Cuyahoga County
Together We Thrive

Division of Senior and Adult Services

SeniorSolutions

Winter 2017 / ISSUE 38

A Look at DSAS Through 2016

2016 was a year of challenges and great accomplishments. I want to share some of these accomplishments with you and share with you that our staffs leadership, dedication, and commitment is the foundation of our success.

Division of Senior and Adult Services (DSAS) 2016 Initiatives and Highlights:

- Served 16,614 clients through our Centers of Excellence (COE) programs, including Adult Protective Services, the Aging and Disability Resource Center, Home Support, Options for Independent Living, and the Community Social Service Program (through June, 2016).
- Served 476 Veterans across all DSAS programs (through June, 2016).
- Served 91,885 congregate and home-delivered meals to senior consumers in the community (through June, 2016).
- Connected 3,176 seniors to $544,531 in benefits, through outreach efforts (through October 16, 2016).
- Retained UPP Technology to increase billings through Medicaid and Medicare.
- Launched Senior Stat program – a quality improvement process to drive positive outcomes.
- Expanded our reach into suburban areas, through our Community Social Services Program (CSSP), by adding three new senior centers in East Cleveland, Olmsted Falls, and the City of Strongsville.
- Convened three (3) major conferences including the Cuyahoga County Conference on Aging, the Senior Center Innovation Knowledge Forum and the Elder Abuse Awareness Community Forum.
- Delivered a presentation to the National Adult Protective Services Association (NAPSA) on the outcomes and impact of DSAS' Emergency Intervention Team (EIT) Innovation Grant awarded through the State of Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services.
- Launched a $200,000 Senior Center Innovation Fund and Initiative, which awarded $25,000 planning grants to four senior center collaboratives. The additional $100,000 was awarded at $50,000 each to two senior center collaboratives in December 2016.
- Collaborated with the County's Office of Innovation, County Treasurer's Office and other county agencies to transform Cuyahoga County taxpayer's experience with paying their annual real estate tax bill. Overall, customers were highly satisfied.

I always want to express my sincere appreciation for our staffs hard work and dedication to the seniors we serve every day. Since I have taken on caregiving responsibilities for my 90 year old mother I have an even greater appreciation for the importance of the programs and services we provide to the community. As we look into the future, I am confident and hopeful that one day we will see in our country a major infusion of resources, at the federal, state and local level that can help older people remain independent, safe and cared for in our ever changing world.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a very happy, healthy and blessed holiday season and to you and your families hope for bigger and better things for all in 2017.

Dr. Richard L. Jones

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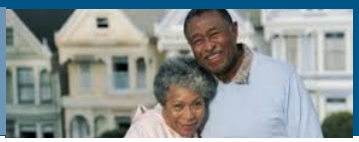

"Senior Center Innovation Takes Center Stage"

In February of this year, DSAS launched the Cuyahoga County Senior Center Innovation Fund, and awarded planning grants of $25,000 to four Senior Center Collaboratives. This project was launched to challenge, and also support, Cuyahoga County senior centers to re-imagine how they do business and serve seniors in their neighborhoods. This initiative not only encourages innovation, it also provides limited funding and technical assistance to support newly created Senior Center Collobaratives as they develop transformative programming for 21st century older adults. With a neighborhood senior center at the hub, these collaboratives took seven months to develop plans for taking their senior center to the next level. The four collaboratives competed for two $50,000 implementation grants. The following senior center collaboratives are the recipients:

• The Coordinated Programming Initiative (C.P.I.) is an innovative pilot project lead by Rose Centers for Aging Well, LLC, a division of Benjamin Rose Institute. The C.P.I. model will offer a central repository for a variety of evidenced-based and evidenced-informed programs that are accessible to senior centers and other community-based organizations. This strategic partnership includes the City of Cleveland, ESOP (Empowering and Strengthening Ohio's People), Fairhill Partners and the Greater Cleveland Food Bank.

• Communities Assisting Residential Elderly (C.A.R.E.) is an innovative pilot project lead by the Community Partnership on Aging, and is a collaboration bringing together eight (8) cities in the region, including: Cleveland Heights, Highland Heights, Lyndhurst, Maple Heights, Mayfield Heights, Mayfield Village, South Euclid and Solon. This project differs from existing home repair and village models because it includes an individualized assessment to evaluate independent living risks and referral services for older homeowners. This project is innovative because older homeowners will benefit from a personalized service plan that will provide home maintenance and modification at a low cost allowing them to age in place safely and independently. It will enlist corporate, non-profit, civic, school and faith-based partnerships, to recruit and train volunteers, as well as utilize staff from the partner agencies to complete services.

In addition to these innovative pilot projects, DSAS added six new senior centers to its Community Social Services Program. These centers will receive a collective total of $ $163,970 to deliver services to seniors in the City of Cleveland and surrounding Cuyahoga County suburbs.

The six new senior centers will provide the following services:

1. Catholic Charities, Fatima Family Center- Adult Development services
2. Catholic Charities, St. Philip Neri Family Center- Adult Development Services
3. City of Bedford Heights - Senior Transportation Services

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Cuyahoga County
Department of Consumer Affairs Scam Squad

Cuyahoga County is Changing the Way it Fights Fraud

The Cuyahoga County Department of Consumer Affairs has created Scam Squad, a task force that unites the social service and nonprofit agencies that work with the county's older residents with the local, state and federal enforcement agencies that investigate fraud.

We believe that by working together, we can:

- Rapidly identify current fraud threats to older residents
- Ensure scam reports reach the appropriate enforcement agencies
- Make sure victims get a "warm hand-off" if they must be referred
- Encourage victims and near-victims to report scams
- Arm seniors with information they need to spot and avoid scams

Scam Squad members are thrilled that Channel 3 has decided to feature weekly Scam Squad alerts in its 6 p.m. newscast on Tuesdays.

The more we can tell seniors about current scams and the things that may make them more vulnerable.

Scam Squad members include the U.S. Federal Trade Commission, Ohio Attorney General's Office, Cuyahoga County Division of Senior and Adult Services, Cleveland Department of Aging, Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Department, Cleveland Police Department, AARP, Better Business Bureau Serving Greater Cleveland, Benjamin Rose Institute, ESOP, U.S. Postal Inspection Service, Legal Aid Society of Cleveland and the Cleveland Office of Fair Housing and Consumer Affairs.

To report a scam, please call 216-443-7035 or visit: http://www.consumeraffairs.cuyahogacounty.us/

Need Help Preparing Your Taxes

This year, the County Division of Senior and Adult Services (DSAS), in partnership with Mt. Pleasant NOW Development Corporation, will offer free income tax preparation for seniors and adults with disabilities on Fridays, beginning late January 2017. Tax preparers are team members of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Coalition. Appointments to complete your free tax return must be made by calling 211. The addresses for these free tax preparation sites are:

DSAS, 13815 Kinsman Rd., Cleveland, OH, 44120
Westshore Neighborhood Family Service Center, 9830 Lorain Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44102

For more information, please call EITC at: 216-401-5121

Cuyahoga County 22nd Annual Conference on Aging a Huge Success

On Friday, October 7, 2016 nearly 200 health care and gerontology professionals joined the Division of Senior and Adult Services (DSAS) and The MetroHealth System for the 22nd Annual Cuyahoga County Conference on Aging at the Holiday Inn in Independence. The Conference theme was "Aging and Innovations: Programs, Technology and Resources". The keynote speaker was Lori Stevic-Rust, Ph.D., ABPP. Dr. Lori is a board certified Clinical Health Psychologist who holds a doctoral degree in psychology and earned a Diplomate from the American Board of Professional Psychology. She completed an internship at Henry Ford Hospital with specialty training in geriatrics, cardiac care, women's health and integrative medicine.

Lori Stevic- Rust Ph. D., ABPP., Keynote Speaker

Dr. Stevic-Rust set the tone of the Conference by delivering the Keynote address that focused on the implications of aging and disability to family interactions and socialization across multiple generations. Participants had a choice to attend five (5) breakout sessions, including:

1. Transforming Person-Centered Care through Technology in the Care of our Elderly (Shelley Szarek-Skodny);
2. Innovation, Leadership and the 21st Century Senior Center (Richard L. Jones, Ph.D.);
3. Aging Mastery Programs: Now and Future (Mary McNamara and Melissa Gleeson MSW, LSW);
4. Grandmother Caregivers and their Families; Healthy Mind-Healthy Body (Camille Beckette Warner, Ph.D.)
5. Lifelong Learning and Community Living (Cate O'Hara, MA and Wendy Albin Sattin, MURP)

McGregor recipient of the Barbara S. Galloway Award

Semanthie Brooks (Center) recipient of the Candace L. Carmichael Award

The Education Resource and Development Committee would like to thank all who participated and ask you to Save the Date for the Cuyahoga County Conference, October 6, 2017

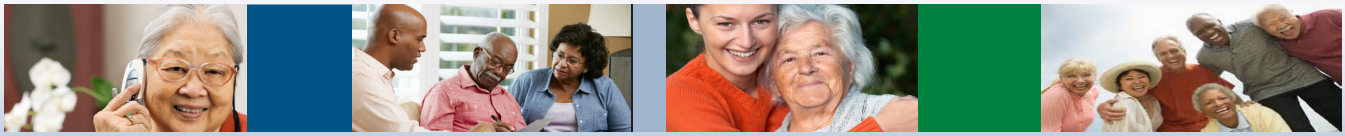
"Senior Center Innovation Takes Center Stage"- Continued

4. City of Solon - Adult Development Services
5. Eldercare Services Institute, LLC, a division of Benjamin Rose Institute - Adult Day Care Services
6. City of Brecksville - Adult Development Services and Congregate Meals (also includes seniors residing in Broadview Heights, North Royalton, Independence and Seven Hills, which comprise the RIBBS Collaborative)

Additionally, three existing CSSP-funded senior centers are adding the following new services:

- Catholic Charities, Hispanic Senior Center - Adult Development
- City of Euclid - Congregate Meals
- East End Neighborhood House Association - Congregate Meals

With this new funding, DSAS will now fund a total of twenty-eight service providers at 40 senior centers. "We are delighted to add capacity to these senior centers as we expand our reach into the aging community and help older adults live their best life. In fact, many of these centers serve communities that are typically underserved. For example, the Hispanic Senior Center not only provides services to the Latino population, but also to refugees from Nepal and other limited-English speaking older adults", said Dr. Richard L. Jones, DSAS Administrator.



Cuyahoga County
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Senior and Adult Services
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Intake Line: (216) 420-6750
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www.dsas.cuyahogacounty.us
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DSAS SERVICES

Adult Protective Services- Investigates all allegations of abuse, neglect, self neglect, and/or financial exploitation of adults 60+.

Options for Independent Living- Designed to fill the gap in Cuyahoga County senior services and Adults with disabilities by assisting persons to live and function independently in their homes.

Home Support Services- In home service provided by Nurses and Home Health Aides to ensure a seniors well-being and safety, including homemaker and respite services.

Aging and Disability Resource Center- Assists seniors with benefits and medications with our comprehensive Benefits Check Up, Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), Buderer Drug Repository Program and DSAS Utility Assistance Program.

One Call Does It All!
216.420.6700

DSAS Events Calendar

May - Older Americans Month

June - Elder Abuse Awareness Month

June 5, 2017 - Kick-Off, DSAS Barbara Galloway Room

August 4, 2017 - Senior Movie Day at Playhouse Square

October 6, 2017 - Cuyahoga County Conferene on Aging, CEUs provided