



**Head Start &
Early Head Start**

Annual Report 2019-2020



**Serving Our Community
Since 1967**



President's Message

The Board and staff have continued to focus on the “Mission” of the agency by providing the services outlined in this year’s Annual Report. We applaud and thank the community, funders and stakeholders for support and resources that have contributed to another successful year. It is again a pleasure to share with you the results of a dedicated team. This report will reflect on the impact of Southern Maryland Tri-County Community Action Committee, Inc. (SMTCCAC) on the thousands of citizens whose lives we have touched and served.

SMTCCAC, Inc. will continue to implement new programs to combat the challenges of poverty evolved around issues of affordable and safe housing; education and school readiness for our children; care for our fragile/mentally & physically challenged seniors; training for job opportunities; community development; and financial resources for sustainability. As you review this report, I ask that you continue your partnership(s) with us and help develop strategies to expand and reach out to touch additional lives. The end result is a sustainable long-term change that will deliver a better quality of life for the citizens of Southern Maryland.

In 2019, we have expanded the Head Start Program through the implementation of the EHS-CCP, enabling our children to continue with the learning process. Our elderly and disabled continue to receive assistance with medical care and daily living and recreational tasks, and our Friendly Adult Care Facility has received a much-needed facelift, through collaboration with local partners to include, the United Way of Calvert County and two local non-profits (Calvert Family Advocates and Christmas in April). Through our successful partnerships, the agency has continued to excel and focus on “changing lives” and “changing communities”.

Respectfully,

Michael Young

Michael Young, MSW
President/CEO

Letter From The Director

*“It takes a Village to Raise a Child”
“It takes a Community to prepare a child for Kindergarten.”*

Dear Friends of the Tri-County Community,

I was led to the field of early childhood education due to my deep concern for the quality of care that was being provided to children. My backyard was the neighborhood backyard where children were fed and provided a safe place to play. Out of this concern birthed my child care program which I owned and operated for over 8 years. My path continued in the field of early childhood education as I transitioned to provide oversight for centers in D.C., Virginia, and Maryland. There are two goals that I have always maintained: (1) raising the bar of professionalism; and, (2) creating a “home away from home” where a “kid can be a kid.”

My tenure at SMTCCAC, Inc. Head Start Program began in December 2016. My journey traveled has been a road of evolving experiences, from changing the part-day class model to a full-day class; the closing of a center to opening and remodeling centers; broadening comprehensive services, launching a family engagement initiative; providing center-based Early Head Start and home-based services and the Child Care Partnership Program. This has truly been a whirlwind, all accomplished in a span of less than (4) four years. However, none of the above could have been accomplished without a dedicated team of professionals that have the best interest of the children, families and the community we serve.

We have a dedicated team that nurtures each child’s unique qualities and potential, supports families through strong partnerships, and create a work environment that encourages professionalism, growth and diversity. Head Start is a puzzle that when tightly fitted together, you will see amazing family and child outcomes. Our Head Start staff partner with our families and children through providing the following services: education, school readiness, mental health, disabilities, nutrition, male involvement, family/parent engagement, oral health, and safety.

Most of all, your community support is crucial for us to have continued success. My team and I look forward to your continued partnership as we strive together to make SMTCCAC, Inc. Head Start Program a great place for staff, children, and the families we serve. I invite you to take a look at how our children and staff have progressed in FY19.

Sincerely,

Donna Montgomery

About Us



Southern Maryland Tri-County Community Action Committee, Inc. , (SMTCCAC, Inc.) was established in 1965 as a non-profit corporation under the laws of the State of Maryland as a private non-profit corporation. Three (3) men, Ray Shipley, Robert Hall and George Higgs formed the new corporation. In September of the same year eighteen (18) concerned citizens, six (6) from Calvert County, six (6) from Charles County and six (6) from St. Mary's County were seated as the Agency's first Board of Directors. Two years later, the SMTCCAC Head Start Program was established in (1967) and began providing the following comprehensive services to families with low-income to include: educational, nutritional, family engagement, male involvement, disabilities, health and mental health services.

SMTCCAC Head Start Program continued to grow and explore opportunities to support the community, and in September 2018, the Early Head Start Program was established, allowing the program to provide comprehensive services to children under the age of three (3).

In September 2019, SMTCCAC Head Start launched the Early Head Start Child Care Partnerships, (EHS-CCP). The EHS-CCP Partnerships combine the strength of child care centers and Early Head Start programs to offer high quality learning environments for infant and toddler families with low income. In order to provide comprehensive services the partnership layers funding.

Currently, SMTCCAC has (4) four EHS-CCP's throughout the tri-county area: Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's County. The expansion of the Child Care Partnership has increased the SMTCCAC, Inc. funded enrollment to 150 children.

Below you will find the current SMTCCAC, Inc. Head Start Program model:

- Early Head Start Program (0 to 3 years of age)
- Pregnant Mothers program
- Home-based classroom (Birth to 3 years of age)
- On-site 2 year old classroom
- Head Start (3 to 5 years of age)

OUR MISSION is to promote school readiness by a sisting eligible families to improve the social, emotional and cognitive development of the individual child through the support of educational, health, nutritional and community services.

OUR VISION is to promote school readiness by enhancing the social and the cognitive development of children through the provisions of education, health, nutritional, social and other services to enrolled children and their families.



Head Start and Early Head Start Program

DENTAL

Poor dental health is a major concern among low income families. 89% of all enrolled children in FY2019– FY2020 completed a dental exam. In an effort to meet families where they are, SMTCCAC initiated an annual partnership with The Colgate Dental Van. The Colgate Van reaches more than 10 million children with free dental screenings and education. In similar fashion, SMTCCAC partners with The Charles County Department of Health to ensure that children receive quality oral healthcare. The Charles County Department of Health supports families that receive Medicaid, and the under-insured.

EDUCATION

SMTCCAC, Inc. staff work collectively to ensure that children leave Head Start prepared for Kindergarten. The teaching team is trained to fidelity annually on the Creative Curriculum, (CC). The CC is a research based curriculum that is proven to provide children with age and developmentally appropriate activities and various learning experiences. Our Home Visitors are trained to fidelity in PAT (Parent as Teachers). SMTCCAC believes parents are their child's first teacher and uses Ready Rosie as our Parent Curriculum. SMTCCAC, Inc. participated for the 2nd year in the "Raising a Reader" program with Charles County Public School. There was a noticeable increase of interest in reading and taking care of books by the children.

HEALTHY MEALS

Health and physical development impact a child's ability to learn in all curriculum areas. Basic hygiene practices is a part of the daily curriculum. As a part of our daily schedule children were taught basic hygiene practices: such as hand washing and tooth brushing after meals. Breakfast, lunch and afternoon snack are all served Family Style to support healthy habits and social skills. The menu included a wide variety of foods with an emphasis on fruits and vegetables, whole grains, and limited sugar, salt, and fats. SMTCCAC Head Start/Early Head Start provided 6,980 breakfasts, 6,767 lunches, and 5,650 snacks for the FY19/FY20 program year under the CACFP Program in partnership with the Charles County Public School System.

Head Start and Early Head Start Program

HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Head Start program emphasizes the importance of early identification of health and/or mental health needs, which, if undetected or untreated, might cause learning difficulties. The program makes every effort to ensure that each child is connected to a doctor or clinic in order to receive a complete age-appropriate health assessment as recommended by his/her physician. Health screenings are performed throughout the school year and SMTCCAC, Inc. follows the guidelines outlined in Early Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatments (EPSDT). Parents are notified when screenings are scheduled and receive copies of results.

Within 45 days from the first day of attendance, Head Start children are screened and assessed in the following areas: developmental, behavior, vision and hearing, and dental. Before the official first day of school, SMTCCAC conducts a multi-day Health Fair in partnership with The Charles County Department of Health and The Lion's Club.

During screenings SMTCCAC, identified 22 children with BMI challenges; 17 children were considered underweight; 5 were considered obese, and 9 HS/EHS children were diagnosed with a chronic condition that required on-going medical treatment. SMTCCAC, Inc. utilizes a nurse consultant to ensure staff are properly trained in the administering of medicine, (i.e. EpiPen and Albuterol).

MENTAL HEALTH DISABILITIES

SMTCCAC, believes all children can learn. It is up to the Educator to find out how that child learns. All children enrolled received developmental and socio-emotional screenings which were completed using the Brigance Screening within 45 days of program entry. At least 10% of Head Start/Early Head Start funded enrollment is set aside for students with diagnosed disabilities. Students identified with a developmental delay need, were met through partnering with the Center for Children and the Promise Resource Center (Project 1st Choice). Children who entered the program with an IFSP/IEP receive individualized instruction in order to meet their IFSP/IEP goals.

SCHOOL READINESS GOALS

At SMTCCAC, Inc. Head Start School Readiness Goals (SRG) approach means that children are ready for school, families are ready to support their children's learning, and schools are ready for children. This program year the SRG was updated to include identified activities to achieve each goal. One of the ways SMTCCAC, Inc. partners with Charles County Public School (CCPS) is to ensure an effortless transition for students and families. The receiving school is provided a Transport to Kindergarten Form. This form includes individualized information on each child transitioning. To further ensure that transitioning children are prepared for Kindergarten, SMTCCAC, Inc. partners with the Judy Center. The Judy Center is a State -wide initiative that prepares children and families for overall school success.

Due to COVID-19 our Summer Program was offered virtually using the Creative Curriculum. The virtual platform was offered in small groups. The lesson plans were sent out weekly followed with a newsletter that identified the learning that took place. In addition, learning packets were sent home to reinforce the weekly lesson.

Family Engagement

POLICY COUNCIL

The Policy Council is part of the shared governance team that includes the Board of Directors, program staff, community members, and Parent Committee members. Together the team plans, and makes decision to achieve positive outcomes for children and families. Policy Council assists program staff in developing plans, policies and procedures to meet Head Start Performance Standards and address needs in the community. Policy Council members participate on the School Readiness Team, Health Services Advisory Committee, and the Self-Assessment Team. The election of officers for Policy Council is held annually in October.

Special Thank you to our families, parents that have worked tirelessly throughout the FY19–FY20 program year. Your support is appreciated!

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Family engagement is a collaborative effort through relationship building among staff, families, community, and children. The relationship is built on mutual respect shared among families and staff for the experiences each brings to the table. SMTCCAC, relationship building starts at the point of entry into the program.

This year Policy Council spearheaded the SMTCCAC Fall Fest on October 18, 2019 at the Old Waldorf School in Waldorf, Maryland. There, children enjoyed several activities such as, face painting, dancing, a mobile game truck and sensory tables.

SMTCCAC, Inc. also launched a family engagement initiative in September 2018 to support the involvement of all family members by focusing on additional support for fathers. Utilizing the research-based curriculum 24/7 Dads, parental participation was encouraged using the 2Gen Approach, which includes the “whole family”.

The highlight of the initiative was the accompaniment of dads with their children to attend a Washington Wizards game in December 2019. The faces on the children and the dads were indescribable. Some dads shared that this was a first for them, they had never been to a professional game. Each participant received a meal and tee-shirt as a souvenir.



Eligible Children Served

FAMILY DEMOGRAPHICS HEAD START

Families Served	78
Two parent families	15
Single parent families	63

Education

Bachelors degree or higher	6
Associates degree or higher	3
High School or GED	24
Less than high school	0
Unspecified	45

Employment

Employed	11
Unemployed	67

FAMILY DEMOGRAPHICS EARLY HEAD START/EHS-CCP

Families Served	82
Two parent families	13
Single parent families	69

Education

Bachelors degree or higher	13
Associates degree or higher	14
High School or GED	42
Less than high school	3
Unspecified	20

Employment

Employed	13
Unemployed	69

CHILD DEMOGRAPHICS HEAD START

Funded Enrollment	68
Children Served	87

Ethnicity

Hispanic or Latino origin	4
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Race

American Indian or Alaska native	0
Black or African American	69
White	4
Bi-racial or Multi-racial	8
Other	6

CHILD DEMOGRAPHICS EARLY HEAD START/EHS-CCP

Funded Enrollment	82
Children Served	91

Ethnicity

Hispanic or Latino origin	6
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Race

American Indian or Alaska native	28
Black or African American	40
White	4
Bi-racial or Multi-racial	14
Other	4
Unspecified	1



Child/Family Outcomes

HEALTH OUTCOMES		
	End of Enrollment	
	Number of Children	% of Enrollment
Have Health Insurance	150	98%
Ongoing Source for Medical Care	150	98%
Ongoing Source for Dental Care	150	95%
Have up-to-date immunizations	150	95%



FAMILY OUTCOMES	
Crisis	4
Mental Health Services	0
Adult Education	14
Job Training	17
Substance Abuse Prevention	0
Substance Abuse Treatment	6
Health Education	135
Parenting Education	12
Asset Building	0

Child Outcomes

On March 20, 2020, Governor Hogan's Executive Order required the closing of the Head Start Centers therefore causing a disruption to the agency's normal assessment schedule.

The following data is representative of 60% of students enrolled and shows students' progress during the Fall Teaching Strategies Gold Assessment.

Results are as follows:

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL:

27.66% Below
46.81% Meeting
25.53% Exceeding

LANGUAGE:

31.91% Below
57.45% Meeting
10.64% Exceeding

LITERACY:

40.43% Below
25.53% Meeting
34.04% Exceeding

PHYSICAL:

14.89% Below
53.19% Meeting
31.91% Exceeding

COGNITIVE:

34.04% Below
40.43% Meeting
25.53 % Exceeding

MATHEMATICS:

34.04% Below
31.91% Meeting
34.04% Exceeding



Financials

**Final draft will be made available upon
completion of the FY-19/20 Audit.**

DRAFT



Locations

SMTCCAC, Inc. Head Start and Early Head Start Centers

EHS Child Care Partnership Locations

Brawners Head Start and Early Head Start Program

655 Weaver Street
Indian Head, Maryland 20640



J Woodall Head Start Program

10515 Theodore Green Blvd.
White Plains, Maryland 20695



Claire's Child Care Center EHS Child Care Partnership

4 N Prospect Avenue
Indian Head, Maryland 20640



Little Peoples Child Care Center at Jarboe EHS Child Care Partnership

26111 Lexwood Drive,
Lexington Park, Maryland 20653



Inspiring Dreams Learning Center, LLC EHS Child Care Partnership

11695 Doolittle Dr.
Waldorf, Maryland 20602



Visions & Dreams Learning Center, LLC EHS Child Care Partnership

2200 Old Washington Road
Waldorf, Maryland 20601

Meet the Head Start Management Team

Donna Montgomery, Head Start Director

Donna Montgomery is the Director of SMTCCAC Head Start, Early Head Start and CCP Programs. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from Bowie State University, Associates Degree in Business Management from University of D.C. and graduate credits in Early Childhood Education at Trinity University. She has numerous ECE credentials: 90-hour ECE – Preschool, 45-hour Infant/Toddler, Infant/Toddler Bridge, 45-hour School Age and MSDE Administration Training. Her experience in the childcare field extends over 20 years. She has owned and operated her own center, managed full service corporate and back-up centers, in Washington DC, Maryland, and Virginia. She is an advocate for children and committed to the field of Early Childhood Education. Her goals are to raise the bar of Professionalism and to create a “home away from home where a Kid can be a Kid.” She served as the President of Bladensburg Elementary School PTA, as a Substitute Teacher for grades K-6, Coordinator of Children's Church and was instrumental in establishing the Board at Porttowns and Landover Hills Boy's and Girl's Club. She currently is a member of the Charles County Early Childhood Advisory Committee and Maryland Head Start Association..

Sheldon Mitchum, Assistant Head Start Director

Sheldon Mitchum's career in early childhood education began as an undergraduate student on the campus of South Carolina State University, (S.C.S.). At S.C.S., he was employed as a classroom assistant at the S.C.S. Child Development Learning Center. In fact, he completed his internships and pre-clinicals at the University's Felton Laboratory School. Upon graduation, he relocated to Baltimore and received his very first job with Maryland Committee for Children's Baltimore City Childcare Resource Center, (BCCRC) as a head start teacher in childcare collaboration model. After a short stay with BCCRC, he moved on to a wonderful experience at St. Francis Xavier Head Start, (SFX). Mr. Mitchum's stay at SFX exceeded over 10 years. During his career in early childhood, held administrative and state positions. In 2018, he earned his M. ED from Towson University in Early Childhood Education.

Christine Sarigianis, Education/Disabilities Coordinator

Christine Sarigianis has been working in the field of early childhood education for the last 11 years. Starting her career as an Infant toddler teacher she is rooted in the quality teaching practices of the classroom. Earning her master's degree in Early Childhood Education at San Francisco State University allowed Christine to build on her practical knowledge with the developmental theory and the science of brain development. For the past 4 years, Christine has worked with non-profits and Head Start providers to recruit and train new teachers into the field of early childhood education. She is now the Education and Disabilities Coordinator for the SMTCCAC, Inc. Head Start and Early Head Start program, supporting teachers with quality improvement and day to day teaching practice.

Russell Patterson, Male Involvement and Family Engagement Coordinator

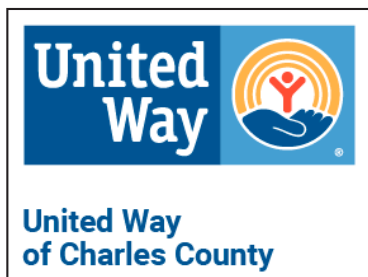
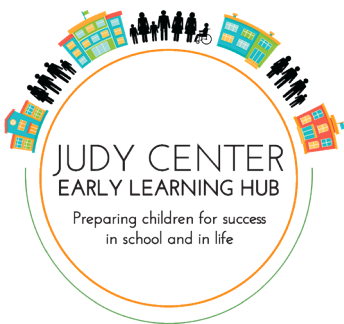
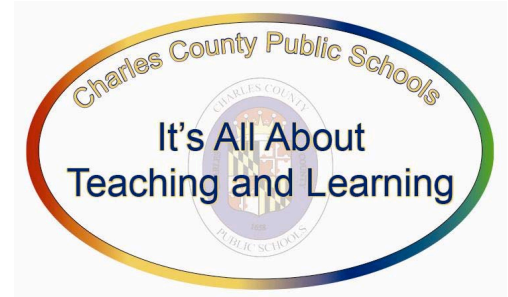
Russell Patterson has a master's degree in Education, Administration, and Supervision from Phoenix University. He was born in Washington DC, has been married for 23 years, and is the father of 2 sons and 6 grandchildren. Presently employed at SMTCCAC, Inc. as the Family Advocate and Male Involvement Coordinator since 12/2018, his career working with families and children extends over 30 years. He has worked at the State of Maryland Juvenile System - Juvenile Counselor, District of Columbia Public School System - Dean of Students, Oakwood University - Dean of Students and Pine Forge Academy - Dean of Students.

Patrice Davis, Interim Family Advocate Coordinator

Raised in Southern Maryland, Patrice Davis graduated from University of Maryland University College with a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice with a concentration in Sociology. Mrs. Davis has worked in the community for approximately 13 years. Her background knowledge includes working with individuals from diverse backgrounds (i.e. homeless, mental and/or physical disabilities.) Prior to joining SMTCCAC in 2019, Mrs. Davis was a Residential Advisor for four years at the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services serving male delinquents.



Thank You to Our Partners!



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