

IMPACT

News from the

COMMUNITY VISION COUNCIL

fall 2006

The Community Vision Council represents the public/private partnership dedicated to human service needs

Ratner Named New CVC Co-Chair



Charles A. Ratner

Charles A. Ratner, President and Chief Executive Officer of Forest City Enterprises, Inc., will join Robert Gillespie, Chairman Emeritus of KeyCorp, as Co-Chair of the Community Vision Council.

Ratner has been in the commercial and residential real estate industry since joining Forest City in 1966. He became a Director in 1972, President in 1993 and CEO in 1995.

A very active volunteer in our community, Ratner was the United Way of Greater Cleveland Campaign Chair in 2004. He is Board Chair of the Jewish Community Federation and a trustee of the Mandel Associated Foundations, David and Inez Myers Foundation, University Hospitals Health System and the Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation. He is currently on the boards of the Greater Cleveland Partnership and the Musical Arts Association.

We welcome Mr. Ratner to his new role in the leadership of the Community Vision Council.

HEALTH AND CARING FOR ALL

Survey Shows Need for Smoking Intervention at an Early Age



The Division of Adolescent Health (Department of Family Medicine, Case Western Reserve University), on behalf of the Cuyahoga County Comprehensive Partnership for Tobacco Reduction, recently published findings of its 2005 Middle School Partnership Youth Tobacco Survey that will help target early tobacco use with education and prevention. Results of the Cuyahoga County middle school students surveyed indicate a marked increase in tobacco use begins after the 8th grade and that socioeconomic status can be a significant factor in a student's exposure to tobacco.

"To address the increased use of tobacco among students leaving middle

school and entering high school, we've initiated the Life Skills Training Program in the 6th grade to assist youths in developing the necessary 'refusal' skills to counter peer pressure they may experience that encourages smoking and other tobacco use, as well as other risky behaviors," says Nichelle Brown, Supervisor at the Cuyahoga County Board of Health.

Fifteen schools agreed to participate and the survey was administered to students from November 2004 through April 2005.

All 7th and 8th graders (3,860 students) attending the participating schools were asked to complete the survey. A total of 2,741 valid surveys were received, resulting in a student participation rate of 71 percent.

On a positive note, the middle school students reported significantly lower rates of current use of any tobacco product than did high school students. But use rates increase significantly between 8th and 9th grade, with gradual increases reported at each subsequent grade level. Reported rates of tobacco use are six times higher for 12th grade students than for 7th grade students.

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Lewis, Sanders Join Community Vision Council

Catharine M. Lewis, who's played an active role in various Greater Cleveland nonprofit and academic organizations, has been named Co-Chair of the Strong Families = Successful Children Vision Council, joining fellow Co-Chair Arthur W. Treuhaft, President and CEO of The Keyes-Treuhaft Company.

Lewis is a member of the George Gund Foundation's board of trustees and currently serves on the advisory committee

for the Center for International Child Health at Case Western Reserve University. She previously was Chairperson of the Cleveland Foundation board of directors, President of Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital and Vice Chair of the Baldwin-Wallace College board of trustees.

Eugene Sanders, Ph.D., recently appointed Cleveland Municipal School District CEO, has also joined the Community Vision Council.

Dr. Sanders was the Superintendent of the Toledo Public Schools for six years. Before that, he was the Director of the Doctoral Program in Leadership at Bowling Green State University and Assistant Principal at Southview High School in Lorain.

We welcome Ms. Lewis and Dr. Sanders to the Community Vision Council and wish them success in their new responsibilities.

CVC VOLUNTEERS

Robert W. Gillespie, Jr.
KeyCorp
Community Vision Council Co-Chair

Charles A. Ratner
Forest City Enterprises, Inc.
Community Vision Council Co-Chair

STRONG FAMILIES = SUCCESSFUL CHILDREN VISION COUNCIL

Catharine M. Lewis, Co-Chair
Community Volunteer

Arthur W. Treuhafft, Co-Chair
The Keyes-Treuhafft Company

LEARNING AND EARNING FOR LIFE VISION COUNCIL

Ronald B. Richard, Co-Chair
The Cleveland Foundation

William B. Summers, Jr., Co-Chair
Community Volunteer

SENIOR SUCCESS VISION COUNCIL

Lois Goodman, Co-Chair
Work and Family Consulting Group, Inc.

Michael Schwartz, Ph.D., Co-Chair
Cleveland State University

HEALTH AND CARING FOR ALL VISION COUNCIL

Deborah Read, Chair
Thompson Hine LLP

MEMBERSHIP

K. Michael Benz
United Way of Greater Cleveland

Rabbi Richard A. Block
The Temple Tifereth Israel

Alexander M. Cutler
Eaton Corporation

***The Honorable Jimmy Dimora**
Cuyahoga County Commissioner

***The Honorable Tim Hagan**
Cuyahoga County Commissioner

The Honorable Frank G. Jackson
City of Cleveland Mayor

***The Honorable Peter Lawson Jones**
Cuyahoga County Commissioner

Alex Machaskee
Alex Machaskee and Associates

Henry L. Meyer III
KeyCorp

Reverend Dr. Otis Moss, Jr.
Olivet Institutional Baptist Church

J. Thomas Mullen
Catholic Charities Health and Human Services

Stephen J. Ong
The Federal Reserve
Bank of Cleveland

Sandra Pianalto
The Federal Reserve
Bank of Cleveland

David R. Reines
Cuyahoga Community College

Robert S. Reitman
Riverbend Advisors

John W. Ryan
Cleveland AFL-CIO
Federation of Labor

Eugene T.W. Sanders, Ph.D.
Cleveland Municipal School District

Ruby L. Terry
United Black Fund
of Greater Cleveland

The Honorable José A. Villanueva
Cuyahoga County Court
of Common Pleas

For more information on the Community Vision Council, visit our Web site at uws.org/community.

**Vision Council Advisors*

LEARNING AND EARNING FOR LIFE

High School Transition Program Launched in Cleveland Schools

The Community Vision Council's High School Transition Initiative has come to fruition this year, as the October launch of the pilot program took place in 18 Cleveland schools. The program was established to increase promotion, matriculation and graduation rates in the Cleveland Municipal School District (CMSD), focusing on 8th and 9th grade students.

During September, HST coordinators visited the 18 pilot schools, as well as all the Cleveland Municipal School District high schools and remaining 64 kindergarten-through-8th-grade (k-8) schools to promote the High School Transition program and gain buy-in. Coordinators met with principals, guidance counselors, 8th grade social studies teachers and family liaisons.



Back in June 2004, the Community Vision Council approved the initiative developed by the Learning and Earning for Life Vision Council to establish a coordinated high school transition program. This is a timely and critical project, as the current graduation rate of Cleveland School District students is less than 50 percent.

Karen Thompson, CMSD Post-Secondary Education Director, is proud of the work accomplished by her department to get the program up and running. High School Transition (HST) coordinators working on this project made a remarkable effort in preparing for the much-anticipated rollout of the pilot program. In August, they:

- Prepared the draft version of the curriculum, "Destination Graduation," for the 2006/2007 academic year;
- Conducted a workshop where 66 social studies teachers and guidance counselors received training on both the 8th and 9th grade lesson plans;
- Developed a comprehensive calendar to coordinate curricula delivery in the pilot schools and the remaining schools;
- Met with school social studies department staff members to discuss tie-in lessons developed to complement the 8th grade lesson plans.

Teachers, counselors and media specialists received "hands on" experience training in October with the Ohio Career Information System (OCIS). A High School Transition brochure geared to parents and community members was also developed.

The program was officially launched in the Cleveland pilot schools the week of October 16, with "Lesson 1: Preparing for Take-Off" for 9th grade students, followed by "Lesson 1: Skills and Strategies for Success" for 8th grade students, in the week of October 23. The 9th grade students will review career connections from the employer perspective, individual educational plans and community resources. For the 8th grade students, the course objectives will focus on effective study methods, problem solving and communication with peers and adults.

Next steps? Parent engagement nights are planned for January 2007, along with High School Choices workshops. In the coming months, HST coordinators will facilitate training of the students at the 64 remaining k-8 schools with "Tips for High School Success" and the OCIS Inventory Interest survey.

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Survey Shows Need for Smoking Intervention at an Early Age

Among the middle school students surveyed, current cigarette use (3.7 percent) and current cigar use (4.8 percent) did not differ significantly and were the two most popular tobacco products. Current smokeless tobacco use was significantly lower in this group (0.5 percent) than cigarette and cigar use.

Socioeconomic status (SES) was determined by reported level of parental education. Low SES was defined as a family in which neither parent attended college, middle SES was defined as a family where at least one parent attended college but had no graduate education, and high SES was defined as a family in which at least one parent attended graduate school. Low SES students were significantly more likely to report higher rates of all measures of exposure to environmental tobacco smoke than high SES students.

Further, low SES students reported significantly more often than high SES students that they lived with someone who smokes, have been in the same room with someone who was smoking in the week preceding the survey, have been in the same car with someone who was smoking in the seven days preceding the survey, and that one or more of their four closest friends smoke.

STRONG FAMILIES = SUCCESSFUL CHILDREN

Adoption Initiative Update

Adoption Network Cleveland has temporarily closed the Heart Gallery until January 15, 2007. Tower City generously donated the very visible retail space for the Heart Gallery, and Adoption Network agreed to close the gallery during the holiday season while a paying tenant rents the space.

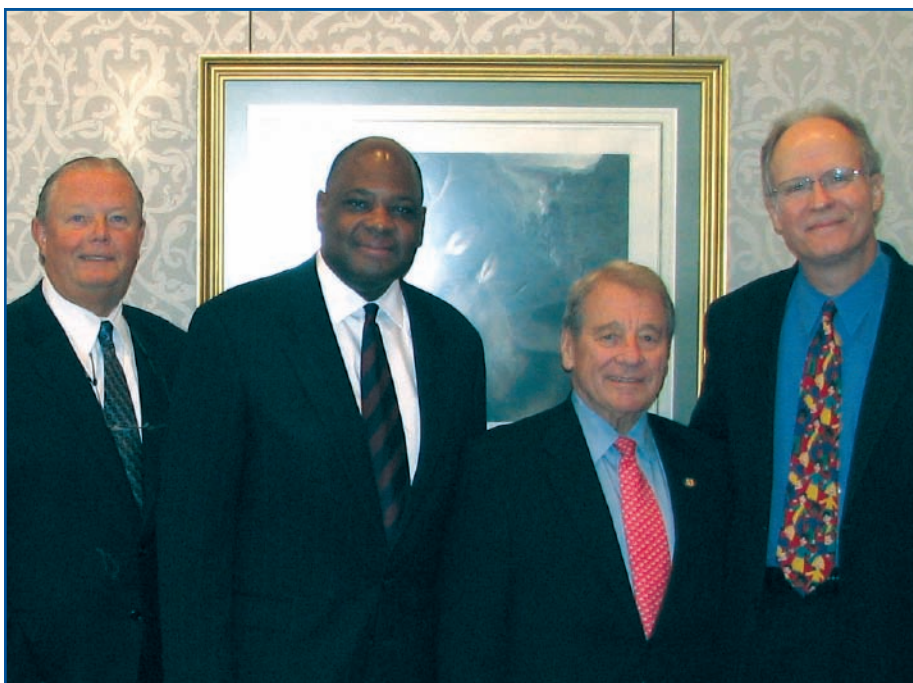


The Heart Gallery features positive photographs of pre-teens and youths awaiting adoptive families through the Cuyahoga County Department of Children and Family Services (CCDCFS). Since opening in May, an average of 200 people per week have visited the gallery. In addition to raising awareness about the needs of children in our community, many of the visitors have expressed an interest in adopting, with two families having begun the adoption process.

In the meantime, Adoption Network Cleveland is working closely with CCDCFS to create a mobile Heart Gallery that can be placed in area businesses, libraries, schools, hospitals or other venues willing to keep the display for at least a month.

The Community Vision Council's three-year funding of the Adopt Cuyahoga's Kids Initiative is due to end in December. One of the Initiative's goals was to secure adoption for 165 youths, and that goal has been surpassed by the adoption of 323 children and youths!

Adoption Network Cleveland will hold an Adoption Open House on December 2, from noon to 4 p.m. at its new office location, 4614 Prospect Ave., Suite 550, in Cleveland. Please call 216-325-1000 for more information.



Community Vision Council convenes meeting with Cleveland Schools CEO

Community Vision Council Co-Chair Robert Gillespie (left) convened discussions with new Cleveland Municipal School District CEO Eugene Sanders, Ph.D (second from left), U.S. Rep. Ralph Regula (third from left), Philadelphia Public Schools CEO Paul G. Vallas (right) and other community leaders to examine school system innovations and best practices. This is to support Dr. Sanders and his team as they begin to develop a strategic plan to make CMSD one of the premier school systems in the country.

SENIOR SUCCESS

SeniorsConnect Web Site Redesign

SeniorsConnect recently went live with its redesigned Web site, SeniorsConnect.org. The updated site, designed by Web developers at Cleveland Public Library, features a cleaner look that's less graphics-laden, making it download faster for users who have dial-up modems. The home page is easy to scan so that users can quickly find the items they're interested in. Navigation is easier too—you can easily tell where you are in the site at any given time. Other improvements include a more effective site search browser and an interactive events calendar for seniors-related events. The content management system for the site is a product of Tenth Floor. SeniorsConnect is supported by the Community Vision Council's Senior Success Initiative.



Senior Transportation Connection Has New Leadership

Janice Dzigiel is the new Executive Director of Senior Transportation Connection (STC) of Cuyahoga County, filling the position vacated by STC Interim Director Don Copeland, who retired in June. Ms. Dzigiel has over 20 years of experience in senior services, and was most recently the Director of the Center for Applied Gerontology at Cuyahoga Community College, where she managed senior adult and continuing and professional education programs.

STC also elected new board officers at its September 20 Board of Directors meeting. Joseph M. Cicero, Mayor of Lyndhurst, was elected Chair; Lois K. Goodman of Work and Family Consulting Group, Co-Chair; Mitchell Balk, President of Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation, Treasurer; and Susan Schwarzwald, Director of Planning and Programming for the Western Reserve Agency on Aging, Secretary.

In other organization news, the cities of Maple Heights and Garfield Heights began formal operations with the SCT Call Center in August. The result has been a coordinated effort of over 2,000 one-way trips provided to senior adults during the month of September alone. With the addition of these two cities the STC now serves 12 communities within Cuyahoga County, with plans to expand in 2007. The STC Call Center database now has more than 6,000 consumers from the participating communities and currently receives approximately 400 calls per day for trip scheduling. A total of 6,174 rides was provided for seniors during September.



Janice Dzigiel