

Southern Maryland Tri-County Community Action Committee, Inc.

Annual Report 2021 - 2022



**Head Start &
Early Head Start**



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 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 2022, the Head Start Program experienced significant challenges due to the impact of COVID-19. Our classroom model moved to a hybrid platform of in-person and virtual services; and our parents truly became co-teachers. Despite the negative impacts of COVID-19, we persevered! We transitioned twenty-three (23) rising kindergarteners in June 2021; and, fifteen (15) in June 2022; and we stood by our commitment to our children to continue with the learning process through 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

“Our vision is ever Present in Your Community”

Dear Friends of the Tri-County Community,

An advocate for health and safety, and my commitment to service, I found myself working in a head start program as an administrative assistant for a staffing agency in 2007. Little did I know, I was finding my passion- advocating for at risk children and families. My journey has allowed me to see Head Start at the program, regional, state, and national level; and, at the same time allowed me to broaden my professional and personal portfolio.

My tenure at SMTCCAC, Inc. Head Start Program began in January 2021 and continues to evolve. This has truly been a new experience for us as we have had to add to our daily work, the challenges that COVID-19 has created for us, and the families we serve. Nevertheless, I have been fortunate to be surrounded by a team of early childhood professionals and stakeholders who remain committed to making an impact on the lives of the children and families in the communities we serve.

We engaged our children, families, and community to join us in removing the barriers in our community that negatively impact the lives of at-risk families by making comprehensive services accessible to the children and families in our serving area. The services we provide include education, school readiness, mental health, disabilities, nutrition, male involvement, family/parent engagement, oral health, and safety.

Your persistent support is crucial for us to have continued success. We look forward to your continuous partnership as we strive to make SMTCCAC, Inc. Head Start Program a great place for staff, children, and the families we serve.

Sincerely,

Toussaint Morgan

Head Start Director

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, (EHSCCP). The EHS-CCP Partnerships combine the strength of childcare centers and Early Head Start programs to offer high quality learning environments for infant and toddler families with low-income. This allowed the agency to provide comprehensive services to the partnership layers of funding.

Currently, SMTCCAC has (4) four EHS-CCP Centers 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 enrollments 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 assisting 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. Due to the impact of COVID-19, we were unable to provide in-person/on-site dental services for our children and families through our local and regional partners. However, all enrolled children and families were provided with dental supplies (i.e., toothbrush, toothpaste, etc.), health fact sheets/tidbits every 90-days for the FY 2020-2021 school year.

EDUCATION

SMTCCAC, Inc. staff work collectively to ensure that children leave the Head Start program fully 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. Due to the impacts of COVID-19, the teaching team provided instruction using a modified platform of two (2) days in-person and two (2) days virtually. Class sizes for in-person instruction were small and adhered to the CDC guidelines. We transitioned twenty-three (23) rising kindergartners in June 2021; and fifteen (15) in June 2022.

HEALTHY MEALS

Health and physical development impact a child's ability to learn in all curriculum areas. Due to the impacts of COVID-19, family style meals were discontinued. Meals were provided to family's through our LEA partner- Charles County Public Schools- to ensure that children and families were able to continue to receive the variety of foods during the pandemic. Basic hygiene practices continued to be a part of the daily curriculum.



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). Due to the impacts of COVID-19, parents were empowered to engage with the children's primary provider as much as social distancing and other guidelines allowed. We engaged families through our virtual platform and the sharing of resources that empowered them and continued to advocate for the health needs of their children.

MENTAL HEALTH DISABILITIES

SMTCCAC, Inc. believes all children can learn. It is up to the educator to find out how that child learns. Due to the impacts of COVID-19, in-person assessments were discontinued. However, Family Advocates worked to connect families with community agencies that provided mental health services.

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. One of the ways SMTCCAC, Inc. ensures readiness, is by partnering with Charles County Public School (CCPS) to safeguard 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 statewide initiative that prepares children and families for overall school success.

Transitioning Head Start children participated in a four-week summer enrichment program. These students were supported in enhancing their learned skills in the classroom and field activities. Students followed a strict schedule from the moment they entered the door. Every morning students wrote their first and last names, picked a book, and took part in morning circle. The students participated in farm-animal, math, science, cultural, ethnic diversity, music, and language activities in the classroom. To further develop these topics, students completed activities with Science Guys of Baltimore and Paint Me Silly by Queen.



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 FY21–FY22 program year, even during the pandemic. 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 Parent Committee was able to obtain donations for 150 turkey baskets for Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. The team also provided trainings and facilitated focus group discussions on numerous topics including financial literacy, mental health, summer and home safety, and nutrition.

For Dads, the Male Involvement Program sponsored 1-hour meetings for the fathers to learn how to express the full range of their emotions. Male Involvement Program discusses openly and honestly how our childhood and our parents' relationships impact us today. We have worked hard to develop trust and to create a safe place for fathers to be transparent and disclose things they are not sure of. Male Involvement Program helped fathers celebrate their children by learning to communicate, learning their weaknesses, and how to improve being there for their children.



This year dads have several outcomes from getting transportation, a new career, and a place to live.

Eligible Children Served

Family Demographics Head Start

Families Served . . . . .	.52
Two parent families	6
Single parent families . . . . .	.46

Education

Bachelors degree or higher	6
Associates degree or higher	6
High School or GED . . . . .	.20
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 . . . . .	.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 Enrollment68
Children Served76

Ethnicity

Hispanic or Latino origin	4
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Race

American Indian or Alaska native . . .	0
Black or African American68
White	4
Bi-racial or Multi-racial	2
Other	2

Child Demographics Early Head Start/EHS-CCP

Funded Enrollment82
Children Served82

Ethnicity

Hispanic or Latino origin	4
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Race

American Indian or Alaska native28
Black or African American40
White	2
Bi-racial or Multi-racial	2
Other	4
Unspecified	0



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	18
Mental Health Services	13
Adult Education	14
Job Training	22
Substance Abuse Prevention	0
Substance Abuse Treatment	6
Health Education	103
Parenting Education	5
Asset Building	0

Child Outcomes

PENDING



Statement of Financial Position

PENDING



Fiscal Report

PENDING



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



A Child's Journey EHS Child Care Partnership

6310 Crain Highway
La Plata, MD 20646



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

Toussaint Morgan, Interim Head Start Director (2021) Head Start Director (2022)

Toussaint Morgan is an experienced professional with over 20 years of experience in Human Services as a subject matter expert in program management, evaluation, administration, 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 Head Start and Early Head Start programs in the DC Metropolitan Area and served as a member Region III TTA system for four years. He has also, served as a Project Officer with the Indian Health Service and senior 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 Medical Service Corps Officer after 22 years of honorable service.

Donna Montgomery, Head Start Director (2016-2021)

Donna Montgomery was the Director of SMTCCAC Head Start, Early Head Start and CCP Programs. She received her bachelors 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 Childrens Church and was instrumental in establishing the Board at Porttowns and Landover Hills Boys and Girls Club. She currently is a member of the Charles County Early Childhood Advisory Committee and Maryland Head Start Association

Patrice Davis, Family Advocate

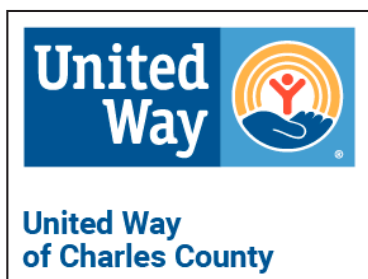
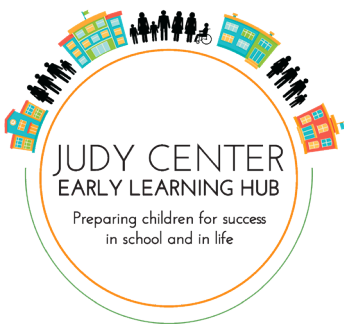
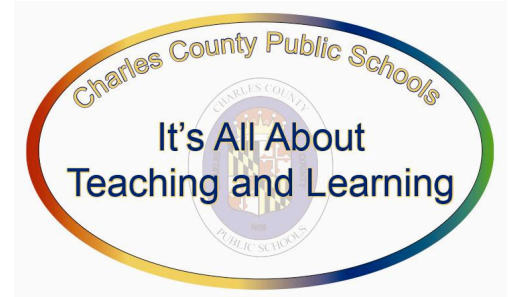
Raised in Southern Maryland, Patrice Davis graduated from University of Maryland University College with a master's degree in Criminal Justice with a concentration in Sociology. Mrs. Davis has worked in the community for approximately 13 years. Her background knowledge includes working with individuals 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.

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.



Thank You to Our Partners!



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