

# New Beginnings

## NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HIRED

“We are pleased to announce that after an extensive search, we have found a new Executive Director to lead the Central Oklahoma Community Action Agency (COCAA) move forward and upward”, says Lee Doolen, Chair of COCAA’s Board of Directors. “Our ‘Search Committee’, led by Dr. Tom Mills recommended to the Board that we appoint Barbara Loudermilk as the Central Oklahoma Community Action Agency’s Executive Director, and in a unanimous vote, the Board accepted the nomination. Ms. Loudermilk embraced her new role as COCAA’s Executive Director on January 23, 2017

“I am looking forward to working with the Board of Directors, County Advisory Boards, and all of our staff in each of our six counties to successfully achieve COCAA’s Strategic Plan goal of helping find employment and training opportunities for residents in each county we serve”, says Ms. Loudermilk. “COCAA has goals to reach low income families through efforts in the schools, housing, education and training, and supportive services towards self-sufficiency.”

Barbara Loudermilk comes to COCAA with 35 years’ experience as an educator and some experience as a Director of Economic Development. For ten years, Ms. Loudermilk was the director of MetroTech Career Academy in OKC, which is a community based center, providing numerous services to the community. Services such as TANF, healthcare partnering with other agencies, Senior Citizen Volunteering, VITA through Community Action, Food Pantry and grant writing. She has worked closely with Federal Offices like, the Department of Justice, Labor, Education and HUD which has given her a lot of government experience.





## OUR VISION STATEMENT:

Our vision is to operate as a financially sustainable business, with a passion for excellence. It will have a vibrant board of directors, and engage top volunteer leaders in planning, decision making, and action. It will tackle seemingly intractable issues related to the root causes of poverty in communities. It will create public-private partnerships that invest in new social and economic opportunities, or redirect resources to address pressing local priorities if needed. It will test innovative approaches and investments with out-of-the-box, prevention-orientated strategies uniquely suited to the communities it serves. It will manage programs efficiently and transparently with measurable results. It will start up and spin off programs to other agencies or businesses when appropriate. It will recruit highly talented staff and provide them with first-rate facilities and technologies to do their work. And it will help this region become a bell tower of community action innovation in Oklahoma, and beyond.

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## MISSION STATEMENT:

*Helping People. Changing Lives. Building Communities.*

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### **CENTRAL OKLAHOMA COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY VOLUNTEER WITH THE VOLUNTEERS IMPACTING PEOPLE (VIP) PROGRAM RECEIVES OKLAHOMA ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD**



Beth Perry joined the Volunteers Impacting People (VIP), formally RSVP in 2006, and has not stopped serving our seniors and others in our community since. Her quiet personality and caring spirit has made a difference in three of the VIP programs in the day-to-day service.

Since 2006, she has served as a Meals on Wheels driver, the Shoes That Fit Coordinator, and an assistant to the Director of Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA). The tax program runs from January to April, and Beth averages 25 hours a week during this period. The Shoes That Fit program runs from August to November, and during this time, Beth will average 30 hours a week meeting with the schools and businesses in our community. As of August, 2016, Beth has served 7,539 hours and continues to assist in the VIP office on a daily basis.

Beth is all heart and continues to be a beacon of caring and resilience to those around her. She is a dedicated volunteer, who understands the impact that her presence brings to the program and people in our community.

If you would like to learn more about the VIP programs or make a monetary donation, please contact Thixie Totty or Kathy Gatz at 405-275-7910.

## CENTRAL OKLAHOMA TRANSIT SYSTEM (COTS) OFFICE HOURS AND TRANSIT INFORMATION

### **TRANSPORTATION – COTS**

We serve the general public with handicapped accessible vehicles with rides on-demand for access to medical appointments, shopping, education or work-related activities.

### **OFFICE HOURS:**

Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

### **TRANSIT HOURS:**

Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

### **TRANSIT INFORMATION:**

Transport Seminole and Pottawatomie residents within county;

Transport Seminole and Pottawatomie residents to/from Cleveland and Oklahoma counties

### **PHONE NUMBER:**

405-273-3000

## INDIVIDUAL AND FAMILY PROGRAMS

### **JOURNEY TO SELF-SUFFICIENCY (Available in all counties in COCAA service area.)**

This program works with clients to develop individualized short and long-term goals to become more self-sufficient. Through supportive case management and partnerships with other social service providers, we assist individuals and families attain the self-sufficiency they want and deserve.

### **HEALTHY STEPS (Payne County)**

This program assists families by having a Healthy Steps Specialist in primary care offices, working with doctors and their patients to provide enhanced well-child visits, to focus on child development and parent support. This program centers around the family and provides parents with access to helpful information, helpful tools and services during the most important period in their child's development.

“Healthy Steps looks at the whole child, including his or her parents and environment. Specialists address the medical, emotional, and social determinants of health and well-being, leading to healthier, happier children and families. Regular developmental screening, parent protective and risk factor screening, appropriate referrals, and parent education are all core components of Healthy Steps. Care coordination, phone or text support, and parent support groups are additional services often provided.”

### **PARENTS AS TEACHERS PARTNERSHIPS (Lincoln County)**

“Its internationally recognized network uses an evidence-based model to deliver parent education primarily through personal visits and group meetings, equipping parents with knowledge and resources to prepare their children, from birth through kindergarten, for a stronger start in life and greater success in school. Parents as Teachers programs operate in various settings, including schools, hospitals, faith-based organizations and housing communities.”

**Rx FOR OKLAHOMA**

Rx for Oklahoma is a prescription program that assists eligible persons to access prescriptions from pharmaceutical manufactures. This program is offered free of charge.

**Stillwater –Food Pantry**

Stillwater operates a food pantry within its local office. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 8:30 to 11:30.

**Seminole-Food Pantry Referrals**

COCAA does not operate a food pantry in Seminole County. We have partnered with Interfaith Food Ministries and assist in the referral process.

Referrals are completed at the Seminole COCAA office: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday's from 9:00 to 2:00. Recipients must live in the City of Seminole limits to be eligible. Requests may be repeated every 30 days.

**VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS**

The Volunteers Impacting People (VIP) program empowers individuals, ages 55 and over, to share their knowledge, skills and life experiences through volunteer services with many different community programs. The VIP programs offers programs such as "Volunteer Income Tax Assistance" (VITA), "Shoes That Fit", "Valentines for Vets", and hot meals delivered to homes. Their "Meals on Wheels" program in Shawnee was started in 1974 and it is the only one in the community to deliver special diet meals as well as regular meals.

**CONTACT INFORMATION BY COUNTY**

**Cleveland**

Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
1155 E Main, Norman, OK 73071  
Ariel Ray, 405-701-2170

**Lincoln**

Wednesday's: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
820 N Jim Thorpe Blvd.  
Rayneta Manwarin, 405-695-1630

**Logan**

Monday and Wednesday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
219 S Broad, Suite 1, Guthrie, OK  
Samantha Robinson (Monday) – 405-695-1636

**Payne**

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Fridays: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
410 S Lewis, Stillwater, OK 74074  
Brandi Harris, 405-624-2533

**Pottawatomie**

Monday through Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
131 North Bell, Shawnee, OK 74801  
Lisa Pendleton, 405-788-0023 or 405-275-6060

**Seminole**

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Fridays, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
315 E Broadway, Seminole, OK 74868  
Rayneta Manwarin, 405-382-1800



## UPCOMING—FUNDRAISER IN SEMINOLE COUNTY

When: March 31, 2017

Time: 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Where: Seminole Municipal Building

Cost: \$5.00 per ticket

Food: Roma's Italian Restaurant is generously donating the meal

Proceeds will be used to provide assistance to clients in Seminole County.

## HOW WE ARE FUNDED

Community Action Agencies are non-profits, funded through private donations from the general public and program-specific restricted grants from private foundations and local, state, and federal government. Our primary federal funding is through the Community Service Block Grant, which provides funds to alleviate the causes and conditions of poverty in communities.

Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) provides federal funds to states, territories and tribes for distribution to local agencies to support a wide range of community-based activities to reduce poverty. This program is administered by the Department of Health and Human Services. CSBG funds may be used to fund activities associated with "measurable and potentially major impact on causes of poverty." At the state level, a lead agency must be designated to develop the state application and plan.

If interested in donating to the Central Oklahoma Community Action Agency, there are several options available to do so. To donate specifically for programs in your county:

1. Visit the COCAA office located on page 4 of this document;
2. Mail to the address located on page 4 of this document;
3. Visit our website at [www.cocaa.org](http://www.cocaa.org) and select the "You can Help!" link. When making a donation, there will be an option to designate the county and program you would like to assist.
4. Choosing our organization as your sponsored charity when making purchases on Amazon.com.

Donations made for a specific program and county are designated accordingly by our Finance department. When designated, these funds may only be used for the program and county specified. Your gift to COCAA helps low-income families by providing vital services during times of need. You may also contact COCAA by calling 405-275-6060 or the COCAA Coordinator designated for your county.

## NEW—AMAZON SMILES

When purchasing from Amazon.com, you may now select the Central Oklahoma Community Action Agency as a donor agency. Amazon.com will donate 0.05% of purchases to our agency. You may go to [www.cocaa.org](http://www.cocaa.org) and select the Amazon logo to make purchases. The Central Oklahoma Community Action Agency (COCAA) will only receive donations if the purchased item has "Eligible for Amazon Smile donation:.". For additional information on signing up for Amazon Smiles, please contact Tracy Meeuwsen, Central Oklahoma Community Action Agency Assistant Director at 405-275-6060.