

# IMPACT

News from the **COMMUNITY VISION COUNCIL** *spring 2006*  
*The Community Vision Council represents the public/private partnership dedicated to human service needs*

## SENIOR SUCCESS

### Long-Term Care Workforce Initiative Graduates

With the conclusion of Community Vision Council Senior success funding this year, one of the “graduating” initiatives, the Long-Term Care Workforce Initiative, will culminate with the “Celebrating Direct Care Workforce Success Conference” May 12 at Tri-C’s Corporate College East. The conference presenters will share knowledge gained and tools developed, as well as offer resources to improve recruitment and retention of long-term care workers.

Different aspects of the Initiative will remain active and vital. Arrangements are being finalized within Tri-C and other nonprofit agencies to house the tools, curriculum and resources developed. “In a very meaningful way, the Vision Council provided the opportunity for Cuyahoga County long-term care stakeholders to come together to address growing challenges in our community in a systematic way, so that the programs we have developed can grow, prosper and continue to be of practical use,” Eileen Yates, Long-Term Care Workforce Initiative project manager, said.

While some programs developed have yet to find continued funding, many have been welcomed into new agencies. The Competency Standards for Direct Care Workers has been integrated into Tri-C’s State Tested Nursing Assistant training program. The Directory for Health Care Careers and



Licensed Practical Nursing Programs will be adopted by the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging. Vital advocacy work on public policy issues such as no-lift equipment legislation, monitoring of the development of the statewide medication aid program and federal background check standards will continue through other community partners.

The Long-Term Care Workforce Initiative’s greatest success has been the formation of strong alliances. Collaborative opportunities with the National Paraprofessional Health Care Institute and the Ohio Department of Aging have increased visibility and raised awareness of the strong Cleveland Aging Network. Locally, the Initiative has developed synergies with the Vision Council’s Senior Transportation Initiative and through marketing with community leaders like Dave’s Supermarkets. These success stories will continue as part of the transformation now underway.

## Initiative **UPDATES**

**TOBACCO:** The Cuyahoga County Comprehensive Partnership for Tobacco Reduction has completed the analysis of the 2005 Middle School Youth Tobacco Survey (7th-8th grade). Stay tuned for the next issue of Impact for detailed results.

**SENIORSCONNECT.ORG:** New features enhance the usefulness of SeniorsConnect.org. Among the features now available is the ability for users to get their very own free e-mail account. The site is scheduled for re-design this summer and the initiative’s ads are now appearing quarterly in a new regional periodical, Fifty Something Magazine.

**T.E.A.C.H.:** The number of Early Childcare teachers enrolled in associate degree programs continues to grow. Beginning this spring, T.E.A.C.H. scholarships will also be available to fund bachelor’s degree program enrollment.

**LIGHTED SCHOOLHOUSE:** An independent evaluation report for the initiative was presented at the February meeting of the Vision Council, and it recommended that the project be continued. The Vision Council decided to reform a task force to determine next steps for the initiative.

**PROMOTING ACCESS TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE:** The Community Vision Council has determined this subject is a priority area and a task force has been created which will make recommendations as to the specific projects this initiative might undertake.

## CVC VOLUNTEERS

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

### **STRONG FAMILIES = SUCCESSFUL CHILDREN VISION COUNCIL**

**Robert S. Reitman, Co-Chair**  
Riverbend Advisors

**Arthur W. Treuhaff, Co-Chair**  
The Keyes-Treuhaff Company

### **LEARNING AND EARNING FOR LIFE VISION COUNCIL**

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The Cleveland Foundation

**William B. Summers, Jr., Co-Chair**  
McDonald Investments

### **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**

**Ralph I. Horwitz, M.D., Co-Chair**  
CWRU School of Medicine

**Deborah Read, Co-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

**The Honorable Tim Hagan,**  
Cuyahoga County

**The Honorable Frank G. Jackson,**  
City of Cleveland

**The Honorable Peter Lawson Jones,**  
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The Plain Dealer

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Olivet Institutional Baptist Church

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**Sandra Pianalto,**  
The Federal Reserve  
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**David R. Reines,**  
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**John W. Ryan,**  
Cleveland AFL-CIO  
Federation of Labor

**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,  
please call (216) 436-2214  
or visit our web site at  
[uws.org/community](http://uws.org/community).*

## HEALTH AND CARING FOR ALL

# Making Connections...Improving Lives

Patients who are unable to pay for their health care tend to go to emergency rooms or various providers where medical records cannot be accessed easily, resulting in uncoordinated and fragmented treatment. Through the Community Vision Council Health and caring for all initiative intended to reduce ethnic and racial disparities in health care that is now underway, this problem could potentially be minimized.

The first steps in the initiative are to encourage patients to establish a "medical home" for repeat health care visits as well as to create a Comprehensive Clinical Data Sharing Network to support this action. The network will enable health care professionals to access patients' medical records on a real-time basis.

To move the project development forward, a feasibility study that will explore the practicality, cost and existing best practices of a Clinical Data Sharing Network as well as recommend the skills and resources needed to create one in Greater Cleveland will be conducted. The

study will begin shortly and is expected to be completed by the end of summer.

Initially the Clinical Data Sharing Network will link patient information between three local federally-qualified health centers and MetroHealth, The Cleveland Clinic Health System and University Hospitals Health System.

The Community Vision Council sought and received foundation support to fund the study. Deborah Zider Read, Vision Council Health and caring for all co-chair said, "Events concerning clinical data sharing both locally and

nationally are now moving quite rapidly, making the work we are doing very timely. Others in our region have taken a keen interest in the potential of a Comprehensive Clinical Data Sharing Network, and the federal government is committing funds to support the creation of digital collaborative networks, called Regional Health Care Information Organizations. Our region is on the cutting edge of this process. These are exciting times." Look for updates on this new Vision Council initiative in future issues of Impact.

*The goal is  
to reduce  
racial and ethnic  
disparities in  
health and access  
to health care.*



**STEVEN A. MINTER**

## Founding Co-Chair of Community Vision Council Completes Five Years of Service

Steven A. Minter completed his five-year term as founding co-chair of the Community Vision Council in March. His leadership was critical in the creation of the Vision Council, always being supportive in his role as The Cleveland Foundation's president and chief executive officer, as a member of United Way's Executive

Committee and as a leader in the community at large.

During his tenure, policies and structure for the Vision Council were established, funding collaborations were undertaken and more than \$7.7 million in initial funding was invested in ten initiatives. Since its inception, the Vision Council has attracted additional funding from more than 25 funders who have provided more than \$21 million in investments in innovative solutions to some of our community's most pressing problems. Thank you for your hard work and dedication!

# Cleveland's High School Transition Team Makes Presentation to the Ohio Department of Education

The Ohio Department of Education invited the Community Vision Council Learning and earning for life High School Transition Initiative to share their program with other educators statewide at the 2006 Career Technical and Education Policy and Leadership Forum February 23 in Columbus. "Although the program is in its first year, school officials are already recognizing our program as a model that could be adopted elsewhere," said Alicia Freeman, one of the presenters and the business, marketing and information technology supervisor of career-tech education for the Cleveland Municipal School District.

The High School Transition Initiative is designed to help students successfully transition from 8th to 9th grade and reduce drop-out rates between 9th and 10th grade by providing support and encouragement to those students. Research shows that students who stay in school through the 10th grade are more likely to graduate. Currently, less than 50 percent of Cleveland School District students graduate from high school, making the need to find solutions to this problem critical and urgent here and in other communities with high drop-out rates.

Karen Thompson, Cleveland Municipal School District director of postsecondary education and one of the presenters, said the audience indicated that they were impressed by the presentation, "Destination: Graduation!" by their questions about the program's structure, continuity and sustainability. "We have developed a unique program to retain students in high school. In other places, programs focus on high school retention. The High School Transition Initiative is a 'vertical' reach between high school and middle school. We help students and parents bridge the gap between the two learning environments," Thompson said.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Initiative presenters Thompson, Freeman and Rosa Nazario were invited to make another presentation for the Ohio School Improvement Institute in June. It will focus on the role that internships play in student retention, community relationships the Cleveland School District has developed with outside organizations, such as the Community Vision Council, and the outcomes the Initiative hopes to achieve.

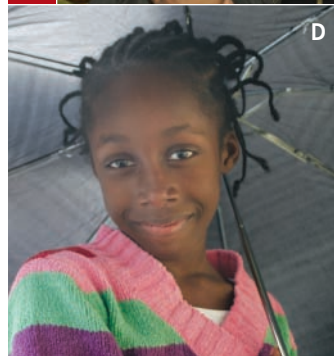
STRONG FAMILIES = SUCCESSFUL CHILDREN

## Adoption Network: Picturing a Better Life

Each of these children represents hope in need of a home. These children are all seeking adoptive homes and will be part of the Heart Gallery, which is being



coordinated by Adoption Network Cleveland, the lead agency for the Vision Council's Adopt Cuyahoga's Kids initiative. Each photo has been taken by a different professional photographer, creating a unique image of each child in the photographer's own special style. The Heart Gallery, located in Tower City Center, will have a free open house on May 20 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please contact Molly Szewczyk at 216-325-1000 or [Molly.Szewczyk@adoptionnetwork.org](mailto:Molly.Szewczyk@adoptionnetwork.org) for more information.



- A. Javier, age 14
- B. Demarco (r), age 11 , and Stanley, 2-1/2
- C. Sisters Latonya (l), age 13, and Lakeisha, age 12
- D. Jocelyn, age 10
- E. Andrew, age 7

Photographers: A. Ryan Durdella, B. Sara Guren, C. Shawn Woods, D. Jim Baron, E. Billy Delfs,

## SENIOR TRANSPORTATION

# Time of Transition and Change at the Senior Transportation Connection

These have been exciting times at the Senior Transportation Connection (STC), with a focus on implementation of major projects. The most critical is creating the First Integrated Regional Senior Transportation Corporation (F.I.R.S.T.). F.I.R.S.T. is a designated service coordinator, which allows designated service providers to collaborate with STC. Participating providers include: North Olmsted Commission on Paratransit; Quality Communities Partnership; the cities of Berea, Brook Park, Middleburg Heights, Strongsville, Garfield Heights, Maple Heights; and the Jennings Center for Older Adults.

Through F.I.R.S.T., providers benefit through collaboration. This includes extending service routes, eliminating service overlaps and providing more efficient and

effective call routing. "There is a demand in the community for enhanced senior transportation services and I know the vision of Community Vision Council for STC can succeed," Don Copeland, STC interim director, said.

Providers began to join F.I.R.S.T. in January with other providers joining now or discussing collaboration. According to Copeland, "These changes are huge for providers who have run their own services, yet the benefits are tremendous, including augmented purchasing power, enhanced flexibility, increased usefulness of senior transport services for seniors and other operating efficiencies. Transportation is part of a continuum of services. Integrated transportation services help seniors create their own independence."

Copeland's tenure as interim director will end when he leaves in June. "I have worked in government for 31 years and I am ready to retire. This project is important and I very much want to see it succeed," he said. STC is now going through a selection process for a permanent executive director. Among the new director's most urgent responsibilities will be expanding the call center, convincing providers to collaborate and securing 2007 federal funding requests made in March for \$1.6 million. This, along with other funding sources, will allow STC and F.I.R.S.T. to continue enhancing the accessibility and affordability of transportation for seniors in Cuyahoga County. Please visit [CuyahogaSeniorsRide.com](http://CuyahogaSeniorsRide.com) for more information about STC.