

President's Message



The program for the 32nd

Annual Cross Cultural Conference promises to be a rich learning experience.

Previous conferences have provided attendees with pertinent information useful in the workplace and in their personal lives. Information is based on Best Practice data.

This year the conference will provide the same high quality training. The theme of the conference is 'Economic and Social Violence: Ramifications for Behavioral Healthcare'

The conference features four learning tracks; 1) Clinical, 2) Family, 3) Community, and 4) Policy. Each track features four workshops. The workshops will provide the fuel for interactive summaries, where participants from the four tracks will unite for what is likely to be a lightning rod experience.

The conference is anchored by six exciting plenary sessions, an informative and electrifying cultural event, and the legendary Cross Cultural Conference Gala.

I look forward to meeting each of you in Myrtle Beach, February 11th-14th. Please encourage others to join us for what our founder (Dr. Otis A. Corbitt) described as a "mountain top experience".

James Starnes, President

From the Editor

Greetings!

Thanks to all who contributed to our twentieth edition of *The Action Council Communicator*. Excitement is in the air as Cross Cultural Conference 2010 is fast approaching. The theme for this year's conference is "Economic and Social Violence: Ramifications for Behavioral Healthcare." Cross Cultural Conference 2010 is our first major event of the year. By the time you read this you would have already arrived. We are delighted and appreciative that you have chosen to share what we consider will be "a mountaintop" experience with us.

We welcome our first time attendees and are extremely grateful to our regular faithful attendees that continue to

support this Conference and other activities sponsored by the Action Council. We are much aware of the expense and sacrifice the majority of our participants are undertaking. Many of us are "paying our own way" and are relying on sitters, caregivers and other support persons to assume our responsibilities while we attend.

We have worked hard to ensure that you are beyond satisfied and that our Conference program will address the issue of violence and its challenges with implications for several social institutions and human service organizations. The mission is to provide solutions, information, education, and practice skills



Sharon Rice-Brown, MSW

based on outcomes of outreach studies, social policies, and models for best practices.

February is also the month we celebrate Valentine's Day and Black History Month. Customarily, Valentine's Day is used to show our love, compassion, support and appreciation to those we hold dear. This is something we can all practice daily. We also encourage you to bring along the special persons in your life to share this experience, considering this is Valentine's

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A PROUD HERITAGE

Written by: Dr. Otis A. Corbitt

“We have come a long way” since the Department of Mental Health Executive Staff included one employee of color in the “Management” category. “We have come a long way” since the ***inception of a dream*** that focused on strategies for developing Cross-Cultural competence among community mental health planners, executives, clinicians and volunteers. And, we have come a long way since the Cross-Cultural Conference became a reality and was born on May 21, 1979, at the Thunderbird Inn Motel, Greenville, South Carolina. The Wesley United Methodist Church hosted the Convocation, May 19, 1979, with the One Hundred Voice Choir of Greenville’s First Baptist Church providing the music.



This broad-based educational forum was designed to give special attention to the mental health needs of un-served and under-served people of color and other special populations. Furthermore, it was designed to promote awareness, knowledge and skills pertaining to racial, ethnic, spiritual, and other cultural differences that impact the assessment, diagnoses, treatment and recovery of consumers and their families. Special attention was given to community mental health boards, administrative and clinical personnel as well as policy makers, community leaders and volunteers. There are special and rewarding memories of learning experiences and growth that resulted through the Cross Cultural, Black Males, and Female Conferences.

Furthermore, growth and development in cultural competence resulted from the many retreats and ocean cruises focusing on culture and diversity related to male/female relationships, human sexuality, the family in transition, the genetic and culture, etc. In addition, growth, development and work place harmony was enhanced through in-service education, in terms of gender conflict and resolution, supervisor/supervisee relationships, and management operations in an intra-cultural organization. It should also be noted that there are many special memories in terms of increased participation and inclusion of representatives from more diverse populations in community mental health center board compositions.

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
20.00	Board Member

Are Southerners More Violent?

Ernest Shaw, LMSW
Fresenius Medical Care North America

In recent years I have spent Friday Nights in Clover, Darlington, Hartsville, and Lancaster because I am a high school football junkie. Each year at this time I come to Myrtle Beach to participate in the Cross Cultural Conference. I spent more than thirty years working with the mentally ill and offenders. I have worked with some of South Carolina’s most violent criminals. At our conference I have had the privilege of speaking on relevant topics such as poverty, education, mental health and violence. The theme for this year’s conference will be *Economic and Social Violence: Ramifications for Behavioral Healthcare*” I will attempt to answer the question of whether or not Southerners are more violent than other Americans and review the consequences that such a possibility might have for behavioral health professionals.



History would suggest that those of us who call the South home have long been much more violent than the rest of our nation. In 1880 H.V. Reidfield wrote that South Carolina's violent crime rates were as many times greater than New England's as those of Texas were greater than



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Reflections on a View from the Back of the Room

Ernest Shaw, LMSW, Fresenius Medical Care North

View From the Back of the Room



Several years ago I attended the funeral of Social Worker Nell Dabbs. I had met her nearly thirty years earlier on my first day at work as a social worker and my first day at the Santee-Wateree Mental Health Center. I found myself standing before the assembled crowd in the historic Salem Black Presbyterian Church in Mayesville. I told the crowd of my lack of professional work experience on my first day at work.

Not knowing what to do, I decided to find someone who seemed to know what they were doing and to emulate that person. Nell, a veteran social worker at the center was such a person. Lessons learned from her served me well later in my professional life.

Shortly after meeting Nell Dabbs I also met Dr. Otis Corbitt, a black male social worker in a leadership position in the South Carolina Department of Mental Health. He had come from the state office to visit with this young and inexperienced social worker who had come to work in Lee County, the last of our counties to become a part of the state mental health system. Dr. Corbitt was the consummate professional who provided me with still another role model.



A number of years after meeting Dr. Corbitt, I had the opportunity to work for Dr. Dolores Macey at William S. Hall Psychiatric Institute. She called me to her office one day and told me that she had made a commitment to speak to a class at Benedict College about the role of social workers but she had a conflict and needed me to speak in her place. I prepared my presentation and went off to the college unaware that I would be speaking to Dr. Corbett's social work class. Professor Corbitt spent the whole class time standing in the rear of the class and allowed me to tell the class about the role of social workers in the mental health field when I knew that he could have done a better job. At that time I was also unaware that Dr. Corbitt and others had just established the Action Council for Mental Health and Human Services, an organization that is still in existence today and will always be his legacy.

As a veteran social worker, a generation after meeting Dr. Corbitt, I had the opportunity to serve with him as a member

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Weekend.

Historically, Black History Month celebrates African-American heritage and the many contributions of African-Americans. As a child I was also taught that "we are all God's creation" and we must share an appreciation of culture and cultural differences and the importance of faith, unity, service and the special bond of family and friends. All of these things give us a sense of belonging and empowerment.

Our conference plenary sessions, workshops, forums, discussions and special events are designed to provide you with opportunities to network, dialogue and collaborate with persons who represent a cross-section of the community: educators, students, counselors, administrative support persons, cultural and religious leaders, health care and human service providers and consumers, business and community leaders, as well as representatives from local community organizations, churches and universities. We come together with the goal of enhancing our awareness, knowledge and skills to more effectively serve consumers, their families and communities.

This year we are again fortunate to have in attendance higher education students that we welcome as participants of our Student Day activities. We are certain their involvement will continue to challenge and inspire us and provide us with new ideas and opportunities for growth.

In closing, your membership and input is important to us. We encourage your contributions to our Newsletter and Website www.crossculturaltraining.org. Please share with us any news, articles of interest, special accomplishments, gifts or talents you may have. Please feel free to communicate with me by telephone at (803) 609-8859 or e-mail sdrcbrwn@aol.com

Blessings,

Sharon Rice-Brown, MSW

Editor Action Council Communicator

Secretary, Action Council Board of Directors



Dr. Jack Levin

Dr. Carol Apt, Professor of Sociology, SCSU

On Friday, February 12, 2010 at 8:30 AM, attendees at the Action Council's Annual Conference will have the opportunity to hear a presentation by a prominent Criminologist.

Dr. Jack Levin is The Irving and Betty Brudnick Professor of Sociology and Criminology, and the Co-Director of the Brudnick Center of Violence and Conflict at Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts. He has authored or co-authored 30 books, including the recently published volumes, 'Serial Killers and Sadistic Murderers-Up Close and Personal,' and 'The Violence of Hate.'

Dr. Levin has also published more than 150 articles in professional journals and newspapers, such as The New York Times, The Boston Globe, The Dallas Morning News, The Philadelphia Inquirer, The Christian Science Monitor, and The Washington Post, to name a few. He has been a frequent guest on such national television programs as 48 Hours, 20/20, Dateline NBC, The Today Show, Good Morning America, The Oprah Winfrey Show, The O'Reilly Factor, and Larry King Live.

He has spoken to a wide variety of community, academic, and professional groups, including The White House Conference on Hate Crimes, The Department of Justice, The Department of Education, OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (a membership of 59 countries), and The International Association of Chiefs of Police.

In his presentation entitled, "Trends in Youth Violence: Guns, Gangs, and Adult Guidance," Dr. Levin will discuss the recently decreasing rates of juvenile violence. We encourage everyone to attend what is sure to be an informative and enlightening session.



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of the board of directors of the Action Council. I also had the opportunity to make a dozen presentations during my ten years of association with the Cross-cultural Conference, an annual event sponsored by the Action Council. I now recall that Dr. Corbitt was sitting in the back of the room as I made many of my presentations. Dr. Corbitt died recently after a valiant struggle with health problems. I went to his funeral at the historic Jerusalem Branch Missionary Baptist Church in Salley, South Carolina. I got there early but the church was already full. I stood in the rear of the church as several speakers recalled the life's work of this man. I am grateful to have been touched by a life so well lived and standing in the rear on that occasion was the least that I could do.



Suicide Prevention

**Covia Stanley, MD, DMin, Medical Director
Region 6, SC DHEC**



Suicide is rising in mounting numbers in South Carolina and the United States. It is a preventable condition. It has become more prevalent in this time of economic recession, unemployment, dysfunctional families and war.

In 2005, South Carolina ranked 26 among the states with 510 deaths and at the rate of 12.0. On average, one suicide occurs every 16 minutes. Suicide is the 11th leading cause of death for all

Americans. It is the third leading cause of death for young people age 15-24 years old (the first is accidents, the second is homicides). There are more males who die from suicide than females (four male deaths by suicide compared to each female death by suicide). In other words, more males succeed in suicide in contrast to more females who attempt suicide. There were over 800,000 suicide attempts in 2005.

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Minnesota's. He also wrote that Southern rates were often 10 times those of the North.

In a study of homicide rates in the 1920s, Dr. Harrington Cooper Brearley found that the seven states with the highest violent rates were Southern. In 2006, Clover, Darlington, Hartsville, Lancaster and Myrtle Beach were among South Carolina's top ten most violent cities, according to the 2006 Uniform Crime Reports compiled by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The crime rate for Myrtle Beach is lower than the rates for Clover, Darlington, Hartsville, and Lancaster. However, the violent crime rate for Myrtle Beach is nearly three times that of Detroit and Philadelphia and nearly five times that of New York. Could it be that Southerners are still more violent than other Americans. Come and join us as we explore possible causes of this disparity in violence and the consequences for those professionals who must determine if an act of violence is the product of madness or meanness.

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There are many causes for suicide. Untreated depression is the number one cause for suicide. Untreated mental illness includes depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, and others are the cause for the vast majority of suicides. Some may be generally predisposed to depression. There are many negative life experiences that may lead to depression. These include the death of a loved one, a divorce, separations, or breakup of a relationship; losing custody of children or feeling that a child custody decision is not fair; serious loss of job, house, or money; a serious illness; a terminal disease; being victimized (domestic violence, rape, assault, etc.), feeling helpless; low self-esteem, etc. Posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) has continued greatly over the past eight (8) years in military veterans.

Many suicides can be prevented by more interpersonal relationships. Parents should give love and stress positive values and self-esteem in children during formative years onward through high school. There should be more personal and quality time at (1) the dinner table, (2) church, (3) school, (4) parks, (5) coliseums, etc. Parents should be positive role models. Relatives and friends should recognize when someone is not interested in fun or some activity and wants to be alone. Employers, co-workers, and peers should be aware of one who is low in production and socialization.

All of the above should be compassionate and sensitive to a person who appears depressed. The person who wants to end his/her life should be referred and/or taken to a mental health professional as soon as possible. If there is any mention or indication of suicide or life is not worth living, that person needs to talk with a licensed/certified MSW, psychologist, psychiatrist, and/or pastoral counselor. The sun should not go down or midnight should not appear without positive steps to prevent death at one's own hand.

QUOTE – “No matter what you’ve done for yourself or for humanity, if you can’t look back on having given love and attention to your own family, what have you really accomplished?”

Lee Iacocca

The Local Planning Committee and the Action Council Family Together Again

By Mark Bellamy, Chair

It is once again time to welcome our Action Council family back to the Myrtle Beach area for the Annual Cross Cultural Conference. The state and local planning committees have once again done an outstanding job preparing for another excellent conference.



At the start of every Cross Cultural Conference is the Grace Brooks Palmer Convocation. The local planning committee has been given the task to host this year's Grace Brooks Palmer Convocation to be held at Mt. Olive AME Church, where Rev. Roger Washington is the pastor. The speaker for this occasion is Rev. Dr. Lewis M. Anthony of Washington DC.

The purpose of the convocation is for the Action Council to award a very deserving individual the Grace Brooks Palmer Humanitarian Award which is given to an individual for his/her community involvement.

In addition to the convocation is the annual Cross Cultural Conference that will be held at the Landmark Resort Hotel, also located in Myrtle Beach. The Myrtle Beach area has a lot to offer by way of shopping, various restaurants and other entertainment. Please remember that you also have an opportunity to take advantage of the indoor pool at the Landmark as well.

It is the hope of the local planning committee that you enjoy your stay in the Myrtle Beach area and be enriched by what you will learn here at the conference.

We look forward to your return next year. Please feel free to let us know if we can be of any assistance while you are here in the Myrtle Beach area.



Cross Cultural Conference 2010

The 32nd Annual Cross Cultural Conference is soon to convene starting with the Grace Palmer Brooks Convocation on Thursday evening, February the eleventh, two thousand and ten at the Sandy Grove Missionary Baptist Church in beautiful Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. The Reverend Louis Anthony, D.Min. of Washington, D.C. will be the Convocation Speaker.

The Local Planning Committee is working hard to ensure this event is richly rewarding. The theme for the 32nd Annual Cross Cultural Conference is "Economic and Social Violence: Ramification for Behavioral Healthcare". The Action Council Board of Directors has chosen the beautiful and recently renovated Landmark Resort Hotel on Ocean Boulevard in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. This resort hotel has excellent meeting rooms and the suites are the best value you can find on Myrtle Beach. You could not afford to stay home any cheaper.

The State Planning Committee is hard at work preparing and finalizing a content rich and rewarding conference. The registration fee will be the same as last year, one hundred and ninety (\$190) dollars for Action Council members, and two hundred (\$200) dollars for non-members. This registration includes a meal function for each day at the conference, a cultural event on Friday night, a social on Saturday night and several receptions. In addition to all of the above, you will get excellent speakers and presenters. You can earn a maximum of twenty-two point five (22.5) clock hours of continuing education.

The conference will have four tracks: Policy; Clinical; Community; and Children and Families. Each of the tracks will have five workshops throughout the conference.



We have added a new feature in the structure of the conference called, Interactive Summaries. This new process has been added to allow conference attendees to hear from participants and experts about what happened in each track. This is when attendees, workshop presenters, speakers and Interactive Summary Chairs will interact in a planned process.

The Interactive Summary Chairs are: Clinical, Phil Bowman, M.D., Ph.D., Executive Director and Medical Director, Pee Dee Mental Health Center; Family, Carol Apt, Ph.D., Professor of Sociology, South Carolina State University; Policy, Murray Chesson, M.A., LMFT Supervisor, Executive Director, Waccamaw Center for Mental Health; and Carl Jones, Ph.D., Professor and Director of Student Success and Retention, South Carolina State University, Community.

So mark your calendars for February 11th through the 14th, 2010 for the Thirty-Second Annual Cross Cultural Conference. I look to see you there.

Willie Lee Bethune, M.S.W., L.I.S.W., CP/AP
Action Council Immediate Past President
Cross Cultural Conference 2010 Co- Chair

2009 Employee of the Year: The Honorable Julius P. Jones

Julius P. Jones is seen as an imposing presence, but he is equally imposing by the excellence demonstrated in all aspects of his work with clients, families, staff and other agencies. As Director of Forensic Services, Julius has responsibility for two of the Center's high profile programs, Mental Health Court and Mental Health Services at Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center. His work ethic, judgment and supervisory skills are excellent. He has a gift for making difficult interagency situations turn into win/win cooperative relations. His election to the Board of Directors of NAMI Mid-Carolina is recognition of his leadership abilities and commitment to clients and their families. Julius can be found working day/night/weekends whenever an extra effort is required to ensure a client receives needed services.

Not stopping there, Julius started an AA group that benefits dually diagnosed clients in the LR area. Julius often volunteers to drive inmates with mental illness back to their home in another county when it is apparent the client is too impaired to take the bus. You can find Julius at the detention center during the week, on weekends and holidays making sure the clients with mental illness incarcerated there receive the best care we can provide. You can find him at the Winter Shelter making sure a client is not turned away. You can find him driving the streets of Columbia looking for a young man who is disoriented by schizophrenia. You can always find Julius when you need someone to respond to a crisis.

By John Brown, Director of Crisis and Forensic Services



Civic and Community Contributions:
 Town Councilman, North, South Carolina
 Ordained Deacon, Beauty Hill Missionary Baptist Church
 Children's Advocate, Richland County
 Red Ribbon Committee Chair
 Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign Manager



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Furthermore, the many changes in staffing patterns throughout the Department of Mental Health, and other agencies, institutions, programs and other systems are indicators of positive progress. The cross-cultural endeavors over the years have often generated effective relationships, collaboration and cooperation among Mental Health Agencies, Department of Social Services, Department of Corrections, Substance Abuse Services, Law Enforcement and Public Safety as well as other State, Federal and Voluntary Programs of Services.

It appears at this time however that our memories over shadows our dreams. This means that there is a time for re-awakening and renewal that would generate new challenges and opportunities for persons that appreciate and are committed to enhancing culture and diversity. This gives implications for strategies that would further ensure productivity, effectiveness and harmony in the workplace, home, school, church and community.

I am forever indebted to the many individuals, groups and organizations that have made the growth, development and progress related to the cross cultural movement possible.



**ACTION COUNCIL FOR MENTAL HEALTH
AND HUMAN SERVICES**

PO Box 3548

Columbia, South Carolina 29230

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.