she jumped into action to ensure that the young man was taken care of.”

President Starnes said that “our hearts are broken.” Action Council Board member Tracy Richardson wrote “Our condolences to the Wannamaker family” and she speaks for all of us.

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## Dedication Can Be Contagious

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, a Greek-letter sorority, was founded in 1908 at Howard University “to encourage high scholastic and ethical standards and to promote unity and sisterhood amongst college-trained Black women.” Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. was founded at Howard five years later for similar purposes and goals. Chi Eta Phi Sorority is a professional organization of nurses founded in 1932 at the Howard University Hospital to address racial discrimination against black nurses and patients. in Washington.

The 2019 conference provided professional females and action Council board members the opportunity to celebrate the rich history of sororities. The rest of us were also provided the opportunity to rub shoulders with women who exemplify dedication and service.

Priscilla J. Murphy, a mental health counselor, writer, and lecturer from Newark,



Delaware was a major contributor to the conference's success. Ms. Murphy, a member of Chi Eta Phi Sorority has held several leadership positions with the organization. She was National Secretary from 2009 to 2013. She was First Vice-President from 2013 to 2017 and is currently the 21st

National President of Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Incorporated. Nadine Livingston is an Action Council Board member and a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. We were extremely fortunate that Nadine and Planning Committee members were able to get Ms. Murphy to come to Myrtle Beach to share her expertise with us.

Ms. Murphy, National President of Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Incorporated found kindred spirits awaiting her such as nurse and board member Elaine Leonard, a fellow member of Chi Eta Phi Sorority.

Elaine is just one of several women who have brought a dedication to service to our organization. In doing so they are following in the footsteps of a pioneer member of our organization. The Orangeburg Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. was organized in 1943. Future Action Council President Dr. Ida Wanamaker was a lifetime member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She served as president of the Orangeburg Alumnae Chapter from 1988 to 1992.

Tessie Washington-Heyward was a counselor at Orangeburg Area Mental Health from 2002 to 2004 where she worked for Dr. Wanamaker. Tessie is a member of The Orangeburg Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She has served as Second Vice President since 2016. Tessie is one of the newest members of the Board of Directors of the Action Council.

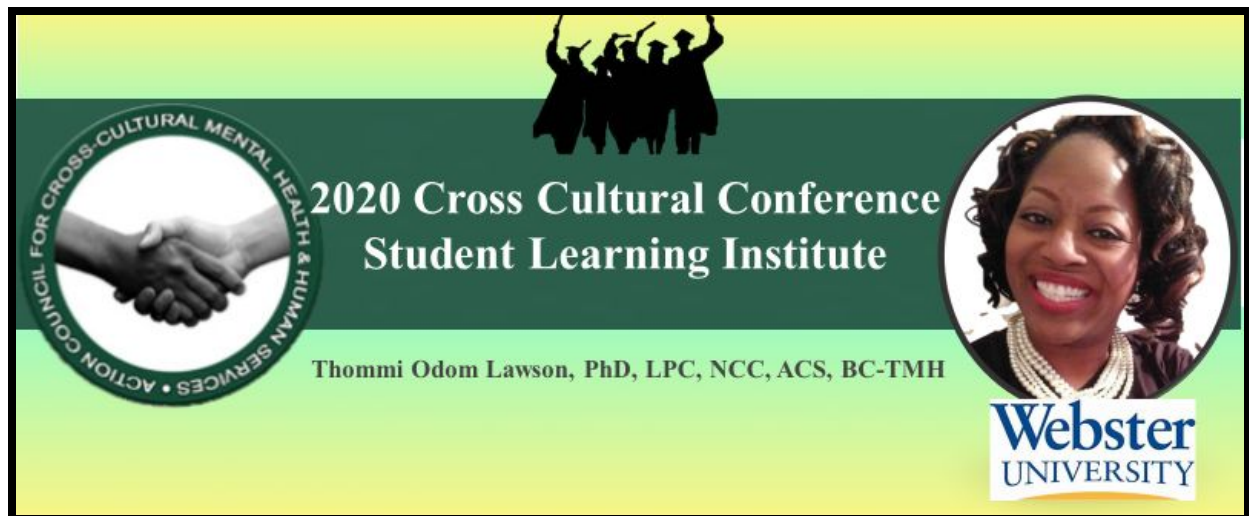
The Anderson Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority was established in 1978. Tracy Richardson, a member of the Board of Directors of the Action Council, has served as president of the Anderson Chapter since 2018. Board member Thommi Lawson was an active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority going back to her college days at Mercer University. Ramona Carr is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. Shirley Furtick proclaimed, "I am a Delta." The Action Council and the Cross-Cultural Conference are the beneficiary of the service of these ladies.

# The Student Learning Institute

Thommi Lawson, Ph.D., LPC

The Student Learning Institute aims to meet the needs of all students, at various points of their journey. Aiming to ensure our students are successful in all learning environments, particularly in hybrid and online classes, the Student Learning Institute kicks off its first session discussing strategies to being successful in a 21st-century classroom. Recognizing the needs and challenges of non-traditional students, this session gives students practical tips ranging from how to communicate with your professor to writing expectations of undergrad and graduate students.

Addressing one of the most popular questions that arise, the second session aims to demystify private practice. This panel presentation includes speakers with extensive experience in both private and clinical practice. The panel will discuss the good, bad, and ugly of both sides. Also, on the panel is a credentialing expert who understands the nuisances of being added to insurance panels, billing, and getting paid.



The Student Learning Institute wraps up with a hands-on, interactive session focusing on resilience and self-care. Non-traditional students are juggling multiple roles including parent, employee, student, caregiver, and volunteer. Considering the overwhelming load, setbacks and other challenges can occur. Building resilience that is supported by a solid self-care plan is essential for students and new professionals.

As you can see, the Student Learning Institute is stacked with some exceptional sessions, including a poster session. I encourage you to purposefully engage with the students, sharing your experiences.

If you are interested in learning more about the Student Learning Institute, please contact me at [hello@drthommi.com](mailto:hello@drthommi.com).

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# We Were There and We are Still Here!

Ernest Shaw, LMSW

The annual cross-cultural conference is our signature educational event of the year.



However, we have been able to collaborate with other community institutions. In recent years we have presented Women's Leadership Conferences and a Forensic Conference. During 2019, the Action Council sponsored or co-sponsored Community

Enrichment Summit, a Black Male Summit, and the Young Men Youth Empowerment Summit.

The Martha Schofield High School Legacy Group was formed in 2012 to carry the school's great legacy into the future. On March 9, 2019, the Martha Schofield High School Legacy Foundation, The Servant Power Network, and our organization presented "Community Enrichment Summit: Building the Future, One Day at a time." This event was held at the Lloyd Kennedy Charter School/Aiken Performing Arts Academy in Aiken. One presenter was Dr. Burnett Gallman who supported our effort during the early years. Dr. Gallman was the August 2018 honoree on the SC African American History Calendar.

On April 5 and 6, 2019 the Black Male Summit was held at Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church and Manning High School in Manning, SC. Carl Jones, Ph.D. spoke about college preparation, and Ernest Shaw, LMSW talked about the need for young men to respect young women. Willie Bethune, LMSW, and President James Starnes wrapped up the day's educational events. A review of the evaluations of the presentations was favorable and attendance was much better than it was at the 2018 event in Manning.

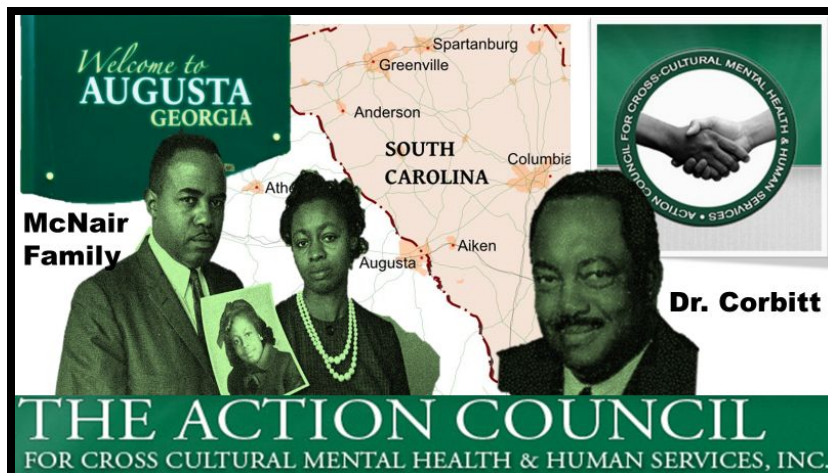
On September 27 and 28, 2019, members of our organization and the Saint Mark Missionary Baptist Church Youth Empowerment Ministry presented The Young Men Youth Empowerment Summit at the church located near Bishopville, SC. Herbert Walker and Ernest Shaw of our organization joined Dickie Brunson, Attorney Dwight Moore; Retired Army Colonel, Educator, and Author, Alvin Green; and Educator Troy Green.

Our goal is to provide the best possible educational offerings to communities by collaborating with community organizations. We are grateful to all organizations that have invited us to visit and we thank all presenters from our organization and others that have made our efforts possible. We look forward to events in the future.

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## The Conference Went Over to Georgia

The 2000 Conference was originally planned for Columbia. However, it was moved to



Augusta, Georgia. The reasons for the move were twofold. The one cited most often was a boycott by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People as that organization attempted to bring down the Confederate Flag from the statehouse. (Please read "The Meaning of Charleston" in the 2015 edition of this newsletter

and "We Were There" in the 2017 edition.) The move garnered some criticism because it was felt that a non-partisan organization composed of many employees of the state of South Carolina was involving itself in a highly partisan and political issue.

Dr. Otis Corbett, the brainchild behind the formation of the Cross-Conference Conference saw the move as an opportunity to spread the conference beyond South Carolina. Dr. Corbett was a product of Aiken County, South Carolina but he never saw the Savannah River which marked the boundary separating our state from Georgia and Aiken County and Richmond County, Georgia as an impenetrable barrier.

Dr. Corbett was born in Salley, SC in Aiken County but his ancestors originally lived by the banks of the Savannah River. Around 1900 his family moved to Salley, a town founded by men named Corbitt and Salley. Best known for the annual Chitlin Strut, Sally has a population of about 400, however, it is a part of the Augusta, Georgia Metropolitan Area.

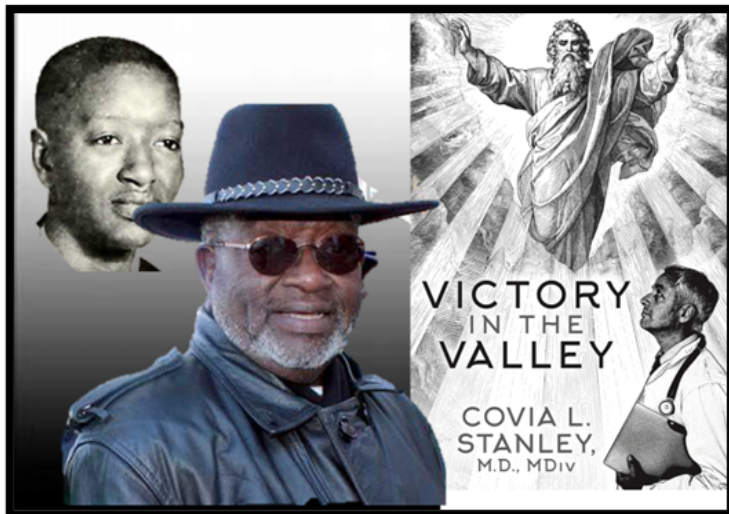
Grace Brooks Palmer, a humanitarian who grew up in Aiken was born across the river in Augusta. The Grace Brooks Palmer Convocation was held at Springfield Baptist Church in Augusta. The theme for the 22nd Annual Conference was "Violent Behavior: A Quest for Prevention, Intervention, and Recovery." The President's Luncheon Speaker was Chris McNair from Birmingham, Alabama.

McNair, an Arkansas native went to Alabama to attend Tuskegee Institute. He remained in the state, got married, and started a family. In 1963, his daughter Denise and three other girls were killed when Ku Klux Klan members bombed Birmingham's Sixteenth Street Baptist Church. The McNair family will forever be linked with the civil rights movement. Chris McNair became one of the first African American members of the Alabama Legislature since Reconstruction in 1973. Chris McNair traveled from Birmingham to Augusta to speak to conference attendees from our state and beyond.

The conference returned to South Carolina in 2001 and I attended for the first time. In 2006 McNair was convicted of bribery and conspiracy in connection with a county construction project. He was imprisoned in 2011 but was released in 2013 because of health problems. Dr. Corbitt died in 2009 and Chris McNair died at 93 in 2019. Regardless of where we gather for the annual conference, we must strive to make it a mountaintop experience and welcome cousins from everywhere.



### Rev. Doctor Stanley in the Valley



Dr. Covia Levance Stanley has been a long-time supporter of the Action Council and the Cross-Cultural Conference. His story is a remarkable one. His journey began in Brunswick County, North Carolina, the son of a sharecropper. He developed his work ethic, a thirst for learning, and multiple talents. He graduated from Union High School in Shallotte, North Carolina. He earned B.S. and

M.S. degrees at North Carolina Central University and his M. D. degree from the University of Buffalo, New York. Dr. Stanley completed the OB/GYN residency at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine and earned the M.Div. degree from Virginia Union University.

Dr. Stanley was an OBGYN physician and medical director in North Carolina for several years before embarking on another journey, becoming a minister, and earning a divinity degree. In the Bible, Luke is described as “The beloved physician.” He was a man of science who was also a follower of Jesus Christ who helped others to learn about Jesus by way of his writings. For years, Dr. Stanley has mastered several arts to help others, including our organization. He has won numerous honors for his work in the field of maternal-child health while also serving as a pastor. He is currently the pastor of Mt. Calvary #1 MBC in Conway and the moderator of Kingston Lake Missionary Baptist Association. Dr. Stanley is a regular contributor to our educational events. He is married to the former Lillian Chadwick of Durham, North Carolina. Like Luke in the Bible, Dr. Stanley has written it all down in his 2018 book titled “Victory in the Valley.”

## By What Name We are Known

As we celebrate the 42nd Annual Cross-Cultural Conference we should recall that the first several conferences were known by other names. “the first statewide conference on mental health and blacks” is the way The State Newspaper’s March 22, 1979 edition described a Greenville event. The 1981 conference was called “The Third Annual Conference on Black Citizens and Mental Health.”



The 1982 conference was called “The Fourth Annual Conference on Minorities and Mental Health.” The Annual Cross-Cultural Conference is the signature event of The Action Council and members of the organization work year-round to prepare for each year’s conference. Many of those attending the conference and even some who are

members of the Action Council are not aware that the Action Council grew out of the conference. Three and a half years after that the first conference, Otis Corbitt and Dolores Macey submitted the application of incorporation for The ACTION COUNCIL FOR CROSS-CULTURAL MENTAL HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, INC.

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## Welcome New Board Members

Rev. William McKinley Bowman served as Pastor of Second Nazareth Baptist Church in



Columbia from 1949 to 1996. His tenure spanned the period of racial change that created organizations such as ours. The current pastor of Second Nazareth is Rev. Johnny Ray Noble, Ph.D. a remarkable multitalented man. He is the dynamic minister continuing a profession he began as an adolescent. He

has earned degrees in Business, Counseling Psychology, and currently, he is pursuing a D.Min.

Angela Carroll, a Licensed Professional Counselor, is a graduate of the University of South Carolina Upstate and Liberty University. She has worked in a variety of settings as a counselor, adoptions specialist and is currently employed by the South Carolina Continuum of Care which was established in 1983 to serve children with severe and complex emotional or behavioral problems.

Tessie Washington-Haywood was educated at South Carolina State University and Webster University. She has worked in a variety of mental health and human services settings. Tessie Washington-Haywood was a counselor at Orangeburg Area Mental Health from 2002 to 2004 where she worked for Dr. Wanamaker, a former President of The Action Council. She is currently a Program Manager with the Wright Wellness Center, an organization founded in 1994 as the African American HIV/AIDS Council to address HIV prevention and early intervention service gaps in South Carolina. The co-founder and CEO is a friend of our organization and the dynamic Otis Corbitt Luncheon Speaker in 2017.

We welcome these three gifted individuals to The Action Council Board of Directors, and we look forward to their contributions.

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**Action Council Board Member Jones Elected Mayor of North, SC**  
Julius Pinckney Jones, a proud native of North, South Carolina, the birthplace of Eartha Kitt was elected Mayor of North in the 2019 elections. Jones graduated from North High School and earned degrees from Claflin University and South Carolina State University. He is a retired employee of the SC Department of Mental Health and a member of the Board of Directors of the Action Council. We wish Mayor Jones much success in his effort to revitalize his storied hometown and we look forward to his continued contributions to our organization and our future endeavors.