

IMPACT

News from the

COMMUNITY VISION COUNCIL

spring 2007

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

SENIOR SUCCESS

Seniors Tell How Transportation Service Improves Their Lives

Often CVC initiatives are measured in a quantitative sense for what's been accomplished, but it's also important to take a look behind the numbers to see how these programs change people's lives on a personal level. We talked to several seniors who have been helped by the Senior Transportation Connection, and no better story can be told about this

the added distance further complicated her transportation needs. That's when she connected with Senior Transportation Connection (STC), and has been using it for several years.

"When you call and ask for a van, they make sure one way or another that you get your ride," said Annette. She added that during the snowstorms this past winter, the STC drivers pulled into her driveway, came to the door and helped her into the van. "They take you where you're going and make sure you get back home safely – it's fantastic. They even come up to your doctor's office to check on you if your appointment is running late, and they'll wait until you're ready to go."

"I wouldn't know what to do without this service," said Annette.

Pearl Williams of Maple Heights is another senior who has taken advantage of STC's service. "I use it to go grocery shopping, doctors' appointments, the drugstore – everywhere," said Pearl. "I've been using my community's senior citizen transportation for several years now, but since last fall, when the Senior Transportation Connection came in, I can



Freda Fuller (left) is going places thanks to Berea Senior Jitney driver Mary Ann Deimling (right) and Senior Transportation Connection.

service than in the words of the people affected by it.

Annette Baron, 82 years old, lives in Olmsted Township. She moved from Boston to the Cleveland area in 1990 to help with her grandchildren. A few years after Annette moved here, fainting spells and eventually a stroke forced her to stop driving. Reliable transportation for medical visits became very important to her.

When two of Annette's doctors moved their practices to St. John West Shore Hospital's campus in Westlake,

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CVC INITIATIVES

Preview 2007

New initiatives and progress in existing initiative programs are expected in 2007. Here's a brief look at what's ahead this year:

SENIOR SUCCESS Benefits Enrollment and Access: Will emphasize helping elderly citizens to take advantage of all the health and human service benefits that are available. Seniors have a significant need for this assistance, considering, for example, that only 30 percent of eligible seniors receive food stamps. **Senior Housing:** Will focus on home repair and modification to assist with independent living for older adults.

HEALTH AND CARING FOR ALL Impacting Disparities in Health and Access to Healthcare: There are three strategies in this ongoing initiative. The current strategy is to improve the ability of primary healthcare providers to electronically share patient care information with the Greater Cleveland major hospital systems. Patients served by Care Alliance, Neighborhood Family Practice and Northeast Ohio Neighborhood Health Services providers will initially benefit from this effort. The second strategy will be to inform potential patients about the availability of care from such providers. The third strategy phase will be to reduce barriers to determining patients' eligibility to receive this type of care.

STRONG FAMILIES = SUCCESSFUL CHILDREN Promoting Family Behavioral Health of Prison Re-Entry Population: Will help ex-offenders returning to the community and their families, using a preventive focus and implementing family support programs, counseling and other interventions. Approximately 4,500 ex-offenders return to Cuyahoga County each year.

LEARNING AND EARNING FOR LIFE Potential issues under review for initiative development include continuing efforts with the Cleveland Municipal School District to develop a coordinated approach to link at-risk students identified through the **High School Transition Initiative** with appropriate community-based services. Other issues to be reviewed include **Childhood Literacy, Youth Employment** and **Coordinated Job Development**.

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Community Vision Council Co-Chair

Charles A. Ratner
Forest City Enterprises, Inc.
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Community Volunteer

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

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The Cleveland Foundation

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Community Volunteer

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

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

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Thompson Hine LLP

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United Way of Greater Cleveland

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The Temple Tiferith Israel

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Eaton Corporation

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Terrance C.Z. Egger
The Plain Dealer

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Thompson Hine LLP

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Alex Machaskee and Associates

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KeyCorp

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Olivet Institutional Baptist Church

J. Thomas Mullen
Catholic Charities Health and Human Services

Stephen J. Ong
The Federal Reserve
Bank of Cleveland

Sandra Pinalto
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*

HEALTH AND CARING FOR ALL

Tobacco Initiative Supports Cessation, Phone Counseling

Following on the heels of the successful passage of State Issue 5 (Smoke-Free Ohio/Smoke-Free Workplace Act), the Cuyahoga County Comprehensive Partnership for Tobacco Reduction (The Partnership) has focused its energies on promoting tobacco cessation classes and a statewide hotline to counsel smokers to help them kick the habit.



In 2007 the initiative's main strategies will continue to focus on youth prevention and adult cessation programs. The Partnership will also continue to work with hospitals, health systems, schools and work sites to develop 100 percent tobacco-free campus policies. Employers are being encouraged to support the cost of nicotine replacement therapy, e.g., nicotine patches, for employees, as combining cessation classes with nicotine replacement therapy has been found to significantly increase the success rate of tobacco users attempting to quit.

According to Michelle Brown, Supervisor at the Cuyahoga County Board of Health, one of the Partnership's long-range goals is to have tobacco cessation services institutionalized in the healthcare community, where healthcare providers are asking each patient at each visit their tobacco use status, providing brief counseling to the tobacco users, and referring them to local cessation programs. Currently Lakewood Hospital and MetroHealth System are conducting cessation programs and offering nicotine replacement therapy. Under a separate initiative, the Cleveland Clinic is providing free nicotine patches to City of Cleveland and Cuyahoga County residents

who qualify (no insurance or insurance does not cover the cost of nicotine replacement therapy) and who participate in Partnership-sponsored cessation programs or who participate in the Ohio Tobacco Quit Line's cessation program. The Ohio Tobacco Quit Line is a free service funded by the Ohio Tobacco Prevention Foundation that

offers toll-free support (1-800-QUIT-NOW), letting users speak directly with counselors and even set up multiple phone counseling sessions.

Demonstrating the tobacco cessation program's growing success, the number of participants who enrolled in the program in the 2004-05 grant year was 329, whereas 723 participants

enrolled in 2005-06 – more than double that of the previous year. Congratulations to the Cuyahoga County Comprehensive Partnership for Tobacco Reduction for its hard work and fine accomplishments in this vital initiative!

Cessation Program Results

For the 2005-06 grant year, the following are data collected by the Partnership about the cessation efforts it supported:

- 723 participants enrolled in the tobacco cessation program (American Lung Association's Freedom From Smoking Cessation Program).
- Of the 305 individuals who completed the program (completed a post-test), 69.5 percent reported that they were tobacco-free at the end of the program.
- Among 89 individuals who completed the program and were successfully contacted 60 days after the program was completed, 50.6 percent reported that they were not using tobacco products 60 days after the end of the program.

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Seniors Tell How Transportation Service Affects Their Lives

now call up a day in advance before noon, and as a general rule, they'll get you a ride. Before STC, you had to call about a week ahead to get a ride."

Nash Walters, a 91-year-old Berea resident, moved here from Florida in 2004 and lives in his son's home. His Florida driver's license expired in 2004 and he decided it was time to quit driving. STC schedules transportation for Nash's monthly trip to the barber.

"The drivers are nice beyond belief," said Nash. "I know them all. They've taken me to the mall and a new Heinen's supermarket as well. The service has been remarkably good. The money supporting this service for seniors is well-spent."

The Senior Transportation Connection's mission is to coordinate senior transportation services throughout Cuyahoga County. STC is not the direct provider of services, but rather manages a highly efficient call center that schedules and dispatches drivers. STC's goal is to bring this service to all Cuyahoga County communities within five years.

STRONG FAMILIES = SUCCESSFUL CHILDREN

Heart Gallery Reopens in Tower City

Adoption Network Cleveland is pleased to announce that the Heart Gallery reopened in Tower City on March 14. The gallery features photographs of teens and preteens from among approximately 1,000 Cuyahoga County youths who are waiting for adoptive homes. The gallery is in a new location on Concourse One of Tower City, across from Panera Bread. The Heart Gallery is free and open to the public through the middle of May, Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, contact Matt Carter at (216) 325-1000, ext. 106.



Marcus Wiley is one from among approximately 1,000 Cuyahoga County youths waiting for adoptive homes.

Three CVC Initiatives Spread Wings

Several Community Vision Council initiatives have in the past year evolved into successful, independent programs with new sources for funding. This is the ideal outcome for the hard work and dollars invested in these projects, so it is with great pleasure that we report on three fledgling initiatives that have, so to speak, left the nest:

The Senior Success Initiative, which began in 2002, focused on bringing increased computer knowledge and Internet-based information to older adults and senior services providers. Under the direction of the initiative's lead agency, Cleveland Public Library, more than 400 computer training classes have been conducted for these audiences. SeniorsConnect.org, the Senior Success Initiative's Internet component to increase access to current, accurate information about senior services, has been fully adopted and maintained by Cleveland Public Library.

T.E.A.C.H., Early Childhood Ohio, helps childcare providers receive educational training and accreditation in their field. The advocacy portion of this program received support from the Community Vision Council under its Early Childhood/Invest in Children Initiative. So far, more than 230 early childhood

professionals have participated in the T.E.A.C.H. program; 56 of them have completed one-year learning contracts and eight of these individuals have since graduated with associate degrees in early childhood programs. This pilot project has been integrated statewide with the Step Up To Quality Initiative. T.E.A.C.H.'s advocacy component – now called Groundwork – is publicly supported by Governor Strickland.

The Long-Term Care Workforce Initiative, which brought together long-term care stakeholders to address issues regarding the healthcare of seniors, has been very successful in securing funding beyond the CVC's initial investment and has had several of its project components integrated into programs of its lead agency, the Cuyahoga Community College Center for Applied Gerontology, and the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging.

The initiative produced *Competency Standards for Direct Care Workers*, which has been integrated into Cuyahoga Community College's State Tested Nursing Assistant training program, and *The Directory of Health Care Careers and Licensed Practical Nursing Programs*, adopted for use by the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging.

LEARNING AND EARNING FOR LIFE

High School Transition Program Update



Nearly 3,000 interested students and parents turned out in force at the Victory and Beyond High School/College Fair at South High School.

The High School Transition Initiative is moving forward. The Cleveland Municipal School District (CMSD) High School Transition program reported that 6th through 12th grade students and their parents were invited to the Victory and Beyond High School and College Fair held February 3 at South High School. About 3,000 students and parents turned

Kate Renaud, CMSD High School Transition Program Coordinator, said they are endeavoring to develop and promote a positive, academically motivated culture in the individual schools by:

- Working to build awareness of the High School Transition program within the internal communities of the individual schools.

out for the event, including students from the Cleveland Municipal School District's 21 high schools and 84 k-8th grade schools. Program coordinators were on hand to promote the High School Transition Initiative to attendees.

In other High School Transition developments,

- Aligning the program with 8th grade Social Studies curriculum because of the skill sets learned.
- Implementing High School Transition lessons designed by Social Studies teachers in the 18 pilot program schools, with emphasis placed on take-away skills.
- Aligning the high school level program with high school guidance counselors by training them in the use of the Ohio Career Information System, which allows students to take assessment tests for potential occupational paths.

On a final note, Rosa Nazario, CMSD High School Transition Coordinator, said the High School Transition program brochure, titled "Destination Graduation," is available to parents. If you'd like a copy of the brochure, please call 216-574-8481 or e-mail: rosland.l.prather@cmsdnet.net.