



# The Action

THE A C A A A NEWSLETTER

May 2017



## SALUTING THE YEAR'S ACHIEVEMENTS

ACAAA's Annual Awards have a new look this year—they have been re-christened the “Diamond Awards”—but the aim remains the same: to recognize and salute the year's best in Community Action programs, program participants, and staff members. This year's awards presentation will come at a breakfast banquet planned for Friday, May 19, as the finale of ACAAAA's 2017 Annual Conference being held at the DoubleTree by Hilton Fort Smith City Center.

The awards will be presented in four categories:

The **Diamond Mission Award** for outstanding and innovative programs.

The **Diamond Champion Award** for achievements by program and frontline staff, including those with LIHEAP, Weatherization, Head Start, family development/advocacy, case management, community development, home health, and administrative support.

The **Diamond Leader Award** for achievements by program managers and coordinators, center directors, supervisors, and senior administrative staff.

The **Diamond Empowerment Award** for those program participants who have managed to take strides towards self-sufficiency and who have even, in some cases, “paid it forward.”

**VISIT PAGE 4 FOR A  
FULL LIST OF NOMINEES**

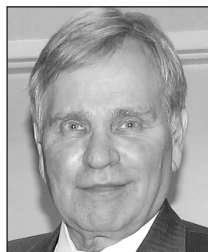
## ACAAA 2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

# BACK TO THE '70s!

Community Action representatives from around the state will convene for a four-day gathering to exchange ideas and recognize the achievements of the preceding year as the Arkansas Community Action Agencies Association (ACAAA) holds its 2017 Annual Conference in Fort Smith from the 17th to the 19th with a special pre-conference training session being made available on the 16th.

This year's conference theme is inspired by the 1970s—a period selected not only to evoke the nostalgic good-time memories that decade invites, but also, says ACAAAA Executive Director Rebecca Reynolds, “seeking to channel the spirit of youthful excitement and unlimited promise of Community Action from when it was still in its first decade of existence.”

This year's agenda, whose activities are being accommodated in the facilities of the DoubleTree by Hilton Fort Smith City Center, will include a series of workshops divided into five tracks of concentration (see lineup, page 3), an exciting slate of special guests and speakers (see below), and a variety of award presentations that celebrate the year's very best in Community Action programs, program participants, and staff (see article, left, and nominees, page 4).



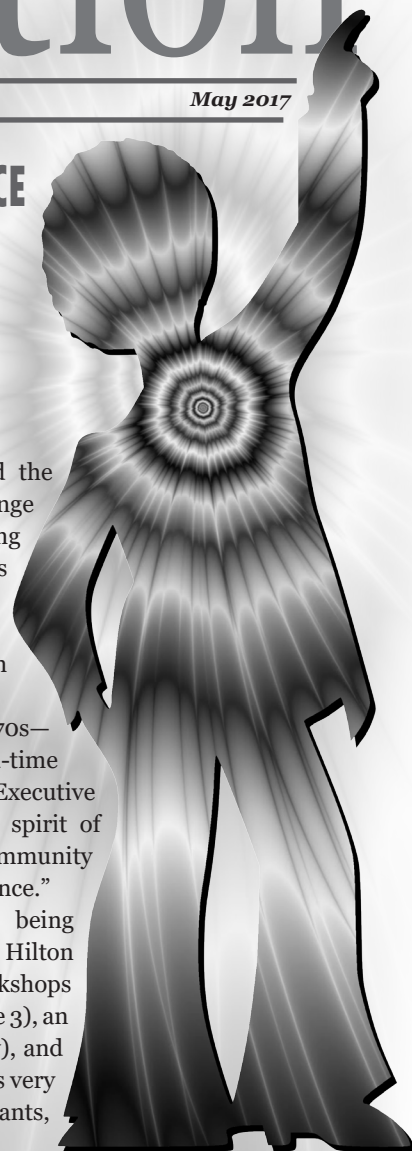
David Bradley



Courtney Kohler

The conference will welcome a pair of Community Action representatives from the nation's capital as David Bradley, Executive Director of the National Community Action Foundation (NCAF), and Courtney Kohler, Senior Associate, Training and Technical Assistance, with the national Community Action Partnership (CAP), will each address those assembled.

Kohler will speak at the Wednesday, May 17, Opening General Session to kick things off with an update on the latest big-picture developments affecting Community Action at both the national and state levels. Bradley—a critical figure in the history of Community Action, as not only the founder of NCAF but also the principal author of the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) that provides so much critical program funding—will bookend the conference's final day with a legislative update at Friday, May 19's Closing Session, offering his unique perspective into the behind-the-scenes decisions that can have such an important effect on



**See Conference speakers, p. 2**

## ACAAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Stephanie Ellis  
President

Tim Wooldridge  
Vice President

Charlie Morris  
Secretary

Michael Lanier  
Treasurer

**Arkansas River Valley Area Council**  
Stephanie Ellis, *Executive Director*

**Black River Area Development Corp.**  
Jim Jansen, *Executive Director*

**Central Arkansas Development Council**  
Larry Cogburn, *Executive Director*

**Community Action Program for Central AR**  
Jennifer Welter, *Executive Director*

**Community Services Office**  
Leslie Paschal Barnes, *Executive Director*

**Crawford-Sebastian Community Development Council**  
Marc Baker, *Executive Director*

**Crowley's Ridge Development Council**  
Tim Wooldridge, *Executive Director*

**Economic Opportunity Agency of Washington County**  
Michael Lanier, *Executive Director*

**Mid-Delta Community Services**  
Bobbie Salter, *Executive Director*

**Mississippi County Arkansas Economic Opportunity Commission**  
Priscilla Johnson, *Interim Executive Director*

**Northcentral AR Development Council**  
Charlie Morris, *Executive Director*

**Office of Human Concern**  
Susan Moore, *Executive Director*

**Ozark Opportunities, Inc.**  
Richard "Toby" Atkinson, *Executive Director*

**Pine Bluff Jefferson County Economic Opportunities Commission**  
Anthony Powell, *Interim Executive Director*

**Southeast AR Community Action Corp.**  
Alethea Dallas, *Interim Executive Director*

**Southwest AR Development Council**  
James McPhaul, *Executive Director*

## Conference speakers

*continued from page 1*



Mary Franklin

the fortunes of Community Action. Also speaking during Wednesday's Opening General Session will be Mary Franklin—Director of the Arkansas Department of Human Services Division of County Operations—who will provide a state update assisted by Lorie Williams, Assistant Director of the Division's Office of Community Services. Closing Wednesday's program will be motivational speaker Lyndy Phillips, who will offer a presentation titled "Laugh More, Stress Less," which showcases a unique blend of comedy, magic, and insight into the workplace.

While the Annual Conference proper begins Wednesday, May 17, a special "pre-conference day" of training for frontline staff and agency boards of directors will be held the day before—Tuesday, May 16.



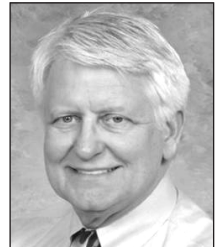
Lyndy Phillips

Because time is often limited for the volunteers who form Community Action Agency boards of directors — who may be unable to attend an entire conference—one pre-

conference session will offer a condensed and prioritized overview of concepts and materials that will ensure each agency's compliance and furthermore offer board participants the opportunity to interact with the aforementioned Courtney Kohler, with the national Community Action Partnership, who will be leading the board session.

Also being offered at the pre-conference will be a session with special focus on issues affecting those in direct service—areas such as family development, case management, and Head Start family engagement. This session will be led by Joseph A. Banken, PhD, and Sandra R. Brown, DNP, both with Choice2Change Training & Consulting Co.

Additional presenters and speakers will include Stephanie Ellis, ACAA President and Executive Director of Arkansas River Valley Area Council (ARVAC); Tim Wooldridge, ACAA Vice President and Executive Director of Crowley's Ridge Development Council (CRDC); Larry Cogburn, Executive Director of Central Arkansas Development Council (CADC); and ACAA Executive Director Rebecca Reynolds.



Dr. Joseph Banken



Sandra R. Brown

## ARKANSAS COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES ASSOCIATION

Rebecca Reynolds  
Executive Director

Terry Bearden  
Programs and Development Director

John Moran  
Communications Director

### • MISSION •

To provide education, advocacy, and a unified voice for Community Action Agencies to reduce poverty and promote thriving communities in Arkansas.

### • THE PROMISE OF COMMUNITY ACTION •

Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.

PLEASE NOTE THAT ACAA'S  
MAILING ADDRESS HAS CHANGED:

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# DIG THIS VIEW OF OUR 2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE LINEUP!

## PRE-CONFERENCE • TUESDAY MAY 16

*Two full-day sessions*

### • AGENCY BOARDS OF DIRECTORS •

*Ensure agency compliance with a condensed and prioritized overview of such concepts as board procedures, composition, functioning, and obligations; and the importance of assessment, strategic planning, and fiscal oversight.*

### • DIRECT SERVICE / FRONTLINE •

*Those in family development, case management, and Head Start family engagement: Learn about fostering a less stressful work atmosphere, using challenges to create change, and motivational techniques and tools to support positive interactions.*

## WORKSHOPS • THURSDAY, MAY 18

### TRACK ONE: VISION AND DIRECTION

#### **Creative Advocacy Strategies**

*Engagement strategies to champion the CAA agenda on a state & national level*

#### **Developing Your Leadership Team**

*Engage the talent of your leadership with strategy*

#### **Effective Fund Development and Unrestricted Revenue Strategies**

*Proven strategies for developing unrestricted revenue*

#### **Making the Shift: Strategies for Transforming Your Agency's Mindset**

*Embracing organizational change*

### TRACK TWO: ADMINISTRATIVE

#### **Bridging the Gap Between Administrative and Program Staff**

*Improving intra-agency communication*

#### **Human Resources: Hot Topics & What to Watch**

*Legal issues with personnel policies & practices*

#### **The Head Start Program Performance Standards: What CAAs Need to Know**

*Topics include changes from previous standards, the monitoring process, and compliance issues*

#### **Ensuring Financial Accountability and Compliance**

*Assessing your agency's financial strength and developing capacity-building strategies*

### TRACK THREE: ROMA NEXT GENERATION

#### **Conducting Community Assessments and Using the Results for Planning**

*Learn about resources that can help with compliance and improve performance*

#### **ROMA Next Generation Update**

*Explore the implications of ROMA Next Gen on agency plans, data systems, programs, and staff*

#### **Strategic Planning: A Focus on Implementing the ROMA Cycle**

*Applying the ROMA Cycle to develop strengths-based strategies*

#### **Integrating ROMA Next Gen: Strategies That Will Work**

*Thinking across program boundaries in order to tell the story of community impact*

### TRACK FOUR: CONNECTING THE DOTS

#### **Domestic Violence Dynamics**

*An overview of the cycle of violence and how this can affect the families we encounter*

#### **Why CAAs Should Consider Affordable Housing Development**

*Examining the investments and benefits of developing affordable housing projects*

#### **Equality, Equity, and Community Relations**

*How CAAs can help bridge the divide between police and the community*

#### **Helping Customers Navigate the Legal System**

*Civil-issue legal services available through Arkansas Access to Justice*

#### **Thinking Outside the Box: Developing a "System of Care"**

*Developing strong community partnerships*

### TRACK FIVE: DIRECT SERVICE

#### **Substance Abuse 101**

*Effective strategies for working with those with substance abuse issues*

#### **Community Senior Resource Networks**

*Promoting public/private partnerships to promote long-term support for seniors and adults with disabilities*

#### **Arkansas Continuum of Care: The Emergency Solutions Grant and Other Housing Initiatives**

*A national perspective on current Arkansas housing programs*

## Award nominees

*continued from page 1*

### **EMPOWERMENT AWARD**

**Gayron Polston • CRDC**

**Sheila Speer • CADC**

**Stephanie Thompson • OOI**

### **CHAMPION AWARD**

**Tammy Cagle**

*Receptionist & Referral Specialist*

**• EOAWC •**

**Lisa Cooper**

*Administrative Analyst*

**• SEACAC •**

**Sandra Drennen**

*Human Services Coordinator*

**• CRDC •**

**Brenda Morris**

*Finance Specialist*

**• OOI •**

**Eddie Powell**

*Network Systems Administrator*

**• NADC •**

**Tamicka Taylor**

*Community Development Specialist*

**• CADC •**

**Elizabeth West**

*Family Support Advocate*

**• ARVAC •**

### **LEADER AWARD**

**Tiffany Caldwell**

*Emergency Services Coordinator*

**• CAPCA •**

**Rebecca Hanlin**

*Community Services Director*

**• OOI •**

**Sandra Holiman**

*Head Start/Early Head Start*

*Program Manager*

**• CADC •**

**Dorothy Jenkins**

*Education Coordinator*

**• SEACAC •**

**Jennifer Johnson**

*Director of Child & Adult Care Food*

*Program and Transportation*

**• CRDC •**

**Julie Parker**

*Chief Financial Officer*

**• EOAWC •**

**Rachael Reed**

*Administrative Assistant*

**• ARVAC •**

### **MISSION AWARD**

**Center for Nonprofit and**

**Small Town Support**

**• CRDC •**

**Freedom House Next Step**

**• ARVAC •**

**OOI Participates in Multi-  
Pronged Approach to Eliminate  
Homelessness**

**• OOI •**

**Project Homeless Connect**

**• CAPCA •**

**Saline County Single Parent  
Scholarship Program**

**• CADC •**