



SOUTHERN MARYLAND TRI-COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION COMMITTEE, INC.

ANNUAL REPORT

2022 - 2023



**Head Start &
Early Head Start**

(DRAFT #4, 09-20-23)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It has been a transformative year for the Southern Maryland Tri-County Community Action Committee, Inc. (SMTCCAC, Inc.). Through our shared vision, we've witnessed remarkable growth, positively impacting over 130 families in our region. Our Educational Services has catalyzed numerous advancements, including our expanded Child Care Partnership now encompassing 150 children. Additionally, programs like the Male Involvement Program and our summer enrichment initiative have reached hundreds, offering holistic development opportunities.

Our Policy Council and Parent Committee have tirelessly contributed, evident in the numerous community events we've held this year. Events like the Family Fun Day have drawn hundreds of attendees, and the festive season celebrations have been nothing short of joyous. It's been heartening to see a significant increase in father participation in initiatives such as "Dad bring your child to school week". This growing engagement is the essence of the community spirit we aim to foster.

As we transition into another promising year, our commitment remains unwavering. We've set ambitious goals for 2023-2024, building upon the solid foundation laid this past year. Together, we aim to expand our outreach by 20%, bringing even more families under our protective and nurturing umbrella. It's more than just a mission—it's our passion. Collaborative efforts with partners and dedicated members like you will ensure that every child and family not only receives the resources they rightly deserve but thrives in an environment of love, support, and endless opportunities. Let's continue this journey together, reaching new milestones with each passing day, and sculpting a brighter future for our community.



Warm regards,

Michael E Young, MSW
President/CEO

DIRECTOR OVERVIEW



“People working together in a strong community with shared goals and a common purpose can make the impossible possible.”

Dear Friends of the Tri-County Community,

My passion for working with young children took root in my own backyard. Yes, I was the neighborhood mom. My sole condition for families was that they understand I would care for their children as if they were my own; this included holding high expectations for every child that entered my home. Unbeknownst to me at the time, this humble beginning would evolve into an exciting, yet challenging, career filled with passion and childlike wonder.

I began my tenure at SMTCCAC, Inc. Head Start Program in December 2016. At that time, the program offered part-day models for children aged 3 to 5. In 2018, we established the Early Head Start Program, providing services for children aged 0 to 3, pregnant mothers, two-year-olds, and also introducing a home-visiting program. Our growth continued; in 2019, SMTCCAC Child Care Partnerships were established with Child Care Centers in the community. It seems that every year we are blessed to add an additional service model to offer to children and families in our community.

SMTCCAC Head Start is a wonderful environment for infants, children, staff, and families. The very concept of giving a child a head start in life is extraordinary. To work successfully with young children, one must have a passion for it. My greatest joy comes from seeing a child master a new skill, a family achieve upward mobility, or a staff member acquire additional credentials. Indeed, the name "Head Start" is apt; as a team, we strive daily to provide the children and families we are graced to serve with a head start in life.

We ask for your continued support as we strive to make the SMTCCAC Head Start Program the best it can be, offering exemplary services to our community.



Sincerely,

Donna Montgomery

Director of Educational Services



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. The corporation was initially formed by three men: Ray Shipley, Robert Hall, and George Higgs. In September of that same year, eighteen concerned citizens—six from Calvert County, six from Charles County, and six from St. Mary's County—were appointed as the agency's inaugural Board of Directors.

Two years later, in 1967, the SMTCCAC Head Start Program was established. This program began offering a comprehensive suite of services for low-income families, including education, nutrition, family engagement, male involvement, disability accommodations, health, and mental health services.

The SMTCCAC Head Start Program continued to evolve and explore opportunities to better serve the community. In September 2018, the Early Head Start Program was launched, extending our comprehensive services to children under the age of three.

In September 2019, SMTCCAC Head Start introduced the Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships (EHS-CCP). These partnerships unite the strengths of

childcare centers and Early Head Start programs to deliver high-quality learning environments for infant and toddler families with low incomes. This initiative also allows the agency to layer various funding sources to deliver comprehensive services.

Currently, SMTCCAC operates four EHS-CCP Centers throughout the tri-county area, serving Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's Counties. Thanks to the expansion of the Child Care Partnership, SMTCCAC, Inc. now has funded enrollments for up 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)
- Male Involvement Program



OUR MISSION is to promote school readiness by assisting eligible families to improve the social, emotional and cognitive development of the individual child through the support of educational, health, nutritional 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 significant concern among low-income families. As we have resumed full operations, we are actively engaging parents to meet the dental needs of their children through collaborations with our local and regional partners. We continue to distribute dental supplies like toothbrushes and toothpaste and offer educational materials and health fact sheets to our children and families.



EDUCATION

At SMTCCAC, Inc., our staff collaborates to ensure that children exit the Head Start program fully prepared for kindergarten. Our teaching team undergoes annual training in the Creative Curriculum (CC), a research-based program proven to offer age-appropriate and developmentally suitable activities and learning experiences. We use Brigance Screening and Teaching Strategies Gold (TSG) Assessments to gather essential data that aids in creating robust lesson plans and identifying needs for additional referrals.

Our Home Visitors are trained to fidelity in the Parent as Teachers (PAT) program. These visits involve working on both parent and child goals. Additionally, our Home Visitors offer social-emotional growth opportunities through monthly socialization activities. These activities cover a range of topics, such as gross motor skills.

SMTCCAC believes that parents are their children's first teachers, and to this end, we use Ready Rosie as our Parent Curriculum. Recognizing the impact of COVID-19 on children, our teaching team has been trained in AI's Pals Social-Emotional Curriculum and began its implementation during the Summer Program. At the end of the school year, families were invited to a "Moving Up/ Graduation" ceremony. A total of 31 students participated, and 16 children will be transitioning to kindergarten.





HEALTHY MEALS

Health and physical development impact a child's ability to learn across all curriculum areas. We are happy to report that our classrooms have resumed offering family-style meals. Family-style dining in early childhood programs offers an opportunity to enhance social-emotional and nutritional well-being. During this time, children and teachers sit together at a table for a meal or snack. This approach encourages children to make healthy food choices by observing positive attitudes from teachers and peers. Additionally, this setting provides another occasion for children to practice their social-emotional skills. Meals are provided daily to all enrolled children by our nutritional staff for breakfast and snacks. Lunch is provided in collaboration with our Local Education Agency (LEA) partner, Charles County Public Schools. Basic hygiene practices remain an integral part of our daily curriculum. Our nutrition content area is overseen by a certified dietitian.



HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Head Start program stresses the importance of early identification of health and/or mental health needs, as these, if undetected or untreated, could lead to learning difficulties. We make every effort to ensure that each child is connected with a doctor or clinic so as to receive a comprehensive, age-appropriate health assessment as prescribed by their physician. Health screenings are conducted throughout the school year, and SMTCCAC, Inc. adheres to the guidelines outlined in the Early Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) program. We collaborate with parents and the children's primary healthcare providers to address their children's health needs. Furthermore, we continually offer families resources to empower them to advocate for both themselves and their children, ensuring optimal overall health.





SCHOOL READINESS GOALS (SRG)

Our staff is committed to following best practices to provide an enriched learning environment as we work with young children and their families to prepare them for a lifelong journey of learning. The SRG was crafted using the following resources: Head Start Performance Standards, Office of Child Care Licensing, Maryland Learning Standards, and Teaching Strategies Gold. Our students transition to Charles County Public School (CCPS) in order to ensure a smooth transition. The receiving school is provided with a "Transition to Kindergarten" Form, which includes individualized information on each child who is transitioning. To further ensure that children transitioning are prepared for kindergarten, SMTCCAC, Inc. collaborates with the Judy Center. The Judy Center is a statewide initiative that aims to prepare children and families for overall school success.

Our children participated in a six-week summer enrichment program that offered additional support in the following content areas: social-emotional, physical, language, cognitive, literacy, and math.



PARENT FAMILY COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (PFCE)

POLICY COUNCIL

SMTCCAC boasts exceptional parents! Thank you to our families and parents who continue to support the Head Start Program through their donation of time, energy, and resources. You truly make SMTCCAC Head Start a great place for infants, children, families, and staff.

The Policy Council/Shared Governance consists of individuals who collaborate to consult, deliberate, and make decisions. The SMTCCAC Policy Council/Shared Governance Team comprises representatives from the SMTCCAC Board of Directors, program staff, community members, and Parent Committee members. As a collective, the team strategizes, discusses key points, and makes decisions that foster positive outcomes for children, families, and staff. The Policy Council also provides opportunities for parent leadership through elected officer positions. Policy Council members participate in the School Readiness Team, Health Services Advisory Committee, and the Self-Assessment Team. The elections for Policy Council officers are held annually in October.

The Policy Council helps program staff maintain compliance with regulatory agencies such as the Office of Child Care, MSDE Child and Adult Food Program, and the Head Start Performance Standards.

In the spirit of the African Proverb, "It takes a village to raise a child," the same principle applies to educating children and supporting families at SMTCCAC. The Family Advocate Team strives to connect families to resources within their communities. The SMTCCAC PFCE Team employs a two-generation (2Gen) approach, focusing on both the child and other household members.

During Thanksgiving and Christmas, the Policy Council donated approximately 92 turkeys and all the trimmings, enabling families to enjoy nutritious holiday meals. The Policy Council also sponsored a Family Fun Day, specifically for children enrolled in our summer program. This event took place in July 2023, at the J. Woodall Center. Children participated in a variety of activities including water play, interactive games, and face painting. Several community partners participated: Charles County Sheriff's Department, Purposeful Play, Kona Ice, and Circus Ice Cream. In total, 22 families and six fathers contributed 80 volunteer hours to this enriching, family-focused event.





PARENT INVOLVEMENT

As part of the program's PFCE initiative, the Family Advocate team meets with male role models/figures—such as dads, grandfathers, uncles, or any other individual or family member who has a positive influence on children—to create a culture of engagement. This culture encourages and supports fathers in becoming more involved in their children's lives through its Male Involvement Program, led by the Male Involvement/Family Advocate Coordinator. The program aims to facilitate communication, identify weaknesses, and offer strategies for improving involvement in their children's lives. The curriculum used for this initiative is "24/7 DAD," a research-based program.

One of the highlights of the school year SY22-SY23 was a father and father-figures' engagement activity called "Dad Bring Your Child to School Week." A total of nine (9) fathers engaged with educators and spent time with their young children in the classroom. Some of the dads had never previously set foot in their child's classroom. The dads were excited about the positive responses they received from other children and staff, and the teachers were equally pleased with the fathers' involvement.

ELIGIBLE CHILDREN SERVED

FAMILY DEMOGRAPHICS HEAD START

Families Served	61
Two parent families	13
Single parent families	48

EDUCATION

Bachelors degree or higher	3
Associates degree or higher	3
High School or GED	16
Less than high school	0
Unspecified	39

EMPLOYMENT

Employed	13
Unemployed	48

FAMILY DEMOGRAPHICS EARLY HEAD START/EHS-CCP

Families Served	82
Two parent families	13
Single parent families	69

EDUCATION

Bachelors degree or higher	12
Associates degree or higher	14
High School or GED	42
Less than high school	10
Unspecified	16

EMPLOYMENT

Employed	18
Unemployed	64

CHILD DEMOGRAPHICS HEAD START

Funded Enrollment	68
Children Served	65

EDUCATION

Hispanic or Latino origin	0
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RACE

American Indian or Alaska native	0
Black or African American	52
White	6
Bi-racial or Multi-racial	5
Other	1

CHILD DEMOGRAPHICS EARLY HEAD START/EHS-CCP

Funded Enrollment	82
Children Served	85

ETHNICITY

Hispanic or Latino origin	0
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RACE

American Indian or Alaska native	0
Black or African American	81
White	2
Bi-racial or Multi-racial	2
Other	0
Unspecified	0

CHILD/FAMILY OUTCOMES

HEALTH OUTCOMES

	End of Enrollment	
	Number of Children	% of Enrollment
Have Health Insurance	101	95%
Ongoing Source for Medical Care	101	95%
Ongoing Source for Dental Care	101	95%
Have up-to-date immunizations	101	95%



Mental Health Services	0
Crisis	8
Employment Support	13
Substance Abuse Prevention	0
Substance Abuse Treatment	0
Health Education	88
Parent Education	31
Housing Supports	35



LOCATIONS

SMTCCAC- Head Start & Early Head Start Centers

Brawners *Head Start and EHS Program*

655 Weaver Street.
Indian Head, Maryland 20640

J Woodall *Head Start Program*

10515 Theodore Green Blvd.
White Plains, Maryland 2069

A Child's Journey *EHS Child Care Partnership*

6310 Crain Highway.
La Plata, MD 20646

Childcare Partnership Locations

Little Peoples Child Care Center *EHS Child Care Partnership*

26111 Lexwood Drive.
Lexington Park, Maryland 20653

Inspiring Dreams Learning Center *EHS Child Care Partnership*

11695 Doolittle Dr.
Waldorf, Maryland 20602

Visions & Dreams Learning Center *EHS Child Care Partnership*

2200 Old Washington Road
Waldorf, Maryland 20601

Head Start Support Offices.

Forbes Building

8383 Old Leonardtown Rd.
Hughesville, MD 20637

Huntingtown Building

3720 Solomons Island Rd.
Huntingtown, MD 20639



MEET THE HEAD START MANAGEMENT TEAM



DONNA MONTGOMERY

Head Start Director

(2016-2021), Director of Educational Services (2023-Present)

Donna Montgomery received her bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Bowie State University, an associate degree in Business Management from the University of D.C., and graduate credits in Early Childhood Education at Trinity University. She holds 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 both owned and operated her own center and managed full-service corporate and backup centers in Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Virginia.

She is an advocate for children and is committed to the field of Early Childhood Education. Her goals include raising the bar of professionalism and creating a home away from home where a kid can be a kid. She has served as the President of Bladensburg Elementary School PTA, a Substitute Teacher for grades K-6, Coordinator of Children's Church, and was instrumental in establishing the board at Porttowns and Landover Hills Boys and Girls Club.

She currently serves as a member of the Charles County Early Childhood Advisory Committee and the Maryland Head Start Association. Additionally, she has worked as a Consultant for the Women's Collective and AUMC.





MIYA RASPBERRY

Social Services Director

Miya Raspberry is a native Washingtonian with over 20 years of experience in the social work field. She holds a master's degree in Social Work from Salisbury University and a bachelor's degree in Business Administration. Her professional experience encompasses homeless services, child welfare, and restorative justice. This broad experience has brought her to the role of Social Services Director. Her role in SMTCCAC Head Start is vital in helping to reshape the dynamics of supportive services and family engagement in Head Start.

Ms. Raspberry believes that, for many years, the connection between whole family services and education has been lost. She is passionate about being a voice for the voiceless and empowering the underserved with hope. "Together, we can be the change we wish to see. The children are our future!"



TOUSSAINT MORGAN

Health and Safety Program Coordinator

Toussaint Morgan is a resident of Bowie, Maryland, where he resides with his wife of forty years, a son, and three grandchildren. He is an experienced professional with over 20 years of experience in Human Services as a subject matter expert in program management, compliance, continuous quality improvement, and risk assessment. He is a strong advocate for at-risk families and has served in diverse positions, administering and consulting with Head Start and Early Head Start programs in the DC Metropolitan Area. He also served as a member of the Region III TTA system for four years.

He has additionally served as a Project Officer with the Indian Health Service and in management positions within the Unity Health Care delivery system in the District of Columbia. He is a graduate of Southern Illinois University at Carbondale and possesses degrees in Healthcare Management and Environmental Health. He is a Qualified Childcare Health Consultant and has numerous military certifications from his career in the United States Navy, from which he retired as a Medical Service Corps Officer after 22 years of honorable service.



ADINIA CUADRADO PIMENTEL

Interim Assistant Director of Educational Services

Ms. Cuadrado has 26 years of professional experience in the field of Early Childhood. She holds a BA from UPR, Rio Piedras, in Modern Languages (Italian, French, English, and Spanish), and has a second concentration in Secondary Education. She also holds a master's degree from the University of Phoenix in education, specializing in Early Childhood. She is also certified in Human Resources - Labor Law. In her career, she has worked as a TA for the Region II HS & EHS program, as an Education Manager, and as a Regional Supervisor for the Early Intervention Program at the Department of Health in PR. She oversaw one of the largest regions, which includes 13 counties. She believes in the ability of every human being to overcome difficulties, and that this resilience contributes to their development as successful individuals. She is a proponent of teamwork, maintaining a positive attitude, and effective communication to achieve expected goals and objectives. One of her passions is helping others grow, develop, and achieve their dreams. She is grateful for all the opportunities she has experienced; for this reason, she shares her knowledge and experience with others generously.



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 has 6 grandchildren. He is presently employed at SMTCCAC, Inc. as the Family Advocate and Male Involvement Coordinator, having held this position since December 2018. His career working with families and children extends over 30 years.

He has worked in various roles, including at the State of Maryland Juvenile System as a Juvenile Counselor, at the District of Columbia Public School System as Dean of Students, at Oakwood University as Dean of Students, and at Pine Forge Academy as Dean of Students.

SUCCESS STORY

Jacqueline Harvey and her nephew entered the SMTCCAC Head Start program through our Child Care Partnership with Inspiring Dreams in August 2020. When the family enrolled in the program, they identified barriers with housing stability and financial management. Ms. Harvey's resilience and ability to advocate for her family are great attributes that embody what Head Start promotes. SMTCCAC supported Ms. Harvey's family by locating a rental home and providing financial assistance to pay the security deposit needed to secure housing within the first year of entering the program. The family successfully moved from a hotel to a home. Through community connections and supportive services from their assigned Family Advocate, the family also acquired the furniture needed to live comfortably. Ms. Harvey currently serves as Treasurer on the Policy Council. She never misses a meeting and handles her responsibilities very well. The family continues to maintain stable housing and serves as a model of how the program enriches the lives of families.

OUR SUCCESSFUL STORY

J. WOODALL

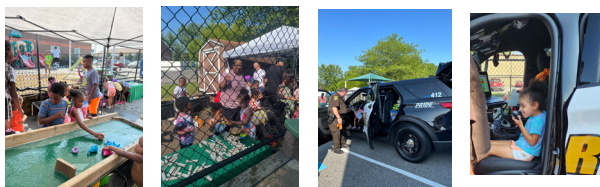
Here are the pieces of our successful story at J. Woodall! Children had a lot of rich learning experiences inside and outside the classroom. Families' support and engagement was one of the keys to thriving summer and start of the new school year!



Classroom Learning

Family Fun Day

As an appreciation for the families and an involvement of them, staffs and community, we held family fun day at the end of the summer program. Ms. Lewis took initiative to plan and make this day successful.

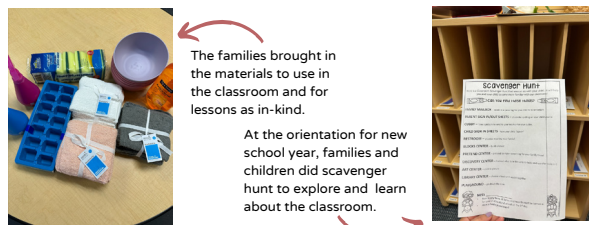


Purposeful Play

Charles County Sheriff

In-kind

Open House



The families brought in the materials to use in the classroom and for lessons as in-kind.

At the orientation for new school year, families and children did scavenger hunt to explore and learn about the classroom.



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION



PENDING

FISCAL REPORT



PENDING



THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS!





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