



James Starnes, President

From the Desk of the President — James Starnes

The Action Council Board of Directors and our conference planning committees are hard at work. Efforts are underway to strengthen the organization, and two exciting conference programs are near completion.

A Black Male conference is planned for late Spring 2013. The conference theme is "Empowering The Black Male For Success In The 21st Century."

The 35th annual Cross Cultural Conference will convene in Myrtle Beach, February 28th-March 3rd, 2013. The conference theme is "The Culture Of Poverty."

Discussion is ongoing regarding marketing strategies which will ensure the success of both conferences. I have suggested a regional marketing approach.

Action Council members would assist board members by targeting potential attendees across a region to promote the conference, and encourage participation.

The state would be divided into four regions, Low Country, Pee Dee, Midlands, and Piedmont.

To be a part of this effort, or for more specifics, please contact me at 803 754-5569.

Please join us in Myrtle Beach!



Table of Contents

Desk of the President	1
Announcing the Conference	1
Corridor of Shame	2
The Gift of Life	3
News Worthy	4
The 2012 Conference	5
Who We Are	8

Announcing the 2013 Cross-Cultural

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 35th Annual Action Council Cross Cultural Conference will be held at the Landmark Resort Hotel in Myrtle Beach, SC, from February 28, 2013, to March 3, 2013.

Carol Apt, Stacey Atkinson, Joe Benton, Willie Bethune, The late Carrie Crawford-Washington, Michele James, Louise Johnson, Christine Boone, S. Elaine Leonard, Nadine Livingston, Ronald Pitner, Tracey Richardson, Belinda Langton, Loraine Tracey, Melody Wright and others have labored to plan the

35th annual conference of our organization. The theme for next year's conference is: *The Culture of Poverty*.

The conference objectives are:

- Examine policies, programs and services designed to reduce poverty
- Offer strategies for enhancing social competence and empowering individuals and families to become self sufficient
- Identify programs and services that assist in enhancing the revitalization of communities
- Review pervasive conditions that impact the emotion and mental health of individuals and families



Ernest Shaw, LMSW, Editor

Heighten awareness of assessment, diagnostic and intervention measures for prevention, treatment and recovery of behavior disorders

Promote opportunities for networking and resource development.

We thank the members of the planning committee, those who have agreed to present and everyone working behind the scenes to make our conference a success. More information about the content of the conference will be made available in future editions of this publication. Please plan to attend next year's conference.



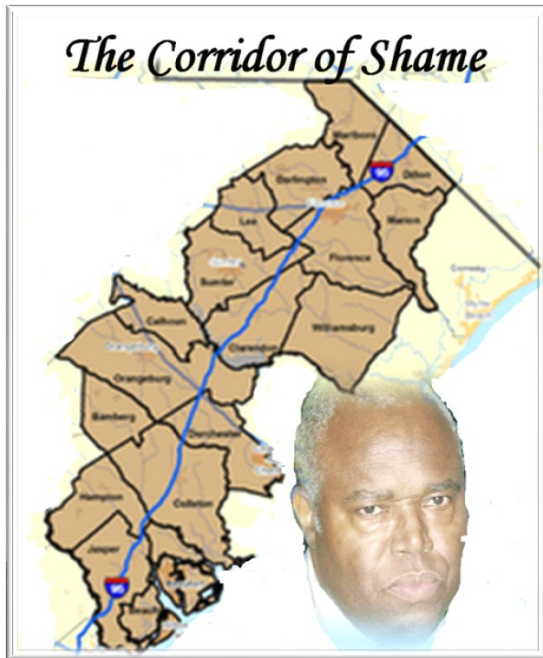
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The Corridor of Shame: Educational Legacy in a Culture of Poverty

By Ernest Shaw, LMSW



“Corridor of Shame” is a label attached to South Carolina’s I-95 corridor, consisting of seventeen counties stretching the state’s entire length. This area is characterized by some of our worst schools and our poorest and sickest citizens. These are challenges to be addressed. However, to focus on a culture of poverty alone is to miss the stark contradictions that are all around and The Corridor’s rich contributions to our state and nation. I feel compelled to reflect upon the social history of the area of our state that I am not ashamed to say that I am from.

Our current governor who spoke at the recent Republican Convention is also a product of The Corridor. She is one of just ten governors since the beginning of the Civil War to come from The Corridor, although one was in office for just five days. However, several made significant contributions to the advancement of our state. Six members of one family from Sumter and Clarendon counties served as governors at various times. Clemson University was established during the administration of John P. Richardson who served from 1886-90. The state’s first compulsory education

legislation passed and the minimum age for employment was raised to fourteen during the term of Richard I. Manning who served from 1915 to 1919. Ransome Williams held the office from 1945 to 1947. He served on the Marion County Board of Education and as a Trustee of Hartsville’s Coker College. Francis Marion University in Florence was chartered during the administration of Governor Robert McNair who was born in the Corridor while his mother was visiting a relative there.

The Orangeburg Massacre, a blot on our state’s history, occurred during McNair’s watch as Chief J.P. Strom’s state troopers fired on protesting students. Cleveland Sellers, one of the protesters from The Corridor was shot. He is the only person associated with this affair to go to prison. Dr. Sellers went on to have a successful career in education and today he is the President of Voorhees College in The Corridor in Denmark. Dr Sellers described Voorhees as a “special place with a proud and promising future.” Ironically, Strom’s son hired Sellers’ son to work at his law firm several years ago.

Dr. Henry Tisdale and I are both great-great grandsons of the same former slave from The Corridor. Dr. Tisdale received a Ph.D from Dartmouth and he is the current President of Claflin University, a highly rated institution located in The Corridor. Louisa Robinson was born in The Corridor. She attended Claflin, SC State College, Atlanta University and the University of Michigan. She served as Library Director and a Librarian at Claflin from 1955 to 1986. Mrs. Robinson’s son, Eugene, “grew up” in the library. He attended Orangeburg Wilkerson High School and Felton Lab School at SC State. This University of Michigan graduate is now a Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist in a position to dispense his wisdom to the world.

Continued on page 6 - Corridor of Shame

From a Reader: Dear Mr. Shaw: I enjoyed your article (Action Council Communicator, 2012, Conference Edition, 2012) about various social workers of DMH including my former boss, Willie Bethune. However, there is at least one error in it.

You said when you met Willie in the mid 80's he was director of the mental health clinic in [Williamsburg County](#). However, Willie was never director of that county facility which fell under the director of Waccamaw Center. Mary Mac Chinnis directed the mental health center and Willie was a counselor there, dealing primarily with addictions, if I recall correctly. Our Executive Director during that period and until his retirement about 1993 was Dr. James W. Pearson.

Willie was made Executive Director of Waccamaw Center for Mental Health about '93 or '94. He rose from counselor in Williamsburg County to Executive Director in one sweep and he became my boss at that time. I don't recall if he ever was director of the Pee Dee MHC, but when he left Waccamaw he became Director of Community Mental Health Services (statewide) at DMH. Willie is a fine person and I enjoyed working under his supervision for about 6 - 7 years. However, I would not want your article to detract from Ms. Chinnis' contributions as Director of the Williamsburg Mental Health Clinic -- a position she held and performed admirably in for many years. Thank you for your attention to this email.

Blessings,

Nedra J. Black, WCMH (retired)

"The Gift of Life"

Carol Apt, Ph.D., Professor of Sociology, South Carolina State University



At any given time there are over 100,000 Americans waiting for organs to be donated, and about 100 die each week because the organs they need to live are just not available. While eye and tissue donations are in short supply, the need for organs like kidneys (the most commonly donated organ) is critical. This is especially true in South Carolina; due to high rates of kidney disease, the number of people waiting for kidneys in this state is the second highest in the nation. It's simple enough to register as an organ donor; you can do so the next time you renew your driver's license at the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicle, or you can accomplish the same thing by going to this website: www.every11minutes.org

If donating organs can save so many lives and it's simple to register as an organ donor, why don't more people do it? The


answer is probably due to common misperceptions about organ donation. For example, many people are not aware of the process of organ donation and may feel that medical personnel will be so eager to harvest a loved one's organs that they will declare him/her dead prematurely. This is unlikely for several reasons. Candidates for organ donation represent less than one percent of all hospital deaths, and also because the criteria for consideration as a possible organ donor are very specific. An individual can be considered as a potential organ donor when:

- He/she has suffered an irreversible, non-survivable brain injury resulting in brain death or,
- Following an irreversible brain injury and the decision to withdraw life-sustaining therapy is made.

Contrary to popular belief, organ donation does not preclude an open casket at a funeral service, as the harvesting of organs does not disfigure a deceased person. A family who decides to donate their loved one's organs does not incur any cost and can, if they wish, specify that an organ be donated to a specific individual, provided that the proposed recipient and the deceased are a match.

While the majority of donated organs are given to people who are 50 years of age and older, individuals of any age can be organ donors. There are approximately 100 million Americans over the age of 50; if even a small percentage of them registered as organ, eye, and tissue donors thousands of lives could be saved.

Please consider giving the gift of life; for more information go to www.organdonor.gov



**35th Annual Cross-Cultural
Mental Health and Human Services Conference**

"The Culture of Poverty"







Myrtle Beach, SC
February 28th - March 3rd, 2013

Landmark Resort Hotel 1-800-845-0658

Call 1-866-591-1820 for additional information

Registration Information To Follow

Featured Presenters

 <p>Robert L. Hawkins, PhD McSilver Assistant Professor in Poverty Studies McSilver Institute on Poverty Policy and Research Silver School of Social Work New York University</p>	 <p>Major Stan Gragg Mount Pleasant Police Department Carolinas Institute for Community Policing</p>	 <p>Lois Wilson, JD, RN Legal Nursing Consultant Tampa, Florida</p>
 <p>Ida Johnson Spruill, PhD, RN, LISW, FAAN Assistant Professor Medical University of South Carolina College of Nursing</p>	 <p>Bud Ferillo, Producer and Director Corridor of Shame Communications Specialist Children's Law Center, USC</p>	 <p>George R. Garrison, Ph.D. Professor of African American Studies Kent State University</p>

www.CrossCulturalActionCouncil.org

Spotlight On Our New Board Members

The Action Council has been well served throughout its existence by a group of dedicated board members. Several have served for many years and we appreciate their contributions. However, the future of this organization is greatly dependent upon the willingness of new individuals to serve as board members and lend their diverse perspectives and talents to our organization. We welcome two new members.



Belinda Langton

Belinda Langton is the Human Resources Development Director for the SC Vocational Rehabilitation Department.

She has been employed with the agency since 1991. She served the agency as a counselor and special services coordinator in the Lexington Area. Belinda graduated from Winthrop College with a BS degree in Elementary Education, and the University of South Carolina with a M. Ed. She is married to Tony Langton and through a blended family, has four adult children and 4 grandchildren.



Dr. Christine Boone

Dr. Christine Boone, ACSW, DSW is Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs/Professor of Social Work and former chairwoman for the social work department. Dr. Christine Boone, ACSW, DSW has been a friend of the Action Council and the Cross Cultural Conference for several years. Dr. Boone is Professor of Social Work and former chairwoman for the Social Work Department and Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs at South Carolina State University. We welcome Mrs. Langton and Dr. Boone to the board and we look forward to their contributions.



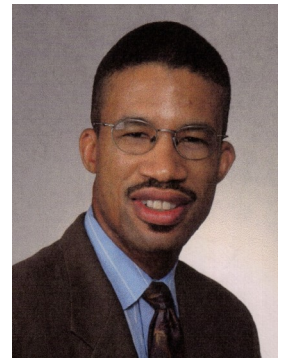
News Worthy

Dr. Stephen McLeod-Bryant: A New Frontier

After 24 years of service to the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Dr. Stephen McLeod-Bryant has tendered his resignation to take effect January 18, 2013. Dr. McLeod-Bryant will become the Vice-Chair for Clinical Affairs in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences of the School of Medicine at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, TN.

Dr. McLeod-Bryant has served in many leadership roles in MUSC and has been a visible leader in South Carolina, forcefully advocating for improved access and treatment for all people suffering from serious and disabling mental illness. The department is losing someone who is a fountain of wisdom, a skilled administrator and an exceptional clinician. His many close friends and MUSC colleagues will miss him terribly. His impending absence is a sad situation for the entire MUSC community. On the other hand, his new leadership position represents an invigorating and unique opportunity with the Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences at Meharry gaining a visionary new leader.

Thank you, Dr. McLeod-Bryant. We wish you the best. In truth, however, we are not saying goodbye but, instead, simply building a new partnership.



Remembering Carrie Crawford Washington

Oct. 17, 1950- Aug. 9, 2012

Mrs. Washington retired from the South Carolina Department of Mental Health after 28 years of service. She was a member the Action Council for Mental Health and Human Services and a member of the 2013 Cross Conference Planning Committee and a friend of the causes that we support as an organization and as individuals. She will be missed and we extend our sympathy to her family.





THE 2012 CONFERENCE: HOW DID WE DO?

Ernest Shaw, LMSW, Editor

Planning for next year's conference is nearly complete.

However, we must take one last look at last year's conference. The 34th Annual Action Council Cross Cultural Conference was 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 was: Mobilizing and Reconfiguring Existing Resources to Enhance Child and Family Well-Being.

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 asked to evaluate each presentation by rating it as excellent, good, fair or poor with numerical values ranging from 4 to 1 assigned to the ratings. A review of those evaluations revealed the following: The Educational Value of Conference: 3.7846 and Extent Workshops were as advertised 3.69

The conference began with the Grace Brooks Palmer Convocation. The featured presenter was Dr. William "Bill" Cummings of Friendship Missionary Church of Charlotte, NC. The multi-talented Dr. Cummings gave a spirited music filled performance.

The Opening Session was presented by Solicitor, Ernest "Chip" Finney III, 3rd. Circuit Solicitor for Clarendon, Lee, Sumter and Williamsburg Counties. "I enjoyed Mr. Finney's knowledge base and how willing he was to accommodate questions from the audience," wrote one person.

Solicitor Finney and Dr. Cummings joined Daniel T. Craft, Ph.D. of Piedmont Mental Health Center and Peggy Ford, Med, Children's Place, Inc. in the opening plenary session chaired by Carl Jones, Ph.D. and their performance was described as "Excellent."

The Luncheon Speaker was Judge Amy Land of the Third Circuit Drug Court. She spoke on the topic, *Treatment and Criminal Justice Working Together*. Her presentation was described as "great" and one writer suggested that the judge be invited to speak at our upcoming Forensic Conference.

(continued)

Four concurrent workshops were presented on the first full day of the conference. Charles J. Vilord, LCSW, LSW, CP/S, ICADC of the Adolescent Recovery Program at the SC Department of Mental Health (SCDMH) presented *Beyond Dual Diagnosis: Treating The Addicted Teen*, Julie Schneider and Jill Aquino of South Carolina Families First elaborated on *The Power of Families: Successful Strategies and Promising Practices*. Loraine Tracey, RN, BSN and Elaine Leonard, RN, ADN, BSN, MHA of SCDMH presented *Managing Behavioral Health Crisis in Community Hospitals*. "Need more workshops like this one," wrote one person. Ernest Shaw, LMSW spoke on the topic of *Evolving Justice for Boys Convicted of Grown-up Crimes*. At the end of the day Mr. Willie Bethune led a panel discussion that summarized the day's offerings.

The second day of the conference featured eight more workshops. Charles J. Vilord spoke about *Helping Kids Grow Up Healthy in a Sick Society*. Cornell Ruff, RN and Patricia Hicks, RN Nurse Managers at Columbia Area Mental Health Center presented, *Substance Abuse and the Violent Offender: The role of the Psychiatric Nurse*. One participant noted the need for even more information about Personality Disorders and Maladaptive Behaviors. Pamela Jacobs, Executive Director of SC Coalition Against Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault presented *Advocacy Beyond Leaving*. A participant noted the need for "more men to attend so they can learn and share with their brothers!!" Dr. Carol Apt, PhD, Professor of Sociology at SC State University explained *The Culture of Poverty*. This well researched presentation was selected as the theme for the 2013 conference.

Phil Bowman, MD, PhD, the Director, Pee Dee Mental Health Center presented *Personality Disorders: How to Diagnose; How to treat*. One participant wrote "Would love to hear more." Donna Xenakis, Regional Director of Parents Anonymous of SC elaborated on the topic *Dynamics of Parent Leadership and Engagement: Family Connection*. An attendee wrote, "Would like to know more about Parents Anonymous." Shelia L. Mills, MPH, CPM of SCDMH and Priscilla E. Brantley, RN, Clinical Quality Improvement Manager, SC Primary Health Care Association presented a report on *South Carolina Behavioral Health and Primary Care Integration Project* and their effort was described as "A good presentation of an effort that has promise." Joyce A. Houck, LMSW and Robert Caesar, Ph.D spoke of *Mobilizing Interagency Collaboration to Facilitate Services to Children and Families* and a participant asked that the conference bring this workshop back next year.

The Otis A. Corbitt Awards Luncheon speaker was Virginia S. Pryor, Director, Strategic Consulting Systems Improvement of Seattle, Washington and President of Black Administrators in

Continued from page 2 - Corridor of Shame

Dr. Joab M. Lesesne Sr. was born in The Corridor. He attended The Citadel and graduated from Wofford College. He served as president of Erskine College from 1954 to 1966. His son Dr. Joab Mauldin Lesesne Jr. was President of Wofford twenty years ago when I took my daughter for a visit. I had the opportunity to talk with Dr. Lesesne about our journey from The Corridor and my dreams for my daughter. She graduated from Wofford four years later and I am proud that she chose to be an educator and to work in The Corridor.

Garnet C. Wilkinson was born in the Corridor in Dorchester County. He ran the District of Columbia's segregated black public school system then considered the best black public schools in the nation. His legacy can be found today in the nation's capital from Wilkerson Elementary School to the Wilkerson Library.

Some of the poorest schools in the nation are located in The Corridor. Joseph Valentine Martin served as principal and coach at Manning High School. However, he was best known as Superintendent of Education in Dillon County for almost thirty years. After his death, a middle school including a building constructed in 1896 was renamed J.V. Martin Middle School in his honor.

That 112 year old building was still standing when Barack Obama visited in 2008 while running for president. Ty'Sheoma Bethea, an eighth grader at the school poignantly wrote that she and her fellow students were not "quitters" as she asked Congress to spend stimulus money to help her dilapidated school. She with invited to sit with the first lady during a State of the Union Address. Despite fierce opposition by our Governor Sanford, money was found to rebuild the school. That little girl was a guest of honor when ground was broken for the new school but she had to come from Atlanta where she and her mother were forced to move after the mother lost her job with the closing of a Marion County factory. Dr. JoAnn Haysbert, then the President of Oklahoma's Langston University, and a product of The Corridor herself offered Ty'Sheoma a scholarship upon graduation. One little girl with courage carries the hopes and dreams of so many from The Corridor and the new middle school opened in Dillon a few weeks ago.

Martin Middle School came to symbolize the inequalities in our educational system. Yet Ty'Sheoma attended that school a generation after future Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System Ben Bernanke did. A product of The Corridor now sits at the right hand of the President as the most powerful force in shaping the nation's fiscal policies at a time when spending priorities are being sorted out. The rise of Bernanke is just one of the contradictions of incredible wealth and financial power emerging from an area associated with poverty.

Continued on page 7 - Corridor of Shame

Continued from page 5 - How Did We Do?

Child Welfare, Inc. Her presentation was described as "Insightful."

Stephen McLeod-Bryant, MD of the Medical University of South Carolina spoke on the topic of *The Comprehensive Initial Psychiatric Evaluation* His offering was described as "Easily understood and clear and concise." Richard Barr, MA, BS of SC Centers for Fathers & Families and Derrick Dease of Man2Man Fatherhood Initiative of Marlboro County presented, *Irreplaceable Role of Fathers* and their effort was described as the "Best workshop of the entire conference..." Patricia Stone-Motes, Ph.D., Research Professor, Institute on Family and Neighborhood Life, Clemson University presented *Bullying* and her effort was described as "very helpful since the "bullying" has increased." Meredith E. Gould, Founder of Let's Make Peace, Inc. presented *Best Practices: Conflict Resolution Strategies for Underserved Youth*

At the end of the day Mr. Willie Bethune led a panel discussion that summarized the day's offerings. Two participants suggested that the questions be confined to panelists rather than members of the audience who might not have been prepared to speak.

Christopher Wells, MA of SCDMH addressed *Trauma Focused Therapy* and one reviewer wrote "Excellent presentation; well prepared passionate about subject matter." Gerald Gore, MSSW and Terrence Wells, M.ED offered *How Do We Help Frustrated Parents Cope?* Meredith E. Gould presented *Empower ME: Self-Concept and Empowerment in Adolescent Girls*. "She is very passionate," noted one attendee. Ret. Colonel Avis Buchanan, RN, MSN of SCDMH explained *The Psychological Affects of War on Military Families* and Shirley Furtick, MSW, LISW-CP/AP, LMFT of SCDMH presented *Ethical and Clinical Practice*. Her presentation was described as "A Different subject that continues to need further exploration."

Mark Binkley, JD, Deputy Director for Administration and General Counsel at SCDMH presented a series of workshops dealing with critical legal issues such as: *Balancing the Rights of Minors, Parents and providers, Legal and Ethical Issues in The Treatment of Children and their Families* and *Confidentiality of Mental health, Substance Abuse and HIV Records*. One person wrote simply, "Mark is the best."

Murray G. Chesson, MA, LMFTS/S and Ethel Blake Bellamy, MA, LPC/S conducted *Licensure Training for Professional Counselors and Professional Counselor Supervisor* and Willie Bethune, MSW, LISW, CP/AP and Carol Wright, Ph.D, LISW, CP presented *Licensure Training Bachelor Social Worker, Master Social Worker, Independent Social Worker, Clinical Practice*. These courses were described as "Very helpful"

Continued on page 7 - How Did We Do?

Continued from page 6 - Corridor of Shame

Bennett Brown was born in Williamsburg County and Hugh McCall was born in Marlboro County. Brown worked briefly at Chemical Bank and later became Chairman of C&S Sovran Corp, an Atlanta based bank and McCall moved to the top of NCNB, a Charlotte based banking giant. McColl's bank acquired Brown's bank to create NationsBank in 1991. Dr. Anthony Plath, Director of Banking Studies at the University of North Carolina described the shift of financial power to the South represented by the rise of NationsBank as "the most significant banking story of the late 20th century." In 1998, NationsBank, led by two men from The Corridor, acquired BankAmerica. The resulting enlarged bank took the Bank of America name. Bank of America is now the nation's largest bank but its roots and its soul can be found in The Corridor. President Obama who began his journey to the presidency with his debate performance in Orangeburg in 2008 was originally scheduled to accept the 2012 nomination of his party at Charlotte's Bank of America Stadium amid speculations that he might sneak away from Charlotte to visit a certain new middle school in The Corridor.

By early 1990s, Darla Moore, daughter of a Lake City teacher and coach, was the highest-paid woman in banking at Chemical Bank, Bennett Brown's old employer. She married one of America's wealthiest men, left the bank and increased her husband's wealth. Moore, a girl from The Corridor is wealthy enough to have endowed the University of South Carolina's Business School with \$70 million since 1998. She also donated \$10 million to Clemson University. She pledged \$5 million for the McNair Aero-space Research Center at USC in honor of the late Ron McNair, who could not use the local public library as a child. Yet he managed to go from Lake City to space before he died in the *Challenger* explosion. This woman from The Corridor was recently invited to be one of the first two members of her gender to join the all male Augusta National Golf Club.

The Corridor of Shame lies entirely within the Stroke Belt and the Diabetes Belt and health problems abound. Yet a person born in Sumter and raised in Kingstree, Joseph Goldstein, won the 1985 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine. He pioneered the study of metabolism and low density lipoprotein, otherwise known as LDL, or "bad" cholesterol. His work showed the link between LDL and coronary artery

disease. Efforts to promote prevention and continuing research to find cures would greatly benefit corridor residents if we became better educated patients.

A dozen South Carolina counties have minority black populations. Nine of them are located in The Corridor. The Executive Director of the South Carolina Lottery is a product of The Corridor. Unfortunately the lottery is most popular in the blackest and poorest counties of our state. In 2007, the ten counties with the highest per capita lottery sales were all located in the seventeen county Corridor of Shame and seven of the poorest counties were among the ten. One of the great tragedies of our time is our promotion of state sponsored gambling as an "education lottery." The late Donald Miller, Mathematics Professor at Saint Mary's College in Indiana found that spending per student decreases once a state starts a lottery. Our educational system should teach our children that one has a better chance of being struck by lightning than winning the lottery. Parents must preach the value of education to prepare for the future and wisdom of avoiding behaviors that might place that future in jeopardy.

Marian Wright was born in The Corridor. When she was fourteen, her dying father's last words to her were, "Don't let anything get in the way of your education." Public library service in Marlboro County began in 1901 with ten books in the home of Hugh McColl's grandmother. When Marian Wright was young she could not use the "Whites Only" Library. Hugh McColl, son and grandson of bankers, grew up near Marian but they never met as children. In 1973 Marian Wright Edelman founded the Children's Defense Fund as a voice for poor, minority and disabled children. Hillary Rodham, future First Lady and Secretary of State was one of her first interns and called Edelman her mentor.

When Marlboro County citizens decided to build a new library a dozen years ago, McColl was named Honorary Chairman of the library effort. He worked a decade on the project and donated \$250,000 of his money. McColl also secured more from the Bill Gates Foundation; his brother in law, Congressman John Spratt and the William J. Clinton Foundation. The library opened two years ago and was named the Marian Wright Edelman Library. This story and so many others say to me that with all of our poverty and problems, we have so many reasons to be thankful and hopeful. ❖❖❖❖❖❖❖❖

Continued from page 6 - How Did We Do?

and the presenters were described as "Exceptional presenters!! "

Louise Johnson, MS, Director, Children's Service at SCDMH was the Closing Plenary and Brunch speaker and her effort was described as "Very heartfelt! "

Participants were asked to name any speakers from the concurrent and general educational sessions they considered outstanding. Most of the speakers were named. Participants were asked to suggest speakers for next year's conference. Again, most of this year's speakers were named. However, it was also suggested that we strive for more diversity by looking beyond Action Council Board members. One writer emphasized that there were individuals who attended this year's conference who would make good presenters.

Continued on page 8 - How Did We Do?

Fifty-seven individuals addressed the question of whether or not their personal goals and objectives were met during the conference. All fifty-seven answered yes." Fifty-one addressed the issue of whether or not they planned to attend the conference next year. Forty-three said that they planned to return next year and eight answered, "Maybe."

The annual conference presented by the Action Council for Mental Health and Human Services is a time-honored tradition for many professionals. While the conference does feature nationally known experts in a variety of fields, workshops conducted by our board members, human services professionals along with religious leaders also contribute greatly to our educational effort and the whole conference experience. Many human services 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 and affordable 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.

Finally, it is crucial that we ask attendees of our conference to rate the effectiveness of our offerings and to suggest ways that we might improve our conference. Again, the Educational Value of the Overall Conference was 3.78 and the average rating for several areas measured was 3.688. We greatly appreciate hearing from the people who support our conference by attending each year and we look forward to your attendance next year.



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.

