



Agency Happenings

Community Action Leadership Comings and Goings

Recently there have been a number of changes in Community Action leadership throughout the state with several retirements and other changes. Read more to find out about those changes and the people who are coming and going.

Dave Hannahs, Executive Director, Pickaway County Community Action

Dave Hannahs has served as the executive director for Pickaway County Community Action (PICCA) for nine years and now he is retiring. Mr. Hannahs started out his career in manufacturing after receiving a degree in Industrial Engineering from the Ohio State University. He served as the plant manager for two different large manufacturing companies before deciding he was ready for a change. "Manufacturing wasn't fun anymore," Mr. Hannahs said. "I wanted something different." At the time he was serving on the Community Improvement Corporation (CIC) Board in Pickaway County and the chair of the board, who was a county commissioner, was looking for candidates for the executive director position at PICCA. Mr. Hannahs decided to apply and got the job. "Coming from manufacturing to social services, I've noticed that people are more committed to their job and the organization than in manufacturing," Mr. Hannahs said. "There is a willingness to help. I can ask anyone in this room (at the April Board meeting) and get advice or help." Mr. Hannahs has also served on the OACAA Board of Directors since October 2006. He has no immediate plans for his retirement, but knows he doesn't plan on working.

Jacqueline Middleton, President and CEO, CEOGC and OACAA Board Member

Jackie Middleton was recently appointed to the OACAA Board of Directors to represent District 6, which represents the urban areas. Ms. Middleton works for the Council for Economic Opportunities in Greater Cleveland (CEOGC). She has been with CEOGC for over 25 years, starting as the director of

personnel, then moving onto deputy executive director before moving into her current role of president and CEO. She was recruited into Community Action by a friend who served on the CEOGC Board. Ms. Middleton has served on the OACAA Board in the past representing both district 6 and district 2 in northeast Ohio. She has also served as vice president and second vice president. Ms. Middleton said, "My goals for the Board and District 6 would be to work toward bringing about cohesiveness among all members, enhancing relationships in the legislature and around the state, and working toward becoming a permanent funding line item in the governor's budget for CAAs."

Ray Roberts, Executive Director, Community Action Committee of Pike County

Ray Roberts began his career at the Community Action Committee of Pike County in 1978 as the Family Health Center administrator after graduating from Ohio University with a bachelor's degree in Psychology and an associate's degree in Mental Health Technology in 1977. He became the deputy director for the agency in 1983 and then moved up to executive director in 1988 where he remained until he retired on April 1, 2012.

Gary Roberts, Executive Director, Community Action Committee of Pike County

While there is no relation, Gary Roberts has stepped in as the executive director for CAC of Pike County since Ray Roberts' retirement. The new Mr. Roberts was previously the executive director of the Pike Metropolitan Housing Authority. While this is his first position in Community Action, Mr. Roberts has over 40 years of management experience and has played a key role as the facility administrator at CAC of Pike County's Family Health Center for 17 years. After serving in the army, Mr. Roberts graduated from Ohio University with a degree in Sociology and began his career with the Pike County Welfare

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Department where he held several positions. He later served as the executive secretary for the Pike County Children Services Board.

Nick Sunday, Deputy Chief, Office of Community Assistance

Nick Sunday has worked for the Ohio Department of Development since 1981. Starting as the fiscal manager, Mr. Sunday also served as the assistant office chief before moving into his role as deputy chief, but now he is retiring. Mr. Sunday's last day will be April 30 and with his parting he commented, "We have done great work, both the network and the staff at OCA, and have sure helped a lot of people over the years. My experience working with Community Action has been very meaningful, helping our more vulnerable population. We have accomplished so many things that we can be proud of." Nick plans to do some volunteer work during his retirement to help get OACAA's veterans program off of the ground. "As a veteran, I would like to help the agencies and the veterans working within the network get the program up and running." He will also be doing part-time consulting work with the National Energy Assistance Director's Association doing LIHEAP training in other states. We wish him well and will bid him an official farewell during the Annual Summer Conference on June 18.

Robin Renee Walton, CEO, MYCAP

Robin Renee Walton was recently appointed as CEO for the Mahoning Youngstown Community Action Partnership. Ms. Walton will be replacing Marilyn McDaniel who was brought in on a temporary basis by the MYCAP Board to help them through a transitional period. Ms. Walton comes from IMPACT Community Action in Columbus where she served as planning and compliance coordinator. "I came to MYCAP from IMPACT and brought many of my ideas and practices with me," said Ms. Walton. "IMPACT's leadership - Anita Maldonado, COO; Sue Petersen, CFO and Bo Chilton, CEO - have been invaluable to me and continue to be supportive and available to me." Before working for IMPACT from 2010 to 2012, Ms. Walton had vast experience serving as a social worker and youth specialist for the Ohio Department of Youth Services, executive director of IFACE/Hocking County Family Activity Center and Sankofa Youth Academy, a rehabilitation program specialist with the Ohio Department of Mental Health and an international director for a federal pilot teaching program where she did recruitment, management and taught English in Taiwan and South Africa. She has a master's degree in teaching English as a second language, a bachelor's degree in social sciences, majoring in systems organizations, and an associate's degree in applied sciences in mental health and mental developmental disabilities.

Walton comes to MYCAP as they face a struggle with the USDA, waiting to see if they will have to repay the USDA for errors in administering a child and adult feeding program. "I truly do see this as an opportunity," Walton said. "This is an excellent time to come in as the new executive with the foundation that was laid by the interim management team, a reorganized and energized board of directors, and a very receptive community that has responded to the call for action by the secretary of agriculture." Ms. Walton said she accepted the position at MYCAP specifically because she likes challenges and she believes in the community. "Nothing is impossible if you set your heart and mind to it. That's my motto," Walton concluded.

Another leadership change in Community Action, Jackie Boehnlein is serving as interim CEO for Lorain County Community Action Agency during an ongoing search for a replacement since the previous CEO, William Locke, retired. Ms. Boehnlein previously served as the COO for LCCAA. She started at LCCAA as the director of strategic and organizational development in 2007.