



August 2014

Message from the President

Hope for the future, power in the present

The agency's tagline, "Hope for the future, power in the present," is a perfect mentality for me to have as I begin my career at Board of Child Care. I am very excited about the tremendous future possibilities that lie ahead, and have been busy immersing myself in the present by getting to know our kids, staff, board, and community partners.

Right now, our youth are engrossed in typical summertime activities such as sliding down slip and slides, splashing around in the pool, playing outdoor games, and enjoying special outings made possible by our thoughtful and generous BCC Auxiliary. In just a few days, however, they will return to school, having picked classes that allow their talents and interests to shine.

Hearing the hopes and dreams of our youth is one of my favorite parts of this work, and their education is such a tremendously important tool in making those goals achievable. BCC is arming them in a number of ways, and you can read below about a fantastic new partnership between the Community College of Baltimore County and Strawbridge School.

As you settle back into the rhythm of school schedules, sports games, and fall activities, I hope you will consider supporting both our present and future programming by contributing to our Back-To-School appeal. Education is vitally important in all of BCC's programming, from the little ones served at our Early Childhood Education facility in DC to our high school students across Maryland and West Virginia.

Thank you to everyone for the heartfelt welcome to BCC's family. The Board of Child Care is truly a very special place doing amazing things for kids daily.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'L A Spagnola'.

Laurie Anne Spagnola



Laurie Anne Spagnola
President



Strawbridge School Partners With Community College of Baltimore County BCC students can now take courses for college credit

Readers of Keywords can perhaps appreciate this common occurrence: one of our residents identifies a potential job, only to learn that the position requires as prerequisites a year or more of experience and a college-level certification.

“Not knowing how to get over those hurdles can be very discouraging,” said Laurie Anne Spagnola, BCC’s new President. “Our kids are smart and capable. We want to see them get that first job offer just like any parent would.”

The new partnership with Community College of Baltimore County (CCBC) starting this fall will let Strawbridge School students choose from four focus areas to better prepare them for those first job applications. The continuing education options are obtaining a pet handling certification, a 90-hour day care certification, retail training, and clerical training.

Dr. Angela Chambers, Vice President of Education, was excited for this opportunity. “We work hard to ensure our students are ready for the future, and I am delighted that they’ll have these classes as another highlight on their resumes. It will also be a huge confidence booster for many who would never have thought they could handle a college-level class,” said Chambers.

In addition to classroom instruction, each student will be working a minimum of two hours a week at a related job site (supervised by a BCC staff member). At the end of their course, they will each complete a practicum to demonstrate what skills they learned.

Thirty-two students are anticipated to use this program during the coming school year.



Back-to-School Appeal Hits Mailboxes This Month Highlights Strawbridge School graduate and focus on her future

The Back-To-School appeal this year highlights Shaquan P., a recent Strawbridge graduate, and her dreams of becoming a nursing assistant in the future. You can read her full story online at www.boardofchildcare.org.

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world"

~ Nelson Mandela.

As the start of the school year rapidly approaches, we ask for your prayerful consideration in supporting our annual appeal. Your donations ensure our youth have the proper items needed for a successful school year.

Donations of financial means provide us the most flexibility, but school supplies focused on high school students, such as calculators, pens, pencils, notebooks, binders, and back packs, are also gratefully accepted. A full wish list is available on our website as well.

The education of our youth today is critically important for their success tomorrow. Please support the Back-To-School fund! Thank you and God bless!

Donate online: www.boardofchildcare.org

Mail a check: Board of Child Care
Attn: Back-To-School Fund
3300 Gaither Road
Baltimore, Maryland 21244



Mental Health Clinic Enjoys Tremendous Program Growth Staff are on pace for a record year

Fourteen years ago, a small group of clinicians opened their doors to the Pasadena community. Their goal was simple: help children and their families navigate difficult times in their lives regardless of their ability to pay.

“There has been a clear and growing demand for mental health services for youth and families in the Anne Arundel County area,” said Andrea Carroll, Director of BCC’s Outpatient Mental Health Clinic (OMHC). When she took the reins in January of 2012, the clinic served ninety clients. Just a year later, they reached their maximum capacity of 113 clients and had to begin referring new clients to other facilities.

“My hat is certainly off to Andrea and her entire team,” said BCC’s President, Laurie Anne Spagnola. “When I met them for the first time this summer I could see immediately why they have enjoyed this tremendous success. You cannot help but feel calm and at ease the second you walk through their clinic’s door.”

In July the OMHC welcomed Jamie Woods, LGSW, as their newest full-time therapist. Her addition brings the clinic’s capacity up to 150 clients.

Yet rest does not appear to be in the stars for Carroll and her team.

In 2013, the clinic took on 56 new individuals as clients. In the 2nd quarter of 2014 alone they have conducted 33 new client intakes - more than double their average.

“I am incredibly pleased we have been able to grow so much this year,” said Carroll. “My hope is to continue expanding our services to meet the needs of children and families in our community.”

The clinic serves as more than just a space to heal. Last fall the Board of Child Care Auxiliary helped create a Thanksgiving meal box for each family who requested one. Later, they opened a Christmas store for those using the clinic who otherwise could not have afforded to shop for presents that year. Enough presents were donated that the OMHC was able to open the store to all families serviced by the clinic. Some parents “shopped” for gifts to give their children, some families let the children choose their own gifts. Some children even took the opportunity to select gifts for those they care about.

The OMHC has nine current staff members: one director, three full-time child and family therapists, two part-time therapists, two administrative staff, and one part-time psychiatrist.

Pictured above from left to right: Andrea Carroll, LCPC, Jenn Hamersky, LCPC, Susan Larson, MD, Sara Linnehan, LCSW-C, Candis Johnson, Jamie Woods, LGSW, and Marcy Windsor.



Annual Golf Outing – September 16, 2014

Thank you to the many vendors and individuals who have already signed up to play in this year's event!

Space on the roster is shrinking each day as our vendors step up to support our annual event. If you or a business you know are interested in sponsoring a tee sign or playing in the event please pass along the sponsorship packet (PDF Download from www.boardofchildcare.org/golf.php). You may also contact tournament director, Kristian Sekse at ksekse@boardofchildcare.org or (410) 922-2100 x5284



A Note of Thanks

Early Childhood Education Program in Washington, D.C.

The Board of Child Care provides quality child care services for children, ages 12 months to 5 years, at the [Early Childhood Education Center in the District of Columbia](#). Christie M. has enrolled two of her children in our program. When asked last week for feedback on how the program was doing, she sent us the note below. Thank you for the kind words Christie!

The Board of Child Care has provided an environment where I know my child will be engaged, happy, and well cared for. The classrooms are clean and neat, but also full of evidence that play and creativity has been fostered, with artwork on the walls and toys set up and ready for the children when they arrive. My oldest daughter, who also attended BCC, will often accompany me when I pick up my daughter and teachers greet her with warmth and hugs as they remember her when she was in their class. BCC has been an extension of our family. They have brought happiness to my kids and peace of mind to me!

*Christie M.
Washington, DC*

Pictured Above: Berna Artis, MA.Ed, Program Director for BCC's Early Childhood Education Center in Washington, D.C.



Auxiliary – Fall Volunteer Dates and Meetings Posted

Volunteers young and old needed this fall! It is the busiest time of year for the Auxiliary and they need your help! [All the dates volunteers are needed are now posted on the website](#). If you are available, please call and leave a message on the Auxiliary office line at 410-922-2100 x5473 or email Julie Wernz, Auxiliary President, at jwernz@gmail.com.

August ongoing during regular office hours (9:30am – 1pm most Wednesdays)

- Closet organizing on the Baltimore campus to prepare for a busy lineup of programs September – December.
- Box Top clippers needed every Wednesday during Auxiliary office hours (a perfect opportunity for younger volunteers)
- Many other projects each week!

See the full lineup of volunteer dates online: www.boardofchildcare.org/help/auxiliary.php

September Auxiliary Meetings

Sept. 18 Cumberland-Hagerstown Fall Meeting – 10:00 am

Ellerslie UMC, 14307 Temple St NW, Ellerslie, Maryland

Sept. 20 Frederick Region Fall Meeting – 10:00 am

Board of Child Care Chapel, 730 Brown Road, Martinsburg, West Virginia

Sept. 23 Washington Regional Fall Meeting – 10:00 am

McKendree-Simms-Brookland UMC, 2421 Lawrence St. NE, Washington, DC

Sept. 25 Annapolis / Southern Region Fall Meeting – 10:00 am

Mt Harmony/Lower Marlboro UMC, 155 W Mt Harmony Rd, Owings, Maryland

In Brief



Thank you Montgomery UMC!

Eight volunteers from Montgomery UMC came and worked with twelve of our residents to assemble and paint bird feeders. The congregation built the pre-made kits so only light assembly was required during the workshop. The volunteers also brought all the paint and brushes with them in addition to pre-measured birdseed packets. They truly thought of everything! The youngsters really enjoyed this project and BCC's maintenance crew will help them install a few around campus this week. The remainder of the houses will be donated to West River UMC Camp (Churchton, MD). Thank you Montgomery UMC for this wonderful opportunity!



BCC Held Emergency Blood Drive for Red Cross

At the end of July, the Board of Child Care was contacted with an urgent request. A local blood drive just canceled and the Red Cross was low on their supply for the local hospitals. BCC stepped up on short notice and recruited volunteers amongst the Baltimore campus staff. Twenty-two units of blood were donated in total. Thank you to everyone for responding to the need especially with such a short turnaround time needed!



**American
Red Cross**



Eastern Shore Youth Participate in Summer Work Program

BCC had five youth participate in the Summer Youth Work Program through North Caroline High School. The youth began employment on July 7th and worked Monday - Thursday from 7:30am-3:30pm. Working together as a team they put classrooms back together, wiped down furniture, assembled shelving, swept floors, and participated in staff meetings. The youth attended three field trips: one to the Easton Church of God, one to Echo Hill Summer Camp, and one to the Job Corp Training Center. All three trips provided them with knowledge, job readiness, and employment preparation skills. The summer work program ended on August 1, 2014 with a luncheon and awards banquet. The program's job readiness coach was very positive about all five of the youth who participated and commented that the youth were focused, well-mannered, and prepared to work.

Designate Board of Child Care on your Paystub!

Under workplace giving programs, employees make one-time donations or regular paycheck deductions for charity. BCC is a participating charity in the Combined Federal Campaign (Chesapeake Bay Area and National Capital Area) and the Combined Charity Campaign for Baltimore City.

- Combined Federal Campaign # 31042
- Combined Baltimore City Campaign # 5634

We're Hiring!

Do you want to make a difference in a child's life? Child care worker, registered nurse, social worker, and special education teacher positions are just a few of the openings we have. Check out all available fulltime and part time positions our new careers webpage. www.boardofchildcare.org/careers.php



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Comments or suggestions? We want your feedback! E-mail us at communications@boardofchildcare.org