

GLEAMNS News & Views

GLEAMNS Board of Commissioners Participates in the Statewide Board Retreat



GLEAMNS Board of Commissioners held its bi-monthly board meeting on Thursday evening at the Statewide Retreat at Wild Dunes Resort, Isle of Palms, SC.

GLEAMNS Board of Directors, Executive Staff, and Policy Council Chairperson recently attended the Statewide Board Retreat in Isle of Palms, South Carolina.

The conference theme was “Enhancing Board Knowledge, Skills and Accountability.” Community Action Partnership Directors and their Board members, from across the State of South Carolina, received specialized training in Board Governance and Accountability, Building Better Boards, Financial Management, Recruiting, Orienting New Board Members, and Effective Team Building. The Board also participated in roundtable discussions on various topics that were suggested by the Community Action Agencies and the Head Start Network.

The Retreat was held at the Wild Dunes Resort where Board members and staff took advantage of the historic tours, scenic walks, and Gullah Cuisine.



GLEAMNS' Board Member Angela Garrett makes a presentation following a round-table discussion on Understanding the Head Start Performance Standards.



Dr. Patton makes a presentation following a round-table discussion on Board Members as Advocates for Community Action.

State Partnership Conference

The South Carolina Community Action Partnership and South Carolina Head Start Association recently held its Mid-Fall Conference in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. GLEAMNS Board Member, two (2) employees, and a community partner were recognized for their services and contributions to Community Action.



Trentsie Williams, GLEAMNS Budget Manager, received the John Price Memorial Award for her dedicated services and extraordinary contributions in combating the war on poverty in South Carolina.

Donald E. Robinson, GLEAMNS Board Member, received the Volunteer of the Year Award. Mr. Robinson has volunteered many hours in all aspects of the GLEAMNS community and the State in areas of education, politics, health issues, community service, and religion.



Inger Hendley, GLEAMNS CSBG Assistant Case Manager, received the Development Award for her dedication in developing and promoting the mission of the South Carolina Community Action Partnership.

Golden Harvest Food Bank of McCormick, SC received the Partnership Award for their partnership effort with GLEAMNS which has significantly enhanced the services, social awareness, and competence for low income families served by GLEAMNS.



Visit to the Governor's Mansion

Dr. Patton and Trentsie Williams attended Governor Haley's Holiday Reception at the Governor's Mansion on Thursday, December 8, 2011.



Dr. Patton chats with the Governor.



Pictured above, left to right, are: Trentsie Williams, (GLEAMNS Budget Manager), Governor Haley and her husband and Dr. Patton (GLEAMNS CEO)



In the Spotlight

GLEAMNS Board of Commissioner

ANGELA GARRETT



Mrs. Angela Garrett resides in McCormick County, South Carolina. Angela loves taking care of people and is especially passionate about being a positive role model for children. She has been employed at Self Regional Healthcare for 18 years in the Emergency Care Center. Also, for the past 10 years Angela has been employed at the Burton Center as a Mental Retardations Specialist.

Angela was appointed to the GLEAMNS' Board of Commissioners in December 2010 representing the low-income population of McCormick County. She formerly served on GLEAMNS Head Start Policy Council for two years and as a Head Start Community Representative for one year.

Angela is a member of Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church where she serves on the Usher Board and Young Women's Auxillary, assists with youth activities, kitchen ministry, and wherever there is a need for her services. For the past three years she has served as team leader for the Relay for Life at her church. She is married to Anthony Garrett and they have one son, Anthony "AJ" Garrett.

Angela is self-motivated and enjoys cooking, traveling, basketball, football, and interacting with people especially children.

Her motto, which was instilled in her by two of her former teachers, Rev. & Mrs. R.C. Holloway, is "Be the best you can be in life and strive to make a difference in someone else's life."

YMCA Memberships

Ok, it's time to start preparing for the New Year!!! *Are you interested in getting fit, losing weight, or reducing stress?* If your answer is yes, then take a look at the Greenwood Family YMCA. If you want to join or you just need to renew your membership, please contact Trentsie Williams at the Brewer Administrative Office.

Benefits of regular exercise

- Improves your mood
- Combats chronic diseases
- Manages your weight
- Boosts your energy level
- Promotes better sleep
- Stronger immune system
- Stronger muscles/bones



Get your New Year started right!!

News from Human Resources

COMMUNITY AWARENESS PARTICIPATION

GLEAMNS Human Resources Commission, Inc. participated in the Upper Savannah Council of Government Job Fair held September 29, 2011 at the Greenwood Mall, Greenwood, South Carolina. Also, the Agency participated in the Greenwood Head Start Center's Job Fair held November 17, 2011.

Our goal is to showcase the agency and its programs to customers in counties served by GLEAMNS. We let them know *'Who We Are'* and *'What We Do'*. We received over 85 Employment Applications and Resumes.

If you would like to learn more about our programs, please contact Human Resources at 864-223-8434 or visit our website: www.gleamnshrc.org.



CSBG says Farewell to Mr. Stephens

Columbus Stephens, former Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Director, has been chosen as the County Administrator for McCormick County, South Carolina. His transition to his new position will be a familiar one since he has served in county government for seventeen years. One of his career passions has been to be a public servant and he will continue to fulfill his passion in his new role.

Though he served a few years as the CSBG Director, he has been with GLEAMNS overall for almost twenty years. In a few of his final thoughts he was able to share, he encouraged the CSBG staff and fellow co-workers to *"Continue to be the 'Hope for the Hopeless.'"*

His last work day with GLEAMNS was November 4, 2011. We wish Mr. Stephens well in his new position.

GLEAMNS bid farewell to Linda Banks



Mrs. Linda Banks officially retired after 30 years of service to children and families. Mrs. Banks retired from her dedicated position as Nutrition Tech. The Child Care Food staff, along with Ms. Patricia Sawyer, Ms. Sandra Taylor, Ms. Shunna Vance and Dr. Patton gathered for a surprise retirement luncheon Rikard Head Start to offer her well wishes. Mrs. Banks will be greatly missed for her warm personality, smiling face, delicious food and compassion for children. We wish her the best of luck!!!



New Addition to the CSBG Administrative Staff

CSBG Welcomes New Director

Ada Garcia first joined GLEAMNS Human Resources Commission as the Migrant Head Start Director in 2005. In this position, she worked with Spanish-speaking children and families of migrant farm workers in order to provide assistance to those in need. She remained as the Director for five years until the program ended due to the deficient number of individuals to be served in the area. After the Migrant Head Start Program ended, Ada accepted a position with GLEAMNS Head Start Program as Facility Liaison/Transportation Manager.



As the Facility Liaison/Transportation Manager she was able to use her skills and knowledge of Head Start gained in her previous position to improve the two areas under her supervision. Her bilingual skills of being fluent in both English and Spanish have come to be very handy with all of the Hispanic families and children that Head Start serves. When the position of CSBG Program Director became available, Ada applied and was selected for the role. In her upcoming duties, she will continue her desire to serve and improve the lives of many, bringing with her many years of management experience and a strong financial background.

Ada is a graduate of the University of Puerto Rico with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. Although a lot of her time is spent with her dogs and horses, she enjoys reading and being with her family most of all, taking care of her first granddaughter. She has been married for 33 years and has three adult children.



Marcella A. Kennedy is the new Assistant Program Director/ROMA Coordinator for the CSBG Department. Not only does she have a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work, but she also graduated from Webster University in 2006 with a Master's Degree in Professional Mental Health Counseling. A native of Greenwood, Marcella was formerly employed with Beckman Mental Health Center (BMHC) as Adult Clinician/Human Services Coordinator 1 for a little over four years. Prior to her employment at BMHC, she worked with GLEAMNS Human Resources Commission for over 6 years as a WIA Youth Case Manager.

From her professional experience, she has learned that in order to be an exceptional leader you must learn to be a follower first. Marcella describes herself as being self-motivated and conscientious, and in her spare time, she enjoys sleeping, shopping, calisthenics, and reading inspirational material. Her favorite mottos are: "**Everything Happens for a Reason**" and "**Attitude is The Master Key to Life's Little Locks.**" Two other interesting facts about Marcella are that her favorite color is black and her favorite Biblical scripture is Matthew 6:33.

Born and raised in Greenwood, SC, **Jessica F. H. Peake** graduated from the University of South Carolina-Columbia in 2008 with a Bachelor's of Science in Finance. She went on to obtain her Master's Degree in Human Resources Management in 2010. She was first hired with GLEAMNS through WIA as a Summer Youth Case Manager in 2009, and then as an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Case Manger with CSBG until the ARRA program ended in 2010.

However, when one of the CSBG case manager positions for Greenwood County became available, Jessica applied and was selected for the position. Utilizing the skills and experience she obtained in working with CSBG previously, Jessica feels that her love of interacting with people and her eagerness to learn new things will make her an asset to the department even more.



Not only does Jessica enjoy scrapbooking and traveling, but she also enjoys spending time with her dog, a Pomeranian named Cooper. She is the daughter of Vivian Henry, who currently serves as GLEAMNS North Hodges Head Start Center Coordinator. Jessica is also a newlywed; she is married to Kennis Sentell Peake, who not only teaches at both Northside and Westview Middle School but also coaches for the Greenwood High School football team as well as track & field.

CSBG SUCCESS STORIES



Success Story (Greenwood County)—Jessica Fletcher

Jessica Fletcher was enrolled in the CSBG Case Management program for Greenwood County in August 2011 shortly after receiving emergency assistance with her utilities. Though she was employed part-time, she was very much interested in getting her GED so she could further her education and make a better life for her family. She started at the Greenwood County Adult Education Center in June 2011. Due to her good scores, she was placed in the 'fast track program' to help obtain her GED at a quicker pace. She passed her GED test on October 29, 2011. While enrolled in Adult Education for her GED, the CSBG Case Management Program provided financial assistance for the class enrollment fee, supplies, and the GED testing registration fee.

Success Story (Newberry County)—Amanda Jones

Amanda Jones became a participant of the CSBG Case Management program for Newberry County in May 2011, after being referred to the program by a WIA staff member. In hopes of obtaining her GED, Amanda started classes at the Newberry County Adult Education Center in June 2011. With impressive scores on her pre-test (12.9 in both reading and math), she took the GED test in July 2011 and passed not only her joy but to her mother's as well. Amanda went on to find employment with Cracker Barrel Restaurant in Columbia, SC. Her plans are to attend Piedmont Technical College and major in nursing.

Success Story (Newberry County)—Patsy Woodard

After responding to a letter mailed to her by the Newberry County CSBG Case Manager, Patsy Woodard was enrolled in the CSBG Case Management program in May 2011. Patsy began classes at the Newberry County Adult Education Center in June 2011. With her remarkable scores, she was scheduled to take the official GED test on November 18, 2011. However, a unique situation for Patsy had occurred the night before her test. Her mother had a heart attack, which caused Patsy to accompany her mother as she was provided overnight care in the local hospital. The situation made her contemplate rescheduling her testing, but even in light of this, Patsy's commitment was evident in that she still reported for GED testing the next day and passed. Regarding her accomplishment, Patsy commented in saying that she "keeps looking at and touching the State seal on my GED."

As a single mother of four, she has certainly set a great example for her children since one is in high school and will graduate in May 2012. In the meantime, she will continue to care for her mother but still search for part-time employment and attend Piedmont Technical College. Due to her experience in the adult education program, Ms. Woodard is looking into becoming a math teacher. Mr. Green, the Director for Adult Education for Newberry County, reflected on her accomplishment, saying, "She has been [a] model student [and] we are so proud of her achievement and perseverance".

Success Story (Newberry County)—Melissa Rust

In May 2011, Melissa Rust joined the CSBG Case Management program for Newberry County in hopes of securing employment. She started classes at the Newberry County Adult Education Center in June 2011. After finishing this set of classes, she was given the GED practice test and earned high scores. Though she had been scheduled for the official GED testing the latter part of September, Melissa was pregnant and had a due date of August 12, 2011. Ms. Rust had to have emergency surgery for her baby on September 29, 2011. Even so, her will to obtain her GED remained firm and the test was rescheduled for December 3, 2011. Now that she has her GED, Melissa has contacted Piedmont Technical College in hopes of becoming a computer system administrator.



Policy Council & Board Annual Training

The Head Start Policy Council is made up of parents and representatives from the community who are elected to serve as members of the Policy Council.

Board and Policy Council Training was held October 21 and 22 at the Greenwood Head Start Center. On Friday evening the group attended an introductory session conducted by the Head Start Director, Elaine

Kennedy and Area I Manager, Olandor Lewis. A brief overview of Head Start's components was discussed by each Service Liaison as it relates to the services provided to children and families by the program.

Ms. Mable Jones, a consultant, provided training to the group on Saturday afternoon on Board Legal Responsibilities, Fundamentals of Board and Policy Council Members, the shared duties and responsibilities of the governance team, which was then followed by a question and answer session.



Meet Pineview's New Center Coordinator

Although Ms. Yolonda Singleton is from Washington, D.C., she received a Bachelors of Science in Child & Family Development from Benedict College in 1995. She also received a Masters of Arts in Early Childhood Program Administration from the Mount Vernon Campus of George Washington University. She worked as a teacher for DC Public Schools and Child Care Center. She also worked in the as a Training and Curriculum

Specialist, Educational Coordinator, and Education Manager. Her most rewarding job was working for the National Association of the Education of Young Children in the Accreditation Department. She moved to Gaston, SC in 2008 and is the proud single mother of two daughters Kristyn (10) and Kaelyn (8). Ms. Singleton states her goal is to eventually start working on her Doctorate Degree in Early Childhood or Child & Family Development. Her motto is in order to be effective you must constantly educate yourself. Education is the key.



Abbeville Head Start Center- Ms. Crawford and Ms. Clinkscales class perform a skit while wearing masks.



Chris Crawford, Abbeville Policy Council Member, helps to serve food donated by a local vendor during Open House.



The Lower Case Pumpkin Patch at the Edgefield Center.

GLEAMNS Head Start hosts Open House

Open House was held in October throughout all GLEAMNS Head Start Centers in its 10 county areas served, including Richland and Lexington counties. Open House provided an opportunity to showcase to parents and community persons what Head Start is all about. Visitors were encouraged to visit classrooms where students' artwork was on display. Many centers also invited elected officials such as the Harold McNeil, Mayor of Abbeville SC, Claude Thomas, County Councilman and GLEAMNS Board chairman, Gus Wilson, Abbeville City Councilman and many other local community vendors such as Piedmont Technical College, First Steps and local high school football team. Local community step teams provided entertainment.

Visitors were also entertained by the children of the Head Start Programs through songs, skits, and other activities, often centered around Head Start's new, favorite found friend, "Pete the Cat".



Ms. Henry welcomes and thanks guests for attending Open House.



Mrs. LeVerne Fuller, Spongebob Square Pants, Vivian Henry and The Honorable Mayor, Michael George of Hodges, SC.



Ms. Paul and Ms. Bryson showcase a homemade pumpkin replica of "Pete the Cat."



North Hodges Head Start staff gathers for a photo.



Ms. Cobb and Ms. Miller show off their city school bus.

Magic Johnson Technology Center

Again this year, the Magic Johnson Center offered a six weeks Summer Computer Camp for children ages 7 through 16. Activities were partnered with Greenwood Parks and Recreation and the Greenwood Arts Council.



Ms. Bowyer instructs participants enrolled in the summer computer program.



Children enrolled in the summer program visits the Mays Historical Site.



Mr. Morse instructs participants enrolled in the summer computer program.



Third graders enrolled in the summer computer class.



Students enrolled in the summer computer program participate in the new fitness craze Zumba .

Pictures of summer activities at the Magic Johnson Center



Children participate in the end of the summer activities.

Teen After School Center



On November 16, 2011 the Teen After School participants went on their first field trip for the year to the Greenwood Water Plant located on Lake Greenwood. Mr. Henry Watts, CPW Commissioner, was the guide. The group was given an extended tour by Mr. Watts and others at the facilities on how the process of our drinking water starts and ends by reaching our homes, schools, and churches.



Mrs. Deborah Williams, Director of Financial Aid at Piedmont Technical College in Greenwood, spoke to the youth on Monday, October 24, 2011.



Greenwood County Councilman Gonza Bryant spoke to the Teen After School participants on Monday November 7, 2011. He stressed the importance of a good education.



Mr. James Williams, Greenwood District 50 School Board member, talked to the young men enrolled in the Teen After School Program. He told them that respect for themselves and others, and a positive attitude will carry them far. He also told them by all means "dress appropriate."



Mr. Randy Worthy, store Manger of Bi-Lo in Greenville S.C., spoke to our participants on November 28, 2011. He addressed the importance of getting a good education and stress the point of how to dress and make eye contact when talking to people. Mr. Worthy also talked to the students about getting into college and how Bi-Lo provides financial scholarships for their employees.



Weatherization



On Monday, October 31, 2011, GLEAMNS Human Resources Commission celebrated Weatherization Day. Pat Kimble, Weatherization Coordinator, welcomed everyone to the celebration, followed by greetings from Andreal Huffman, Public Information Officer of the South Carolina Association of Community Action Partnerships, Inc. (SCACAP). After a reading of the Proclamation by Shunna Vance, Chief Operations/Risk Management Officer, Greg McConkey, ARRA Weatherization Manager, presented the State of South Carolina Governor's Proclamation for Weatherization Day to Ken McClendon, Weatherization Director.

Recognition and testimonies of customers directly impacted by the Weatherization Program from Greenwood and Laurens Counties was highlighted during the celebration. The clients recalled the weatherization experience, as well as the interaction with the employees and contract workers. The employees and contractors were described as thorough, friendly, professional, and extremely trust-worthy. One customer was surprised at the amount of work her home needed. She received insulation, smoke alarms, a new heating and air system and a refrigerator. "I was just absolutely, completely amazed," she said. Each customer that spoke stressed the positive changes, mostly the lower energy bills, once the contractor completed the work. Mr. McClendon closed the celebration with his thanks to the Weatherization Staff and Contractors (BR Builders, Burt and Son, M & L Mobile Home Supply and New Creations) for their hard work, professionalism and dedication to the community.



WEATHERIZATION DAY POEM

The best little story that you ever want to hear
Ken McClendon drums it in your ear
He wants the clients not to fear
Because his weatherization team is near.

They work through the day
They work through the night
They make adjustments out of sight
They caulk and clean to make things tight.

These adjustments keep the clients warm and cold
They have been this way since the days of old
Sometimes there is more, sometimes there is less
But Ken and his Staff always provide the best.

Written by Joseph Hazel, Field Specialist



The Weatherization Staff consists of Ken McClendon, Pat Kimble, Stacy Beard and Dianne Walde, Office Assistants; and Field Specialists Calvin Butler, Joey Hazel, Damian Proctor, and Ramon Rodriguez.



WIA Success Stories

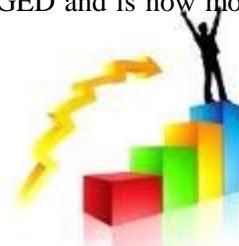
Danielle Barbour Abbeville County – O/S Youth

Danielle Barbour was enrolled in the Workforce Investment Act Youth Program on March 17, 2011. Danielle was an Out-School youth that was unable to complete high school because of the hardship of teenage parenthood. Danielle was attending Abbeville Adult Education before enrollment. While attending Adult Ed, Danielle was able to receive one on one instruction. While receiving her instruction, Danielle was able to improve her reading and math skills. During the monthly Leadership Workshops, Danielle learned the importance of gaining her high school diploma. Because she was able to explore different career paths while attending the workshops, Danielle became interested in a career in Veterinary Technician.

WIA was able to help Danielle with the cost of taking the GED exam. Danielle completed Abbeville Adult Education on April 16, 2011, which qualified her to receive a monetary incentive for meeting her goal. Danielle received her official GED in May 2011.

Danielle started Piedmont Technical College in August of 2011 where she plans to pursue a career in Veterinary Technician. Danielle is thankful to the WIA Program in helping her with gaining her GED and is now motivated in pursuing her degree in Veterinary Technician.

Sirbreena Simmons Laurens County – O/S Youth



Sirbreena Simmons was officially enrolled in the WIA Youth Program on November 25, 2008. Upon entering the program she was a single parent of one small child. Throughout her duration in the program, she accomplished her desired goals, and through her active participation in leadership workshops, Sirbreena learned interpersonal and character building skills that will last a lifetime.

Upon entering the program her goals were to get a job and to get her Pharmacy Tech Degree. On August 25, 2010 she started her Pharmacy Technician classes at Piedmont Technical College.

Sirbreena successfully completed her Pharmacy Tech Degree on August 02, 2011. In addition, she successfully passed Pharmacy Tech Exam and obtained her Pharmacy Technician License. Her accomplishment gave her a positive attitude toward her employment future.

She received resume assistance, job search assistance, and interview skills assistance from her case manager and the business services representative. After receiving this help, she immediately started applying for various job opportunities. On October 1, 2011 she was offered a job at CVS Pharmacy as a Pharmacy Tech. She started work on Monday, October 3, 2011.

As of today, she is still employed with CVS Pharmacy in Clinton, South Carolina as a Licensed Pharmacy Tech.

Sirbreena is truly a success through the WIA Youth program. The GLEAMNS WIA Youth program is proud of Sirbreena and all of her accomplishments while enrolled in the program. Sirbreena has a promising career ahead of her and the opportunity to have many more lifetime accomplishments.

WIA IN THE NEWS

Staff participating in the South Carolina Business and Employer Services Professional Certification Program – June 2011 – June 2012

- Margaret Glasgow
- Zebulon Young
- Torsha Franklin
- Katie Craven
- Mary Montgomery



Success Story

WIA Youth Success Story McCormick – In School Youth

Crystal Reid entered the WIA Youth Program in March of 2010. Crystal entered the program with three main goals: to graduate high school, enter college, and obtain employment.

However, Crystal had barriers that stood in the way of her obtaining these goals. Upon enrollment in the WIA Youth program, she tested basic skills deficient and she was an inexperienced job seeker with no work experience. Crystal did not allow these barriers to stop her from achieving her goals. She studied very hard and made excellent grades.

Crystal actively participated in leadership workshops and activities. She also participated in the YouthWorks (Summer Work Experience) program during the summers of 2009, 2010, and 2011.

Crystal completed her first summer work experience as an Office Assistant with the McCormick Arts Council in 2009. The staff of the McCormick Arts Council was very impressed with Crystal's work ethic and requested her, well in advance, to work with them each summer. Janice Grizzard, Executive Director and Heather McNally, Program Director of the McCormick Arts Council, wrote an article (that was published in the McCormick Messenger – August 5, 2010) giving credit for Crystal's hard work and expressing their appreciation for having the opportunity to have her as a part of their staff.

This article only represents a portion of Crystal's many accomplishments. During her senior year of high school, she successfully completed the health care curriculum and became a Certified Nursing Assistant as well as a Certified First Responder. She was named to the All Region Academic Team. She received the Coaches Award in basketball, played on the softball team, and ran track. She received the Big Chief Spirit Award. She received the 2010-2011 Daughters of America Revolution Citizenship Award. She was also the president of the Beta Club, drum major for the band, and vice president of the National Honor Society. Overall, Crystal was the Valedictorian for the McCormick High School class of 2011.

Crystal's goal is to become a Physical Therapist. She is presently attending Piedmont Technical College and will be transferring in January of 2012 to the University of South Carolina (Upstate). Crystal is employed with Petra Health and Rehab as a Certified Nursing Assistant.



Information concerning agency closings and/or delays due to inclement weather will be communicated to radio and television stations by 6:30 A.M. and posted on the GLEAMNS Internal Website (www.gleamnshrc.org) Decisions regarding delays and/or closings will be made by the Agency's CEO, Dr. Joseph Patton. In his absence, the decision will be made by Ms. Shunna Vance, Esquire, Chief Operations/Risk Management Officer.

The following radio and television stations will be notified:

WCRS 1450AM	WYFF - TV	Channel 4
Sunny 103.5 FM	WSPA - TV	Channel 7
WLMA 1350 AM	WIS - TV	Channel 10
	WRDW-TV	Channel 12

Seasons Greetings

The Newsletter Committee would like to wish you a very happy and enjoyable Holiday Season. We wish you Joy, Peace, and Happiness in 2012.

*Nancy Cunningham
Carmalita Dawson
Zsaquez Flucker
Vanessa Frazier
Pat Kimble
Trentsie Williams*



Agency Holiday Schedule

The Administrative Offices will be closed:

December 23 thru 27, 2011

January 2, 2012

Reopens on January 2011

Head Start Centers will be closed

December 19, 2011 thru January 2, 2012

Reopens on January 3, 2012

Have a Safe and Enjoyable Holiday