

# spotlight

## *on community action*

**A Newsletter of the Southeastern Association of Community Action Agencies**

**REGISTER NOW! 2014 Annual SEACAA Conference | Beau Rivage | Biloxi, MS | September 9-12**    *Number 14-Issue 2 < July 2014*

### LEADERSHIP CHANGES AT THE PARTNERSHIP

On June 25, 2014 the Board of Directors of the Community Action Partnership separated its relationship with President/CEO Don Mathis. To ensure that decision-making and leadership is provided, the Board appointed current Board Chair Tom Tenorio as Acting President/CEO and Denise Harlow as Interim Chief Operating Officer. They will work together with Avril Weisman, longtime Chief Administrative Officer. During this period, the Board's Personnel Committee will plan and carry out a transition to a new President/CEO. Plans continue for the upcoming Annual Convention scheduled for August 19-23, 2014 in Washington D.C to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Community Action. ♦



## *Biloxi* *Playground of the South*

Founded in 1699 as the first settlement in what was then French Louisiana, Biloxi (bə-LUK-see), Mississippi is one of the oldest and most historic communities in the country. Biloxi has resided under the control of six different nations throughout its history; France, England, Spain, the Republic of West Florida, Confederate States of America, and finally the United States of America. This resulted in the rich cultural blend and southern charm found in Biloxi that is associated with much of the Gulf Coast region of the United States.

That culture and history can be experienced today through many of Biloxi's culturally significant locations such as; the Ohr-O'keefe Museum of Art; Beauvoir House, the home of former President



*Beauvoir House*



*Ohr-O'keefe Museum of Art*

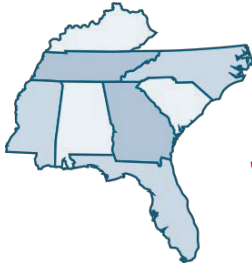
of the Confederacy Jefferson Davis; and the Maritime Museum which preserves Biloxi's rich nautical history and the impact of devastating hurricanes on shaping the cities history. The contribution and history of African Americans in Biloxi can be experienced through The Pleasant Reed House, which is a museum and monument to Pleasant Reed a formerly enslaved African American who went on to become a financially successful carpenter as a freedman in Mississippi during the period of reconstruction.

Biloxi is one of the top golf tourism destinations in the country, peppered with 20 golf courses, many of which are professional quality and designed by the biggest names in golf such as; Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus. Additionally, Biloxi boasts 62 miles of shoreline, covered in easily accessible white sand gulf coast beaches. The gulf coast of Biloxi is known for deep sea fishing in addition to the abundant fresh water fishing locations found inland. Biloxi is also home to 9 casinos, many of which are operated by acclaimed casino developers such as; the Beau Rivage Casino, Hotel, and Resort, managed by the famed Mirage Resorts of Las Vegas.



As we share ideas and prepare to take action and change the world, make some time to enjoy Biloxi, one of the great cities that our region has to offer to the world. ♦

*Let's be able to say 2014 proceeds were more than they've ever been before...*  
**SILENT AUCTION PROCEEDS FIGHTING FOR YOU IN WASHINGTON**



**SEACAA**

**Southeastern Association of Community Action Agencies**

c/o N.C. Community Action Association  
4428 Louisburg Road, Suite 101  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27616  
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July 10, 2014

Dear SEACAA Colleague:

Our September 9-12 conference in Biloxi will be here before we know it.

While all of SEACAA's annual conferences are special occasions, this year's celebration of community action's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary makes this one uniquely and extraordinarily special.

It will certainly be a time to remember with pride the many challenges met and obstacles overcome.

Just as certainly, it should be a time to commit ourselves to the challenges and obstacles that lie ahead.

As we prepare for this year's Silent Auction, we are acutely aware of the legislative challenges and obstacles that lie ahead for community action.

And we are aware of the critical need for each and every one of us to do his or her part to equip the National Community Action Foundation—the recipient of Silent Auction proceeds—with the resources necessary to fight the good fight for community action in Washington.

For this year's Silent Auction, please donate more items to be auctioned than you've ever donated before. And please bid on more items being auctioned than you've ever bid on before.

When this year's Silent Auction is over, let's be able to say that 2014 proceeds to NCAF were more than they've ever been before.

We look forward to hearing about **YOUR** Silent Auction donations!

Sincerely,

Nancy Spears  
SEACAA Board  
[alma.gholston@achr.com](mailto:alma.gholston@achr.com)  
334-821-8336

Michelle Pugh  
Alabama Council on Human Relations, Inc.  
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**Executive Committee:**

Ricky L. Baker, President | William Holt, Vice-President | Brenda L. Fox, Secretary | Arnold Collins, Treasurer

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY ASSOCIATION  
[www.seacaa.org](http://www.seacaa.org)



## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for Jimmie Samuel Day of Service at Gulf Coast Head Start Agencies**

Join colleagues at the 2014 Annual SEACAA Training Conference for a stimulating and fun day of reading to pre-k children on Tuesday, September 9th.

Gulf Coast Community Action Agency (GCCAA) is the grantee of the federally funded Head Start program located in Harrison County, Mississippi. The GCCAA Head Start program provides educational, nutritional, health/mental health, and social services to 1268 Mississippi Gulf Coast children, ages 3-4, and their families, as well as child care services 160 days of the year. Eligibility requirements and priorities include, but are not limited to a child's age, a family's area of residence (the family must reside in Harrison County), income eligibility, homeless status, whether or not a family receives public assistance, and a child's disability status - the program is inclusive, providing enrollment opportunities for at least 10% of the area's children who are diagnosed with a disability.

*Conference attendees are asked to donate a pre-k children's book towards the goal of 50 books to commemorate the 50th anniversary.* Books will be donated to the two Head Start Centers.



## **"Super Circular" Preconference Workshop Addresses New Federal Guidelines**

**REGISTER NOW! Space Limited.**

The Office of Management and Budget has released its new uniform guidance for administrative requirements, cost principles, and audits for Federal grants, and the Federal grantor agencies currently are working to implement the new "Super Circular" (sometimes called the "Omniscircular") by the December deadline. Grantees and subgrantees need to understand the Super Circular's framework for managing federal grants and subgrants to make conforming changes to their own policies and procedures. This unique, full-day workshop will explain what the Super Circular means for Federal grantees and subrecipients. The workshop will discuss the major changes to administrative requirements, costs principles, and audit requirements, as well as major deadlines and what grantees and subgrantees need to do in response to these changes. **Fee: \$199**



**Presenter: R. Brian Tipton, Esq.**

R. Brian Tipton, Esq., is a practicing attorney and nonprofit consultant who works with organizations across the United States. Brian is a summa cum laude graduate of the Louisiana State University and the Cumberland School of Law of Samford University. Currently, Brian is Managing Director with The Private Client Law Group in Atlanta, where he heads the firm's charitable and philanthropic solutions practice. Previously, he was a shareholder with Sasser, Sefton, Tipton & Davis, P.C. Brian regularly represents Community Action Agencies, Head Start programs, Weatherization providers, and other grant-funded entities in the areas of regulatory compliance, grants law, government audits, funding source disputes, administrative appeals, and litigation. In addition, he consults with organizations on governance, human resources, programmatic, and corporate matters, and develops and presents training programs. Registration details provided on SEACAA conference registration form. ♦

## **Executive Administrator Orientation Available to New SEACAA EDs and Leadership Staff**

The SEACAA will again offer its **NEW EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR ORIENTATION** during the SEACAA 2014 Annual Training Conference, on September 9th at the Beau Rivage Hotel, Biloxi, MS. Community Action Agency Executives, Leadership Team - Executive Directors, Deputy Directors, Program Managers, Chief Financial Officers and other **Agency Leaders with less than four years of experience at their agency are encouraged to participate.**

The Orientation will help new or nearly new administrators gain a better understanding of their roles and responsibilities. It will also familiarize them with resources and training opportunities available to them. An Introduction to Community Action will be provided along with the following topics:

- The History of Community Action
- SEACAA's Role in working with Community Action Agencies
- Network Training Opportunities
- Fiscal Management with Transparency and Accountability
- Overview of Community Action Programs and Services
- The Role and Benefits of State Community Action Association

Register to attend the SEACAA conference and apply to receive a free registration.

Email [endia.hall@nccaa.net](mailto:endia.hall@nccaa.net) or [sharon.goodson@nccaa.net](mailto:sharon.goodson@nccaa.net) to apply. ♦



# Kentucky Job Club Helps Quadriplegic Find Work At Lowe's

PAINTSVILLE, KY

Tommy Dial needed a change. "I was trying to find something to do," explains Dial, 44, who was paralyzed following a 1994 car accident. "I was restless and it got worse." At the time of the accident, Dial was living in his native Adair County and working in a textile factory.

"I was married with two kids," Dial recalls. "I was coming home from work and the guy I was riding with overcorrected." The accident damaged Dial's cervical disks and left him a quadriplegic. "I had to get adjusted to being paralyzed," he says. As Dial adapted to this drastic change in his circumstances, he also focused more of his attention on his family than on himself.

Dial, who was divorced from his wife in 2006, decided to return to school. He enrolled in the Carl C. Perkins Vocational Training Center in Thelma and lived on campus from 2009-12. "I had to go through the program and take refresher courses to prepare myself for college," Dial notes.

Dial entered Big Sandy Community and Technical College where he earned associate's degrees in science in computer-aided drafting and designing and civil engineering technology. After graduation, he decided to remain in the area. "I've met some of the best people in Eastern Kentucky. In my shape, if you move here, you've got to have awesome friends," he says. "I thought there would be more opportunities for me to find work in my field because of coal. With the coal mines shutting down, that didn't work out."

Dial, however, learned about Big Sandy Area Community Action Program's Workforce Investment Act (WIA), which



provides employment services. He attended the WIA's Job Club, which allows job seekers to share leads and networking opportunities with other people looking for employment. WIA Career Advisors, who facilitate Job Club, helped him hone his resume and practice his interview skills.

Thanks to the work of Career Advisors Anita Lykens and Sandy Grimm, Dial found a job with Lowe's last November. "I'm happy at Lowe's," he explains. "I answer phones and try to screen calls. I look up prices and send the callers to different

departments. The longer I've been there, the more questions I can field." Grimm says she knew immediately that Dial would be successful in his job search. "He's a good guy and I knew he was determined. He knew he had something to offer and I knew he had something to offer."

Grimm continues, "He's an inspiration for everyone." Dial adds, "Coming here to the Job Club did get me a job." ♦

*Job Clubs are sponsored by BSACAP, Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program and the Kentucky Career Center. For more information on Job Club, call (606) 789-3641.*

Big Sandy Area Community Action Program, Paintsville, KY [www.bsacap.org](http://www.bsacap.org)

*"Kids are my specialty and I'm so grateful for the opportunity to volunteer with Head Start."*

– Amanda Walters

Kentucky

## "Head Start Saved My Life"

PAINTSVILLE, KY

"Head Start saved my life." An emotional Amanda Walters makes this statement and adds, "Before I started volunteering with Head Start, I was home and everything stayed with me. I couldn't think of anything but Madi." Madi was Walters' granddaughter, who died at five months old in October 2009 from meningitis. "After I lost Madi, I went into a deep depression," explains Walters, 57, of Offutt. "I felt like I was in a hole and that's when everything started messing up. I have a deteriorating bone disease and, right after I lost Madi, I had surgery to have a cadaver bone put in my neck." "While dealing with grief and her own physical pain, Walters' life again changed when she and her husband, Stephen, were granted primary custody of their then-17-month-old grandson, Taylor. "When our son and daughter-in-law gave us custody of Taylor, I had him to think about instead of worrying about Madi," Walters says. When Taylor, who's now three years old, started attending Head Start, Walters got involved in Head Start and served on the policy council and the health and safety committee which got her away from home. "That was good because I don't know what would have happened to me if I hadn't gotten involved in Head Start."

When Big Sandy Area Community Action Program's (BSACAP) Head Start

Program asked parents to write a letter explaining, "What Head Start Has Done For Me," Walters shared the story of Madi's passing and of her own eventual involvement in Head Start. Her letter was selected by fellow Johnson County Head Start parents as the county winner. An independent committee chose Walters as the Head Start Parent of the Year after reviewing the winning letters from BSACAP's seven Head Start Programs and based on the content of the letter, as well as the amount of time donated to the program in the form of volunteer hours and attendance at parent meetings.

"I volunteer about five hours a week," Walters says. "I worked as a janitor for 30 years. My husband was a janitor, too, and he also volunteers. Robin Salyer, Johnson County Head Start director, says there are things we pick up on that other people wouldn't notice. With her bone disease, Walters has to sit and rest in between the work, but she paints, works on playgrounds, and helps the schools any way she can.

Walters wipes away tears as she continues, "Kids are my specialty and I'm so grateful for the opportunity to volunteer with Head Start." She also praises Head Start for helping with Taylor's socialization and education."

Salyer appreciates Walters' extra effort and says, "Nothing she has done has been for recognition. She did it for the



Amanda Walters

children. She's probably done more for the program than the program has done for her." ♦

Big Sandy Area Community Action Program,  
Paintsville, KY [www.bsacap.org](http://www.bsacap.org)

## EOA Savannah Meeting the Challenge in Difficult Times

In its 2011-12 Annual Report, EOA for Savannah-Chatham County, Inc. Executive Director, John Finney and Executive Board Chair, Dr. Wesley J. Ball report that the poverty rate for Savannah reached 25% and advocates for the poor faced one of the toughest battles in the EOA history since the Great Depression. In order to meet the challenges, the Executive Board and staff increased its knowledge and training regarding new state and federal mandates, employing the concepts of "Accountability and Transparency." Though they experienced budget cuts during that time, the agency added another homeless shelter, the Peeler Home. EOA now operates three shelters for homeless clients. Their Workforce Development Department won a state-wide award of \$2,500 for a successful Certified Nursing Assistant Program with a 70% employment rate. A record number of dads were enrolled in their Fatherhood Initiative Program and 19 clients purchased homes after graduating from our Homebuyer Education Class. The new challenge for EOA Savannah-Chatham County Incorporated is preparing itself and community consumers for social and economic change. ♦







**Give them a call**

76194 H20  
Western Carolina Community Action Transportation Coordinator David White stands near some of the agency's 18 vans and buses. Tuesday, WCCA made rides available to anyone living within a half-mile of the vans' existing routes. They need 24-hour notice, and there is a fee.

and Polk Counties in 12 centers. In this year's Office of Head Start triennial review, WCCA received a perfect score. Our Children's Services continues to be among the top scoring programs in the nation.

These are just two examples of how WCCA has continued to evolve and grow in partnership with other Human Service Agencies and the people who live in our catchment area.

Our Community Services continue to produce impressive outcomes. WCCA Self-Sufficiency participants have been the recipients of the Sargent Shriver Achievement Award three times. WCCA recognized the need for a Senior Center in Transylvania County, where we operate two congregate meal sites and home delivered meals for seniors who live in the most rural areas of the county. Our Section 8 Housing Department assists 654 families in achieving safe, affordable housing.

Our dedicated staff and Board members not only know our mission to assist low-income and under-served people in achieving their full potential, they live it. Our Executive Director encourages staff to be part of the solution and to be involved in our community. Our belief that all people are worthy of compassion and respect is evident through the quality of the services we provide.

Western Carolina Community Action, Inc., NC

## Sargent Shriver: Architect of Johnson's "War on Poverty"

Fifty years ago, on January 8, 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson and the US Congress declared unconditional War on Poverty! President Johnson named Sargent Shriver, brother-in-law to the late President Kennedy, as Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity. The War on Poverty was designed to transform the economic and social roots of the conflict over civil rights and work toward a common goal of eliminating the causes and conditions of poverty.

Shriver, who founded and served as first director of the Peace Corps during the Kennedy administration, became known as the **"architect"** of the War on Poverty. As we celebrate 50 years of Community Action and the War on Poverty. It is important to take a moment to remember and recognize allies who have aided in the fight along the way. Robert Sargent "Sarge" Shriver, whose contributions to the War on Poverty are possibly second only to President Johnson, is one of those most valuable. A former Vice Presidential candidate and the founder/first director of the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO), as well as the first director of the Peace Corps, Sarge's role is critical in the history of many programs we rely on today to eradicate poverty and empower families to be self-sufficient.

OEO was the federal office responsible for administering many of the War on Poverty programs. Under Sarge's leadership, OEO implemented many critical programs that we use today, such as; Head Start, AmeriCorps (then known as VISTA), Job Corps, Community Action, Upward Bound, and Foster Grandparents. These programs create jobs, improve education, increase human resources, and enrich the lives of many Americans not just those living with circumstances of poverty. There is little doubt though that without these programs the fight to eradicate poverty would be a nearly insurmountable, uphill battle.



*Sargent Shriver*



*Shriver with President Kennedy*

Like any war, the War on Poverty is fought and won by soldiers. With soldiers like Sargent Shriver in our past, and more to come in our future we will win. A Sargent Shriver is among us right now. So let us wonder what will be written about us when the community action agents of the future are celebrating 100 years of community action. ♦





Point of View

Reprint FACAA e-newsletter

## Summer Hunger: A Dismal American Reality

The Summer of 2014 is a welcomed season for vacations, summer camp and trips to exotic places or at least, relaxing until the new school year begins. Not all of this is true for families struggling to make ends meet. Emphatically, children and teens of low income families face a different reality.... One of those harsh realities is Summer hunger.... Summer hunger happens when school is out.

Often when the word “hunger” is mentioned, the first thing some may think of is starving kids in Africa. Very rarely does the picture of a degree-holding young adult come to mind. However, working at FACAA, and a little bit of life experience, has taught me that we who are educated too, can be one of the faces of hunger.

As recently as November 2013, there was a 5% reduction in food stamp benefits to all recipients; and the plan seems to be that food stamp benefits will just keep getting smaller and smaller. (USA Today, Jake Grovum, Pew/Stateline Staff Writer 3/26/14) This will also be devastating for senior citizens, recent college graduates, working class parents and very young people.

New wage eligibility requirements are determining the amount of benefits people will receive, or if they will be eligible at all. Oh, and did you know that a bill passed in Georgia to mandate drug testing for eligibility? Fortunately for some, the bill was deemed unconstitutional

and will not be implemented. If this report is true, why does it seem logical to cut food stamp benefits for our citizens or demonize those who must rely on a subsidy to feed their children? The problem still exists that for some, working a minimum wage job, after paying bills, and taking care of basic necessities, there isn't much money left for the high costs of groceries. It is certain that the country will be stronger and richer if more people have the chance to earn a living wage and contribute to the tax base or “foot their own bill”.

A mother making just enough to pay rent and utilities, and maybe have dinner for the kids, can find peace when her kids can eat free lunch at school. (59.7% of students in Georgia are eligible for free



***One must read more about poverty or daily economic struggles before harshly judging the poor. Poor people actually include the maids, day care personnel, food service and garbage workers or even the unemployed college graduates laden with student loan debt.***

or reduced lunch based on their parents' income.) So, how do we solve this dilemma in Georgia and America? Amidst the discussion of the economic recession, unemployment and criticism of the poor, it all goes back to the cost of living and minimum wage. As the electoral season intensifies in Georgia and the nation, only a few politicians or groups are willing to mention the inevitable issue of hunger due to an inability to afford food.

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*“And let’s remember, there are now 106 million Americans—more than 1 in 3 of us— either living in poverty or on less than \$37,000 annually for a family of three, which is a single hardship away from poverty.”*

# Talking Poverty: Making the Connection

by Neera Tanden

In today’s highly politicized fiscal environment it is easy to forget how valuable a safety net can be for people who truly need it. By and large these people are not the mythical “welfare queen” that many people envision. They are the kind of honest, hard working people we typically consider successful, the difference is that they have been dealt a set of circumstances that require a helping hand to overcome.

Neera Tanden, President of the Center for American Progress, shared her story about the role social programs have played in her life. When she was five years old her parents divorced and her father left. Her mother had two choices, either move to India where her family was and face the stigma associated with being a divorced woman in a conservative culture or stay in the United States and try to find a way. Her mother chose opportunity and stayed in America.

Thanks to the progressive laws of her home state and Section 8 subsidies, Neera’s family was able to afford to remain in their middle class community in suburban Boston. She recalls vivid memories of that difficult time, “Checking out at the grocery store, we were the only shoppers in line using food stamps. At school, I was the kid in the cafeteria paying with a voucher for reduced-price lunch. At the welfare office, I remember my mother telling me to “shush” and promising “it would only be a minute.”

Neera’s story has a fantastically happy ending and can serve as a reminder to us all about why we do the work we do. After three years of living with public assistance, Neera’s mother found a job as a travel agent despite never having worked a day in her life prior to her divorce. They were able to buy a home and build a life in suburban Boston without any additional assistance from social programs. The stability and opportunity lead Neera to UCLA for college and later Yale for law school. A child raised in a single parent home on “welfare” was able to get an education at some of the best schools in the world, has served in progressive think tanks, presidential campaigns, and two presidential administrations. All of this was made possible because she was raised in a country that believes in helping people in difficult circumstances become self-sufficient and to realize the American dream. That is what Community Action is about.

If we fail to talk openly about poverty, we miss an opportunity to address people’s anxieties and misconceptions about low-income people. We fail to correct the misunderstandings about who poor people are, and we fail to make progress we otherwise could. (And let’s remember, there are now 106 million Americans—more than 1 in 3 of us— either living in poverty or on less than \$37,000 annually for a family of three, which is a single hardship away from poverty.) ♦



*“I believe we have a historic opportunity to address poverty today, because the interests of low-income people and the middle class are converging. Median wages—the wages of middle-income earners—have been stagnant for twelve years. People recognize there is growing inequality in this country and that something is amiss when companies are doing well but people aren’t—when dividends, stock prices, and CEO salaries rise but wages don’t.” And while we have a clear opportunity to make the connection between the interests of people in poverty and the interests of the middle class, we have our work cut out for us.*

<http://talkpoverty.org/2014/06/12/tanden/A>

*Neera Tanden is the President of the Center for American Progress. She has served in both the Obama and Clinton administrations, as well as presidential campaigns and think tanks.*



# SEACAA

Southeastern Association of Community Action Agencies

## SEACAA CALENDAR JULY – SEPTEMBER 2014

### SEACAA UPCOMING EVENTS

#### JULY

July 22, 2014

#### **SEACAA Board Meeting**

Beau Rivage Hotel  
Biloxi, MS

#### AUGUST

August 11-13, 2014

#### **History & Philosophy of Community Action**

Kentucky Career Center  
(LKLP CAC), Hazard, KY

August 19-23, 2014

#### **CAP 2014 Annual Convention**

Washington D.C.

#### SEPTEMBER

September 9-12, 2014

#### **SEACAA Annual Conference**

Beau Rivage Hotel  
Biloxi, MS

September 9, 2014

#### **PRECONFERENCE**

#### **OMB Super Circular Fundamentals**

#### **Jimmie Samuel Day of Service**

Beau Rivage Hotel  
Biloxi, MS

September 9, 2014

#### **SEACAA Board Meeting**

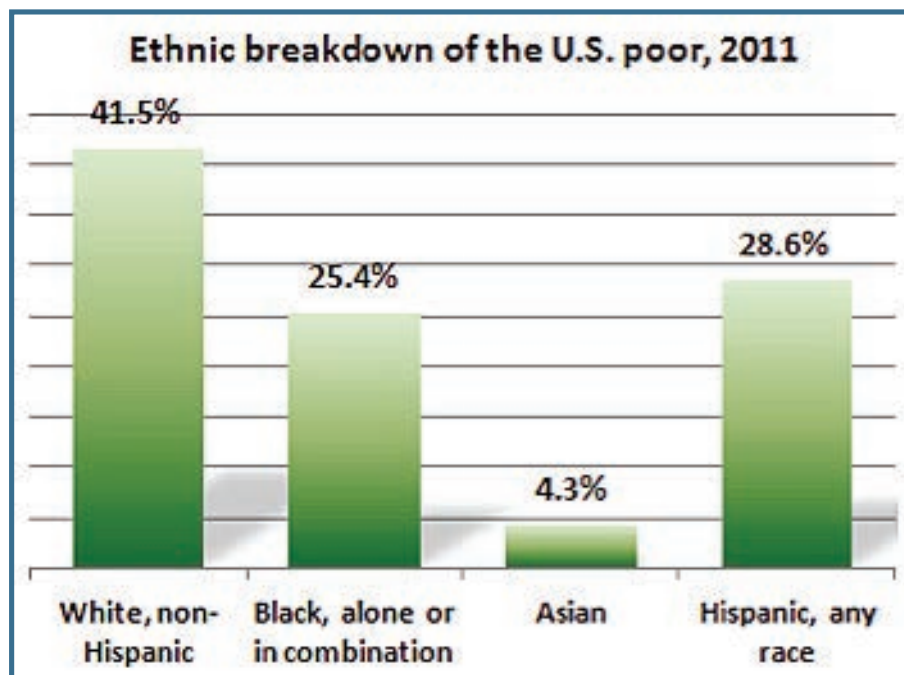
Beau Rivage Hotel  
Biloxi, MS

Visit the SEACAA website for more  
updates...[www.seacaa.org](http://www.seacaa.org)



from page 8

## Summer Hunger: A Dismal American Reality



Community Action Agencies across America are observing the Fifty Year milestone since President L.B. Johnson declared an unconditional War on Poverty. Only minimally supported by Americans who disdain the use of government funds to help the poor, it is only recently determined that most of the programs created through the Great Society's War on Poverty have made a difference in countless families and individual's lives.

Additionally, there are reports that the middle class is almost completely diminished by recessionary cutbacks, home losses and insufficient retirement funds meaning that most of us are really "a few paychecks away from poverty and homelessness." It is also true that more and more families face hunger than ever before. It really is an insidious problem for those who DO work! Even the shaming that comes from not being able to afford the bare necessities - people are looked down upon as if they don't work, and don't try to contribute to society and maintain self-sufficiency.

One must read more about poverty or daily economic struggles before harshly judging the poor. Poor people actually include the maids, day care personnel, food service and garbage workers or even the

unemployed college graduates laden with student loan debt. We, who work for the poor, witness this dilemma every day and congratulate the nonprofit organizations, church sponsored programs, volunteers, advocates and contributors who do all they can to ease the pain of low income people who work, but still find it next to impossible to make their financial "ends" meet. Hunger is one of the most insidious effects of poverty. Prices are rising and the disregard for struggling households sends a signal that America does not practice what it preaches. ♦

Written by Courtney L. Branch who is debuting as a Journalist for Social Justice and participating as a planner for FACAA's upcoming symposium on the 50 Year Observance of the Civil Rights & Economic Opportunity Acts of 1964. To read more about poverty in America: Click on... <http://nyti.ms/1kBNJNM>

Find out more about FACAA's work at [www.facaa.org](http://www.facaa.org)

Dr. Joyce J. Dorsey, President/CEO



Georgia

## Human Service Provider Of The Year

AUGUSTA, GA

On May 14th, The CSRA Regional Commission Area Agency on Aging (AAA) held its Annual Awards & Recognition Luncheon where CSRA Economic Opportunity Authority, Inc.'s Executive Director Mrs. Gloria B. Lewis accepted the honor of "Human Service Provider of the Year" on behalf of the agency. Established in 1966, CSRA EOA, Inc. celebrates forty-eight years of service to the Central Savannah River Area, providing a broad range of services to include senior nutrition & wellness, utility assistance, weatherization, financial literacy, housing counseling, homeless prevention, rapid re-housing, supportive services for Veterans, prescription assistance, youth services, case management and Head Start. The Agency's mission is to promote self-sufficiency and ease human suffering; a task that is made possible by the effort of intelligent, caring and compassionate staff, volunteers and community partners. CSRA EOA, Inc. collaborates with AAA to provide meals and nutrition education to senior citizens within the 13-county area. ♦



*CSRA Economic Opportunity Authority, Inc.'s Executive Director Mrs. Gloria B. Lewis accepts the honor of "Human Service Provider of the Year" on behalf of the agency.*

Central Savannah River Area Economic Opportunity (CSRA EOA, Inc.), Augusta, GA | [www.csraeo.org/](http://www.csraeo.org/)

## 50 Year Old NC Agency Changes its Name

***Four-County Community Services, Inc. Officially Changes its Name to Southeastern Community & Family Services, Inc. and relocates its Main Office to Lumberton, North Carolina***

LUMBERTON, NC – Four-County Community Services, Inc., now **Southeastern Community & Family Services, Inc.**, was incorporated on June 10, 1964, with its stated purposes, "... to do all things necessary or proper to aid in improving the education, economic opportunities, living environment and general welfare of the people residing in Richmond, Robeson, and Scotland Counties." Over the years, Four-County has expanded from those original three counties to seven, having dropped Richmond and adding Bladen, Brunswick, Columbus, Hoke, and Pender Counties.

In a continued effort to recognize all of the communities being served, the Board of Directors and Executive staff have collectively agreed to change Four-County's name to

*continued on page 12*



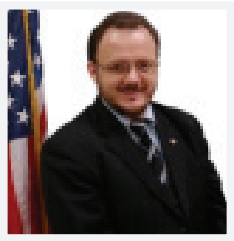
## President's Corner



# SEACAA

Southeastern Association of Community Action Agencies

The 2014 SEACAA Annual Conference is now close upon us. The Conference and registration information is now on the



Ricky Baker

www.seacaa.org website. The Annual Conference will be held September 9-12 at the Beau Rivage Hotel in Biloxi, Mississippi. The theme is **SEACAA: Commemorating 50 Years of "Changing Lives."** We look forward to seeing everyone in Biloxi!

I ask each of you to visit the SEACAA website in the coming days for more information about conference workshops and activities. You can also find current and upcoming training opportunities through our SEACAA certification program.

You will also find information about our annual awards for agencies, staff, and volunteers. These awards are presented at the banquet each year and information will be posted on the website for the submission process. Help honor those who have helped Community Action "change lives." This is also an election year for SEACAA officers and I encourage everyone to participate in the process.

SEACAA's mission is to strengthen the Community Action Agencies in Region IV. By providing technical support, training opportunities, and advocacy, SEACAA remains on the leading edge in providing support to the Community Action Agencies of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. If you know a way that SEACAA can help you or your state, please let us know how!

Everyone should now be aware that the Funding Opportunity Announcement has been released by the Administration for Families and Children for the Early Head Start Expansion and Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships Grants. I encourage all states and interested CAAs to apply for these funds to provide additional services to children and families throughout the southeast region.

As is our promise, *"Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live."* See you in Biloxi in September!!!

**Ricky Baker**  
President, SEACAA

## SEACAA Executive Committee

President, Ricky L. Baker,  
Kentucky

Vice-President, William Holt,  
Florida

Secretary, Brenda L. Fox,  
Kentucky

Treasurer, Arnold Collins,  
South Carolina

Community Action Partnership, Paul Dole, CCAP,  
Kentucky

NCAF, Janice Riley, CCAP,  
Georgia

### Our Mission

*SEACAA exists as a professional organization that provides research and policy development resources, education and training to ensure progress toward the elimination of poverty and causes of poverty in the Southeast.*

*We focus particularly on serving our membership, which represents the interests, issues and concerns impacting the quality of life in communities.*

*We also link local, state, and national organizations in developing strategies, policies, and actions.*

*We believe that investing in improving the quality of life of citizens and communities through carefully planned programs and policies is a crucial investment in the nation's well being.*

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## 50 Year Old NC Agency Changes its Name

***"I firmly believe this change is necessary to sustain the continued growth and longevity of the Agency, and in the long run will allow us to build upon our firm foundation," stated Ericka J. Whitaker, Chief Executive Officer.***

Southeastern Community & Family Services, Inc. "Over the last 50 years, lifestyles have changed as the economic climate has shifted. Our communities' needs have prompted the Agency to assess and modify how, and where, we do business. It is critical that we put the needs of our clients and stakeholders first. In other words, we need to be more visible and accessible.

Southeastern will continue to provide Four-County's services under its Section 8 HUD program, as well as assistance through its Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) program in Scotland County at its new location in Laurinburg. The relocation to both offices has not resulted in a reduction of staff. ♦

To learn more about Southeastern you may visit [www.SCFNSC.org](http://www.SCFNSC.org) and follow the Agency on Facebook. Southeastern Community & Family Services, Inc., Lumberton, NC

