



Jack B. Johnson
County Executive

Family Matters

The Department of Family Services Official Newsletter



FALL 2005

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Caring for Self, Caring for Others 2nd Annual Prince George's County Family Caregiver's Conference



DFS Director Adrienne L. Bennett thanks Michelle Singletary (center) for her participation at the 2nd Annual Caregivers Conference as Aging Administrator Theresa Grant (left) looks on.

On Saturday, October 29, 2005 family caregivers were treated to words of wisdom from best selling author and business columnist for the Washington Post, Michelle Singletary. The Department of Family Services hosted its second annual Family Caregiver's Conference at the Prince George's Community College where Ms. Singletary was the luncheon keynote speaker. Ms. Singletary encouraged the audience, made of up caregivers, to "elicit help from family members and get them involved." She also stressed the importance of having your own financial life in order.

The conference titled *Caring for Self-Caring for Others* provided an opportunity for caregivers of elderly family members or friends to hear discussions on how to care for their loved ones as well as themselves. In addition to Michelle Singletary, panelists for the day were Dr. William Leahy, Neurologist, author and teacher; Jacqueline Byrd, Elder Law Attorney; Francis (Frank) Hebert, President, Summit Financial Services and The Honorable Lynn Skerpon, Register of Wills.

The Conference focused on providing information to caregivers about health, financial and legal issues that can affect them as caregivers. In addition, they were given the opportunity to ask questions of the panelist. "There is a lot of information out there. Caregivers need to know how to get it," stated panelist Jacqueline Byrd.

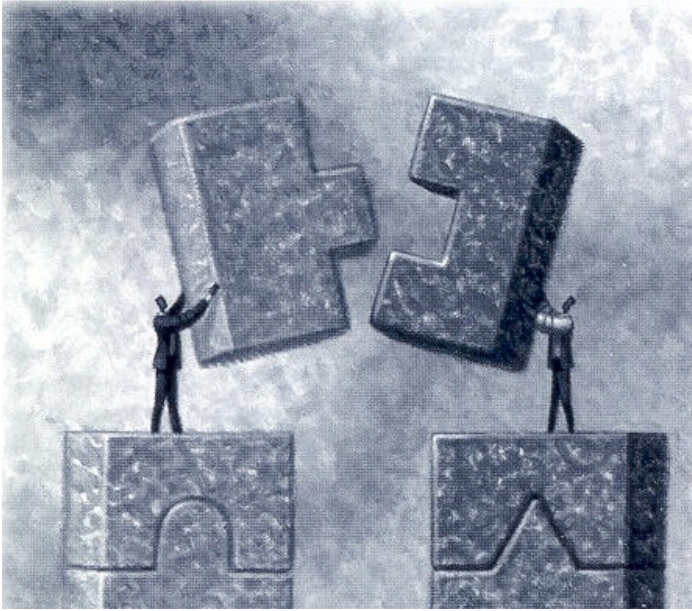
Welcoming remarks were given by Dr. James A. Dula, DCAO for Health and Human Services, Dr. Daniel Mosser, Vice President of the Community College and Ms. Adrienne L. Bennett, Director, Department of Family Services. Ms. Arnetta Smith, Legislative Aide to Senator Gloria Lawlah, also gave remarks on behalf of the senator.

Caregivers needing additional information can access the Department of Family Services Caregiving Guide at www.GoPrinceGeorgesCounty.com or call (301) 265-8450.



"Planting the Seeds for Livable Communities"

Department Restructuring



As part of the County Executive's Charter for Change and Livable Communities Initiatives, the Department has undergone some important changes in its organizational structure. The first key change was the re-establishment of the Office of Planning and Evaluation. This Office's primary functions are contract management, grant writing, training and public education, as well as ensuring that all programs have appropriate performance measures and are achieving their stated goals and objectives. This office also has some responsibilities in supporting the Departments five boards and

commissions and also acts as the central repository for data across a broad range of human service programs. The Office functions similarly to the Office of Management Services in that it acts as a support to the other three administrations.

Another key change is the re-naming of the Divisions to Administrations and the merging of one office to an Administration. The Department now has three administrations; the Administration on Aging; the Administration for Children, Youth and Families and the Administration on Mental Health and Disabilities. One will note that the Office for Individuals with Disabilities has been merged with the Administration on Mental Health to provide a more comprehensive overview of issues that affect people with disabilities, including mental illness.

Finally and most importantly, the Department has adopted a new mission to better reflect our scope and ongoing responsibilities. Our new mission is as follows:

The mission of the Department of Family Services (DFS) is to ensure the creation of effective community-based services that enhance the quality of life for the individuals and families of Prince George's County. We believe this new mission is not only all-encompassing but reminds us of our commitment to collaborate with all community members and agencies.



The Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA)



The Americans With Disabilities Act, signed into law on July 26, 1990, removes many of the barriers faced by people with disabilities in the workplace, in public and commercial facilities, and as they relate to transportation and communications. The Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) provides protection for the 49 million Americans who have physical or mental disabilities that substantially limit daily activities such as walking, talking, seeing, hearing, or caring for oneself. People with a documented history of such a disability, as well as those regarded as having a disability, are also protected.

Prince George's County Government embraces the ADA and is continuously working to ensure that our residents with disabilities, and their family members, have full access to all services, programs and activities. The County has taken positive steps to monitor its ADA compliance efforts. The County Government is voluntarily participating with the Department of Justice (DOJ), Project Civic Access. Project Civic Access is a contract agreement, which is monitored by DOJ to ensure that

entities are moving forth with ADA compliance. The County has also established Administrative Procedure that establishes protocols that would ensure that the County is operating within the guidelines of the law. The Administrative Procedure is pending upon the signature of Dr. Jacqueline Brown. Additionally, each Department within County Government has assigned

a staff person as their ADA Coordinator.



Title II of the ADA requires that state and local governments provide appropriate auxiliary aids and services where necessary to afford an individual with a disability an equal opportunity to participate in, and enjoy the benefits of, a service, program, or activity, unless it would result in a fundamental alteration of the program or an undue financial or administration burden. Patricia Sanders has been identified as the County's ADA Coordinator and is assisting with the County's effort to continuously move forward with compliance. If you require an auxiliary aid to participate in a county activity or would like to know more about the ADA you may contact Ms. Sanders. You may reach Ms. Sanders at 301-985-3800 or Maryland Relay 711.

DFS Commemorates October As National Disability Employment Awareness Month

By Debbie Jones



Listeners look on as County Executive Jack B. Johnson addresses the disabilities community.

On October 18, 2005, Prince George's County Department of Family Services, Mental Health and Disabilities Administration in partnership with the Commission for Individuals with Disabilities hosted its Annual Awards Breakfast to celebrate October as National Disability Employment Awareness Month. The breakfast was held at La Fontaine Bleu. The Keynote Speaker was Loretta King, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division. County Executive, Jack

B. Johnson provided opening remarks. Dr. James A. Dula, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Health and Human Services also provided brief remarks.

Ms. King spoke about Project Civic Access and commended the

"Making stores handicap accessible will bring more economic development to Prince George's County."

County on the outstanding job that the County is doing regarding obligations under the Americans With Disabilities Act. "Making stores handicap accessible will bring more economic development to Prince George's County. If stores were made to comply with ADA standards, more stores would open franchises in Prince George's County and they could market to an untapped resource in our community," said Loretta King. Ms. King enforced the need for business to make their place of business accessible to individuals with disabilities. Ms. King also encouraged businesses to seek qualified employees from non-traditional employee pools, such as individu-

als with disabilities. There were one hundred and fifty attendees. The audience consisted of the business community, advocacy groups, and individuals with disabilities.

The Awards Breakfast is an opportunity for individuals with disabilities to be acknowledged for their accomplishments. Four awards were presented during the celebration. Elizabeth Labukas received the Employee of the Year Award, Desiree Holland received the Volunteer of the Year Award, Dr. Frank Serene received the Leadership Award, and Workforce Services Corporation received the Partnership Award.



Keynote speaker, Ms. Loretta King (right) receives her Livable Communities Umbrella Pin from Adrienne Bennett.



(left to right) County Executive Jack B. Johnson greets Keynote Speaker Loretta King while Adrienne Bennett and Mental Health and Disabilities Administrator Christina Wadler look on.



Volunteer of the Year Award recipient, Desiree Holland (c) is congratulated by Individuals with Disabilities Commissioners and family members.

Employee of the Year Award recipient, Elizabeth Labukas (c) is congratulated by her sister and Individuals with Disabilities Commissioner, Darryl Acty



Sherry Smith (r), accepts the Partnership of the Year Award for Workforce Services.





Hip Hop Culture Conference

By Lyrica Welch



Dr. Patricia Hicks Harper

On June 22, 2005, the Administration for Children, Youth and Families (ACYF) held its first Hip Hop Culture conference at Martins Crosswinds, Greenbelt, MD. The facilitator was the renowned Dr. Patricia Harper. Dr. Harper is a nationally and internationally recognized and acclaimed expert in the fields of Youth Development, Substance Abuse Prevention and Youth Popular Culture. She is widely sought for keynotes and to present her multimedia and interactive youth and adult workshops and seminars because of her vast knowledge and successful experiences pertinent to reaching and motivating youth to choose healthy lifestyles and to strive for academic achievement.

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Over 150 professionals and community members attended the day-long multi-media, interactive conference. The participants were given the basic understanding of Hip-Hop Culture and how to use it to communicate more effectively with youth. The participants also developed and performed a hip-hop song. "The use of what we call the 'formal elements of hip-hop culture' incorporated into what they are doing have been used not only to draw young people to their programs but also to sustain them," Harper said. This event received a lot of "buzz" and was featured in a Gazette article. ACYF is still receiving inquiries for the next conference. The ACYF looks forward to Part II of the Hip-Hop Culture Conference next year. So, stay tuned.....



Dr. Harper and new Division Administrator, Dr. Judy Dubose.

Eleventh Annual Mental Health Providers Appreciation Luncheon

by Vivian McClaine & Raymond C Watson



DCAO Dr. James Dula and keynote speaker Mr. Derek Ballard enjoy the buffet style presentation at the Providers Luncheon.

how all family members helped maintain his quality of life. Dr. Dula also shared that he has hired individuals with disabilities unknowingly, and that he has never been disappointed by their job performance. Dr. Dula thanked all of the mental health providers for the work that they do in providing services and treatment in Prince George's County.

Derek Ballard was the keynote speaker at the event. Mr. Ballard is well known in Prince George's County and Maryland, and is now gaining national recognition as a tireless advocate for individuals with mental illnesses. A gifted speaker, Mr. Ballard always lays his life out like an open book in an attempt to show that individuals with mental illness have extremely full and productive lives with the help of knowledgeable and

The 11th Annual Mental Health Provider Appreciation Luncheon was held on June 23rd at the Prince George's Ballroom. Christina L. Waddler, the new Core Service Agency Director, introduced Dr. James Dula who gave the opening address and told a touching story about a family member who had a mental illness and

concerned clinicians and practitioners. Mr. Ballard is one of the presenters of the "In Our Own Voice" program, which is offered through the National Association for the Mentally Ill (NAMI), and has spoken in front of countless audiences throughout Maryland and across the Country. He shared that he was able to view mental health from both sides: from that of a consumer as well as from the provider perspective. Derek thanked all of the providers for their services and treatment, and presented himself as an example of what their services can do.



Mental Health and Disability Administrator, Christina L. Waddler

There were several awards given out to providers and those who assisted citizens in the Prince George's community. Dr. Agnes Hatfield, Director of the Older Caregiver's Program, received the Community Service Award; Matrixx, LLC (Crisis Response System) received the Outstanding Program Award; Derek Ballard received the award for "Outstanding Advocate"; and, Carolyn Billingsley who retired from the Core Service Agency Director role in February, received a Public Service Award. Others who received awards included: Volunteers of America - Chesapeake, Guide Program, Inc., and the Family Services Foundation.

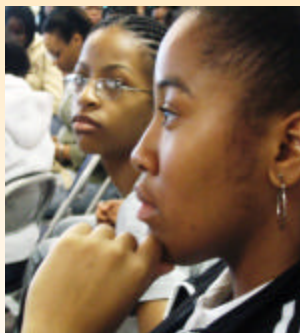
Girls Tech Symposium

By Isabelle S. Payton



On Saturday, June 4, 2005, over one hundred of the County's young girls between the ages of 12 to 17 and more than 60 parents participated in the Girls Tech Symposium, which was held at the RMS Building. The purpose of the Symposium was to rekindle girls' interest in the science, mathematics and technology fields. Research has shown that girls ages 12 to 14 begin to lose interest in these fields of study and, hence, do not pursue these studies in college. The Symposium was sponsored by the Prince George's County Commission for Women; the Department of Family Services Center for Women's Resources and the Administration for Children, Youth and Families; and the Maryland Commission for Women. In addition, the Office of the County Executive, along with the Office of Central Services, the Office of Human Resources and Management, and Office of Information Technology and Communication contributed to the overall success of the Symposium.

Dr. James Dula, DCAO, and Janice Berry-Chen, Chair of the Prince George's



County Commission for Women, gave welcoming speeches that related the need for more women in the science, math, and technology fields. Lt. Col. Carla Blue was the keynote speaker and gave a stirring account of her aspirations and obstacles to becoming the first black woman in the Fire/EMS of Prince George's County. Other female presenters in the field of science and technology gave a brief introduction of their careers and how they came about choosing their particular profession. Later, each presenter engaged in an in-depth one-on-one question and answer session with the girls. The dynamic motivational speaker, Blanche Williams, entrepreneur of *Greatness by Design*, wrapped-up the symposium with a challenge to the girls to take responsibility for the information they received from the Symposium. Deborah Avens, Maryland Commission for Women, delivered closing remarks that reminded the girls of their many opportunities and supports for success in these fields. Dr. Dula closed with a reminder that the County is in need of more women in fields of science, math, and technology.

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Extreme Hoarding: A Dilemma At Any Age

By Helen S. Barnes, MA, RN-C

Older people hoard for a variety of reasons that represent a number of illnesses. Frequently, older adults have been found to hoard due to physical illnesses, emotional instability, cognitive decline, and life-long habits, which have become unmanageable.

Hoarding is recognized as both a mental health issue and a public health problem. It is typically not an immediate crisis. The hoarding behavior usually has been occurring for a long time and hasty interventions will not resolve it. In addition, interventions without the older adult's cooperation can lead to the development of dangerous behaviors. Careful assessment of the individual situation is essential for a successful outcome.

It is recommended that intervention be collaborative involving the older adult, family and other agencies, i.e. mental health, adult protective services, code enforcement, building and safety, animal control and criminal justice.

Some recommended approaches to help solve the problem include using a gentle approach; respect the meaning and attachment to possessions by the older adult; remain calm and factual, but caring and supportive; and evaluating for safety. There are many more interventions which can be planned to help the hoarder remain in a safe, secure, and clean environment. Crowding of items into a space making it unusable is a key characteristic of an extreme hoarder. These situations represent a significant management problem for professional case managers, family and other agencies tasked to assist the elderly with successful aging-in-place issues.

For more information on extreme hoarding please contact the Administration on Aging at (301) 265-8450.



Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Program

By Julie Neal



The Medicare Part D Prescription Program is a federal-funded program that provides a full prescription coverage benefit to Medicare beneficiaries (eligible seniors and disabled individuals with Medicare). The program provides assistance with the cost of prescription drugs. Medicare Part D goes into effect on January 1, 2006. The enrollment period is from November 15, 2005 until May 15, 2006. Individuals who enroll after May 15, 2006 risk the possibility of being penalized for signing up late.

Although the program requires participants to pay a monthly premium that may range between 0 and \$68.00 per month and an annual deductible of \$250.00, many enrollees may be eligible for an Extra Help Subsidy that could reduce their out-of-pocket expenses to almost nothing. The State of Maryland is offering 48 drug plans through 19 different private insurance carriers. Each person enrolling in Medicare Part D must select a plan. Dually-eligible beneficiaries (those with Medicare and Medicaid) will be automati-

cally enrolled, and a plan will be assigned to them if one has not been selected.

The Department of Family Services Administration on Aging is providing public education training seminars for Prince George's County seniors and disabled individuals to inform them about the benefits of the new Medicare Part D Prescription Plan. The seminars will include detailed presentations that will be conducted at senior centers, senior housing complexes, churches, civic organizations, public libraries, and various community activities. The county has established a partnership with the Social Security Administration to assist with the initial enrollment period for the Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Program running from November 15, 2005 through May 15, 2006. The Social Security Administration will be responsible for reviewing applications for the Extra Help Subsidy for the program.

For additional information about Medicare Part D, individuals should contact the Prince George's County Department of Family Services Administration on Aging at (301) 265-8450, or log onto www.medicare.gov.

Upcoming Board & Commission Meetings

Mental Health Advisory Committee (3rd Tuesday of each month)

December 20, 2005
January 17, 2006
February 21, 2006
Largo Government Center (LGC)
9201 Basil Court, Rm 445
Largo, Maryland 20774
5:45p.m. - 7:45p.m.

Aging Advisory Committee (4th Thursday of each month)

December 27, 2005 9:30 a.m.
January 24, 2006 9:30 a.m.
February 28, 2006 9:30 a.m.
Harriett Hunter Building, Camp Springs

Commission for Individuals with Disabilities (3rd Wednesday of each month)

December 21, 2005
January 18, 2006
February 15, 2006
6:00p.m. - 7:30p.m. LGC, Conference Room

Commission for Children, Youth and Families (Local Management Board)

(3rd Thursday every other month)
County Administration Building
14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive, 5th Fl
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772
December 15, 2005
January 19, 2006
February 16, 2006

**See You
in the
New Year!**

Employee Spotlight

Family Services Welcomes Dr. Judy M DuBose



Dr. Judy M. DuBose clearly understands the critical issues that involve children, youth and families in Prince George's County.

Dr. Judy M. DuBose comes to Prince George's County educated with a PhD in Policy, Planning, and Administration and an M.S from the University of Maryland in Program Planning and Community Development. She has worked in higher education administration, curriculum and instruction, government, non-profit management, and counseling for the following institutions: University of Maryland, University of Houston, Trinity University, Bowie State University, and Prince George's Community College. As a resident of Prince George's County Maryland for thirty years, married and a parent of two, Dr. DuBose is a well-informed, active, and participatory citizen. As a result of her education, professional and personal experiences, she clearly understands the critical issues that involve children, youth and families in Prince George's County. Her career plan is to work closely with the Commission for Children, Youth and Families to address the needs of our youth.

Rick Missouri Runs for American Stroke Association



Rick Missouri raised over \$4,500 for the American Stroke Association.

On June 5, 2005 Rick Missouri ran the 26.2 mile Coca-Cola Rock N Roll Marathon. His time was 5 hours, 17 minutes & 12 seconds, he placed 10,430 out of 17,113 finishers. Most importantly he surpassed his fundraising goal of \$4,000 by raising a total of \$4,868.20 for the American Stroke Association. Rick expresses his sincere appreciation to all of the DFS employees who supported this effort.



Family Services Bids Farewell to Lois Gray



Lois Gray worked for Prince George's County for 19 years.

On September 30, 2005, Prince George's County Government bid a fond farewell to Lois Gray. Lois has worked for the County for 19 years, most recently serving as Administrative Aide for the Department of Family Services, Office of Management Services. She also worked previously for the Office of Business and Regulatory Affairs, Department of Environmental Resources, and the Department of Aging. A pillar in the Prince George's community, Lois continues to serve on the Taxicab Board.

The residents of the County have benefited tremendously because Lois took full advantage of every opportunity to make a difference. She will truly be missed.





Director's Award Recipient, Dottie Stewart (c) is congratulated by Theresa Grant, Aging Administrator (l); and Adrienne Bennett, DFS Director. The Director's Award is the highest award given to a DFS employee. Ms. Stewart has worked with the Administration on Aging for 30 years. She currently functions as the Assisted Living Coordinator and has served in that capacity for the past 15 years. Ms. Stewart is the single point of contact for low and moderate-income seniors seeking assistance through the Senior Assisted Living Group Home Subsidy Program. Ms. Stewart displays professionalism at all times. She uses sound judgment and communicates effectively so that a favorable impression of the agency is maintained at all times. Dottie coordinates quarterly training sessions for assisted living providers. The training sessions have been well attended and many providers have expressed favorable comments regarding the caliber of the training.



Community Service Program Coordinator Kaya Y. Swann graduated on May 13, 2005, with her Masters in Social Work (MSW) from the University of Maryland, School of Social Work with a concentration in child and family studies. Ms Swann also specialized in Management, Administration and Community Organizing (MACO). **Congratulations, Kaya!**



DFS Welcomes Janet Norris! Janet Norris is a Program Assistant with the Mental Health and Disabilities Administration. Ms. Norris assists with several programs including Residential Rehabilitation, Children and Adolescent, and Supported Employment.

"I consider myself a humanitarian by nature and find great joy in helping people, especially advocating for those in need."

Janet is the mother of two boys - both adopted - and an avid writer and reader.



Councilman Tony Knotts and Adrienne Bennett share their fond memories of **Lois Gray** at her retirement celebration.



Disability Breakfast: (l-r) Councilman Samuel Dean; Patricia Sanders, Disabilities Program Manager; Mrs. Dean; and Loretta King, Department of Justice Deputy Assistant Attorney General.



BIG SMILES: (l-r) Gena Greenhood, Raymond (Clive) Watson, and Karen Burks pose for a snapshot at the **Mental Health Appreciation Luncheon** at the Prince George's Ballroom.



At the Caregiving Conference, (above left, l-r) Michelle Singletary, Washington Post Columnist; Theresa Grant, Aging Services Administrator; and Camille Crawford, Sage Program Coordinator share a laugh. (above, center) Participants wait in line to have their copy of Ms. Singletary's national bestseller, *Spend Well, Live Richly*, signed. (above right, l-r) Deborah McBroom, Caregiving Coordinator, introduces panelists for the day, Lynn Skerpon, Register of Wills; Francis (Frank) Hebert, President, Summit Financial Services; and Jacqueline Byrd, Elder Law Attorney.

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY SERVICES

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Administration for Children, Youth, and Families
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Mental Health and Disabilities Administration
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This document is available in alternative format upon request. For more information, please call
(301) 985-3800/Maryland Relay 711

Family Matters

A quarterly newsletter
from the Department of
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We're on the Web!

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