



## Agency Happenings

### MYCAP Organizes Community-Wide Collaborative

On August 30 the Mahoning-Youngstown Community Action Partnership (MYCAP) hosted its first annual collaborative luncheon in an effort to create comprehensive wrap-around services and a support delivery system for the community. The pilot collaborative project will coordinate programs and services offered by MYCAP and other organizations to shared clients.

The collaboration is the brainchild of R. Renee Walton, CEO whose vision is for the group to provide comprehensive services and evaluate outcomes together. “Partnerships are about more than referrals – we must plan, coordinate and evaluate as a group,” Ms. Walton said. During the luncheon, Mayor Sammerone addressed the 33 individuals in attendance, representing 13 different non-profit, for-profit, public, private, social and educational organizations. The Mayor commended MYCAP for this effort and reminded the group of the importance of this effort in these difficult financial times saying, “Funding is tight and many of you come to the city for funding. It just makes sense to come as a group. I think we have a greater impact on the people we serve. Government is collaborating, and the city is collaborating. We all have to learn to work together.”

Dr. Ron Chordas, Youngstown State University Professor and MYCAP board member said that the pilot project will be evaluated by YSU to determine its effectiveness. The collaborative project plans to use Client Track Software® for coordinated intake, joint service planning, follow-up activities and outcome evaluation. According to Walton, “The unique thing about this strategy is that there is power in collaboration for agencies and for our customers. We obtain funding together, we deliver programs together and we stay with the client and follow-up for up to 24-months.” This requires MYCAP to obtain a waiver from the Ohio Department of Development to be able to serve those above the 125 percent poverty guideline.

“If the collaborative is doing its job, then the customer should not be in the same place 24 months from the time they started. Hopefully, they will be above the poverty guidelines and gainfully employed or enrolled in higher education,” Walton concluded.

#### Participating Organizations:

- United Way
- Compass
- Community Corrections
- Eastern Gateway Community College
- Youngstown State University
- Children Services of Mahoning County
- Help Hotline
- City of Youngstown
- Center for Community Empowerment
- St. Patrick’s of Youngstown
- D&E Counseling
- Youngstown City Health Department
- Youngstown Office of Minority Health
- Technical Institute, ITT
- Beatitude House
- Catholic Charities
- Home Savings and Loan
- PNC Bank
- Foster Grandparents of Mahoning County
- Buckeye Review

