

# Positively UC

*A moment to focus on the good our team is doing every day*



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## SBDC TEAM HEADED TO SAN DIEGO

The Small Business Development team at UCDD will present a workshop at America's SBDC Conference in San Diego later this summer. The workshop topic is listed as Transforming Internships- Innovative model to impact the business landscape. Additional details will be shared in the coming weeks.



## TEAM ATTENDS SAHMA

*UCDD's Housing team recently attended the SAHMA conference in Murfreesboro, Tenn.*

Our staff is continuously attending training to ensure that we continue to provide our clients with the best possible service and support. UCDD's Housing team recently attended the Southeastern Affordable Housing Management Association (SAHMA) conference in Murfreesboro. Founded in 1982, SAHMA is a membership organization of owners and managers of affordable, multifamily housing in the Southeast, actively involved in many different housing programs. To learn more about UCDD's housing services, visit [ucdd.org](http://ucdd.org) or call (931) 432-4111.



## CROSSVILLE'S FAIR PARK SENIOR CENTER OFFERS MEALS

*Senior center is the newest to partner with UCDD/AAAD to offer nutrition to seniors*

Fair Park Senior Center (Crossville, TN) became AAAD's newest congregate meal provider on April 1 and has also welcomed 44 new members to the center. The kitchen typically serves more than 80 meals inside with everyone seated and eating within 10 minutes. There is even a drive-thru system in place. Great work, Fair Park Senior Center!



## AGENCY OFFICES TO OBSERVE JUNETEENTH FEDERAL HOLIDAY

*UCDD, UCHRA offices will be closed Monday, June 20*

The offices of UCDD and UCHRA will be closed Monday, June 20, in observance of Juneteenth (June 19), a federal holiday.

Juneteenth (short for “June Nineteenth”) marks the day when federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas in 1865 to take control of the state and ensure that all enslaved people be freed. The troops’ arrival came a full two and a half years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation.

Juneteenth honors the end to slavery in the United States and is considered the longest-running African American holiday. In June 2021, Congress passed a resolution establishing Juneteenth as a national holiday; President Biden signed it into law on June 17, 2021.



### SPURGEON NAMED EMPOWER UC DIRECTOR

Megan Spurgeon, former Community Services Assistant Director for UCHRA, has been named as the director of the newly-formed Empower UC department at UCHRA.

Spurgeon served as Project Director during the planning phase of Empower UC. Congratulations, Megan!

## NEW PLANNER NAMED IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



*Former UCDD intern Aaron Lay joins the Economic Development team as Economic Development Planner.*

Recent Tennessee Tech grad and former UCDD intern Aaron Lay has joined the Economic Development team as a planner. Lay graduated from Tech last month with a bachelor of science in Agriculture Communications and was also awarded the prestigious Derryberry Award by the university last month.

### WHO WE ARE

#### OUR MISSION

*To help the Upper Cumberland region cultivate self-sufficiency and build true wealth through innovation, collaboration, and leadership.*

#### OUR VISION

*A region abundant in resources, fostering a productive and vibrant life for the people of the Upper Cumberland.*

**get plugged in.**

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# GODSEY NAMED UCHRA DEPUTY DIRECTOR

*Godsey will continue to serve as UCHRA's Community Services Director*

LaNelle Godsey, Community Services Director for Upper Cumberland Human Resource Agency (UCHRA), has been named deputy director of the agency.

"I really enjoy working at UCHRA," Godsey said. "We have a great team. It has been a great experience for me and has expanded my focus. For many years, I focused on the rural seniors in the Upper Cumberland."

Prior to joining the UCHRA team in 2018, Godsey served as the assistant director of the Upper Cumberland Area Agency on Aging and Disability (AAAD) and Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) Director for seven years. In total, Godsey worked with the AAAD at UCDD for a total of more than 15 years since first joining the organization as an intern.

"Now, I have a broader focus and work with all age groups in the Upper Cumberland," she added.

While Godsey will bring more than 19 years of experience to her new role as deputy director, she still enjoys learning new skills and insights including participating in the Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) training and learning how to work with individuals that have substance use disorders.

"One of my favorite certifications is 60 hours of professional development in Medial Gerontology through Meharry Medical College," she recalled. "I enjoy learning new ideas and concepts so I am up for all types of training."

As the UCHRA deputy director, Godsey says she hopes to better support the Executive Director, Mark Farley.

"LaNelle brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to this role and I am confident that with her leadership and support our agency will continue to meet and exceed the needs of our region," said Farley.

Godsey's 19 years of professional experience with UCDD and UCHRA provide Godsey

with a superb understanding of the dynamics of both agencies and a deeply-rooted passion to uphold the mission of both agencies.

"I love partnerships and want to continue growing and strengthening partnerships for UCHRA and, by having strong partners, we can more holistically serve the people of the Upper Cumberland," Godsey said.

"I really enjoy working with Holly Montooth (UCHRA Public Transportation Director) and Cheryl Cox (UCHRA Community Intervention Director). I think we make a great team and we will continue to streamline our programs and focus on utilizing all resources to serve our clients."

While Godsey has been named the agency's deputy director, she will also maintain her role as Community Services Director.

"It's an exciting time for Community Services," she said. "The Community Services department, especially Megan Spurgeon, was instrumental in securing the grant funding for Empower Upper Cumberland and I look forward to seeing the focus shift from poverty management to poverty alleviation with the efforts of this grant."

UCHRA's Community Services team spans the entire 14-county Upper Cumberland region providing commodities, utility bill assistance, and in-home services to clients in need. Soon, the department will begin administering a grant to assist individuals and families with their home water services. "Without the community services staff and the county staff there would be a big hole in the Upper Cumberland," Godsey said. "I am impressed and humbled to work with everyone."

Godsey is currently a board member of the Upper Cumberland Family Justice Center. She and her husband, Jeremy, have been married for 23 years and have two children. Their daughter, 22, is currently a nursing student at Tennessee College of Applied Technology (TCAT) and their son, 14, plays golf for Upperman High School.