

Maryland Community Action Partnership



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FOR COMMUNITY IMPACT**
INSPIRE UNITE ACTIVATE

May 7 - 10, 2024

MCAP 2024

Annual Human
Services Conference



**Conference
Book**



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MARYLAND COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP



Our Mission

MCAP strengthens members' capacity to provide quality services and opportunities that empower individuals and families to achieve economic security.

Our Vision

All individuals and families are stable, economically secure, and live in safe and thriving communities.

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.

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CONFERENCE AGENDA

SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

Pre-Conference - Tuesday, May 7, 2024

8:00am - 5:00pm	<i>Registration Opens</i>
12:00pm - 1:30pm	<i>ROMA Alliance</i>
2:00pm - 5:00pm	<i>Whole Family Peer Group Meeting</i>
3:00pm - 5:00pm	<i>MCAP Board of Directors Meeting</i>
3:00pm - 5:00pm	<i>HR/Fiscal Peer Group Meeting</i>
5:30pm - 7:30pm	<i>Board Reception - MCAP Board of Directors</i>

Conference Opens - Wednesday, May 8, 2024

8:00am - 5:00pm	<i>Registration & Exhibitors</i>
9:00am - 11:00am	<i>MCAP Board of Directors Breakfast</i>
11:00am - 12:00pm	<i>New ED Academy</i>
9:00am - 12:00pm	<i>Pre-Conference Leadership Development Workshop</i>
12:00pm - 1:00pm	<i>Lunch On Your Own</i>
1:00pm - 2:30pm	<i>Opening Session</i>
2:45pm - 5:15pm	<i>Breakout Sessions & Roundtables</i>
5:30pm - 7:30pm	<i>Networking Reception - Community Action's Got Talent</i>

Day 2 - Thursday, May 9, 2024

8:00am - 5:00pm	<i>Registration & Exhibitors</i>
8:00am - 10:30am	<i>MCAP Awards Breakfast (Breakfast at 8am, Program begins at 9am)</i>
10:45am - 12:00pm	<i>From Crisis To Community: Navigating Youth Violence</i>
12:00pm - 1:00pm	<i>Lunch On Your Own</i>
1:00pm - 5:15pm	<i>Breakout Sessions & Roundtables</i>

Day 3 - Friday, May 10, 2024

8:00am - 12:00pm	<i>Registration & Exhibitors</i>
9:00am - 11:45am	<i>Breakout Sessions</i>
12:00pm - 2:00pm	<i>Closing Luncheon</i>

CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS & ROUNDTABLES

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

8:00am - 5:00pm	Registration	Atlantic Ballroom Foyer
12:00pm - 1:00pm	Lunch On Your Own	
12:00pm - 1:30pm	ROMA Alliance	Tideline Ballroom
2:00pm - 5:00pm	Whole Family Peer Group	Tideline Ballroom
3:00pm - 5:00pm	MCAP Board Meeting	Seaside 6
3:00pm - 5:00pm	HR/Fiscal Peer Group	Seaside 4
5:30pm - 7:30pm	MCAP Board Reception - Invitation Only	Atlantic Ballroom Foyer

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2024

8:00am - 5:00pm	Registration & Exhibitor Café Open	Atlantic Ballroom
9:00am - 11:00am	MCAP Board of Directors Breakfast	Seaside 6
11:00am - 12:00pm	New ED Academy	Seaside 6
10:00am - 5:00pm	MCAP Lounge Opens	Atlantic Ballroom/Exhibitor Café

Pre-Conference Session

9:00am-12:00pm

Live Case-Study Simulation on Keys to Leadership and Management

Tideline Ballroom

Terri Hartwell Easter, Principal, T.H. Easter Consulting

Over the last 20 years, organizational goals and workplace dynamics have become more challenging. The pace of change, financial uncertainties, workforce diversity, and technological advances and an assortment of risks are just a few of the ingredients that place enormous pressure on today's organizational leaders and managers. This session will review 5 key areas of leadership and management that are crucial to success in today's non-profit organization. Using an integrated learning model, participants will spend 3 hours learning about key leadership and management topics and have the chance to apply their learning in a live case-study simulation.

The Pre-Conference Session is open to all conference attendees.

Who should attend? Board Members, Managers and Executive Staff, Case Managers, Frontline Staff

12:00pm - 1:00pm

Lunch On Your Own

1:00pm - 2:30pm

Opening Session

Atlantic Ballroom



Join us to kick off the conference with Keynote Address, "Reclaiming the High Ground - Affordability in the Water Sector" by **Kishia Powell**, the General Manager/CEO for WSSC Water.

Kishia L. Powell is a dynamic force in the global water sector with 25 years of experience in both the public and private sectors across the U.S. and London, England. She leads a team of 1,680 strong and manages the day-to-day operations of the largest water utility in Maryland - the 8th largest in the country - and ensures water and water resource recovery services are safely provided to 1.9 million customers throughout a 1,000-square-mile service area. Before being selected to lead WSSC Water, Kishia served as D.C. Water's Chief Operating Officer and Executive Vice President, where she championed several initiatives, including a focus on operationalizing equity and environmental justice.

#MCAPConnect2024

CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS & ROUNDTABLES

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2024

2:45pm - 4:00pm

Breakout Sessions

Navigating Marketing & Communications Challenges in Human Service Nonprofits

Seaside 1

Leah Knicely, Director, Marketing Communications, Garrett County Community Action Committee, Inc.

In this engaging presentation, we will delve into the distinctive challenges and opportunities faced by rural human service nonprofits. Participants will explore practical insights, from cultivating authentic narratives to leveraging digital tools tailored to rural landscapes. Attendees will gain valuable knowledge to enhance their organizations' visibility, build community trust, and foster sustainable growth in rural contexts.

Who should attend? Executive Directors, Management, Frontline Staff, Board Members

Integrating Whole Family Approach Strategies into Public and Private CAA Programs and Partners

Seaside 2

Kevin Otey, Chief Operating Officer, Hampton Roads Community Action Program (HRCAP)

Let's delve deeper into adopting the Whole Family Approach (WFA) framework using family-centered coaching as best practices. At its core, WFA recognizes that families are interconnected systems, and addressing the needs of one family member often requires addressing the needs of others. This approach views families not as isolated individuals, but as dynamic units influenced by social, economic, and environmental factors. WFA emphasizes the importance of considering the entire family unit when designing and delivering services, recognizing that interventions targeting one aspect of a family's life can have ripple effects across other areas. Hear some of the Whole Family Approach strategies used by HRCAP to improve both the quality of services and outcomes.

Who should attend? Executive Directors, Management, Agency Two-Gen/Whole Family Staff

Leading Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion - Part I

Seaside 3

Kim Glenn, Director of Innovative Learning Solutions, EDSI

This two-part presentation is designed to support leaders of Community Action Organizations in planning for and implementing diverse, equitable, and inclusive practices within the programs and services they provide. The first part of the presentation creates a common language around DEI, establishes the training space as "brave," and makes connections to the impact of trauma and DEI work. The second part of the presentation shares specific ways to better understand customers, staffing considerations, and program design considerations. The workshop wraps up with how leaders can get started with strong DEI initiatives and shares resources for next steps.

Who should attend? Executive Directors, Management, Board Members

Building the Agency's Infrastructure

Seaside 4

Barbara Low, Senior Manager, Wipfli

A lot has changed over the last few years. Agencies are forced to do more with less. With hope that vacant positions will be filled, months later, many are still vacant resulting in redistribution of workload, often without regard to the organization's structure. Now may be the time to do a deep dive into your structure to determine the optimal alignment of positions and talent to build the infrastructure that will support your agency today and into the future.

Who should attend? Executive Directors, Management

Are My Barriers a Barrier to My Client?

Seaside 6

Tyler Callahan, Career Coach, Anne Arundel Workforce Development Corporation

This session reviews how our own experiences, barriers or trauma could lead to an unconscious bias that can lead to us being a barrier to our clients and our own success.

Who should attend? Management, Caseworkers/Social Workers, Frontline Staff

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CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS & ROUNDTABLES

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2024

2:45pm - 4:00pm

Breakout Sessions Continued...



Responsible Fatherhood & Co-Parenting: An Approach To Enhance Child Well-Being

Timeline Ballroom

Dr. Jeffery Johnson, President, National Partnership for Community Leadership (NPCL)

Conference attendees will learn how responsible fatherhood programs emphasizing co-parenting can enhance child well-being among low-income families.

Who should attend? Executive Directors, Management, Caseworkers/Social Workers, Frontline Staff, Board Members

4:15pm - 5:15pm

Building Bridges: Roundtable Sessions

Leading Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion - Part II

Seaside 3

Kim Glenn, Director of Innovative Learning Solutions, EDSI

The second part of this two-part presentation shares specific ways to better understand customers, staffing considerations, and program design considerations. The workshop wraps up with how leaders can get started with strong DEI initiatives and shares resources for next steps.

Who should attend? Executive Directors, Management, Board Members

New to Community Action: An Introduction to the Community Action Network

Seaside 4

Angela Martin, Executive Director, Maryland Community Action Partnership

Participants will gain an overview of Community Action History and learn important information about the network.

Who should attend? New Community Action Employees and Board Members

Building Bridges across Multigenerational Teams

Seaside 2

Frank Eastham, LEAD4TRANSFORMATION, LLC & Derek Robinson, Coordinator of Ministry Support & Communications, Bridgeway Community Church

Are you grappling with the complexities of leading multigenerational teams? This transformative session offers invaluable insights and actionable strategies to navigate and bridge the generational gap within your team. Learn to cultivate cross-generational relationships, dismantle biases, and foster a culture of inclusivity and collaboration. Gain firsthand perspectives from individuals spanning all ages, uncovering what fosters success and what impedes progress.

Who should attend? Executive Directors, Management

Navigating Immigration Related Barriers to Service Delivery

Seaside 1

Matthew Peters, Chesapeake Multicultural Resource Center

Join a roundtable discussion about the barriers to serving families without documentation and potential partnerships and solutions to alleviate some of those barriers.

Who should attend? Management, Caseworkers/Social Workers, Frontline Staff



Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Roundtable

Timeline Ballroom

Simeon Russell, Executive Director, Maryland Head Start Association

The Office of Head Start is working on updating the Head Start Program Performance Standards. Proposed changes circulated for comment from November 2023 to January 2024. During this discussion, we will look at proposed changes, discuss any updates, and hear from you and your peers on how you are preparing for possible changes to the Head Start Program Performance Standards.

Who should attend? Head Start Staff

5:30pm - 7:30pm

Welcome Reception

Shore Deck

Join us for Community Action's Got Talent competition, connection, and networking with your peers!

Please remember to wear your name badge for entry.

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CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS & ROUNDTABLES

THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2024

8:00am - 5:00pm

Registration & Exhibitor Café

Atlantic Ballroom

8:00am - 10:30am

MCAP Vision & Value Awards Breakfast

Atlantic Ballroom

Join us during our **Vision & Value Awards Breakfast** to honor Community Action Champions with a keynote address by **Ashley 'Ash' Esposito**. Ash is a 2021 Baltimore Weaver Awardee, an elected school board member, and the Executive Director of Baltimore Renters United. As a dynamic force for change, Ash seamlessly blends her roles as a mother, artist, community weaver, and advocate for justice. Her approach is rooted in meeting people where they are, ensuring everyone feels a sense of belonging, healing from trauma, and courageously working through discomfort and challenges. In Baltimore, she actively builds bridges within her community, embracing diversity, and fostering inclusivity to create a more equitable and connected society.

Breakfast will be served at 8:00am and the program will begin at 9:00am.



10:45am - 12:00pm

From Crisis To Community: Navigating Youth Violence

Atlantic Ballroom

Moderated by: Andrea Thomas, CEO, United Planning Organization

Panelists: Professor Eduardo Ferrer, Visiting Professor - Georgetown University Law Center & Policy Director of the Georgetown Juvenile Justice Initiative; Reverend Dr. Greta Willis, Grief Support Director - Marylanders to Prevent Gun Violence & founder of The Kevin L. Cooper Foundation; Mylan Barnes, Owner - The Divine Truth LLC

This panel discussion will tackle the difficult topic of youth violence, including addressing the causes of the growing rates of youth violence, as well as identifying ways that our communities can support youth and their families holistically.

12:00pm - 1:00pm

Lunch On Your Own

1:00pm - 2:30pm

Breakout Sessions

CSBG Annual Report - Make the Data Make Sense

Seaside 2

Angela Fraser, Assistant Director, Division of Homeless Solutions, Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development
The CSBG Annual Report is a key compliance requirement for Community Action Agencies. During this session, we will take a closer look at what to report, how to report, and why it matters to your agency's Community Action story.

Who should attend? Executive Directors, Management, CSBG Grant Managers

The State of Food Assistance Programs:

Seaside 1

Opportunities to Strengthen State & Federal Support Systems

Elisabet Eppes, Deputy Director; JD Robinson, Anti-Hunger Program Coordinator - SNAP; Julia Gross, Senior Anti-Hunger Program Associate- Child Nutrition, Maryland Hunger Solutions

In the year after most pandemic-related program expansions ended, new challenges have arisen to maintain the level of support needed to meet the needs of Maryland families. In this session, we will be taking a look at the current state of food and nutrition support systems in Maryland and how SNAP and school meals work to create a critical safety net for Marylanders experiencing food insecurity. We will also be discussing new threats to the funding and operations of the federal nutrition programs and how advocates are working to bolster these programs at the state level as policy changes on the federal level continue to stall.

Who should attend? Management, Caseworkers/Social Workers, Frontline Staff

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CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS & ROUNDTABLES

THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2024

1:00pm - 2:30pm

Breakout Sessions Continued...

Motivational and Customer-Centered Interviewing

Seaside 3

Kim Glenn, Director of Innovative Learning Solutions, EDSI

This workshop explores how case managers and counselors can apply customer-centered and motivational interviewing techniques to empower and engage customers. Ways to increase customer self-awareness and components of customer-centered interviewing are introduced with an emphasis on effective communication and the use of high-gain, open-ended questions. Motivational interviewing strategies are introduced as well as the spirit of motivational interviewing. The spirit of collaboration, acceptance, compassion, and evocation drive the underlying process. Participants will have the opportunity to create action plans on how to incorporate some of the strategies into their practice and leave with resources to support the transfer of knowledge.

Who should attend? Caseworkers/Social Workers

Reclaiming Yourself: A Trauma Informed Approach

Seaside 4

Carmen Marshall, Director of Consulting & Chief Equity Officer, Maryland Nonprofits

Position yourself to recover, return, and reclaim your true self through liberatory practice. This session is designed to help you tap into strategies and ways of being that free you to help care for and liberate others in their care.

Who should attend? Executive Directors, Management, Caseworkers/Social Workers, Frontline Staff, Board Members

Harmony in Action: Empowering Communities through Advocacy for Long-Lasting Powerful Change

Seaside 6

Ayana Bias, Director of Community Advocacy, United Planning Organization

Join us for an inspiring journey as we delve into 'Harmony in Action: Empowering Communities through Advocacy for Long-Lasting Powerful Change.' This presentation explores the transformative impact of community advocacy, focusing on uniting diverse voices to create enduring and impactful change. Discover the strategies, stories, and collaborative efforts that empower individuals to become agents of positive, powerful change within their communities. Together, let's explore the path to lasting harmony and community empowerment.

Who should attend? Board Members, Executive Directors, Management, Caseworkers/Social Workers, Frontline Staff



Every Child Can Fly: Diversity in Learning

Tideline Ballroom

Nino Meladze-Zullo, Program Intervention Manager & Royace Hagler, Senior Program Director, United Planning Organization

This workshop will help you to identify children with special needs in your program. Using a strength-based approach, it will encompass how to support children, families and teachers. It will include how to hold difficult conversations and celebrate accomplishments. You will leave this training with a better understanding of diversity and inclusion in Early Childhood Education.

Who should attend? Head Start Staff

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CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS & ROUNDTABLES

THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2024

2:45pm - 4:00pm

Breakout Sessions Continued...

Creating Safe Spaces: Trauma Informed Shelter Architecture and Policy Design

Seaside 1

LaToya N. Arnold-Artis, Assistant Director of Homelessness Solutions, DHCD; Dayna L. Mayo, CDA Lending and Risk Analyst Senior, DHCD; Malika Holmes, Construction Management Officer, DHCD

The experience of homelessness is seldom a person's first encounter with a traumatic event. The process of navigating supports, even the most well intended, can cause re-traumatization and compound stress. This session will explore the importance of creating safe spaces to mitigate ongoing exposure to trauma. Attendees will gain understanding of the importance of developing trauma-informed shelter facilities through architectural and policy design to promote the principles of Trauma Informed Care. In this session, presenters will also share a capital funding program dedicated to acquisition, new construction and renovation projects that utilize a trauma-informed design model.

Who should attend? Executive Directors, Management, Caseworkers/Social Workers

Making Space and Building Connections through Cultural Humility Framework - Part I

Seaside 2

Shant'a Johnson, Executive Director, Montgomery County Community Action Agency

This two-part session for participants of all sectors will give an overview of Cultural Humility history and principles, understanding the difference between cultural humility and cultural competence and how it complements the work of diversity, equity and inclusion. In part two of this two-part session, participants will further reflect on the principles of Cultural Humility and discuss in small and large groups strategies and practices to develop a culture of belonging in their organizations.

Who should attend? Executive Directors, Management, Caseworkers/Social Workers, Frontline Staff, Board Members

Don't Just Send the 'Data Person'!

Seaside 3

How to Cultivate Collaborative & Equitable Data Practices Across Roles

Jenrose Fitzgerald, Program Manager, Data for Social Impact Initiative and Dan Ferris, Social Policy Institute at Washington University in St. Louis

This session will provide an asset-based framework for cultivating a collaborative data culture. There will be a hands-on exercise focused on equitable and collaborative data practices spanning across roles, as well as an opportunity for participants to share their own strategies for navigating data challenges on the ground. Additional resources will be shared that participants can take back to their organizations to engage colleagues with various roles and levels of data fluency.

Who should attend? Executive Directors, Management, Caseworkers/Social Workers, Frontline Staff

Expanding your Whole Family Approach

Seaside 4

Kia Marie Holder, Deputy Program Integrationist, Anne Arundel Community Action Agency

This session will discuss how your whole family approach's model may change as a result of grant funding opportunities or community partnerships. The session will present an overview of each approach, demonstrate how each agency transitioned, and give updates on the agency's current status of their implementation process.

Who should attend? Management, Caseworkers/Social Workers, Frontline Staff

The 15 Invaluable Laws of Growth

Seaside 6

Octavia Stanton Caldwell, President & CEO, Caldwell Group, Inc.

Personal growth and leadership go hand in hand. Participants will discover what it means to tap into their unlimited potential and become all that they can be. A person's potential opens the door to opportunities, it heralds hope, and it unveils greatness. This interactive presentation will focus on the 15 most invaluable laws for personal growth. Learn how developing yourself provides the best chance of becoming the leader you were meant to be and contributes to those around you.

Who should attend? Executive Directors, Management, Caseworkers/Social Workers, Frontline Staff, Board Members

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CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS & ROUNDTABLES

THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2024

2:45pm - 4:00pm

Breakout Sessions Continued...



The Blueprint for Maryland's Future - Part I

Tideline Ballroom

*Dr. William 'Brit' Kirwan & Rachel Hise, Executive Director, Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB);
Simeon Russell, Executive Director, Maryland Head Start Association*

Join the Accountability and Implementation Board and the Head Start Association to discuss Pillar I of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future - Early Childhood Education. This session will be followed by a roundtable discussion.

Who should attend? Executive Directors, Managers, Head Start Staff

4:15pm - 5:15pm

Building Bridges: Roundtable Sessions

Balance of State Panel

Seaside 1

Carolyn Curry, DHCD

Who should attend? Executive Directors, Management, Board Members

Making Space and Building Connections through Cultural Humility Framework - Part II

Seaside 2

Shant'a Johnson, Executive Director, Montgomery County Community Action Agency

In the second part of this two-part session, participants from Session I will further reflect on the principles of Cultural Humility shared in the previous session and discuss in small and large groups strategies and practices to develop a culture of belonging in their organizations.

Who should attend? Executive Directors, Management, Caseworkers/Social Workers, Frontline Staff, Board Members

From Being to Wellbeing: Caring for Others Begins with Your Care

Seaside 4

Carmen Marshall, Director of Consulting & Chief Equity Officer, Maryland Nonprofits

A trauma-informed process of guided discovery to help you locate yourself and identify where you are as mental health practitioner, educator, or as professional who delivers care to others. Examining your current status and how you arrived at that place.

Who should attend? Executive Directors, Management, Caseworkers/Social Workers, Frontline Staff, Board Members

We are ALL Data People:

Atlantic Ballroom

An Innovative Way to Share Data and Engage our Teams and Communities

Danielle Meister, Assistant Secretary, Division of Homeless Solutions, DHCD; Angela Fraser, Assistant Director, Division of Homeless Solutions, DHCD; Jenrose Fitzgerald, Program Manager, Data for Social Impact Initiative and Dan Ferris, Social Policy Institute at Washington University in St. Louis

According to the [Urban Institute](#) "A Data Walk is an interactive way for community stakeholders, including residents, researchers, program administrators, local government officials, and service providers, to engage in dialogue around research findings about their community...in Data Walks in community settings participants rotate through "stations" where data is displayed visually and textually to tell a story for participants to interpret, discuss, and reflect on in small groups." Join us as we delve into our network's data to practice a Data Walk. Participants will learn about the impact of Data Walks and leave with the tools to conduct Data Walks at their agencies and in their communities.

Who should attend? Executive Directors, Management, Caseworkers/Social Workers, Frontline, Board Members



The Blueprint for Maryland's Future

Tideline Ballroom

*Dr. William 'Brit' Kirwan & Rachel Hise, Executive Director, Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB);
Simeon Russell, Executive Director, Maryland Head Start Association*

Join the Accountability and Implementation Board and the Head Start Association to discuss Pillar I of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future - Early Childhood Education.

Who should attend? Executive Directors, Managers, Head Start Staff

#MCAPConnect2024

CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS & ROUNDTABLES

FRIDAY, MAY 10, 2024

8:00am - 12:00pm

Registration & Exhibitor Café

Atlantic Ballroom

9:00am - 10:15am

Breakout Sessions

Maryland Tenant Rights: Progress and Opportunities

Seaside 1

Haley Lemieux, Policy Director, DHCD; Matt Hill, Attorney, Public Justice Center; Jose Coronado-Flores, Research & Policy Analyst, CASA

This panel will present an overview of recent milestones in improving housing stability and increasing tenant rights in Maryland, including the Renter's Rights and Stabilization Act, Tenant Safety Act, Rental Assistance for Community School Families Program, and the Westminster v. Smith Maryland Supreme Court decision. The panel will also discuss opportunities and strategies to continue to improve tenant rights and housing stability in Maryland.

Who should attend? Executive Directors, Management, Housing Staff, Board Members

Effective Transition: Community-Driven Solutions in Reentry Programs

Seaside 2

Joshua Hatch, Vice President, Anne Arundel County Community Action Agency

This presentation is specially tailored for community-based organizations actively engaged in supporting the reintegration of formerly incarcerated individuals. We'll explore how these practices, rigorously tested and proven, significantly contribute to reducing recidivism, enhancing community safety, and promoting the well-being of returning individuals. The presentation will delve into strategies for effectively addressing the unique needs and challenges faced during reentry, emphasizing collaboration and tailored support. We will examine case studies and successful models of community involvement, including partnerships, resource sharing, and advocacy. This session aims to empower community organizations with knowledge and tools to foster a more effective, compassionate reintegration process, ultimately leading to stronger and safer communities.

Who should attend? Executive Directors, Management, Caseworkers/Social Workers, Frontline Staff, Board Members

Workforce Development Strategies to Support Individuals Experiencing Homelessness

Seaside 3

Kristen Patterson, Disability and Youth Services Coordinator, Maryland Department of Labor

The Maryland Department of Labor has launched its Workforce Solutions to Address Homelessness Grant. This presentation will highlight the grants progress, detail the department's work within the Interagency Council to End Homelessness, and provide information to access statewide workforce development services.

Who should attend? Executive Directors, Management, Caseworkers/Social Workers, Frontline Staff, Board Members

NIA & CUSP: Mentoring Initiatives with Mutual Benefits to Social Work Students and Practitioners

Seaside 4

Allessia P. Owens-King, Associate Professor, Salisbury University

This presentation reviews two mentoring programs, the "NIA Mentoring Initiative" (NIA) & Comunidad and Umoja Scholars (CUSP), as avenues for educating social work students about the real risk of secondary trauma and exploring strategies for managing emotionally taxing work. Also, because of the challenging encounters experienced by students of color at predominantly white institutions, the programs made strides to promote organizational belonging and assist students in career-planning activities. Uniquely, the programs have benefited not only students but the mentors. Several social work practitioners have served as program mentors; they developed new professional connections through their participation in program meetings, community enrichment activities, and community leadership projects. As a result, they have collaborated to create the Cultural Coalition of Mental Health Practitioners on the Eastern Shore (CCOPES).

Who should attend? Executive Directors, Management, Caseworkers/Social Workers, Frontline Staff

#MCAPConnect2024

CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS & ROUNDTABLES

FRIDAY, MAY 10, 2024

9:00am - 10:15am

Breakout Sessions Continued...

A Formula to Reduce Stress in the Workplace

Seaside 6

Larissa Johnson, Founder, Formula for Fun

Are you looking for an effective way to manage workplace stress? Extensive research shows that incorporating laughter, movement, and play is a powerful approach to reduce stress levels and FUN is the number one driver for well-being at work. By focusing on strategies for managing stress and fostering wellness, this workshop will help participants develop practical skills for taking care of themselves and their communities. During the workshop, participants will develop a personalized formula for managing stress — from simple exercises that release tension to group games that encourage collaboration and teamwork— that will help everyone stay centered and focused during stressful situations. By attending, participants will gain valuable insights into managing stress and improving your overall well-being.

Who should attend? Executive Directors, Management, Caseworkers/Social Workers, Frontline Staff, Board Members



Collaboration and Coordination: The Key to Strong Family & Child Outcomes

Tideline Ballroom

Vanessa Jones, Director, Office of Family Support Services, Head Start Collaboration Office, Division of Early Childhood, Maryland State Department of Education

Establishing respectful, reciprocal relationships with community partners will lead to positive family and child outcomes. Intentional coordination may lead to benefits for families and children that are far greater than what an individual program can provide. This session will identify the benefits of active collaboration, engaged leadership, and data-driven decision making. Practical strategies and useful resources will be provided to strengthen and sustain community partnerships.

Who should attend? Executive Directors, Managers, Head Start Staff

10:30am - 11:45am

Breakout Sessions

Improving Digital Equity in Under-Resourced Communities

Seaside 1

Charlotte Davis, Executive Director, Rural Maryland Council

Attendees will understand the resources available to assist individuals and families who lack access to digital skill training, devices and service subscriptions. Data show low-income families are often the most disconnected in our state, leading the digital divide.

Who should attend? Executive Directors, Management, Caseworkers/Social Workers, Board Members

Health Insurance Issues in Mental Health Care

Seaside 2

Catherine Sorenson, Community Educator, University of Maryland Extension

Maintaining good mental health is an important part of overall well-being. One important strategy for maintaining or improving mental health is taking advantage of mental health care services. However, even with health insurance, accessing mental health care can present unique challenges. In this presentation, we will review what you need to know about health insurance in order to access mental health care or help others access mental health care. We will review health insurance terms, talk about trends in providers accepting or not accepting insurance, discuss budgeting for mental health care coverage, and share resources for reducing the costs of accessing mental health care.

Who should attend? Caseworkers/Social Workers, Frontline Staff

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CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS & ROUNDTABLES

FRIDAY, MAY 10, 2024

10:30am - 11:45am

Breakout Sessions Continued...

The Positive Impact of Launching or Expanding VITA in Your Community

Seaside 3

Eduardo Mendes, Program Specialist II, Montgomery County DHHS/CAA VITA Program

Hosting or having a free tax assistance program in your community can have a lot of benefits. The Montgomery County CAA VITA Program is a great example as it has been in operation for over 40 years. What was once a seasonal program that completed mid-1000 tax returns has now become a yearly program that completes close to or over 2000 returns. We all know that financial literacy and health are closely linked in our society. By hosting or having a VITA program, you can gather valuable data that your agency can use for advocacy at the local, county, or state level, and most importantly, data towards the CSBG. This session will cover the steps taken to gather data, share it with our partners, and what has worked within our program.

Who should attend? Executive Directors, Management, Caseworkers/Social Workers, Frontline Staff, Board Members

Serving Beyond Barriers

Seaside 4

Adam Sewell, Director of Workforce and Human Services, Horizon Goodwill Industries

In this session, we will discuss alternative service delivery models. We will look at the current barriers to service delivery such as technology, transportation, affordable housing, and sustainable employment. The goal is to encourage service providers to think creatively about practical and innovative ways they can use to proactively remove barriers in their communities.

Who should attend? Management, Caseworkers/Social Workers, Frontline Staff

Advocacy In Action

Seaside 6

Moderated By: Harry T. Spikes, Director of Safer Stronger Together, Maryland Department of Human Services

Join us for an Advocacy panel that will highlight ways to advocate for your Agency, clients and Community Action. Learn strategies to share your story with legislators and officials to impact change.

Who should attend? Board Members, Executive Directors, Management, Caseworkers/Social Workers, Frontline Staff



Positive Solutions for Families (PSF)

Tideline Ballroom

Erin Leech, Parent, Infant, Early Childhood (PIEC) Program, University of Maryland School of Social Work

This session will serve as an introduction to Positive Solutions for Families (PSF), an evidence-based, family-friendly workshop to help professionals working with families with children 2-5 years of age. After introducing PSF, the presenter will offer the first session of the curriculum for participants to experience the group directly.

Who should attend? Executive Directors, Managers, Head Start Staff

12:00pm - 2:00pm

Closing Luncheon

Atlantic Ballroom

Join us for a closing luncheon, with keynote speaker, **David Bradley**, CEO, National Community Action Foundation (NCAF). Mr. Bradley will provide a Legislative update from the federal level. David Bradley was recruited by national leaders of the Community Action movement in 1981 to defend the Community Action Program from complete elimination. With Bob Cord of ABCD in Boston, MA, and Charles Braithwait of West Central Missouri Community Action Agency in Appleton City, MO, Bradley founded the National Community Action Foundation (NCAF) to preserve and create opportunities for the Community Action Agency network. His first act was to design the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), which preserved the federal-to-local funding pipeline through Community Action Agencies for the purpose of mitigating the causes and conditions of poverty.

Lunch will be served at 12:00pm and the program will begin at 12:30pm.



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2024 MCAP Vision & Value Award Winners

Individual Category

Chakira Chambers, *SHORE UP!, Inc.*

Ishan Johnson, *Anne Arundel County Community Action Agency*

Mitch Posner, *Community Assistance Network*

Miya Raspberry, *Southern Maryland Tri-County Community Action Committee*

Monica Rivera-Goldberg, *Montgomery County DHHS, OCA - CAA*

Shanna Humphrey, *Garrett County Community Action Committee*

Tiffany Proctor, *United Communities Against Poverty*

Tim Fisher, *Washington County Community Action Council*

Partner Category

Jonathan Cartagena, *HOC- Fatherhood Initiative*

Volunteer Category

Dr. Jeffery Johnson, *Montgomery County Community Action Board*

Joan Williams, *United Planning Organization*

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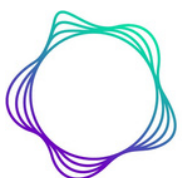
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Thank you for attending the Maryland Community Action Partnership 2024 Human Services Conference.

