

spotlight

on community action



A Newsletter of the Southeastern Association of Community Action Agencies

Spring 2017

BILOXI AND BEAU RIVAGE (B&B)

B & B in Mississippi Winning Combination for 2017 SEACAA Conference

Come to the award-winning Beau Rivage Resort in Biloxi MS, October 31-November 3, featuring the finest in world-class Southern hospitality while engaging in stimulating plenary discussions, concurrent sessions, and keynote addresses to better fulfill Community Action's "Promise" and address the future challenges associated with eradicating poverty. And who knows, you just might win some extra change while doing so.

REGISTER to attend *Facing Tomorrow's Reality TODAY* to hear how local and regional communities can be transformed and ensure that future generations of people in need are able to continue their lives with independence and opportunity. Along with its famous southern hospitality, the 2 B's combine to provide a relaxed setting with "stylish amenities and something for everyone recreational options" for extended meetings on Mississippi's Gulf Coast. Beau Rivage's sophisticated meeting venues impress its many business travelers, from the elegant Magnolia Ballroom to the fully equipped indoor conference center. In between meetings, guests enjoy a variety of resort activities that include golf on the 18-hole Fallen Oak—a Tom Fazio masterpiece. Others enjoy browsing through exclusive boutiques that line the on-site shopping promenade or head to the salon and spa for a relaxing treatment. Known for its full-service casino, the resort entertains business travelers, with its 1,550-seat theater, 11 restaurants, four nightclubs and bars.

The **city of Biloxi** provides many opportunities to connect with others and entertains tourists with its charming versatility and coastal communities that sprinkle the shoreline. Its pristine beaches, great museums and fabulous local cuisine, make it a great place for authentic excursions and adventures while conferencing.

https://www.tripadvisor.com/Guide-g43686-k4528-Biloxi_Mississippi.html • Beau Rivage Resort - Biloxi



OCTOBER 31 - NOVEMBER 3, 2017



BILOXI

IBIH-LOK-SEE, -LUHK-I

Examples
noun

1. a city in SE Mississippi, on the Gulf of Mexico.

Dictionary.com Unabridged
Based on the Random House Dictionary, © Random House,



TAKE ACTION – COMMUNITY ACTION’S RESPONSE TO PROPOSED BUDGET CUTS

Letter from Denise Harlow, Chief Executive Officer, Community Action Partnership



REGISTER TODAY!

National Webinar with NCAF, CAPLAW, and the Community Action Partnership on the President’s Proposed Budget.

Wednesday, April 5th at 3:00pm ET/2:00 CT/1:00 MT/12:00 PT

Dear Community Action Colleagues,

On **Wednesday, April 5th at 3:00pm ET**, I invite you to join David Bradley, Eleanor Evans, and myself for an overview of President Trump’s proposed 2018 budget and the current strategy to navigate Congress during this challenging time. The webinar will include a presentation as well as a discussion on Community Action’s response to proposed cuts to CSBG, LiHEAP, WAP, and others and how local CAAs and State Associations can position themselves in the months ahead.

There is no cost to attend, but preregistration is required. Please [click here](#) to register. We have included a few questions on the registration form to help us better prepare for the session.

What should you do before the webinar?

- 1. Read David Bradley’s QuickFacts from 3/27/17 regarding the CSBG Dear Colleague Letter and take action today.** For more information, [click here](#).
- 2. Register for CAPLAW’s webinars on advocacy.** See CAPLAW Communications email from 3/22/17 or [click here](#) to read it or [click here](#) to go to the webpage with more info on the two sessions- Making your Voice Heard and Playing by the Rules. Learn what you CAN do during this time.

I hope that you will join us for this important and informative webinar on Wednesday, April 5th at 3:00pm ET to ensure that our Network responds effectively to the President’s budget proposal. Don’t forget to preregister [here](#).

Sincerely,
Denise Harlow, CCAP
Chief Executive Officer
Community Action Partnership

AGENCY NEWS

Gone But not Forgotten - Legacy of KCEOC Beloved Partner



KY - KCEOC Board Chair, Gary Brittain, passed away February 3, 2017. Gary was not only a beloved husband, father, and grandfather; he was also a long supporter, and partner, to KCEOC for the past 29 years. Gary was seated to the Board of Directors in 1988, became Vic-Chair in 2004, and Chair in August of 2013.

Gary was not only the Knox County Attorney for two terms, an avid supporter of KCEOC, but also held seats on numerous committees and boards including: Kentucky Communities Housing, KCEOC Housing Corp I, KCEOC Housing Corp II, By Laws, and Articles of Incorporation Committees.

During his time with KCEOC, he experienced and assisted in many milestones and accomplishments. Gary was Board Chair when KCEOC won the Award of Excellence in 2015, and

on KCEOC's celebration of our 50th Anniversary. These are just a couple of milestones and celebrations Gary experienced, but there is countless more they would not have achieved without his support and assistance.

KCEOC extends their condolences to all who knew him and appreciates his hard work, and selflessness, throughout the years for the agency and his community.

I'm just becoming more and more aware of this truly profound responsibility that we carry as individuals. And it's a responsibility not only to ourselves and to our families, but to the billions of people who still have to come in the future who will be dealing with our legacy.

- Chris Jordan

Hale" to the Chief

Douglas-Cherokee Board of Directors selects Kay Hale as Executive Director

TN - December 2016 marked the beginning of a new chapter for Douglas-Cherokee Economic Authority, Inc. Kay Hale started her new role as Executive Director. She may have a new job title, but Hale is not new to Douglas-Cherokee. She joined DCEA almost 35 years ago and has been the Head Start/Early Head Start Program Director for the past 8 years. Kay grew up in West Tennessee and moved to Morristown in the early 1980s. Hale is a graduate of the University of Tennessee with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Education. She has combined her background in teaching and education with professional experience to provide instruction to families in need.

Rene Tabor, DCEA Board Chair, said, "Kay is always willing and eager to collaborate with the other Agency and community programs and has a strong presence in the counties we serve."

Kay is spending time these first few months getting to know all of the programs offered by DCEA.

CONGRATULATIONS, KAY!





Race Equity and Inclusion Action Guide

Embracing Equity: 7 Steps to Advance and Embed Race Equity and Inclusion Within Your Organization

By the Annie E. Casey Foundation

Report Quick Links

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7 Steps to Advance and Embed Race Equity

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Copyright, Citation and Usage

Practice Guide

Download (16 PG PDF)

Advancing race equity and inclusion can leave many wondering how and where to start. One way to achieve social change in an organization is to incorporate race equity and inclusion at every stage of work. The seven steps in this guide provide a clear framework for undertaking this important work. This tool works by demonstrating how a race equity lens can be adopted by foundations or other organizations that work directly with systems, technical assistance providers and communities.

<http://www.aecf.org/resources/race-equity-and-inclusion-action-guide/>

About the Annie E. Casey Foundation

The Annie E. Casey Foundation is a private philanthropy that creates brighter futures for the nation's children by developing solutions to strengthen families, building paths to economic opportunity and transforming struggling communities into safer and healthier places to live, work and grow.

Acknowledgments

This guide was written in partnership with Terry Keleher, thought leadership and practice specialist at Race Forward: The Center for Racial Justice Innovations and uses tools he developed, in addition to tools developed by the Foundation. Thought partnership and technical assistance provided by PolicyLink and Race Matters Institute, a project of Just Partners, Inc.

National Trio Day

TN - February 25th was National TRIO Day and as a way of saying "Thank You," Scott County Upward Bound students in Tennessee held a Valentine's Day card drive. Students raised enough money to buy each resident of two local nursing home and rehabilitation centers a stuffed animal and then made each of them a card. Students also gathered 250 Valentines cards and delivered them to Scott Appalachian Industries and UT Hospital Oncology Department.

Douglas-Cherokee Economic Authority's mission is to provide resources, tools, and opportunities that help low-income families and individuals of all ages achieve personal, economic and social stability.

<https://www.douglascherokee.org/index.html>



Scott County Upward Bound students participating in a Valentine's Day card drive.

President's Corner

SEACAA's New Path to the Future

Poverty is persistent in our service territory.



As we continue OUR efforts to **Advocate, Collaborate, Innovate** and **Identify Strategies and Solutions** to reduce this vicious cycle, let us look ahead to our "New Path to the Future." I have been meeting with our Executive Officers and Board of Directors to establish directives to increase agency capacity and help us better serve you. I hope you will let me know if you have ideas about how SEACAA can better assist you in your individual/agency efforts to assure that the voices of the poor and disadvantaged are still heard.

Our October annual conference is an excellent opportunity to network and acquire the tools and technical assistance to advance our mission. Facing Tomorrow's Reality TODAY! is an especially appropriate theme this year as we seek to build stronger communities for all people. I hope you will make plans to join us for an action-packed agenda that is currently being developed with your needs in mind. Reserve your room now!...at the Beau Rivage Resort in Biloxi, MS so that you don't miss out. Details pertaining to this event and more can be found on the SEACAA website @ www.seacaa.org.

If you have not joined the Associa-

tion, I encourage you do so. Without your support, we are helpless at a time when we need to be stronger than ever.

I'm counting on your collective human capital and financial support. Together, with the leadership and support of the SEACAA Board of Directors, I remain,

Thank you.

Sincerely,
William Holt President
SEACAA Board of Directors

Facing Tomorrow's Reality TODAY! is an especially appropriate theme this year as we seek to build stronger communities for all people.

William Holt
SEACAA President



SEACAA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President - William Holt

Vice-President - Ron Gilbert

Secretary - Melissa J. Weaver

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.

BIG SANDY AREA COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM A VEHICLE TO CUT INTO A NEW PROFESSION

"There are other things out there. There are programs and help available for miners. It is possible to get new work. Don't get discouraged, just keep pushing forward in life." ~Michael Lowe

KY - After 17 years of working as a dozer operator for a surface mining company, Michael Lowe, like so many others in the region, was laid off from work and had to find a way to begin again.

Lowe connected with Big Sandy Area Community Action Program Career Advisor Reva Kidd at the Office of Employment and Training in Prestonsburg. Kidd informed Lowe that as a laid-off coal miner, he was eligible to participate in the Hiring Our Miners Everyday Program (HOME).

The HOME program created by Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment and administered with the assistance of Big Sandy Area Community Action Program, assists former coal industry workers and their spouses to receive educational and workforce opportunities which can help them transition to new work.

Lowe, who has had a passion for barbering since he was a child, jumped at the chance to learn a new trade. He enrolled in classes at Ashland Community and Technical College and the HOME program helped pay for tuition costs and his barbering tool kit. In addition, the program helped him stay enrolled with a monthly stipend to offset travel costs. Upon completion, Lowe was reimbursed for the fee required to take the Kentucky Barber Board test and had a job waiting for him."

Lowe said he is enjoying his new work and fulfilling a childhood passion. "I like making people feel good about themselves, and it's an honor to serve our customers," he

said. Lowe offered encouragement to fellow former miners as well. "There are other things out there. There are programs and help available for miners. It is possible to get new work. Don't get discouraged, just keep pushing forward in life."

HOME was created by Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program, Inc. (EKCEP) with a two-year National Emergency Grant from the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. The program is open to the residents and employers who meet the grant specifications.

To learn more about Big Sandy Area Community Action Program (BSACAP) and their programs, visit www.bsacap.org or call the service office in your county.



Lowe pictured with young client.



BREAKING GROUND FOR THE FUTURE

GA - Concerted Services, Inc. is proud to announce that construction is currently under way for a new 12,000 sq. ft. facility in Appling County recognized as a first of its kind in Southeast Georgia.

What makes this facility unique?

Once completed, this facility will house a Head Start/Early Head Start program alongside a Senior Center. The operation of these two programs under one roof will pave the way for exciting intergenerational activities with immense benefits for both age groups. Both the Senior Center and Head Start have been operated by Concerted Services, Inc. in Appling County for many years. With the completion of the new facility planned to coincide with the start of the 2017-2018 school year, Head Start Director Shelli Tyre and Community Services Director Diane Rogers are very excited about the opportunities to come.



Why are the combined activities important?

It is well established that activities that bring different age groups together have direct positive benefits for young and old. For our Head Start students, many of whom come from a single-parent home, the involvement of a senior can provide additional support, increase self-esteem, and even improve behavior. For seniors, many of whom live alone, the interaction with children can provide increased connectedness and feelings of self-worth.



Achievements of this scale do not happen alone. Collaborations and support from local government are what made this dream a reality. Concerted Services, Inc. is appreciative of the commitment shown by the Appling County Commission and residents who voted to fund the building. This is truly a case of the **community taking action to improve lives!**

Concerted Services, Inc. is a premier community action agency committed to investing in lives and transforming communities one person at a time. <http://concertedservices.org>

AND THE WINNER IS...NCCAA WINS NATIONAL HEALTHY 10 AWARD!



HEALTH MEANS BUSINESS

The Healthy10 Awards honored ten significant partnerships or initiatives involving cross-sector collaborations between local businesses and traditional and non-traditional partners to improve community wellness and economic opportunity at its Health Means Business National Summit in Washington, DC, February 15-16, 2017. The Awards were instituted through the *Health Means Business* campaign, an unprecedented partnership to *foster business engagement in the wellness of our nation's communities*, by the U.S. Chamber Foundation, with support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and local and regional chambers of commerce.

The North Carolina Community Action Association was one of three winners chosen in the Healthy Environment category for its efforts to improve the health, safety, and energy efficiency of low-income households to prevent chronic diseases that severely impact a person's health and quality of life through the "Duke Energy Helping Home Fund" initiative. Since launch, this partnership has helped nearly 3,000 families have safer, healthier homes.

[Click Here to Learn More!](#)

TRAGEDY AVERTED THROUGH BIG SANDY AREA COMMUNITY ACTION'S WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM

KY - "It's a miracle we weren't dead already," said Johnson County homeowner Darvin Grim. Grim and his wife Judy have lived in their home for 10 years and were unaware of the carbon monoxide threat their heating system posed to their lives.

Heating their home had become a challenge and the electric heating system they had was too big to be carried by their breaker box. To keep warm, the Grims used an old coal burning stove and an old propane space heater to heat just one room. Grim knew the house needed better insulation, but household expenses kept him from being able to put it in himself, so he contacted Big Sandy Area Community Action's Weatherization Assistance Program to see if they could help. BSACAP's



Judy and Darvin Grim are standing in their safe and warm Johnson County home this winter through the help of the Big Sandy Area Community Action Program's Weatherization Assistance Program.

Weatherization program is designed to help people with low-incomes get the repairs they need at no cost, offering them a long-term solution to heating and cooling problems and reducing home energy costs.

After BSACAP's Weatherization crew inspected the home, they found the structure had less than half of the insulation needed and the propane space heater was spewing extremely dangerous amounts of carbon monoxide. In fact, the Grims said they became very drowsy in the room with the heater, which is one of the signs of carbon monoxide poisoning. After the inspection, BSACAP's Weatherization crew got to work and installed a gas furnace that is 98 percent energy efficient, ensured that all holes and air leaks were sealed, installed a carbon monoxide detector and smoke detector, and installed a CFM vent designed to improve air quality.

Now the Grims have a safe and warm home to help them face the winter. "It's like daylight and dark," Judy Grim said. "The house has never been this warm. Everything they did makes a difference."

The Weatherization Assistance Program is funded by the U.S. Department of Energy and administered by the Kentucky Housing Corporation. Big Sandy Area Community Action Program is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing a vast array of services to assist individuals and families in obtaining self-sufficiency. To learn more about BSACAP and their programs, visit www.bsacap.org or call (606) 789-3641.



FOOD DESERTS.....A COMMUNITY ACTION CALL TO ACT

GA - The question of healthy families is a regularly highlighted concern in most American cities and rural communities where there seems to be a diminishing presence of grocery stores that offer choices for customers seeking food that provide nutritious meals. In Atlanta, there is a plethora of food deserts and it seems we are not alone. Due to the phenomenon of gentrification and decaying communities, grocery store chain like Public, Kroger, Food Giant and many other popular ones are moving into more centralized, safe and even affluent areas.

Without transportation of convenience, certain citizens are unable to regularly shop for healthy foods. This is a common problem in large cities and the food sources have been more commonly that of corner markets and gas station grocery add-ons. In such cases, the food is not nutritious due to an absence of fresh vegetables, meat and fruit. Also, the cost of most grocery items is more expensive than those found in major grocery offerings. As well, it has become popular to find grocery items in Walmart, Target and popular drug stores like CVS and Walgreen. While it can be stated that food does exist for purchase in nearly all neighborhoods, it's the quality of food that has to be addressed.

As this city is being revitalized by a dynamic housing boom and residents are being bought or "moved" out of their neighborhoods for new construction, so goes the food markets.

Fulton Atlanta Community Action Authority has begun to address the problem of food sources in Atlanta which is the main city of Fulton County, GA. As this city is being revitalized by a dynamic housing boom and residents are being bought or "moved" out of their neighborhoods for new construction, so goes the food markets. The trend in Atlanta, over the past decade, has been that of creating new communities...absent of affordable housing. What must happen in these cases is a call to action by community programs which should have voice to speak on behalf of the low income citizens affected by these changes.

Commentary offered by Dr. Joyce Dorsey, CEO, Fulton Atlanta Community Action Authority, Georgia

Since its inception in 1991, FACAA has helped more than one million residents through the carefully planned administration of social services, advocacy and community education.

<http://www.facaa.org/>

How is Fulton County Addressing Food Deserts?



Fulton Fresh Mobile Farmer's Market Program

MORE THAN A NEW PLACE TO LIVE

KY - On February 7th, KCEOC Community Action Partnership celebrated with new homeowner, Lenda Smith, the completion of her new home. Smith's new home was built by KCEOC as part of its Housing Development Program, in...

Barbourville, KY, an area familiar to Smith on land that has been in her family for years. Smith said, "We used to play in that same creek when I was a kid," as she pointed to the creek dividing her new front yard from the road. "We had to be careful, the rocks are slick, but we would play there all the time when we were little."

Smith had been living in downtown Barbourville, KY for over 10 years in a place she described as busy and noisy, while the house was being built. "The walls were thin, and you could hear everything. Here, it's quiet and peaceful, not like the city."



PICTURE: From L to R: Barry Turner, Steve Partin, Jill House, Johnny Bray, Lenda Smith, Cleda Smith, Mary Mills, Michael Swafford, Jennifer Smith, Beverly Isom, Austin Isom, Judy Rose, Mike Sharp

Smith's new home is also special, because it allows her to be closer to her mother, who is now her neighbor. Smith was all smiles on the day of the open house, and thanked everyone involved in making her dream a reality. Along with KCEOC, the Federal Home Bank of Cincinnati, the Federation of Appalachian Housing Enterprise Inc., Forcht Bank, the Kentucky Housing Corporation, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture all played critical roles in helping build Smith's new home.

"It's more than a new place to live" Smith said. "It's being closer to family; it's being where I grew up. I've come back home."

"KCEOC Community Action Partnership is dedicated to recognizing human potential, improving communities, and creating opportunities for change."

<http://www.povertyisreal.org>



2017 CALENDAR

MAY

CCAMP Certification Training - Violence in the Workplace

May 25-26, 2017 • Barbourville, KY

[Click here to register.](#)

AUGUST

2017 CAP Annual Convention

Aug. 29-Sept. 1, 2017 • Philadelphia, PA

OCTOBER

SEACAA 2017 Annual Conference

Oct. 31-Nov. 3, 2017 • Biloxi, MS

NOVEMBER

CCAMP Certification Training - Violence in the Workplace

Nov. 9-10, 2017 • Barbourville, KY

[Click here to register.](#)