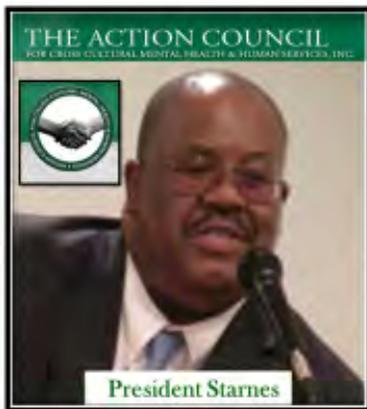




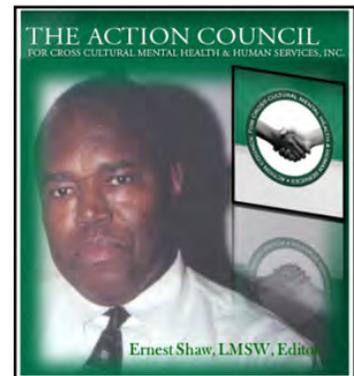
From the President



The planning for the 2017 Cross Cultural Conference is complete. The Action Council website is an excellent resource to obtain information on the Cross Cultural Conference and other Action Council events. The success of our organization results from the hard work of our members and our board of directors. Hard-working men and women with a variety of skills, work daily to ensure that all Action Council events are relevant and an overall success. In the coming year, the Action Council will continue to collaborate with other groups and individuals to reach a wider audience and make certain that our mission is accomplished. Please visit our website regularly at crossculturalactioncouncil.org.

From the Editor

The primary goal of this organization is to promote cultural competency through the various educational events that we sponsor and present throughout the year. This edition of the newsletter will provide our readers some of the highlights of the past year, thank those individuals and organizations who continue to contribute to our success, and extend an invitation to everyone to join us for future events. I would also like to use this opportunity to ask all of our members to 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 are doing great 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.



Dr. Evans honored with 2016 President's Award

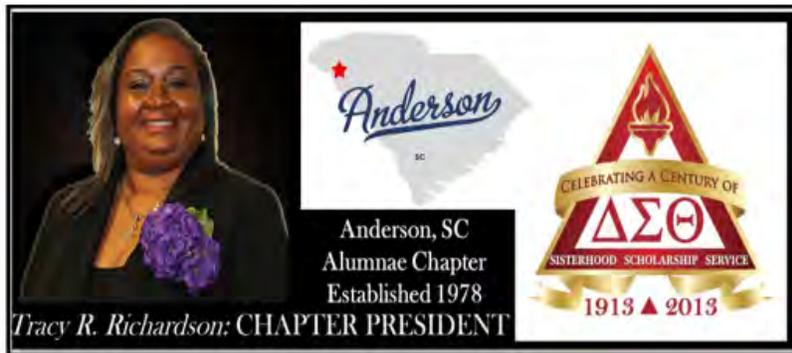
Dr. Alison Y. Evans, Chairwoman of the S.C. Mental Health Commission was presented the President's Award at the 38th Annual Cross-Cultural Conference in Myrtle Beach on February 19, 2016. Action Council President James Starnes cited Dr. Evans' "dedicated involvement with mental health advocacy in our state, as well as her work in the field of education."



Dr. Evans is a licensed professional counselor from Hartsville. She has been a member of the Mental Health Association of South Carolina and the Mental Health Association of Darlington County for many years. Her husband, Dr. Kenneth Evans is a physician. She was appointed to the SC Mental Health Commission in 2004, and has served as its chair since the fall of that year. She is also a member of the staff of the SC Governor's School for Science and Mathematics, where she is both mental health counselor and an instructor.

Dr. Evans has also been a supporter of our organization for several years. She spoke at the 2014 Cross Cultural Conference and she was described as a "Good speaker, engaging, (with) great stories that tied in with her subject matter." She was also described as "very entertaining and informative and she explained Cross Culture in layman terms using real situations."

President Tracy Richardson



Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. was founded in 1913 at Howard University to promote academic excellence and help those in need. The Anderson, South Carolina Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. was granted a charter in May of 1978. For nearly four decades the members of the Anderson Chapter have served as

educators, advocates and activists in their quest to improve the well-being of their community. Tracy Richardson, a member of the Board of Directors of the Action Council, is a long-time member of the Anderson Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Tracy is the new president of her chapter. We congratulate Tracy on her election and hope for the continued success of her organization.

The 2016 Conference: How Did We Do?



The 39th Annual Cross Cultural Conference is just around the corner. Planning is also underway for our 40th annual conference in 2018. However, we should take one last look at this year's conference. The 38th Annual Cross Cultural Conference was held at the Landmark Resort Hotel in Myrtle Beach, SC, from February 18-21, 2016. The theme for this year's conference was: "Utilizing Best Practices to Promote Exceptional Systems of Care."

This conference was designed for persons working with diverse cultural groups including but not limited to: social workers,

nurses, professional counselors, psychologists, physicians, attorneys, law enforcement, policy makers, educators, members of the clergy, criminal justice professionals, as well as other interested personnel.

The goal of the conference is to provide participants with the knowledge, skills and networking opportunities to enhance the delivery and effectiveness of services in their respective professions.

The conference began with the Grace Brooks Palmer Convocation. This year's program featured a panel discussion featuring Rev. Willie Holmes of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Rabbi Jonathan Case of Beth Shalom Synagogue, Rev. Brenda Kneece of the Christian Action Council and Omar Shaheed, Imam of Masjid As-Salaam. One person noted afterwards "Convocation has demonstrated what it means to be a



human being on God's earth. We as a people can get together and make a different world. God we need you! Bless the Action Council for Cross Cultural Conference. May it grow in your name. Amen."

The Opening Session Speaker was Robert Toomey, Director of SC Department of

Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services (DAODAS). One observer noted: "Excellent presentation! Very helpful overview. I love that he is open to talk about his personal experience of substance abuse. -So helpful to me as a behavioral health clinician." Robert C. "Bob" Toomey began his long career with state government while attending the University of South Carolina. He has been a supporter of the Action Council while working with several state agencies. Governor Haley recently announced Mr. Toomey's latest retirement.

A Plenary Panel featured Carl E. Jones, Ph.D., Marsha Tunstall, LPC and Wendell Price, MS. "So thankful there are agencies in South Carolina continuing to serve," wrote one person.

Donna Green, Chief Magistrate Court Prosecutor of the Tenth Judicial Circuit Solicitor's Office provided a detailed description of the *New Domestic Violence Laws in South Carolina*. Her presentation was described as "Very vital information that was presented in simple language whereas it could be of much benefit to everyone in all walks of life."

Terri Browne, Ph.D., MSW, NSW-C; Betsy Blake, Phar.D., BCPS and Bev Baliko, Ph.D., APRN-BC collaborated to conduct the Student Workshop titled *Expanding Interprofessional Education to Enhance Cultural Competence and Humility*. The three presenters represented various schools at the University of South Carolina. One student noted "Great learning experience, hope Coastal Carolina University can get involved."



The Luncheon Speaker was Roberta R. Greene, Ph.D., LCSW Professor & Endowed Chair, School of Social Work at the University of Texas-Austin, Emerita. "I am a social worker and it was my honor and pleasure to hear Dr. Greene speak! Thanks to her for a good

review of Systems Theory! I am also grateful for the new terminology that is being talked about-its helping me learn new things in social work," one person wrote.

Child and Adolescent Co-occurring Disorders was presented by David A. Kahn, Ph.D., LPC, LPCS of The Counseling Center of Florence, LLC. One attendee wrote "Provided a wealth of information. Provided specific examples that related to the topic." The Reverend Deacon Susan T. Parlier, Ph.D., LMSW, ACSW, MAR of the University of South Carolina teamed with Ana Hervada, BSW, MSW/MPH Candidate 2016 and Alana Hollingsworth, MSW Candidate 2016 to present "*Balancing Act: Ethical Practice during Complex Time*. It was noted that the presenters "...had energy and enthusiasm. Presented in very friendly and knowledgeable manner." Another attendee took exception to a comment made by a fellow attendee and wrote "When individuals "bash" other political views presenters need to squash it. The comment about the "Republican governor" was offensive. Why qualify? Any politician, regardless of party can be corrupt."

Paul R. Rasmussen, Ph.D., a Staff Psychologist at William Jennings Bryan Dorn Veterans Affairs Medical Center presented *Adaptive Reorientation: A Model for Recovery*. "A little rushed at the end but very informative. Powerful presentation. Wow factor," wrote one person while another noted "Excellent, informative experience!! Like to see him present again!"

Christina M. Lopez, Ph.D., Assistant Professor at MUSC School of Nursing and Kristen M. Shealy, Ed.M., CAS, LPC, Bilingual Outreach Therapist and Victim Services Coordinator National Crime Victims Center at MUSC updated us on the topic, *Increasing Access to Psychological Services Using Telemental Health*. One observer concurred with the premise of the presentation and wrote "This is such a useful way to break through the barrier for our clients to have more and easy access to mental health and substance abuse treatment resources."

Julie Cole, LMSW, CACII, NCACI - Project Coordinator, SC DAODAS presented *The Language of Recovery*. "Excellent presenter. Best of the day," was the way one participant evaluated her presentation. Another person noted, "She brought good awareness to our language and use of language. Very interactive which I appreciated."

Managing Attorney Kimaka Nichols-Graham, LD of the Greenville Office and Education Unit Head for South Carolina Legal Services presented on the topic, *Cultural Barriers to Special Education and Disparate Impact of School Discipline Policies*. The presentation was described as "great!" The reviewer continued "It was directly related to my role as a social worker. Thank you." However, another person noted, "Handouts would have been helpful, especially with remembering the law."

Patricia Kohl, MSW, Ph.D., Associate Dean for Social Work - George Warren Brown School of Social Work - Washington University in St. Louis spoke on the topic, *Implementation of Evidence Based Treatments With Diverse Populations*. This workshop was described as a "Fabulous presentation by an excellent communicator."

Christopher Welch, B.S., Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services Coordinator with First Choice health plan at Select Health of South Carolina spoke on the topic, *Enhancing Health Equity: The National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS)*. One person described this presentation as "a plus and very mind opening to unconscious bias."

"Excellent presentation. The best speaker at the conference," was one participant's description of the workshop titled *Complexities of Working with Combat Veterans (CV) and Their Families* presented by Stephen E. Williams, LPC, CAC III, SAP of Calvary Counseling Associates. Another person noted, "Especially interesting as I had a military/ combat husband, daddy and brother. It helped me to understand them. I needed this information 30 years ago. Thank you."

Kenneth M. Rogers, MD, MSPH, MMM, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Psychiatry at Greenville Health System/University of South Carolina- School of Medicine-Greenville explored the impact of poverty, race, and mental illness on the labeling of children of African descent in the U.S. in a presentation titled, *The Story of a Child Who Became a Victim, But Was Called a Criminal*. His presentation

was described as “Excellent!” Dr. Rogers has “a highly effective communication style which the audience delighted in! This was a real down-to-earth session providing information and insight into issues affecting African-American males. Like the way he presented stats and other info and interwove the story of John,” wrote one person. Other comments included “Excellent,” “Probably should be offered at least every other year,” and Riveting presentation. Invite him back. “Best speaker so far.”

Lynn Owens, MS, LPC and Stephanie Lanier, Ed.D., LPCS of the Center for Family Violence Prevention attempted to increase the knowledge of healthcare professionals regarding domestic violence, including the cycle of abuse, the factors that influence the patterns in abusive relationships, the similarities between domestic violence and substance abuse, and the most effective professional supports and treatment needed by victims of domestic violence. One participant noted, “Valuable information not heard because presenters had difficulties operating computer/slides.”

Amy Thompson, Pharm.D, BCACP, CDE, Associate Professor at Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) outline the impact of medications on the geriatric population and the ill effects of medications not properly monitored in her presentation titled *Geriatric Medication Safety*. Her offering was described as “Great session. Loved the dialogue in the room! Speaker was very knowledgeable.” “Best presentation thus far. Thanks,” another added.

Pamela Hyde, J.D. Former Director, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) a division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services was the Luncheon Speaker on Friday and she spoke on the topic, *Evidence-Based Thinking and Practices in Behavioral Health: Challenges and Opportunities*. One participant left a chocolate smudged evaluation form upon which was written “Sorry about chocolate smudges! Cake was excellent and so was this session. Thank You!” another person wrote “Great speaker who made a difficult subject accessible to a wide variety of people. We were lucky to have her!”

Vanessa Spearman, M.D., Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine and Psychiatry at Georgia Regents University spoke about *Legalities, Personalities, and Realities: The Underestimated Barriers to Mental Health Care*. The assessment of one participant was “Awesome speaker and presentation. Tons of useful information for all professions.” Another described Dr. Spearman as a “Great dancer.”

Behavioral Health Disaster Response: Psychological First Aid was presented by Joan M. Culley, Ph.D., MPH, RN, CWOCN, Associate Professor at the University of South Carolina-College of Nursing. This workshop presented general principles that guides disaster mental health response strategies and the importance of mental health and psychosocial support as a component of the response to disasters. “The presenter was very enthusiastic and knowledgeable. Wonderful information in disaster preparedness” said one person.

Karen Bullock, Ph.D., LCSW, Associate Professor at North Carolina State University discussed the design and implementation of an effective approach to provide mental health services to a multicultural population of older adults in a presentation titled *The Complex Mental Health Needs of Marginalized Older Adults*. “Wow! Very dynamic speaker who is very knowledgeable on this topic. Great ideas for improving the assessment of clients” was the reaction of one participant.

The end of the second day featured *Interactive Summaries* Moderated by Willie Bethune, LMSW, Action Council Board of Directors. A panel consisting of Vanessa Spearman, M.D. along with Action Council Board of Directors members Elaine Leonard, RN and Ernest Shaw, LMSW and Carol Apt, Ph.D., Professor at South Carolina State University and Action Council Board of Directors member. This panel provided attendees overviews of the six workshops conducted in Clinical, Policy, Family/Community discussed throughout the day in each of the educational tracks. “Overview allowed participants the opportunity to obtain a brief summary about workshops they may have missed. This was a benefit to me, wrote one

participant. Another added “Fantastic panelists! I wish all conferences would use this summary technique at the end of the day. So helpful to have a review and allow audience participation.”

On the final day of the conference Stephen McLeod-Bryant, MD, Provisional Clinical Professor Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences Miller School of Medicine University of Miami Health System spoke about the impact culture and one’s cultural identity has on recovery from mental illness in his presentation titled *The Cultural Dimensions of Recovery*. “Very informative. Articulated information very well. Please ask him back. “He’s Deep” wrote one participant. Another added “Excellent. Best workshop of this year’s conference. Ken Rogers was excellent too!” A third person noted “Dr. McLeod–Bryant was outstanding as were all of the speakers in the sessions I attended. Thanks for organizing a wonderful conference.”



Christian Friend and Melvin Hargett Herring speaking at the conference

Melvin Hargett Herring, Ph.D., Assistant Professor at Johnson C. Smith University and Christian Friend, Ph.D. of the Human Development Group of Charlotte, NC presented *What is Cultural Competence: An Operationalization of the Process*. The response of one participant was “Excellent workshop! Important, relevant to the socioeconomic literature and body of knowledge. Please bring back next year.” Another added “One of the best at the conference. Thought provoking and a way to get the conversation started. Thank you!”

The Closing Brunch Speaker was Gail W. Stuart, Ph.D., RN, FAAN Distinguished University Professor and Dean, College of Nursing at MUSC. Her presentation was described as “Very informative session. It was helpful that the presenter was able to utilize her experience in Liberia to help reinforce the session.” Another person noted that the “Presentation speaker was excellent. Bring back next year for session with clinicians-Best Practices.”

The overall conference evaluation revealed the following: The Educational Value of Conference was 3.68, based on a 4.0 scale. The Extent Workshops for this year’s conference were as advertised was rated at 3.72. Fifty-two respondents consisting of seventeen Action Council members and thirty-five nonmembers completed the over-all conference evaluation. Forty-nine indicated that their personal goals and objectives were met during the conference. Only one person said that their personal goals and objectives were not met and two did not answer the question. Respondents were asked if they planned to attend next year’s conference. Thirty-four answered yes, none said no and seventeen said maybe. Many of those who answered maybe cited cost or possible inability to get time off from work for their current uncertainty.

We appreciate the many comments made regarding the quality of the presentations made by the many



talented speakers. There were a few negative comments. However, most were of the technical nature. Some of the great speakers had not quite mastered the art of producing PowerPoint text large enough to be seen from the back of the room. Our microphones failed often, handouts were often not available and there were too many sign in sheets. Nevertheless, an evaluation of the hundreds of evaluation forms turned in by the attendees were almost universal in their conclusions. “You all did a fantastic job in hosting this conference! Teamwork made the dream work!! Give yourselves a pat on the back. I may be back next year! Go team go!” Another person added “You all did GREAT with providing a well-rounded diversity of topics. Action Council was excellent!!”

We can conclude with the words of a participant who summed up the experience with “The conference was a 5-STAR performance and was expressed by many who walked up to me.”

Stress in the 21st Century – Part I

Carol Apt, Ph.D.

October 11, 2016

In the late 1700s Benjamin Franklin famously said, “In this world nothing can be said to be certain except death and taxes.” With all due respect to one of our Founding Fathers, I’d like to add a modern-day



phenomenon – stress. While there are many definitions of stress, the one I find most useful is that stress is a situation or event that taxes (no pun intended) what we perceive to be our usual coping resources. Something happens, or is going to happen that we’re not sure we can handle. Stress, like almost everything else, is in the eye of the beholder; what one person calls stressful another person might define as an opportunity or a challenge. As a counselor, I have been trained to address the types of problems that one might call ‘emotional crises,’ but please, whatever you do, don’t hand me a baby. I don’t know anything about babies and if you insist that I absolutely must hold your baby, let me sit down, strap myself in and put crash helmets on me and on the infant, just in case. For people who have children, holding a baby is not stressful, but dealing with an emotional crisis might be.

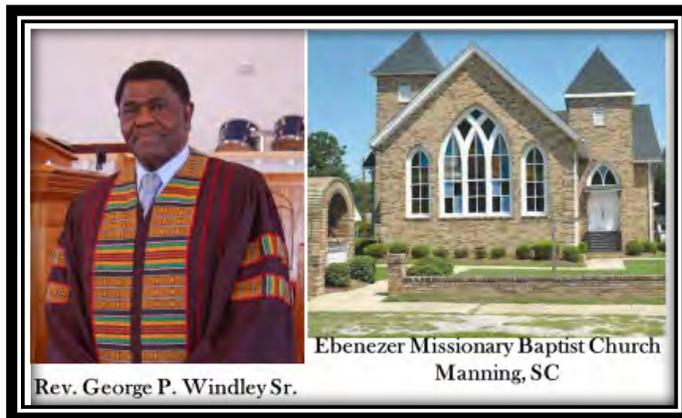
Stress can be divided into two general categories: acute and chronic. Acute stress is the kind of stress that we have for a short period of time and then it goes away. A student studying for an exam will probably

feel stressed, but it’s most likely acute stress because when the exam is over the stress is likely to be over, too. Chronic stress is the kind that can last a long time, sometimes a lifetime. Chronic stress occurs when, for example, you’re in a job or a relationship that you don’t like, but can’t get out of for a while. Some long-term medical conditions like diabetes or heart disease can be chronically stressful, as they require constant vigilance of such health issues as medications, weight, and/or diet, among others.

Our prehistoric ancestors, like the mythical caveman I'll call Grub, typically had acute stress, but not as much chronic stress as we have today. If, during his usual quotidian routine of searching for food, he came across a mastodon (think huge, hairy elephant) Grub's body went into fight or flight mode to prepare him for one of a few possible outcomes: he might be killed by the mastodon, he could fight and kill the predator, or he could run away and live to tell the tale. In preparation, Grub's pupils dilated in order to let in more light; his breathing deepened to get more oxygen into his lungs, and his heart pumped more strongly so that his extremities were supplied with fresh, oxygenated blood, among other physiological changes. Assuming that Grub lived through the ordeal, his bodily functions returned to their normal, pre-stress levels as soon as the situation was resolved. Grub and his fellow cave-dwellers didn't usually have problems with stress-related illnesses because the stressors that could cause them didn't last long. In today's society, because we are more likely to have chronic stress in addition to acute stress, the physiological changes that affected Grub for a short period of time can be with us for years and can have negative effects on our health and well-being.

In Part II I will take a look at why so many people in modern, technologically advanced societies feel so much stress.

Rev. Windley Honored



Myrtle Beach native Rev. George P. Windley Sr., pastor of Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church in Manning, received the Grace Brooks-Palmer Humanitarian Award at the 2016 Conference. A 1975 graduate of Morris College, Rev. Windley spent more than twenty years as chaplain with the SC Department of Corrections. Rev. Windley has served as Pastor of Ebenezer for more than 37 years. He and his church have served as host for several Black Male Summits in recent years. We thank Rev. Windley for his support and congratulate him upon receipt of this recognition.

The Loss of two who gave so much

The most visible product of our organization are the educational events that we present throughout the year. Our success is due in great part to the talented experts from so many fields who so generously share their expertise with us and the public at our events. We note the passing of two individuals who gave us so much and left us so soon.



Dr. Ida Spruill



Mr. Bennie Bennett

Dr. Ida Latisha Johnson Spruill, Ph.D., RN, LISW, FAAN, Associate Professor Emerita in the College of Nursing at MUSC was the youngest of fifteen children born to a family in Effingham, SC. She graduated from Whittemore High School in Conway. She added a B.S. Degree from North Carolina Central University, a M.S.W. Degree from Atlanta University, a B.S.N. Degree from Tennessee State University, a M.S.N. Degree from the MUSC and a Ph.D. from Hampton University by the time she was done.

Dr. Spruill began her career in Nursing in Florence in 1984 and moved on to MUSC two years later. Thirty years later she was still at MUSC and was considered one of the most accomplished nurses in the state. In 2014 Dr. Spruill was one of two nurse and the only South Carolinian among 102 recipients awarded the named a recipient of the Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers by President Barack Hussein Obama.

Dr. Ida Spruill was one of the featured speakers at the 2014 Cross Cultural Conference. She presented “*Understanding the Willie Lynch Syndrome to Improve Social Determinant of Health for the Next Generation.*” The discussions during this intense presentation generated some tension among participants. However, the presentation was described as “thought provoking.”

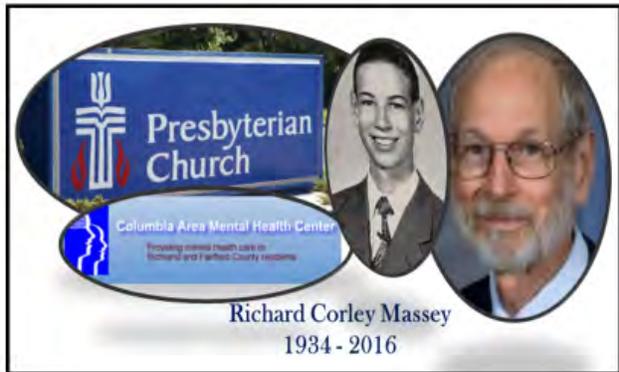
The Action Council has collaborated with several co- sponsors to conduct summits addressing the significant issues facing young black males in our communities. The first event was held on January 24 and 25, 2014 in Sumter, South Carolina. Bennie Bennett was born in New Zion and graduated from East Clarendon High School and Winthrop University where he was a star basketball player. He was a teacher, basketball coach and principal before he was appointed Superintendent of Newberry County Public Schools ten years ago.

Mr. Bennett came to Sumter in January of 2014 to speak to a group of impressionable young men about Career Options. He stressed the importance of a solid high school education as an essential foundation for future success in our current economy. “The workshop was excellent. Was on the group’s level” wrote one person. Another wrote “He makes me want to follow my goal even more.”

Dr. Spruill died on March 16, 2016 after a two-year battle with cancer. A month later on April 16, 2016 Superintendent Bennett was killed in a wreck in front of Newberry High School. We extend our sympathies to the families of two individuals with humble beginnings who utilized education to achieve success and willingly helped us to carry out our mission.

The Passing of Community Builders

Dick Massey was a counselor at Columbia Area Mental Health Center for more than two decades. However, he was so much more. Richard Corley “Dick” Massey graduated from Duke University on a track scholarship, served in the navy and earned a divinity degree. He was pastor of three churches before becoming a counselor. Dick Massey advocated for many causes related to equality and inclusiveness. His faith was on display in his works.



He inherited land that his ancestors acquired and maintained with slave labor before the Civil War and decided to designate income from the farm for descendants of the slaves whose labor built the farm. He also established a scholarship for African-Americans in his church. Dick Massey died on May 21, 2016.

James Rhett Jackson died five days after Dick Massey. He was born in Florence and attended Clemson College for a while before enlisting in the navy for two years.

Jackson spent almost thirty years in other businesses before opening his book store, The Happy Bookseller,

in Columbia in 1975. He served on the South Carolina Parole and Community Corrections Board where led the effort to grant a pardon to Cleveland Sellers. Sellers was shot by state troopers in the Orangeburg Massacre but was the only person convicted in the incident. Following his pardon Sellers was able to forge a successful career in education by serving as a professor at USC and as President of Voorhees College.



Jackson served on the Board of Directors of the Alston Wilkes Society, the Greater Columbia Community Relations Council, Claflin University Board of Trustees, and a citizens group opposed to the display of the Confederate flag above the statehouse.

Rhett Jackson was a humanitarian, civil rights leader and a devout member of the United Methodist Church and throughout his life he challenged his church and society to confront its intolerance towards others.

He chaired the committee that developed the plan to merge the African-American and white conferences of the Methodist church in South Carolina. He was also a member of the national committee to study race relations and mergers of Methodist conferences across the nation. Jackson received the Whitney M. Young award from the Urban League and the J. Waites Waring Humanitarian award. He was awarded the Order of the Palmetto by Governor Hodges.

Our community and our world are better because Mr. Massey and Mr. Jackson passed through. Our community and our lives are better because these two men lived among us.

Remembering Charles Aiken Sr.

Charles Aiken Sr. was the owner and operators of Aiken's Community Care Home and he provided care for our patients released from mental hospitals during a period of mass deinstitutionalization. Mr. Aiken was also the father of Charles L. Aiken who along with his wife Valarie established CarePro, a very successful home health services provider in the state. The Aikens and their company were longtime supporters of our organization. Mr. Charles Aiken died on May 21, 2016. The Action Council Board of Directors would like to extend our sympathies to the Aiken Family.



Meet our newest Board Member



Wendell Price was born in Clinton, SC and he graduated from Clinton High School. He earned a B.S. in Social Welfare and a M.S. Degree in Individual and Family Development from South Carolina State University. Wendell and his wife Loretta are the parents of two children. He is a deacon at St. Johns Baptist Church. For more than thirty years Wendell served in various capacities with the State of South Carolina. He was a responsible leader who oversaw thousands of employees and managed a budget of over a billion dollars. His most recent position was with the Youth Learning Institute at Clemson University. Mr. Price is a longtime supporter of the Action Council and a contributor at this year's Cross Cultural Conference. We welcome Mr. Price and his considerable experience back to the Board of Directors of the Action Council.

Remembering Mr. Love

Leon Allen Love was born in 1948 in York County, SC, the oldest of ten children. He graduated from Claflin College in Orangeburg in 1970 and went to work as a community organizer for civil rights leader Reverend I. DeQuincey Newman and the NAACP. In 1974 he went to work at the SC Department of Social



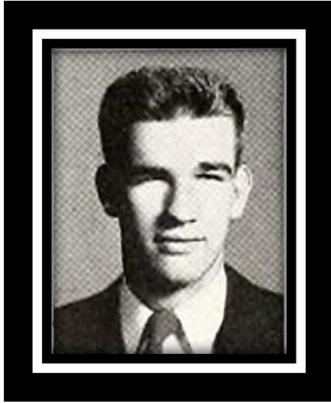
Leon Allen Love
1948-2016

Services where he served in many capacities before retiring nearly a quarter of a century later as a Deputy Director in 2007. Leon Love was a colleague and friend of Harrison Reardon and like his friend he was one of the early leaders of our organization.

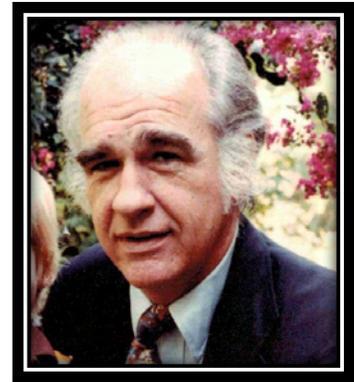
He was described as a “simple and humble man who devoted his life to community service and believed in the village concept of community.” Leon was a history buff who loved traveling the back roads of South Carolina, exploring the local history and heritage. He served on the SC African American Heritage Commission and led the effort to protect the heritage of the Gullah Geechie corridor, and the Native American community. Forty years ago Leon Love was the chairman of the Administrative Board that created the mission that became Columbia’s Bluff Road United Methodist Church. Mr. Leon Allen Love Sr. died on March 13, 2016.

Farewell Dr. Racine Brown

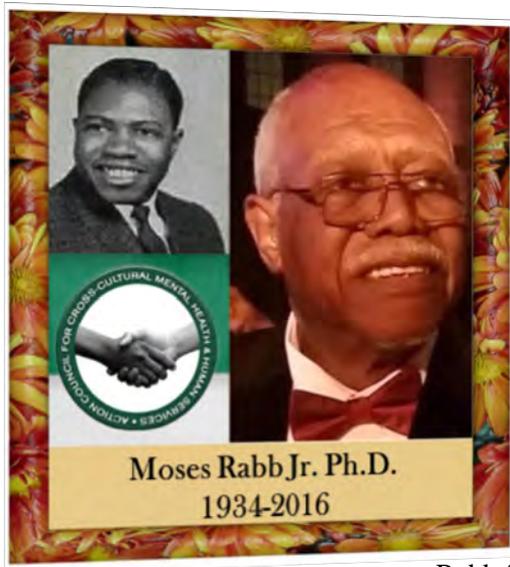
Racine Darwin Brown was born in Chesterfield, SC, the son of Rev. Donald Alexander Brown. He was educated at Wake Forest University in North Carolina and Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. Dr. Brown rose to prominence as a psychologist and community consultant. He became the Assistant Director of the SC Department of Mental Health in 1981 and for several years was



thought to be in line to succeed Dr. William S. Hall as director. Like Dr. Hall, Dr. Brown provided crucial support to our organization during those early years. He left the agency in 1986 and was awarded the Order of the Palmetto by Governor Riley the next year. Dr. Brown continued to be active voice and advocate for the mentally ill for many years. Dr. Racine Brown died on October 13, 2016.



So Long Dr. Rabb



Moses Rabb, Jr. was a member of the class of 1952 at Emmett Scott High School in Rock Hill. The school was named for Houston native Emmett Jay Scott who served as Booker T. Washington’s chief aide. Rabb attended Fort Hays State College in Kansas where he was a classmate of Paul Weldon of Columbia. He came to Columbia and worked for the S.C. Department of Mental Health. The January 16, 1964 edition of *Jet Magazine* featured coverage of Rabb’s marriage to Phyllis Jane Greene who was described as “one of St. Louis’ foremost dress designers.” Rabb was described as a junior psychologist at the SC State Hospital. The January edition of *Variety*, the hospital’s newsletter, noted that Rabb was among the first graduate of the Institute of Gerontology at the University of Michigan in 1967.

Rabb furthered his education at the University of South Carolina. He spent most of his professional career working for the SC Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse. He served as Director of the SC School of Alcohol and Drug studies held at Clemson University. Dr. Rabb was one of the early leaders of the Action Council. The first Mrs. Rabb died in Columbia in 1986. In 1993 Dr. Rabb married Gael Lanier Caution, a Columbia clinical psychologist. Dr. Rabb died in a Lexington hospital on October 26, 2016.

Black Male Summit

Prior to one of our earlier Black Male Summits, the question of whether whites were “allowed to attend” was posted on the internet. A member of the host church responded that she was sure that all males were welcome if they were “coming to provide positive support, or to learn. However, the focus is on the black males.” The original questioner responded with “Well that seems racist!”

Should we have “Black” Male Summits? Is there justification for an event that is designed to focus on issues affecting just one race? A few facts should provide answers to these questions. More than a year ago, the *New York Times* published details of an alarming situation. For every 100 American Black women, not in jail, there are only 83 black men. Black women between the ages of 25 to 54, and not incarcerated,

outnumber black men in the same age range by 1.5 million. In Ferguson, Missouri, the site of recent turmoil there are just 60 black males 25 to 54 for every 100 black female in that age range. This imbalance does not exist among Blacks at birth or in childhood. Nor does it exist among whites at any age.



Where are the missing Black men? The simple answer is that they are prematurely dead or in prison where one out of three black males is expected to spend time in their lifetime, if current trends continue. Dead or incarcerated Black men don't make productive citizens, good husbands or good fathers for the next generation of Black boys. Most men coming out of prison are severely disadvantaged for life. The missing Black men phenomenon is a crisis with the potential for such dire consequences that we must engage the young Black male directly to seek solutions that will keep them from joining the missing. It is in the interest of our entire society, regardless of race, to direct our attention, efforts

and resources at our most urgent needs and all indications are that it is the Black male.

The most recent Black Male Summit took place in Manning on June 15 and 16, 2016. Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church and the Rev. George P. Windley Sr. served as host. The Convocation was held at Ebenezer and the speaker was The Honorable Lewis H. Nelson, 33 Most Worshipful Grand Master MWPBGL of South Carolina.

A variety of speakers addressed issues pertinent to the Black male on Saturday April 16, 2016 at Manning High School. The theme was "Restoring the Legacy of the African American Male." Ronnie A. Sabb, Attorney, JD and SC State Senator from Williamsburg County spoke about his skills as a high school basketball player with unrealistic aspirations for his future in basketball. He recounted how he was able to refocus when it became apparent that basketball was not in his future. He was able to complete college and Law School and is now a successful attorney and member of the state legislature.

Dickie Brunson, B.A. Agent in Charge for SC Federal Probation and Pardon and Attorney Dwight Moore, J.D., owner of his own law firm talked of growing up together in Pinewood, SC and going off to college together and building successful lives. They used their work in the criminal justice field to warn the young men of the consequences of involvement with illegal drugs. Both men left their phone numbers and invited the participants to call them directly, before getting into trouble.



Ernest Shaw, LMSW, retired social worker and editor of this newsletter was asked to address "How Young Men Should Treat Young Ladies." Shaw reviewed his historical connection to Clarendon County and quirk of fate that led him to begin his professional career in another community rather than Clarendon County as he believed he would. He then reviewed the lives of several Clarendon County natives who rose from humble beginnings to positions of great fame. He concluded by challenging the young men to equip themselves to carry out their proper roles in relationships with young ladies. Afterwards, perhaps the smallest participant reported to Shaw that "somebody had written some bad words on the wall of the restroom in the school."

Herbert Walker, M.B.A., CPA Action Council Board Treasurer provided the participants with strategies to empower themselves financially by enhancing earning potential and building wealth through savings, investment and the wise use of credit.

The Closing Plenary was delivered by Rev. Delbert H. Singleton Jr., JD, Pastor of Green Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Alcolu, SC. Green Hill was the church of the Stinney family. Their son George was executed in 1944 for the killing of two Clarendon County girls. The 14-year-old boy's case was the subject of review for 70 years before his conviction was vacated recently. Rev. Singleton spoke on the topic "Priest, Parent, Provider and Protector."

We appreciate the contributions of everyone who made these summits successful. Plans are being made to hold the next event in Aiken or Augusta later this year.



Townville Tragedy: A Collaborative Effort

Tracy Richardson



Wednesday, September 28th, Townville Elementary School experienced a tragedy that will never be forgotten. The event resulted in one teacher and three students being shot, one of which (Jacob Hall) suffered an ultimately fatal, wound to his leg. It was an event that will continue to have a life changing impact on the Townville community, as well as an ongoing ripple effect to the surrounding areas.

Tragic events like this are often defined by the way a community responds. This event captured the hearts, eyes, and efforts of the entire country. The response and offers to assist were overwhelming at times.

However, employees of AOPMHC were among those first to respond, offering help and support to students, teachers, school administrators, and parents. While

AOPMHC's response efforts were coordinated by Ms. Tracy Richardson, it took more than AOPMHC's crisis response clinicians to handle this devastation on the community. Greenville

Mental Health Center's crisis team, led by Ms. Lu Rogers and Spartanburg's crisis team, led by Ms. Kristen James, also assisted AOPMHC's clinicians with crisis response to those affected by the school shooting. It was important to note that Mr. Roger Williams with the SCDMH and Red Cross also assisted the teams with the crisis response. *How did the teams work together? What did the teams do to support the survivors of the Townville Elementary School shooting?*

There were several community support events that all 3 centers' clinicians were an integral part of, including:

Wednesday: September 28, 2016: Ms. Tracy Richardson, along with senior management, Mr. Eric Turner and Mr. Kevin Hoyle responded to the Anderson Emergency Operations Center to assist Townville Elementary School Administration with developing a behavioral health response for the survivors in the days, weeks, months to come. During this time, senior management also collaborated with SCDMH and Red Cross to coordinate necessary personnel and collateral supports to the crisis counselors.



Jacob Hall: 2010-2016

Thursday: September 29, 2016: The crisis response teams (AOPMHC, GMHC, and SMHC) participated in a session at Oakdale Baptist Church, where they were able to provide the teachers and school administration with emotional first aid. The teams established rapport with the survivors, from a Rogerian, humanistic perspective, as to allow for the trust to form beginning the process of healing. It is important to note that a vigil was held at the Foothills Community Health Care in Clemson, SC on the evening of 9/29/16, where several

AOPMHC staff was in attendance to lend assistance as needed to those needing in within the community.

Friday: September 30, 2016: All of the crisis teams entered the gymnasium of Oakdale Baptist Church, the morning of 9/30/16. There were stations set up around the room for the parents and students to interact at to help them with their continued healing. For example, there was an area where the students could talk to counselors and color, a behavioral health table, where parents and teachers could come and pick up helpful resources on the symptoms they may see in survivors of tragedies, as well as other relevant information on access to mental health services. There were several crisis counselors who were able to speak to the survivors and their parents 1:1 in private areas, separate from the gymnasium, to allow for further assessment. The FBI Victim's Assistance staff was also at another table to offer their services and provide 1:1 consultations. Red Cross played an integral part by also having staff available; passing out stuffed Mickey Mouse's to the children and also providing nutritional fuel for the crisis counselors. Yes, the nutritional fuel was an appreciated need to all who attended, keeping with the Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs perspective of getting our physiological needs met, before reaching the self-actualization of continuing to heal. There were several pastors and pastoral counselors on hand to also assist the survivors with their continued healing. You can see the collaborative efforts that AOPMHC crisis team had, however that was not all; AOP therapy dog, Maggie was also there with her owner, Judy Cooper, and the SC Dogs, as well, to aid in the healing process of the survivors and their parents. The children were extremely happy to interact with the dogs, as well as the counselors the entire time, from 8:00 to 4pm. There were more than 150 children and parents served on that day.

Sunday: October 1, 2016: AOPMHC had four crisis counselors that were able to participate and lend support at the prayer service held at Oakdale Baptist Church. Over 700 members of the Townville community were in attendance. The service was one that perpetuated resiliency, healing, courage, and a survivor's mentality. The releasing of the balloons in honor of Jacob and the other survivors was emotional, yet comforting, from a healing perspective. The atmosphere was filled with love, comfort, support, and ultimate strength and resiliency. *Simply Amazing!!*

Monday: October 2, 2016: The teachers spent the day processing their own emotions under the leadership of Mr. Steve Shugart. However, AOPMHC still had a presence, as it related to continuing to provide that emotional support via, our own Ms. Carly Patterson.

Tuesday: October 3, 2016: Ms. Tracy Richardson led the healing process, with the assistance of the AOPMHC crisis counselors (**Erin Gerard, Tim Watt, Danny Beck, Judy Cooper, Tonia Taylor, Phil Manly, Carly Patterson, Eric Turner**) in answering the burning questions the teachers had concerning how they would resume communication and the school day, once the children returned. The time spent with the teachers was informative, emotional, comical, and yes Resilient, as Tracy, Carly, and Eric finessed



the room to empower the teacher to return back to what they know best: **Teaching their Townville Elementary Children.** Yes, what occurred on that day was a coming together, once again of the teachers and the AOPMHC crisis team in the name of developing a *New Normal*, building on the foundation of *Resiliency*, and looking into the future, with the ray of *Hope* penetrating the atmosphere. What did we see? Fewer tears, more smiles, and the *Strength* of Townville Elementary School!! *Simply Amazing!!*

Wednesday: October 4, 2016: Celebration of Life! Superhero Day... Home going of Jacob Hall. After the funeral, AOPMHC staffs, along with Board Counselors were available to assist parents and students with re-engagement into the school.

Thursday: October 5, 2016: there were several staff members from AOP that were there when the children returned for the first time. AOP staff, alongside other organizations, provided assistance to the children as they tried to return to a sense of normalcy.



AOP has our own school based counselor, Erin Gerard there to assist as the process of healing and moving forward continues. The road ahead will not be an easy one and life at Townville Elementary school will never be the same. With the help of our Crisis team led by Tracy Richardson, C&A counselors led by Carly Patterson, the CAPS team led by Phil Manly and other

AOP staff including Executive Director, Kevin Hoyle and Chief Clinical Manager, Eric Turner, the future for this community and school will hopefully be a more optimistic one.