

2011, Issue #2



Connecting Cultures and Communities

Cincinnati Human Relations Commission

Cincinnati Human Relations Commission
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Cincinnati, OH 45202

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Cincinnati Human Relations Commission receives funding support from
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From the Desk of the Executive Director, Cheryl Meadows

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

On September 8, I announced to the Cincinnati Human Relations Commission of my intention to resign as director effective January 14, 2012. I'm extremely proud of the work that we have accomplished during my five-year tenure. There have been many programs developed, numerous people served and CHRC has had the opportunity to partner with a diverse group of agencies to address human relations interests and/or issues.

However, our work is still not complete due to the state of human relations in the city and throughout the world. There are still many challenges, and CHRC's work will remain unfinished until everyone is treated in a fair and equitable manner and prejudice and discrimination are eliminated.

I have enjoyed my tenure at CHRC and leave behind a very talented staff and Board of Commissioners. I am confident that they will work with the citizens of Cincinnati to build mutual respect and understanding and assist our communities in becoming more harmonious and cohesive. CHRC is well positioned to provide guidance to the policy makers in our city. I wish everyone much success in the future.



Annual youth debate evaluates civil liberties issues

CHRC held its annual Great Youth Debate on November 12 in City Council Chambers. Summit Country Day School took first and second place while Job-Corps snagged third place. Runners-up included teams from Woodward Career Technical High School, NAACP, Job-Corps, and Withrow University High School. This year's theme was Civil Liberties and the Bill of Rights where youth argued whether certain rights were being infringed upon and offered suggestions for how to better legislate those liberties.

Topics included whether institutions that monitor social media interactions are invading privacy, if there should

be stronger restrictions on gun access and whether affirmative action policies promote equality in relation to public college acceptance. The event was presented after youth spent six weeks in training and preparation. They learned public speaking, research and presentation skills along with strengthening their abilities in presenting logical and sound arguments.

Debaters were scored by objective criteria by five judges who offered perspectives from the judicial, professional and educational community. This year's judges were Reggie Brazzile, Cincinnati Initiative to Reduce Violence; Amanda Gray, Greater Cincinnati Northern Kentucky African American Chamber of Commerce; Charleston Wang, WangLaw; Jarred Murphy, Northern Kentucky Community Action Commission; and Judge Arthur Spiegel, Article III federal judge for the United States District Court for the Southern District of Ohio.

Michael Griffin of DevonshireSmith Diversity and Education Solutions served as the moderator for a second year. Griffin, co-founder of DevonshireSmith, has worked as a tireless advocate for social justice. His passion has motivated him to create meaningful and sustainable community/P-16 educational initiatives at a variety of institutions.



First place winners: Max Williams, Tommy Kreyenhagen, and Jay McLean

Funding and support were provided by the Greater Cincinnati Northern Kentucky African American Chamber of Commerce, the Stephen H. Wilder Foundation, the C.A. Group, LLC, Dr. S. Nemat Moussavian, Bertin Ondja'a, the City of Cincinnati and CHRC.



La'velle Williams, representing JobCorps, presents an argument for peer evaluation as he prepares for the final debates



Judges listen closely while scoring arguments

By the Numbers

Third Quarter standings

Individuals served
2,060

Funds attained
\$21,950

New partnerships developed
Five

Program Goals met
7 out of 9

Second annual Night-at-the-Mic another success

CHRC outreach staff facilitated the 2nd Annual Night-at the-Mic on October 28. The event's theme, *Music and the Mind*, gave participants the opportunity to openly voice their opinions about whether rap music lyrics impact violence in the community. Participants also learned how music affects the mind. The event was held at the Carl Lindner YMCA and had 75 people in attendance.

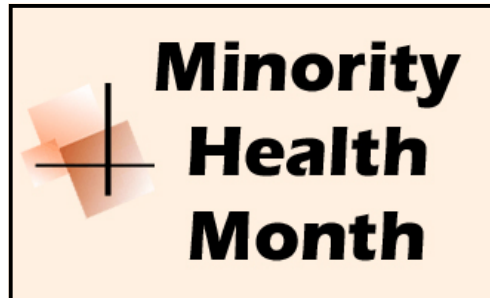
CHRC to develop program for Minority Health Month

In October, CHRC was awarded a \$3,000 grant from the Ohio Commission on Minority Health (OCMH) to develop a program for Minority Health Month. The program, titled *Understanding the Impact of Trauma: Approaches to Prevent Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder*, will take place April 20-21, 2012. CHRC will host a two-day event at the Carl Lindner YMCA that will be free and open to the public.

Understanding the Impact of Trauma will work toward having a positive impact on the health knowledge of various minority groups in Southwest Ohio by promoting healthy lifestyles and practices. The workshop series will also teach strategies to reduce the impact of psychological trauma after exposure to an event that would have the potential to result in a diagnosis for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Community-based organizations will also have the opportunity to showcase their resources that assist individuals dealing with PTSD along with creating a united front to address these issues in the community at large.

The program will feature two speakers who have experience in dealing with minority populations who struggle with PTSD. Jennifer Williams, president

and CEO of J.E. Williams and Associates, LLC, is a leader in the OCMH's efforts to end health disparities that includes projects addressing reducing traumatic injuries, infant mortality, post-partum depression and developing ways to increase the overall health of pre-conception parents.



As a behavioral health specialist, Williams works with individuals and groups on abuse issues including substance abuse, sex abuse, domestic violence, workplace and school bullying, etc.

Patricia McCollum, licensed social worker and adjunct professor at University of Cincinnati and Union institute, facilitates the Off-the-Streets program. This program utilizes the TAMAR Recovery Model for females who have been convicted of prostitution who also suffer from mental health issues and substance abuse.

CIRV continues to see community success, makes appearance on *The Learning Channel* program called Cellblock 6: Female

Through CIRV's efforts in 2011, it reached over one hundred individuals and enrolled over sixty individuals in community programs. More than twenty clients completed the Urban League's 3-week Solid Advancement and Retention Job Readiness Training Program. Twenty-five individuals received some type of employment, and four individuals were employed in the Public Works Division of the City of Cincinnati.

Recently, Sheila Davis, CIRV Streetworker, had the opportunity to make an appearance on *The Learning Channel's* (TLC) series *Cellblock 6: Female Lockup*. The show filmed Davis during her weekly visit to the Hamilton County Justice Center where she shares her testimony of life on the streets and provides hope to women seeking a change in their lives.

"The population that we [CIRV] serve used to be me," says Davis. "What better gift can I give but to give back?" Davis has been with CIRV for four years. She originally began her street outreach with the Citizen's Committee on Youth in 1998. She now assesses clients and makes recommendations for

placement within community organizations. CIRV works in partnership with the Urban League's SOAR program that is specifically designed for ex-offenders. After those three weeks, they assist with finding jobs and work to keep clients engaged in positive development efforts.

"Right now, fifty percent of our clients are working," says Davis. "And most importantly, they're remaining alive."



Sheila Davis will appear on TLC's *Cellblock 6: Female Lockup*

SAVE THE DATE

FOR MINORITY HEALTH MONTH

UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT OF TRAUMA: APPROACHES TO PREVENT POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER

APRIL 20-21, 2012

CARL LINDNER YMCA
1425B LINN STREET
CINCINNATI OH 45214

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT
JUANITA BOHANNON
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JHOWARDBOHANNON@YAHOO.COM

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OHIO COMMISSION ON MINORITY HEALTH,
CITY OF CINCINNATI, AND CHRC

CHRC recognizes community efforts

Each year, CHRC takes time to honor community members who have taken extraordinary strides to assist CHRC, foster a positive human relations environment for the community, or develop personal skills essential for success. This year's award recipients are as follows:

Volunteer Services: Mary Haney, Charlotte Jordan, Charles Braddock and Jacqueline Williams; Cincinnati Initiative to Reduce Violence (CIRV) client support: Jude Johnson, Pamela Shaw, Thomas Dillingham (Urban League of Greater Cincinnati, SOAR Program), Freddie Redd (audio-visual services), Monique Brent (artistic services) and Clarence Williams (special projects);

Success Toward Achieving Life Goals: Baranton Tucker, Rashawn Jones and Kevin Winterman;

Community Outreach support: We Be the Change, Community Police Partnering Center, City Gospel Mission, Who Killed Our Kids? and Our Daily Bread;

Summertime Kids program support: Walter Reinhaus, Over-the-Rhine Community Council and Development Fund of the West End.

Upcoming Events

January — National Mentoring Month

February — African-American History Month; Irish-American History Month; Deaf History Month

March — Women's History Month; Human Relations Month

April — National Child Abuse Prevention Month; Fair Housing Month

April 20-21 — *Understanding the Impact of Trauma: Approaches to Prevent Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder* at the Carl Lindner YMCA

July 4-14 — World Choir Games; For more information, visit 2012worldchoirgames.com/

DDS clients show positive outcomes

CHRC has maintained a mentoring partnership with the Hamilton County Developmental Disabilities Services for several years. This program employs five mentors who work one-on-one with mentees. CHRC plays a role in allowing DDS to realize their mission of supporting individuals with disabilities so that they can learn skills that lead to good jobs and better lives, have a strong network of friends and family, and find a way to be involved in the community.

The program has been able to impact clients like Baranton Tucker. Tucker has been active in DDS for four and half years. Through working with his mentor, Reginald Dawson, he says he has been able to learn how to become responsible for his behaviors and actions. He has also learned better decision-making skills so that his actions have positive outcomes.

“NEVER DOUBT THAT A
SMALL GROUP OF
THOUGHTFUL,
COMMITTED PEOPLE
CAN CHANGE THE
WORLD. INDEED IT IS
THE ONLY THING THAT
EVER HAS.”

MARGARET MEAD