

IMPACT

News from the

COMMUNITY VISION COUNCIL

winter 2008

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

Cosgrove Joins Community Vision Council



Delos M. Cosgrove, M.D., President and Chief Executive Officer of Cleveland Clinic, one of the world's top medical institutions, has joined the Community Vision Council.

Dr. Cosgrove is leading the Cleveland

Clinic at a time of unprecedented physical growth, with more than \$868 million in new construction underway on Cleveland Clinic's main campus. In addition to the main hospital campus, Dr. Cosgrove oversees the Clinic's 14 family health centers and nine community hospitals, along with Cleveland Clinic Florida, Cleveland Clinic Toronto, and the developing Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi.

He joined the Cleveland Clinic's medical staff in 1975 and was named Chairman of the Department of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery in 1989. Prior to his retirement as a surgeon in 2006, Dr. Cosgrove was a renowned cardiothoracic surgeon, performing more than 22,000 operations and earning an international reputation for his advances in minimally invasive heart surgery.

The Community Vision Council welcomes Dr. Cosgrove and looks forward to his participation.

HEALTH AND CARING FOR ALL

Clinical Data-Sharing Network Initiative Gathers Momentum

The Comprehensive Clinical Data-Sharing Network Initiative has taken major strides forward. The Center for Health Affairs will become the project's lead agency and The Free Medical Clinic of Greater Cleveland and North Coast Health Ministry have been added to the proposed Electronic Health Records network linking Cleveland Clinic, University Hospitals, The MetroHealth System, Care Alliance, Neighborhood Family Practice and Northeast Ohio Neighborhood Health Services.



Last year, the Health and Caring for All Vision Council, with the support of the Bruening Foundation, The Cleveland Foundation, Saint Luke's Foundation, the Sisters of Charity Foundation and The Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation, commissioned a feasibility study for building the network to share patient information between local hospitals and community health centers. The network would allow real-time exchange of patient records information among the hospitals and health centers to coordinate care more efficiently, reducing the burden on overcrowded hospital emergency departments, lowering costs and

decreasing delays in patient care to improve the health of Greater Cleveland's neediest citizens.

The Initiative's long-term goals for the network are envisioned in the following manner:

- Cleveland's medical care providers will have electronic access to all the necessary information about their patients every time they're treated in a community health center.
- The community's core hospital systems will have a comprehensive record of the health status of patients who seek care at their emergency departments, which will help physicians prescribe the right treatment for the patients.
- Patients won't be subjected to duplicate tests and services because their caregivers will know about their previous medical treatments, regardless of where the services were provided.
- Payers and employers will pay less for health care because unnecessary services will be eliminated.
- Delivering the right patient care in the right setting, coupled with increased operational efficiencies, will lead to increased health care capacity for the community overall, including uninsured patients in critical need of urgent or chronic care.

Implementing these systems in Greater Cleveland will help to eliminate disparities in health care by improving the quality of care for the community's most vulnerable patients. We look forward to seeing exciting new developments and progress in this Initiative in 2008.

STRONG FAMILIES = SUCCESSFUL CHILDREN

Promoting Family Behavioral Health in the Prison Re-Entry Population

Progress continues on the development of a strategy and resource plan for the project. A first draft of the plan was presented in October 2007 for review by the Vision Council Work Group, local service providers working

with the re-entry population, a group of incarcerated women who served as an initial focus group, State of Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction administrators and top management of three local correctional institutions. The

following month, a second draft of the plan was presented to the Vision Council Work Group. The final version of the plan will be presented for review and approval at the Community Vision Council's first general meeting of 2008.

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Community Vision Council Co-Chair

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The Honorable José A. Villanueva
Cuyahoga County Court
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*For more information on the
Community Vision Council,
visit our Web site at
uws.org/community.*

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SENIOR SUCCESS

Benefits Enrollment and Access Initiative Ready for Takeoff

A growing number of senior citizens in our community struggle with poverty in what should be their golden years of retirement. Many of them don't participate in government benefits that could help to meet their basic needs, even though they're eligible for this assistance.

Addressing this serious yet little-publicized problem, the Senior Success Vision Council, under the direction of Co-Chairs Lois Goodman and Michael Schwartz, convened a Work Group of 20 members in 2007 to develop a new Initiative that would help older adults move from poverty toward a livable income by enrolling them in benefit programs and create a more user-friendly system to help seniors access these benefits to meet their basic financial and health needs.



In October 2007, a strategy and resource plan for the Initiative was presented to the Community Vision Council leadership, outlining program rationale, Initiative elements, intended outcomes, organizational structure, budget and other guidelines.

The following month, The Western Reserve Areawide Agency on Aging was identified as the lead organization to plan the project. Two additional partners, the City of Cleveland Department

on Aging and the Cuyahoga County Department of Senior and Adult Services, will share in guiding the Initiative. The Community Vision Council voted in December 2007 to accept the strategy and resource plan and launch this project with a first-year investment of \$250,000.

LEARNING AND EARNING FOR LIFE

High School Transition Initiative Advances

Having completed its first phase of implementation in June 2006, this Initiative moved beyond its pilot program at 18 Cleveland Metropolitan School District grade schools to include 64 additional K-8 schools for its eighth-grade program and 34 high schools/middle schools for its ninth-grade program in 2007. A high school and college fair held in early 2007 at South High drew about 3,000 interested students and parents, and HST coordinators were on hand to promote the Initiative's program to attendees. An evaluation of the High School Transition program is

being conducted by Evaluation & Research Associates, a research consulting firm, and the first process evaluation report is expected to be presented to the Learning and Earning for Life High School Transition Taskforce in March 2008.

High School Transition coordinators are now inviting program participation from other instructors besides the social studies teachers currently giving the transition lessons. Program evaluation will continue in 2008 to adjust and improve teacher training and lesson implementation.