

spotlight

on community action



A Newsletter of the Southeastern Association of Community Action Agencies

Conference Edition • September 2016

SEACAA Keynote Speaker: A Living GIANT

Are you ready for some football? It's the most popular game in America, but for this year's keynote speaker, it's also a game of faith. Shawn Harper played for the Los Angeles Rams until an injury sidelined his career. The unplanned pause in a game that many would say rescued him turned out to be his real saving grace.

One of six children, Harper has few memories of his dad who left before he started elementary school. He struggled academically and was labeled with multiple learning disabilities. His behavior was less than stellar, having been kicked out of two different schools.

In his brokenness he was humbled. He recognized that his behavior, his arrogance and pride was keeping him from recognizing the greatness of God.

Harper's high school football career was also slow starting. He graduated without accolades, not even an honorable mention. After not playing his entire first year of junior college in Mason City Iowa, Harper packed his bags and was ready to head home, but decided to give it one more try. Harper says, it's at that moment that he began to assert and apply himself in



Keynote Speaker: Shawn Harper

a way he had not done before. He practiced diligently all day and began to use the negative words that people spewed at him his entire life as fuel.

His second year proved to be worth its weight in gold and Harper made all-region and the Hall of Fame. His next stop

was Indiana University where he was drafted into the

National Football League. During his second year with the Rams, Harper was injured. Some would have fallen into permanent despair. Some would have assumed it to be the end of something great, but Harper claims it to be the moment he began to live as a giant, the giant that God created him to be and not an ant.



In his brokenness he was humbled. He recognized that his behavior, his arrogance and pride was keeping him from recognizing the greatness of God. Harper realized that God had orchestrated his whole life and he was not in the driver seat. So he sat back and let God take the wheel.

Harper's introduction to his faith came from his mother, who took him to church as a youngster. "I had head knowledge," he said. "But it wasn't heart knowledge. I didn't have a relationship."

It's that relationship with God that fuels his undying passion to help motivate people as a life coach. "It took me years to deal with low self-esteem and self-hatred." Harper tries to help countless people who are living beneath their God-given potential.

We look forward to hearing his words of wisdom, his encouragement, practical advice and tips on how to succeed in all aspects of life at this year's conference.

Article from CBN.com online interview.

SPOTLIGHT: Waccamaw Economic Opportunity Council, Inc.



Jimmie Samuel Day of Service Project:
Socks for Seniors, Myrtle Beach, SC
A Day of Giving: The Spirit of Service

Tuesday, September 13 - Wednesday, September 14

Leadership, service, and sustainability play an influential role in the well-being of our communities and the overall health of our planet. This year we have chosen to influence the lives of senior citizens in need during the week of our conference. **Donate a pair or two of socks and/or toiletries for senior citizens to warm their hearts and feet** in memory of the late Jimmie Samuel, former SEACAA Vice-President and Executive Director, Macon-Bibb County EOC, Inc. Your donations will benefit the senior citizens of the local CAA, Waccamaw EOC.

Drop off your donations at the Conference Registration Desk in the Hampton Foyer.

GIVE BACK! JIMMIE SAMUEL DAY OF SERVICE — “SOCKS FOR SENIORS”

Each year, the SEACAA hosts a service project as part of the annual conference, in memory of former SEACAA board member and Macon Bibb County EOC, Inc. Executive Director, Jimmie Samuel. This year the SEACAA Day of Service will target the needs of senior citizens. Everyone is asked to **donate a couple of pairs of socks or toiletry items** to benefit seniors served by our local affiliate agency, Waccamaw EOC. Donated items can be dropped off at the Registration Desk. Help us warm the hearts and feet of Waccamaw's seniors with your donation.

As Kathy Calvin, CEO and President, United Nations Foundation has said, *“Giving is not just about making a donation.....It is about making a difference.”*



Seniors working out at Burgess Center

Waccamaw Economic Opportunity Council, Inc., (WEOC) was chartered as a Community Action Agency on December 6, 1965 to serve the low-income families and residents of Horry and Georgetown Counties. An expansion to include Williamsburg County occurred in 1974. The agency provides a wide range of services and has served over 500,000 customers the last fifty years through its Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) and LIHEAP programs alone. Other programs offered include Head Start/Early Head Start, Summer Foods and Weatherization. Seniors who are eligible for services are given priority. WEOC's programs and services have also helped stimulate the local economy in their community. Mr. James L. Pasley, currently heads the agency which has had and continues to have a positive impact on the economically challenged and disadvantaged citizens of their tri-county area.



Waccamaw EOC Head Start



Waccamaw EOC Board of Directors



Waccamaw EOC

"The more uncomfortable something is, the more we know we are driving change."

- Harriet Green

Commentary:

CIVIL RIGHTS, COMMUNITY ACTION & BLACK LIVES MATTER

Movements with common grounds and clashes

by Dr. Joyce J. Dorsey, President/CEO

Fulton Atlanta Community Action Authority, Inc.

America has seen a new era of protest movements sparked by human rights violations, income inequality, racial injustice, crime, mass incarceration and community violence in advocacy supportive of ethnic and economically deprived groups in America.



Recent miscarriages of prosecutorial actions against police who murder unarmed African Americans have recently produced crowds appearing at political rallies signaling another era of protests, civil disobedience and outright violence. These intense precursors to social upheaval and ensuing martial law are a threat to the peace and even the advances achieved in the social movements of the past.

So, what does this have to do with Community Action? Should we be involved..or just watch a new movement toward social change unfold? Having been blessed with eight years of "sitting at the feet" of the Late Dr. William Sonny Walker (who officiated over the Community Action wing of the former U.S. Southeastern Office of Economic Opportunity in the 1970's and early 1980's), I have learned, and finally accepted that We Must Do Something....all of us.. Community Action, largely concerned with alleviating poverty in America continues its mission, though uncomfortably, as the cataclysmic dynamics of societal dysfunction occurs and magnifies in our midst. Most 'Black Lives Matter' participants (particularly) and other empathizers, are either relatives of those killed by police or

non-voters / disenfranchised, returning citizens, poor, single parents and fatherless youth.

Community Action has been one of America's most prolific alliance of agencies which nearly perfected the concept of maximum feasible participation and community organizing. This art is beginning to fade as neighborhoods are gentrified, public housing communities abolished, and prison populations explode to the demise of voting, employment and urban employment opportunities. So how do we roll forward and empower low income people to strategize workable solutions? Dr Walker would tell me to 'speak up, organize, and be a part of the solution.'

Article continued on page 8..

**NO JUSTICE
NO PEACE**



2016 SEACAA CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 2016 NASCSP Annual Training Conference • September 27-30 • Omaha, NE 68102

NOVEMBER Strength Based Management • November 10-11 • KCEOC, Barbourville, KY

What's Up Duck?

KCEOC's Annual Ken-Ducky Derby Makes a Big Splash

Kentucky - KCEOC Community Action Partnership held their annual fundraising event, the Ken-Ducky Derby, in June at Barbourville Waterpark. Attendance was at an all time high, and many supporters from the community attended the event. KCEOC had 2,042 ducks adopted for the Ken-Ducky Derby race, raising a total of \$10,210 for the agency. Half of the money went to Head Start classrooms for supplies; the other half went to programs designated by the adopters.



Once again, KCEOC had a successful year full of fun, friends, and tremendous support! To find out more about the Ken-Ducky Derby, visit the

KCEOC Community Action Partnership Facebook page for pictures, winners, and more.

www.facebook.com/KCEOC

IN REMEMBRANCE OF DR. WILLIAM "SONNY" WALKER

Dr. William "Sonny" Walker - civil rights activist, educator, nonprofit executive, entrepreneur and mentor



to many, passed away in June of this year at the age of 82, however, his legacy is preserved and remembered each year with SEACAA's William "Sonny" Walker Award. The award is presented annually to a member organization or one whose interests SEACAA represents that has operated an outstanding program or project designed expressly to promote self-sufficiency of poor persons. His eldest child, Cheryl Walker, fittingly described her father as

one of the nation's pioneer civil rights activists and a man who cared deeply about the welfare of other people, his family and community.

Read more about this sunny, outstanding leader in the tribute in the conference program book.

KCEOC 2016 James Davenport Scholarship Recipients

Kentucky - Nelson Mandela said "education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." That's why each year KCEOC Community Action Partnership presents scholarships that provide continued education to recipients that illustrate an economic, show promise of academic success and who are enrolled in an educational/vocational institution. The \$1000 scholarships are funded by the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) education fund and named in honor of one of KCEOC's own, the late James (Jim) Joseph Davenport.

Davenport, a Community Action hero instrumental in saving and consolidating critical funding for KCEOC and Community Action throughout his 26-year career. The 2016 recipients of the James J. Davenport Scholarships are Kelsey Jones (Barbourville High School), Kaylee Hill (Lynn Camp High School), Emily Partin (Lynn Camp High School), Brenna Adams (Barbourville High School), and Austin Barnett (Knox Central High School). Congratulations from KCEOC, and your community, and the best of luck in your future endeavors.



Region IV Wins Big at National CAP Conference

Congratulations and kudos to newly elected **CAP President, Bryan Duncan**, SEACAA Board member, former NC State Association President/current Board member and I-CARE Executive Director, North Carolina and **CAP Third Vice President, Malcom Ratchford, CCAP**, Executive Director of Community Action Council for Lexington-Fayette, Bourbon, Nicholas, and Harrison Counties, Lexington and Kentucky State Association Board member, Kentucky.

Bryan Duncan: Executive Director of I-CARE, Inc., Statesville, North Carolina.



Bryan Duncan has been with Community Action for 21 years, serving as Executive Director for 10 years. He formerly served as the First Vice-Chair of the Community Action Partnership. He was also the President of the North Carolina Community Action State Association and has also served as First and Second Vice-Chair. Mr. Duncan is the Chair of the Marketing and Public Relations Committee of the Southeastern Association of Community Action Agencies. Mr. Duncan holds a BA in Sociology from UNC-Chapel Hill and is a Certified ROMA Trainer. He is also involved in several community organizations including Rotary Club and the Chamber of Commerce.



Malcolm Ratchford, CCAP: Executive Director of Community Action Council for Lexington-Fayette, Bourbon, Nicholas, and Harrison Counties, Lexington, Kentucky.

Malcolm Ratchford has held the position of Executive Director for three years. He has



been with Community Action for 20 years serving as Head Start Director for 10 years and CSBG Director for three. He currently serves on the board of Community Action Kentucky, the State Association. Mr. Ratchford has served as First

Vice-Chair of the Georgia Head Start Association. He has also been involved with the Kentucky Head Start Unemployment Trust, the HOPE Center Board of Directors and Commerce Lexington. A Certified Community Action Professional, he holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Talladega College and a Master of Science Degree from the University of Kentucky.

Highlights include:

Jeannie Chafin, Director of the Office of Community Services, within the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), US DHHS receives special recognition for her years of service to community action at the conference.



Ms. Chaffin brings local, state and national level experience in anti-poverty efforts to her appointment at ACF. Prior to joining ACF, Ms. Chaffin served as the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Senior Program and Policy Specialist at the National Association for State Community Services Programs where her responsibilities included policy development and technical assistance to State CSBG Administrators. Ms. Chaffin also coordinated with existing partners and created new

relationships with key national organizations, members of Congress, and the Administration that furthered the purposes of CSBG at the state and local levels. Ms. Chaffin has worked in the CSBG Network for over twenty years, at both a State CSBG office and a local Community Action Agency.



HOPE IS ON THE WAY

The North Carolina Community Action Association officially launched the Holy Cow! Let's End Poverty initiative in Austin, TX. Hope, the mascot for the initiative, is expected to make her way to Myrtle Beach for the SEACAA 2016 Conference. Welcome her and join the MOOvement to end poverty!

Meet Hope

Holy Cow! Let's End Poverty is about making poverty a part of the conversation and then being bold enough to do something about it. This branding strategy incorporates education, social media, a laugh or two and the opportunity to raise unrestricted funds to help community action agencies reach their maximum potential of helping people to help themselves and each other.

Read more at <http://www.jointhemoovement.com/about>

COASTAL COMMUNITY ACTION VIPS STEP UP FOR SEA TURTLE PATROL

North Carolina - In May of this year the Pine Knoll Shores Police Department formed a partnership with the NC Wildlife Sea Turtle Program in Pine Knoll Shores, NC. Ryan Thompson, Chief of Police there, submitted a letter of appreciation to Volunteers with the Sea Turtle Program for their role in preserving this endangered species. Volunteers do daily checks down the entire beach strand looking for the formation of a new sea turtle nest. Once a sea turtle nest is located, the volunteers mark the nest with signs and monitor it to prevent tampering and ensure the nest and the sea turtle eggs within can reach their fullest potential.

Chief Thomson said these VIPS (Volunteers in Police Service), who are all Coastal Community Action, Inc. volunteers, started utilizing their four wheel drive beach vehicles for what he has begun to call "Sea Turtle Patrol." VIPS members Liz Mauser, Danny Frye, and new comer Jayne Keifer go out on Sea Turtle Patrol almost 7 days a week looking for new sea turtle nesting sites.

According to the Chief, this unique partnership benefits everybody involved. The Sea Turtle Program gets the benefit of the beach vehicles, which cuts down on the time it takes to cover the beach strand. The VIPS get the benefit of giving even more back to the community and being an integral part of preserving an endangered species.

Thompson says the driving force behind this part-

nership was VIPS member Liz Mauser. "I am always looking for new ways for our volunteers to contribute to the community and to the police department and Liz Mauser brought the possibility of a partnership to my attention." He also thanked Peggy Deneau, who coordinates the volunteers for the Sea Turtle Program in Pine Knoll Shores, for helping make this partnership happen. At the time this was written, VIPS had already volunteered over 60 hours on Sea Turtle Patrol.

Coastal Community Action, Inc.
<http://www.coastalca.org/>



President's Column

As you join us for the 2016 SEACAA Annual Conference it is with great humility that I give you my final remarks



Ricky Baker

as your SEACAA President. It has been my pleasure to serve you and our Community Action Agencies in Region IV for the past almost 6 years. It was with much remorse and anxiety that I continued the long tradition of service that I inherited with the untimely passing of Ron Logsdon. Ron lived and breathed Community Action and SEACAA and I hope that I have in some small way bestowed his commitments to Community Action and SEACAA to those of you to follow.

This year's SEACAA Conference will be the best to date. The SEACAA Program Committee and the North Carolina Community Action Association has put together a stellar lineup of conference sessions, speakers, and trainers. Information regarding sessions is now on the www.seacaa.org website. I am pleased to announce that the 2017 SEACAA Annual Conference will be in Mississippi. We look forward to seeing everyone next year at the Beau Rivage in Biloxi.

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!

I wish to thank my fellow officers that are also ending their terms of office and I welcome the new officers of the association. I know these individuals will provide the leadership and direction for Community Action for the years to come. I ask that each of you fully support them and SEACAA by becoming actively involved as much as you can. Without your support and efforts, we cannot and will not flourish. But with your help and enthusiasm we can ensure that the poor and disadvantaged individuals and families in the Southeast Region are not forgotten. We can and we will make a difference.

Again, I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve as your SEACAA President and always remember our promise: "Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live".

Ricky Baker
SEACAA President



Our promise, "Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live".

Ricky Baker, SEACAA President

SEACAA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President - Ricky Baker
Vice-President - William Holt
Secretary - Brenda Fox
Treasurer - Belva Dorsey

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.

SEACAA Congratulates the Regional CCAP Class of 2016

Helping People. Changing Lives.



**community
Action.**

PARTNERSHIP

AMERICA'S POVERTY FIGHTING NETWORK

Samuel D. Bass, CCAP

Chesterfield-Marlboro Economic Opportunity Council, Inc., Cheraw, SC

Beverly C. Bowens, CCAP

Community Action Council for Lexington-Fayette, Bourbon, Harrison and Nicholas Counties, Lexington, KY

Kimberly Cobb-Ray, CCAP

Montgomery Community Action Committee, Inc., Montgomery, AL

Ada I. Garcia, CCAP

GLEAMNS Human Resources Commission, Greenwood, SC

Sharon C. Goodson, CCAP

North Carolina Community Action Association, Raleigh, NC

Reba Hough-Martin, CCAP

Palmetto County Community Action Partnership, Charleston, SC

Al F. Humphries, III, CCAP

Louisville Metro Community Services, Louisville, KY

Kristin M. LaBarge, CCAP

Oswego County Opportunities, Inc., Fulton, NY

Angela R. Martin, CCAP

Community Action Association of Alabama, Birmingham, AL

Jessica McMoore, CCAP

South Carolina Association of Community Action Partnerships, Inc., Columbia SC

Albert S. Miller, Jr., CCAP

The Agricultural and Labor Program, Inc., Lake Alfred, FL

Deborah J. Nagle, CCAP

Community Action Program Committee, Pensacola, FL

Kristi Persinger, CCAP

Community Action Council for Lexington-Fayette, Bourbon, Harrison and Nicholas Counties, Lexington, KY

Crystal Scott, CCAP

Community Action Program Committee, Pensacola, FL

Shunna T. Vance, Esq. CCAP

GLEAMNS Human Resources Commission, Greenwood, SC

Trentsie Williams, CCAP

GLEAMNS Human Resources Commission, Greenwood, SC

Margaret Gibson, CCAP

Wateree Community Actions, Inc., Columbia, SC

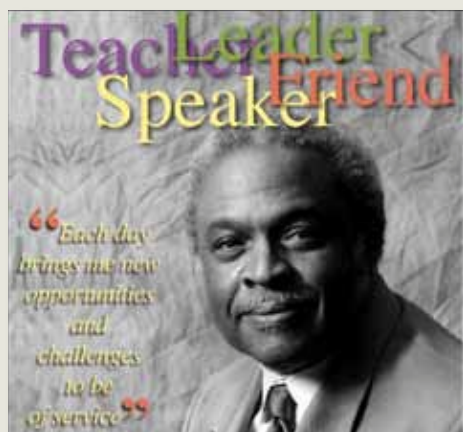
HOW DOES CERTIFICATION BENEFIT ME & MY AGENCY

- Gives you visible recognition for your accomplishments in the field. Tells others, you have achieved a nationally recognized standard.
- Enhances the credentials of Community Action staff.
- Improves your professional marketability when competing for higher positions in your own agency or another CAA.
- Establishes standards that encourage future community action leaders to carry on the quality work of the movement's founders. Future generations will benefit from your commitment to excellence today.

Learn more:

www.compa.nonprofitsoapbox.com

CIVIL RIGHTS, COMMUNITY ACTION & BLACK LIVES MATTER CONTINUED..



In Atlanta, GA I have found that Black Lives Matter, The Occupy Movement sympathizers and other affiliates have become modern day community organizers. The result is, a revised ideology which has produced a new civil rights movement.

What is happening practically, is a social meltdown and a feeling that many of our efforts were fruitless. Moreover, it must be acknowledged to all that America keeps experiencing cycles of Déjà vu. everything new is actually warmed over soup. I hope that my colleagues in community action question where we are in all facets of the changes we are seeing and evaluate our intent to be a part of the complex solutions that are needed.... involving the individuals and families we serve.

Read more on this.... www.blacklivesmatter.com , www.humanrights.com

You may respond to the author at: jjdorsey@faca.org. The views expressed herein DoNot necessarily reflect the opinions of the staff, Board or grant makers of the Fulton Atlanta Community Action Authority, Inc. or SEACAA