



Action Council Newsletter

■ APRIL 2021

■ ANNUAL EDITION

Message From the **THE PRESIDENT**



James Starnes, Action Council President

An African proverb says, “If you close your eyes to facts, you will learn through accidents.” Another African proverb says, “He who learns teaches.” The Action Council remains committed to revealing facts that open eyes and support the teaching of those facts. We will continue our commitment to ensure that all training is rooted in cultural competence and evidence-based best practices.

While we mourn our temporary departure from our on-site conference, we celebrate the virtual 43rd Annual Cross-Cultural Conference. While we miss the incomparable networking opportunities of the on-site conference, the virtual conference offered the same high-quality training. We look forward to returning to Myrtle Beach, February 24-27, 2022, for the 44th Annual Conference.

The Action Council is the nation’s longest-serving training organization focusing on cultural competence. The headlines of 2020, make it abundantly clear that this organization must continue. We have much to offer the community at large. We hope to broaden and increase training opportunities accordingly, in the coming months. We welcome your input.

We are grateful to all presenters who will give of their time and expertise to make the 2021 Conference a success. We thank the Planning Committee for its creativity. As always, we are grateful for all who continue to support us with your presence and gifts. May we be unmovable in our efforts to protect and enhance the dignity of all providers and consumers of human services.

As we bid farewell to 2021, we do so with mixed emotions. Our nation continues to struggle with a pandemic. Political and racial divisiveness continues to occupy center stage. Our economy is not where we want it. Our healthcare system itself needs healthcare.

While these are grievous conditions, we can be heartened by the fact that some of these conditions have improved and there is the significant discussion regarding strategies to improve others. The first step to making things better is having the desire to do so. I am convinced that there is sufficient desire and talent to effect positive change.

From the Editor's Desk ERNEST SHAW, LMSW



On the last day of 2021, we saw the highest daily number of infections ever reported. That news marked a fitting end to a challenging year. However, history has taught us that great challenges often present us with great opportunities. I am particularly impressed by the way we have embraced the available technology to carry on our business.

My task is to continue to document our history and our current activities on these pages. This edition will feature the participant's evaluation of the quality of the 43rd Annual Cross-Cultural Conference. This conference was presented entirely virtual for the first time. As we constantly strive to improve the quality of our presentations to the public, we will not lose sight of the importance of sharing the thoughts of the people who attend our events each year. Please be assured that we take

the comments and recommendations of attendees seriously.

We are also aware that our success would not be possible without the generous support of numerous individuals and agencies, both public and private. We greatly appreciate the many professional experts who freely share their knowledge with us each year.

We will also note the passing of individuals who were central characters in the cross-cultural movement and key contributors to our efforts to continue the legacy of Dr. Corbitt. Please review what is written and help me improve the quality of the newsletter by submitting stories of interest for future editions. Let us know about your lives, the triumphs, and the losses. I have been involved with the Action Council and the conference for half of their existence and I have done extensive research on the early history of our movement. Nevertheless, there is so much that I do not know. There are individuals that I should know about but don't. So, give me a name and I will attempt to bring you a story.

A collage image featuring a woman in a red jacket speaking at a podium on the left. To her right is a large board titled 'Introducing our faculty' which displays 10 headshots of faculty members arranged in two rows. Below the board are two logos: the Action Council for Cross-Cultural Mental Health & Human Services logo on the left, and the 43rd Annual Cross Cultural Conference logo on the right, which includes the text 'EMOTIONAL PPE: Equipping Diverse Populations In Crisis' and a blue surgical mask. The background of the collage is green and yellow.

How Did We Do?



How Did We Do?

Attendees rated each presentation on a scale of 1 to 5 with 5 indicating perfection. The average score for all presentations was 4.64.

Average: 4.64



**The Many Impacts of the COVID 19 Pandemic:
A Panel Discussion**

Nancy K. Brown, MSW, PhD
Substance Abuse and the Aging
Population during COVID 19



Gaye Douglas, DNP, MEd, APRN-BC
Telehealth during COVID 19



Barbara Melton, M.ED., LPC.
Depression and Anxiety



**The Many Impacts of the COVID 19 Pandemic:
A Panel Discussion**

Thought the presentation was great. But would prefer the ace to face presentation!

Very relevant and informative. Only issues were the audio, I know very little could've been done about that, especially since this is the first time this conference has been done virtually.

This was an excellent and very informative panel discussion. Dr. Brown, Ms. Melton, and Ms. Douglas all did an excellent job! Thank you to all!

**Implications of Religion and Spirituality in
Mental Health Treatment Part I**



**Barbara R. McLaughlin,
MDiv, MSW, LCSW**

**Implications of Religion and Spirituality in
Mental Health Treatment Part I**

Thought the presentation was great. But would prefer the face-to-face presentation!

Very helpful insight towards cultural beliefs and traditions and learning more in approaching clients.

Presenter lost train of thought several times. Spiritual assessment side of discussion went well.

Gaye Douglas, DNP, MEd, APRN-BC



ACEs of Hearts

ACEs of Hearts

I got a little bit lost with all the medical info, but I got the main points, I think.

Gaye was wonderful and knowledgeable.

Comparing a person with ADHD, let alone one with an adverse reaction to a medication, to a demon-possessed girl in the movie the Exorcist is quite inappropriate and disrespectful to people with that disability. Whether it was meant that way or not.

**Strategies and Activities to Help Children
Deal with Anger in a Healthy Way**

Eileen Kittrell, MSW



**Strategies and Activities to Help Children Deal with
Anger in a Healthy Way**

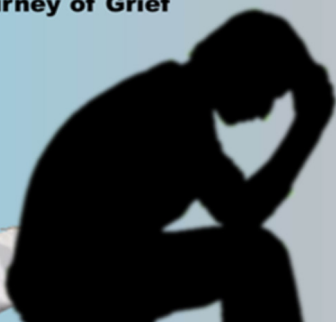
Excellent! Best session so far - by far!

Great presenter, very pleasant. And great suggestions on helping a child get to know his/her anger and other emotions, how to name it, identify warning signs, and how to cope! Great.

Thought the presentation was great. But would prefer the face-to-face presentation!

Dr. Joe Baroody

The Journey of Grief



The Journey of Grief

Best part of the day for me. Info was amazing. Such a powerful and HUMAN presentation. I really enjoyed hearing his stories and words of comfort. AMAZING!

Very good information on how to counsel individuals through the grief process.

Loved Joe Baroody. Very powerful presentation... "Excellent presentation! Thank you sharing the personal stories.

Joe had the best presentation of the day. I learned so much. I will be ordering his book.

**Implications of Religion and Spirituality in
Mental Health Treatment Part II**



**Barbara R. McLaughlin,
MDiv, MSW, LCSW**

**Spiritual/Religious Beliefs & Mental Health Treatment
Part II**

Excellent session! Thank you!

Speaker's presentation was very informative and helpful.

"Thank you for the beneficial content and authentic presentation!"

This was powerful and I would do it again.

Thanks...for good conversation around spiritual intelligence. I enjoyed your style and methods towards integration of such a huge subject in an atmosphere where expressing beliefs can be challenging.

April Viverette, LCSW-S, LISW, MBA, CCM



Malingering

Malingering

Great job! Would like to hear more of her presentations.

I really liked the closed captioning that April used. Excellent communicator.

Excellent reminder of challenges in the field and areas to review/consider/assess.

Appreciate you sharing your knowledge and expertise on the topic. Informative and helpful.

Your PowerPoint presentation was great.

**Social Work: Our Ethical Responsibility to the
Broader Society**

Karen Starks, PhD, LCSW



**Social Work: Our Ethical Responsibility to the
Broader Society**

Eye opening information.

"Wow, Dr Starks was amazing. I learned a lot of new and valuable tidbits. Thank you!"

Great presentation. Please have her back next year!

Thank you for keeping it REAL. Very informative.

Excellent presentation Dr. Starks! I learned a lot from your presentation today! Thank you!!!

**Counseling Children, Adolescents, and Their Family
with Trauma(s) through TF-CBT**

Gerod Gore, LISW-CP, TF-CBT



**Counseling Children, Adolescents, and Their Family
with Trauma(s) through TF-CBT**

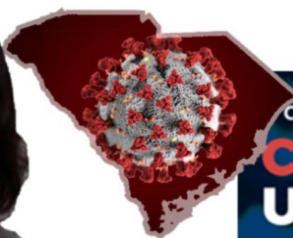
Best of the day!

The speaker was clearly knowledgeable about the information he was sharing. The examples and resources were greatly appreciated. I would love to hear him speak again.

Excellent session. Thanks for being the first presenter I've heard today offering tools we can use during Telehealth. Love it! Love the acronym for diagnosing.

**CLOSING SESSION
Dr. Linda Bell**

**Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC)
Chief Epidemiologist COVID 19 and Health Disparities**



CLOSING SESSION

Eye opening information.

Excellent Presentation.

Great way to close the conference. Thank you!

I'm extremely grateful for the FACTUAL information shared about COVID vaccines, since there is so much nonsense floating around out there!

Dr. Bell deserves an award for her service not only to the state of SC but to the Nation. Proud of Her

Dr. Linda Bell's presentation was Perfect!

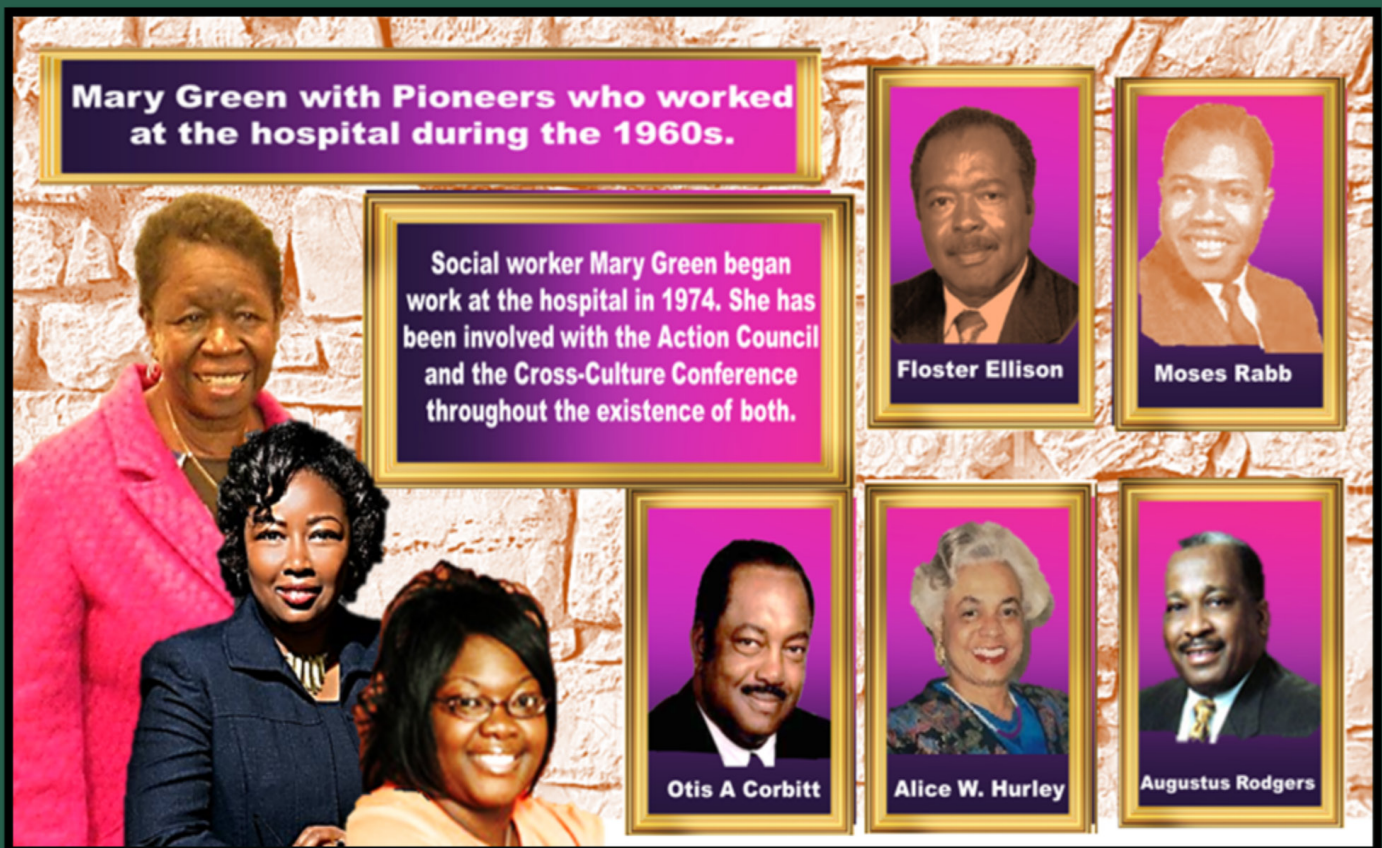


Passing of a Renaissance Lady

Alice Lewis Wyche Hurley 1934-2021

Dramatic changes accompanying the end of legal racial segregation in South Carolina in the 1960s spawned dramatic changes in the SC Department of Mental Health (SCDMH) and other state agencies. Around 1960, Dr. Clyde Goodrum, a white New Englander, who came south to teach was hired by SC State Hospital (SCSH) to help develop a “coordinated effort at training graduates of Negro colleges.” Goodrum and four graduate students from Benedict College and Allen University, two historically black institutions in Columbia began providing counseling services at State Park Unit, the segregated facility for black SC State Hospital patients. As we participate in the 44th Annual Cross-Cultural Conference we must acknowledge that the creation of the Cross-Cultural Conference and other entities designed to promote diversity can be attributed to the success of Goodrum’s effort. Those early black professionals were also pioneers in the Cross-Cultural movement. We note the passing of one who recorded the coming and going of characters in our story and then gave so much to the effort.

After fifty years as the “Colored” unit of the state asylum, in 1963 State Park was administratively separated from SCSH and renamed Palmetto State Hospital. Civil Rights advocate Modjeska Simpkins and others protested the unequal treatment accorded black patients and staff at the hospital. Finally, in 1965 SCDMH was integrated, and the former black institution became Crafts-Farrow State Hospital.



Passing of a Renaissance Lady

Continued

Moses Rabb of Rock Hill came to Columbia and by 1964 he was working at the hospital. Alice Hurley studied at Atlanta University under Dean of Social Work, Whitney Young, future president of the National Urban League and the National Association of Social Workers. Hurley worked as a social worker at Crafts-Farrow until 1967. She also helped to organize the Columbia Urban League that year with the support of Young. Hurley wrote in the November 1965 edition of Palmetto Variety, the hospital's house magazine, "Augustus Rodgers, a recent graduate of Benedict began working in July." "Benedict graduate, Floster Leon Ellison was promoted to Chief of Social Services." "Another social worker was hired to replace Otis Corbitt who was away at school." Corbitt, the nephew of Ellison, later earned a Doctorate in Social Work from Columbia University. He returned to the hospital and was the highest-ranking black staffer in SCDMH for many years. Mary Green, a social worker, joined the staff at Crafts-Farrow in 1974. She cited the relationship that Corbitt was able to develop with white mental health professionals such as Joe James, Dr. William Powell, and Sharon Spivey as a critical factor in the creation of the environment that fostered the Cross-cultural movement. Dr. Corbitt was the founder, and the first president of the Action Council and Joe James is the only person to attend every Cross-Cultural Conference held in South Carolina.

Alice Lewis Wyche Hurley died She died on November 26, 2021, while vacationing on Saint Helena Island, South Carolina. Action Council board member and former President Shirley Furtick noted her passing.



A wonderful and great lady!

To the Hurley family in memory of a wonderful and great lady! She will be missed I first knew Alice from the social work community of angels, then the Delta sister hood, and then just friends. Such a great lady!. Always a pleasure to see her because she always had a smile and word of encouragement. I will truly regret the missed opportunities and invitations to have lunch or just come by and chat. She will truly be missed; just thought we had more time.

Shirley Furtick



To Work with The Professor and Her Students

Aidyn Iachini, Ph.D., MSW, LSW

Aidyn Iachini, Ph.D., MSW, LSW is a native of Allentown, Pennsylvania. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, PA. She earned her MSW from Ohio State University College of Social Work. She also earned her M.A. and Ph.D. from Ohio State University. Dr. Iachini was an instructor and post-doctoral research fellow at the Ohio State University College of Social Work for several years. In 2011 she came to the College of Social Work faculty at the University of South Carolina as an Associate Professor.

Her research focuses on the organizational systems and processes, along with social and leadership factors, influencing positive youth development within schools and out-of-school time settings.

She has authored or co-authored numerous journal articles on topics including interprofessional education and collaboration, behavioral and mental health services in family-serving organizations, early intervention programs for at-risk high school students, and the contribution of afterschool programs to positive youth development.

Her publications have been featured in scholarly journals, such as *Prevention Science*, *Children & Youth Services Review*, *Children & Schools*, *Journal of Interprofessional Care*, and *Health & Social Work*. Iachini recently co-edited a book "A Guide for Interprofessional Collaboration."

The University of South Carolina has been an active partner in our effort to provide quality education to professionals. Numerous professors from the university have spoken at our conference and During the fall semester of 2021, a group of Dr. Iachini's students collaborated with the Board of Directors of the Action Council to evaluate our organization. Students Rachel Wilson, Rachel Burns, Desmonies White, Rickey Gilliard, and Gemima Ngadiene

reviewed historical documents and conducted interviews with several board members to complete their project. Their findings were presented to us.

The leader of the group was Rachel Wilson who earned a bachelor's degree in Sociology from Clemson University. She noted that her direction in life was shaped at the age of six when her family adopted two children from Ethiopia. Rachel and the other four students will graduate in a few months and are expected to enter the social work profession. However, each of them have already cultivated impressive resumes through their community involvement. Gemima Bunkumuna Ngadiene graduated from Millbrook High School in Wake County, North Carolina. She earned a bachelor's degree in Social Work from UNC-Greensboro. Rickey Gillard from Liberty County, Georgia earned a bachelor's degree in Sociology from Georgia Southern University. Rachel Burns studied English at Winthrop University. Desmonies White attended Greenville Technical College. Desmonies White – earned associate's degrees in Arts while she was still attending Whale Branch High School where she was selected as one of the Student Heroes of the LowCountry.

We are grateful to have had the opportunity to work with these young people. This collaborative effort provided us with data that should be helpful to us while providing future social workers with the opportunity to observe the operation of our organization. We hope that collaborative efforts like this one will be repeated.



Continuing the Fight Against COVID



The Archbishop Has Left Us



Joe Elbert Benton was born in Tennessee and grew up in Seattle, Washington. He attended Garfield High School where he was a member of the baseball team and a theatre group. Joe graduated and came to Columbia to attend Benedict College. In Columbia, he met Allen University student Almateen Williams and they were married in 1967. Joe returned to Washington to earn his MSW from the University of Washington in Seattle, but he returned to Columbia.

Joe began his five decades as a social worker in 1965. He conceptualized, planned, organized, and implemented many human services programs, particularly programs for young people. Joe served as Assistant Commissioner in the SC Department of Juvenile Justice and the Director of the Youth Development Bureau of Health and Human Services in President Jimmy Carter's administration. He was the interim director of the SC State Employees Association; the Board of Communities in Schools of the Midlands; and the President of the National Association of Black Social Workers. Recently he was Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the SC Organization of African Unity and a visiting professor of Social Work at SC State University.

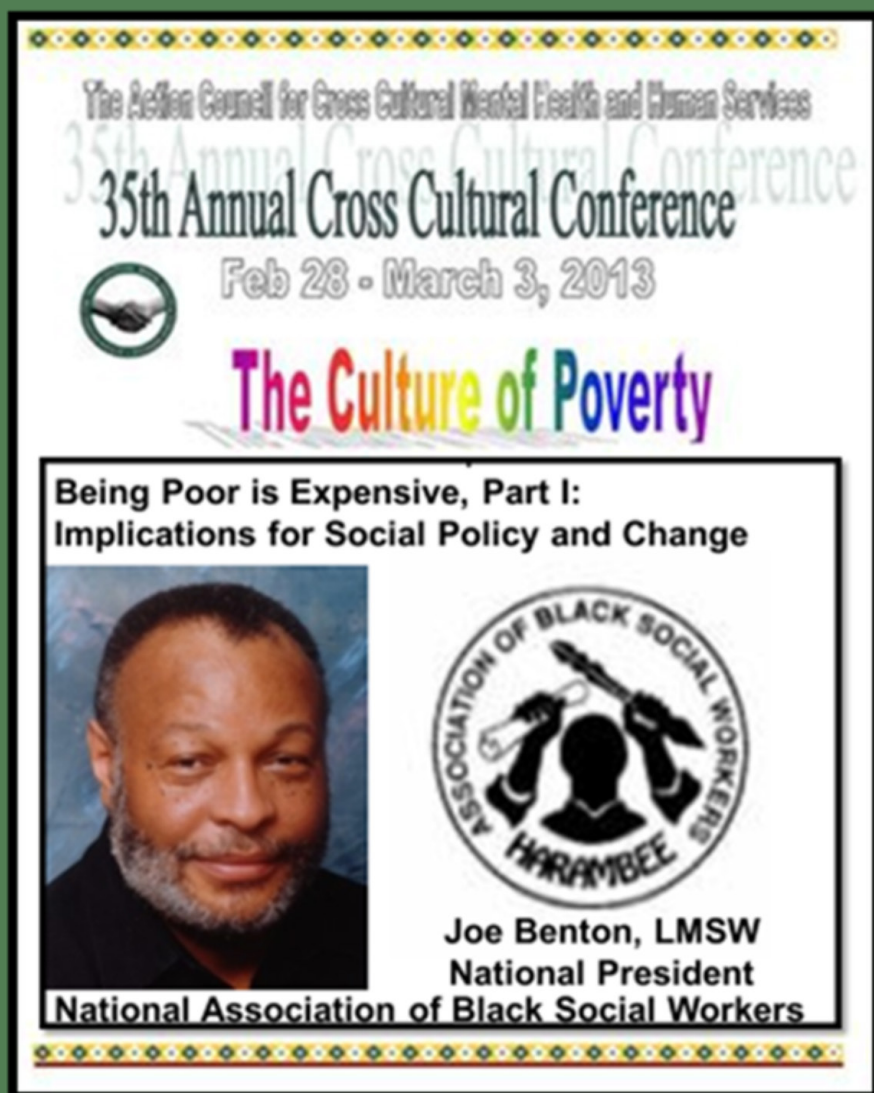


The Archbishop Has Left Us

Continued

Joe and his friends Dr. Burnett Gallman and Derrick Jackson pioneered Afrikan-centered rites of passage programs for manhood and womanhood training. In 2000 he was one of the founders of KRST Universal Temple where he served as the Senior Elder of the Elders Council for twenty-one years.

Joe Benton was generous in sharing his wisdom and expertise with others. The editor met Mr. Benton more than two decades ago at an educational event. He began his presentation by explaining that the host had invited him to speak, asked him to do a good job, and apologized to him because there was no money to pay him. His response was “you want me to be good for nothing.”



Joe Benton was a friend and supporter of our organization as well. He served on the committee that planned conferences including the 2013 Conference. Many of us still recall that Joe spoke on the topic “Being Poor is Expensive: Implications for Social Policy Change” at that conference. Joe Benton was in attendance when Dr. Gallman spoke at one of our Male Summit in Aiken several years ago.

Joe Elbert Benton made his transition to join the ancestors on August 8, 2021, at the age of 74. We are better for having the opportunity to rub shoulders with Joe. We extend our condolences to Mrs. Benton and the family.



Caring for Vulnerable Rural Populations in South Carolina



Presented by: Teri Browne, PhD, MSW & Bailey King, MSW, LMSW

Residents in rural South Carolina have unique needs that play a major role in their health outcomes and quality of life. Health and behavioral health professionals who understand the specific needs, barriers, and strength of their patient population are able to successfully engage with those patients and provide high quality, patient-centered care. This training aims to provide necessary education and best practices related to the unique needs of vulnerable populations in rural SC, as well as specific health and behavioral disparities present in our state.

Program Objectives

At the completion of this program, the participant will be able to:

- Identify demographics and related characteristics of vulnerable populations in rural South Carolina.
- Verbalize at least three health disparities experienced by vulnerable populations in rural South Carolina.
- Identify at least one community strength or resource they can use when engaging with patients or clients in need.

We are grateful to Professor King and Professor Browne for their contributions. Our rural population must not be forgotten or left behind as we consider the needs of our entire population. We also congratulate Professor Browne upon her appointment as interim Dean of the University of South Carolina School of Social Work.



Coming Attraction: February 24 - 27

Back by Popular Demand

