

## Hospital Quality Improvement Project Data Released

On October 17 the Council's Hospital Quality Improvement Project (HQIP) released an aggregate report of participating hospitals' process and outcomes (mortality) measures. This data was reported against both national and state benchmarks. The complete document is posted on the Council's Web site at [www.gchc.org](http://www.gchc.org).

Two conditions were highlighted for process measures: Acute Myocardial Infarction (AMI/Heart Attack), and Congestive Heart Failure (CHF). In all eight indicators for AMI, Greater Cincinnati hospitals have a higher percentage rate of following the recommended guidelines than other hospitals in Ohio and throughout the country. In five of the eight indicators, Greater Cincinnati hospitals followed the guidelines more than 90 percent of the time. Greater Cincinnati hospitals had a lower performance in three out of the four CHF process measures when compared to other Ohio hospitals, but a better performance in three measures when compared nationwide.

Outcomes (mortality) data were reported on a county level for five counties: Butler, Franklin (Columbus), Hamilton (Cincinnati), Lucas (Toledo) and Montgomery (Dayton). Hamilton County either had mortality and length of stay rates at "as predicted" or "lower than predicted" for the nine conditions that were analyzed: Acute Myocardial Infarction (AMI), Congestive Heart Failure (CHF), Pneumonia, Coronary Artery Bypass Graft (CABG), Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), Major Joint Replacement, Laminectomy, Stroke and Gastrointestinal Hemorrhage.

Hospital-specific data will be released in early January. ■

## Health Council Launches Community Health Care Workforce Fund

Could there ever come a day where there are truly not enough health care professionals to serve those needing their services? This prospect is more than just a hypothetical scenario. Rather, it's quite a sobering reality. Consider these points:

- Between 2010 and 2020, more than 40 percent of registered nurses will be over 50, and many are expected to retire.
- The declining proportion of the population ages 18-30 raises concerns regarding the ability to attract a sufficient number of new health professionals.
- Recent projections show the nation's population will grow 18 percent between 2000 and 2020, resulting in an additional 50 million people who will need health care services.
- More than one million new and replacement nurses will be needed by 2012.
- The United States turned away 30,000 qualified nursing applicants in 2005, primarily due to a shortage of nurse educators.
- The aging population could result in rising average patient acuity, which could in turn require higher nurse and physician staffing levels.

How do we brace ourselves for a potentially critical workforce shortage down the road? The time to act is now.

That's why in October the Greater Cincinnati Health Council launched one proactive initiative for continual development of a strong health care workforce – the Community Health Care Workforce Fund.

The Community Health Care Workforce Fund will provide assistance to students who are committed to the pursuit of health care careers, as well as those health care professionals who are dedicated to the education of health care students.

The fund will be designed to assist:

- Health care students (studying medicine, nursing, pharmacy, radiology, etc.) with emergency financial needs
- Health care professionals interested in continuing education to enter faculty positions
- High school students and adults, via scholarships, who are accepted into health care programs

The Council will work toward meeting a five-year fundraising goal of \$500,000. This total will serve as an investment base. Income earned from invested funds will be distributed annually. The Cincinnati Scholarship Foundation will work with the Council to administrate and distribute the funds.

To build the fund, The Council is currently accepting gifts from individuals and businesses, as well as memorial donations. To donate, contact Mary Duffey at 513-531-0200 or visit [www.gchc.org](http://www.gchc.org). ■

## Workforce Center Presents Third Annual Virtual Job Shadowing – Live Surgery

On October 17 approximately 180 students representing 29 public and private Tristate schools got an inside look at a live heart surgery performed in a Christ Hospital operating room. The students, all who had indicated an interest in pursuing health careers, gathered in Christ Hospital auditorium to witness the surgery. Afterward, surgical team members visited the auditorium to speak to the students and answer their questions. Prior to dismissal, the participants completed an evaluation of the event. Many of the comments indicated that students appreciated the value of the experience, and expressed that witnessing a live surgery is something that "you could never get from a book." More than 80 percent of respondents noted that the experience positively impacted their decision to pursue a health career.

## Health Council Conducts First Virtual Health Care Career Fair

Students and professionals searching for positions in the health care field didn't necessarily have to pound the pavement to explore job opportunities this fall. Instead, they were able to log

on to the Health Council's first Virtual Health Care Career Fair. The Fair featured vital employment information that could be accessed from the comfort of one's own home – just a few keystrokes and mouse clicks away!

The Virtual Health Care Career Fair took place from October 23 to November 5 and enabled health care students and prospective job applicants to research employment opportunities from participating hospitals and health care organizations. Visitors to the fair were able to apply for prizes, scholarships and internships, and also learn about life in Greater Cincinnati. The fair also featured a 30-day posting on *careerbuilder.com*, and a 60-day posting on *monster.com*. During the event more than 50 colleges throughout the country had access to the Virtual Job Fair link and promoted that link to their health care students, and 16 colleges throughout Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana committed their student participation. In total, 18 Health Council member hospitals participated.

A second Virtual Health Care Career Fair is slated for Spring 2007. For more information, contact Mary Duffey, executive director of the Health Care Workforce Center, at (513) 531-0200, or at [mduffey@gchc.org](mailto:mduffey@gchc.org). ■

January 19, 2007

### Nurse Readiness Training for Non-Critical Care Nurses

Geared toward non-critical care nurses, new nurse graduates, nurses returning to the field, and those not ACLS-trained. The session is from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the MERC Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 620 Oak Street, Cincinnati. Cost is \$110. For more information, contact Mary Duffey at (513) 531-0200.

February 28, 2007

### Solutions 2007: Going for the Gold!

The Health Council's eleventh annual health conference and expo will take place at the Northern Kentucky Convention Center from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and will feature such national speakers as Emily Friedman, Tim Porter O'Grady and Adrian Gostick. The event will also feature two break-out sessions. For more information, call the Health Council at (513) 531-0200 or visit the Council's Web site at [www.gchc.org](http://www.gchc.org).

March 6, 2007

### Competence and Staffing: Keys to Patient Safety

This program addresses areas that the Joint Commission has identified as critical to the delivery of quality and safe patient care. The seminar is designed to provide participants with practical strategies and implementation tips on competency assessment and staffing effectiveness applicable to any size organization. The seminar will clearly link the impact that staffing and competency can have on the overall patient safety of an organization. The fee is \$435 with additions ranging from \$75-\$150. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m., with the seminar going from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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## New Associates

Associate members include organizations and businesses interested in the purpose of the Health Council but not eligible as a hospital or affiliate member. Among other benefits, associates can learn about timely health care events and issues and meet people in the field. The Health Council welcomes the following new associate members:

**Personal Newtrition** is a full service provider of nutrition counseling and weight loss programs. Services are designed to meet clients' individual nutritional needs. The organization helps its clients to make sense of the massive amounts of nutrition myths from media reports, fad diets and nutrition supplements. For more information, visit [www.personalnewtrition.com](http://www.personalnewtrition.com).

**Superior Air Systems** is a distributor of Steril-Aire purification systems designed to improve indoor air quality (IAQ) and eliminate mold, bacteria and other contaminants in schools, commercial buildings, health care facilities, food processing plants and homes. For more information on Steril-Aire systems, visit [www.steril-aire-usa.com](http://www.steril-aire-usa.com), or contact Richard Benner at [rbenner@fuse.net](mailto:rbenner@fuse.net). ■

## Data File

March 12-13, 2007

### Crucial Confrontations Training

Crucial Confrontations training provides the core management skills for achieving individual, team, and organization excellence through improved accountability, performance and execution. Through use of a step-by-step approach, it will help in dealing with motivation and ability issues. And, participants will learn how to solve problems, confront and manage performance gaps and achieve much greater personal and organizational success. The session is from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Cost is \$490. For more information, contact Lisa Sladeck at (513) 531-0200.

March 14-15, 2007

### Crucial Confrontations Facilitation Certification

This course will enable certified participants to provide Crucial Confrontations Training in their own organizations. (Pre-requisite: Two-day Crucial Confrontations Training). The session is from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Cost is \$1,397. For more information, contact Lisa Sladeck at (513) 531-0200.

March 21, 2007

### Conflict Management

For more information, contact Barb Banks at (513) 531-0200.

April 18, 2007

### Becoming a Nurse Educator

Tristate nursing students will be invited by their respective nursing programs to attend an informational session on the benefits and the educational pathway to becoming a nurse educator. This event will take place at

The Christ Hospital Auditorium, from 5 to 7 p.m. For more information, contact Mary Duffey at (513) 531-0200.

April 30-May 1, 2007

### Crucial Conversations Training

This course enables participants to acquire the skills that strengthen accountability, improve performance, drive culture change, develop leadership and build teams. The session is from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Cost is \$490. For more information, contact Lisa Sladeck at (513) 531-0200.

May 2-3, 2007

### Crucial Conversations Facilitation Certification

This course will enable certified participants to provide Crucial Conversations Training in their own organizations. (Pre-requisite: Two-day Crucial Conversations Training). The session is from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Cost is \$1,397. For more information, contact Lisa Sladeck at (513) 531-0200.

All sessions take place at the Greater Cincinnati Health Council, except where otherwise noted. For more information on education programs, contact the Health Council at (513) 531-0200. Registration is available for upcoming education programs at [www.gchc.org](http://www.gchc.org). ■

## Health Data Resources Quick List

The following is a sample listing of useful regional Web sites that contain health reports and databases at the local and state level. Please refer to The Health Council's Web site ([www.gchc.org](http://www.gchc.org)) for an expanded listing of health resources and links.

### Indiana State Department of Health

[www.in.gov/](http://www.in.gov/)

This Web site provides users with the following reports:

- Hospital Consumer Guide
- Indiana Mortality Report
- Indiana Natality Report
- Indiana Health Behavior Risk Factors

### Kentucky State Data Center

[www.ksdc.louisville.edu/](http://www.ksdc.louisville.edu/)

This Center, located in the Urban Studies Institute at the University of Louisville, provides training and technical assistance for Census data users. The Center produces a variety of health data reports including:

- Kentucky Population Search
- Kentucky Kids Count Reports

### Hamilton County General Health District

[www.hamiltoncountyhealth.org](http://www.hamiltoncountyhealth.org)

The goal of the Hamilton County General Health District is to work with the community to protect the public health and environment. This is accomplished through data analysis projects that include:

- Communicable Disease Report
- Hamilton County Injury Surveillance Report
- Mortality Report ■

## Affiliates Corner

The Health Council welcomes the following new affiliate member:

**Warren County Community Services** is the largest provider of social services in Warren County. The organization offers a range of comprehensive services, such as family services, Head Start, energy programs and programs for seniors, including: senior nutrition, home care, senior transportation, the 741 Senior Center, senior housing and the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program. For more information, visit [www.wccsinc.org](http://www.wccsinc.org). ■

# Committee Updates

The Health Council's **Food Service Resource Committee** has just completed the first annual Mystery Shopper Survey. Member hospital cafeterias and extended care dining room operations were evaluated on service area, food quality/variety, dining room and customer service. Blinded results were shared with all participants to reveal how each compared with others. Then participants each received summaries containing feedback specific to their respective facilities. Twelve hospitals and seven long-term care facilities participated.

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On November 1, the **Utility Committee** convened for a meeting that included a presentation from Duke Energy representatives. The main discussion topic was Duke's recent rate increase filing with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) and the Ohio Hospital Association's filing to intervene. The Duke representatives gave committee members their rationale for the timing regarding filing, citing the need for budgetary certainty and related issues.

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The **Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Task Force** is in the first steps of a Request for Proposal process for on-site interpreter services. Members will review present contract documents, invite area companies to submit proposals and go through a process for evaluating and analyzing the proposals. The Council is working with members to create a multi-source contract for this area, meaning numerous local companies could be a part of the contract provided they meet all criteria put forth by the Task Force and member hospitals. Members also discussed developing an interpreter training program at the Health Council to enhance services provided by staff and agency interpreters.

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The **Pharmacy Directors** have discussed medication reconciliation efforts among members, including challenges and best practices, as well as how to best evaluate the medication wallet card program sponsored by member hospitals and the Council.

Additionally, the group recently attended a presentation about the Veterans' Association Katrina response efforts

from the pharmacy perspective.

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The **Safety and Security Committee** is discussing the recent Pandemic Flu exercise and the security issues that surfaced during the exercise as well as hospital "use of force" policies and what the essential components should be. The Committee also finalized the draft job action sheet for the security function associated with the Hospital Employee/Family Medication Distribution Plan.

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The **Hospital Status Task Force** has discussed hospital status data, reviewed and finalized the hospital capacity survey, and discussed the upcoming flu season and potential related capacity issues.

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The **Strategic Planning Committee** has approved the process for gathering information from representatives of member hospitals for use in developing the Health Council's 2008-2010 Strategic Plan.

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The **Health Careers Committee** has planned a health career expo for late 2007. Tristate high school students and interested adults will be able to visit simulated health care occupation environments sponsored by Tristate hospitals. Colleges and universities will also be present to provide information about admissions, curriculum, financial aid and scholarships.

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The **Public Relations and Communications Committee** met in early December to discuss communications strategies for several upcoming issues and events. These included three pending releases of information: 2005 uncompensated care data, the release of hospital-specific data from the Hospital Quality Improvement Project and the implementation of tobacco-free campuses on January 1.

Committee members also received a briefing on community-wide communications protocols for public health emergencies and discussed public education and communication strategies for the winter flu season along with the implementation of visitor restrictions. Also discussed was how to better com-

municate hospitals' commitment to serving the core city population in light of attention on growing hospital construction taking place in the suburbs. Finally, hospitals were encouraged to submit names for the Council's 2007 Innovative Solutions Award and to participate in a historical poster display for the Council's upcoming 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2007.

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The security of emergency medications was one topic of discussion at the November meeting of the **Quality/Accreditation Committee**. Dee Murphy of St. Elizabeth Medical Center reported on her facility's approach to this Joint Commission standard and offered to share information with all members of the committee on crash-cart locks that the hospital has procured. St. Luke provided a report on their recent Joint Commission survey. A number of surveys are still pending for 2006 and will be reported to the committee at its January 24 meeting.

Other topics included recent work of the Patient Safety Committee and a Patient Safety subgroup that is working on medication tracking card distribution and evaluation. New Joint Commission standards around disruptive behavior, conflict resolution, credentialing and verbal orders were also discussed. A speaker on TUV, a possible future alternate program to the Joint Commission, will be asked to present at an upcoming meeting.

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The **Infection Control Advisory Committee** has recently formed a subcommittee that is developing a Pandemic Flu annex to add to hospitals' Emerging Infectious Disease Plans, as well as the Regional Hospital Response Plan. The subcommittee has also discussed a press release announcing visitor restrictions.

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The **Disaster Preparedness Committee** has created a subcommittee to discuss issues surrounding communications. The first meeting was held and feedback will be presented to the Steering Committee for further direction. Reports on current disaster- and grant-related activities were discussed.

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The **Tri-State Trauma Coalition Board** met and nominated officers for the upcoming year. In addition, the Coalition is recommending the addition

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# Collaborative Update

## Funding Supports "No Undiagnosed Diabetes"

In 2006 the Greater Cincinnati Diabetes Program received several grants in support of its "no undiagnosed diabetes" screening initiative, particularly in the screening of adult patients at local community health centers. Individuals and foundations that have supported the program through grants in 2006 include:

- John and Phyllis Smale Foundation – \$50,000
- Greater Cincinnati Foundation – \$50,000 (including \$3,500 from the Frances Ehrlich Wolf Fund in memory of Alfred Max Stern)
- Federated Department Stores Foundation – \$25,000
- Manuel D. & Rhoda Mayerson Foundation – \$10,000

## Deaconess Hospital Joins HealthBridge

Deaconess Hospital has joined HealthBridge, a Collaborative subsidiary that provides clinical results electronically to the region's physicians. As a participant in HealthBridge, Deaconess will be a part of one common platform that allows physicians and office staff to communicate electronically with all urban and suburban hospitals. HealthBridge annually exchanges 19.2 million lab results, radiology readings and transcribed notes to over 4,400 area physicians and nursing homes.

HealthBridge is the only fully funded, self-sustaining Health Information Exchange (HIE) in the United States. It serves southwest Ohio, north central Kentucky and southeastern Indiana and includes 19 hospitals, radiology centers, transcription services and laboratories. HealthBridge has 720,000 medical professional logins each year.

## Low Birth Weight Initiative Update

Recent highlights from the Collaborative's low birth weight initiative include:

- The Fay Women's Circle, a women's wellness group that the Collaborative helped to form in the Fay Apartments neighborhood three years ago,

*continued on page 6*

## Collaborative Presents Annual Celebration of Leadership

Renowned Broadway entertainer Ben Vereen inspired a crowd of almost 400 community leaders as the keynote speaker for the Health Improvement Collaborative of Greater Cincinnati's Celebration of Collaborative Leadership on Thursday, November 2, at the Hyatt Regency downtown.

In his message, Vereen shared his own experiences with the health care industry, both in an acute care setting and during the rehabilitation process, after suffering a near-fatal accident and stroke in 1994. He noted that the most meaningful approach to care, from a patient perspective, is when health care providers can go beyond seeing those they care for as "patients," but rather human beings. He encouraged the audience to value health care professionals who go the extra step to encourage healing, primarily through quality and compassionate care that is delivered in a manner that preserves patient dignity. He also reminded practitioners and caregivers that they hold the power of hope in their hands, and that one encouraging phrase can mean the difference between a patient's life and death. In his own situation, a nurse told Vereen that she was not going to let him die. He credits her with giving him hope and saving his life.

Vereen commended the Collaborative for its approach to community



Keynote speaker Ben Vereen.

health improvement, and its capacity to bring competing forces together to work toward the common good.

Awards were given to several dedicated individuals and organizations that have offered their time and talents over the past years.

The Collaborative's **Volunteer Leadership Award** was given to

- Bradley S. Jackson, MD, president of the Cincinnati Medical Association and a partner at Premier Pediatric Group in Mason
- John C. Peters, PhD, Associate Director of the Nutrition Science Institute at Procter & Gamble
- Trisha Rayner, Director of Program Development for the YMCA of Greater Cincinnati

The **Friend of the Collaborative Award** was presented to the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine and accepted by Dean David Stern, MD.

The **Collaborative Leadership Award**, the Collaborative's highest honor, was presented to former Collaborative executive director, Lynn R. Olman.



Tom Wilburn, right, was named chair emeritus and received a crystal gavel from incoming chair Jim Schwab.

*continued on page 7*

# Health Council Names New Positions

The Greater Cincinnati Health Council has announced the following promotions effective November 1, 2006:

**Nancy M. Strassel** has been promoted to senior vice president. She has served as a Health Council vice president since 1993, overseeing the organization's internal and external communications and data services program. In this newly created position, Strassel will lead the Council's growing focus on quality and patient safety, provide support to the president for the organization's advocacy work in the community and continue to provide strategic direction and oversight for the Council's communications and data services functions.

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**Tonda Francis, RN, MSN**, has been named a Health Council vice president. In this new position, Francis will have oversight responsibility for all emergency readiness and related activities of the Council, including leading the Disaster Preparedness, Emergency Department Managers, Hospital Status Task Force and Infection Control committees; representing the Council and its members on community committees and task forces such as Airport Disaster Preparedness, Southwest Ohio/Southeast Indiana/Northern Kentucky Preparedness Advisory Committee, Hamilton County Terrorism Advisory Team and Hamilton County Local Emergency Preparedness Committee; and managing activities associated with

federal disaster/terrorism grants received by local hospitals. Francis will also remain as executive director of the Tri-State Trauma Coalition as well as serve as the regional hospital coordinator for Disaster Preparedness, overseeing activities of the hospitals in the region and collaborating with other entities such as public health and support agencies such as emergency management agencies, emergency medical services, and others.

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**Mary Duffey** has been promoted to executive director of the Health Care Workforce Center. Duffey was formerly the Center's director, where she was responsible for Tristate health care workforce development initiatives including coordination with area high schools, college and university health care programs and other major activities of the Center. Duffey will continue to lead and expand those activities and will also now serve as the Council's main liaison to the Northern Kentucky Chamber.

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**Dora Anim** has been named assistant vice president. In addition to her current responsibilities, which include management of the Council's Hospital Quality Improvement Project, utilization and human resources studies, Anim will work to consolidate the patient safety and quality functions of the Council. She will also assume responsibility for staffing the Quality/Accreditation and Pharmacy

committees and will co-staff the Patient Safety Committee.

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**Suzanne Moody** is now the Council's manager of Emergency Readiness and Safety. In this newly created position, Moody's responsibilities will include managing the Council's Hospital Status/Disaster Web site including data tracking and reporting, meeting federal grant reporting and tracking requirements, and serving as the Tri-State Trauma Coalition's regional trauma registrar. She will also be responsible for staffing the Council's Occupational/Environmental Safety and Health Committee and the Safety and Security Committee and will conduct these committees' and the emergency department managers' annual benchmarking studies. She will also serve as an alternate for the vice president on various community committees and task forces. Moody was formerly the assistant to the director of Information Services. ■

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## Collaborative Update

*continued from page 5*

was highlighted in Good Samaritan Hospital's *Compassion* magazine. The magazine featured a profile on Mary Beth Basch, a Trihealth parish nurse who provides health education and conducts a writing circle for the group members.

- The low birth weight initiative was represented at a November 2 Smoke-Free Ohio press conference in Cincinnati. During the press conference, hospital and civic leaders publicly announced their intent to vote NO on Issue 4 and YES on Issue 5 in the November 4 election. Issue 4, a proposed amendment to the Ohio constitution that would have allowed smoking in restaurants and many other public places, was subsequently voted down. Issue 5, a law banning smoking in all restaurants, public places and workplaces, passed. Had both issues passed, Issue 4 would have trumped Issue 5 (because it was a constitutional amendment) and overturned 21 local smoke-free laws already in place. ■



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## People

McCullough-Hyde Memorial Hospital has hired **Tammy C. Wood** in the position of vice president and chief administrative officer. Wood has held a number of positions at a surgery center, a private physician practice and two hospitals.

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**Stella Ling, MD**, has been hired as the radiation oncologist for the new Foster J. Boyd, MD, regional Cancer Center, under construction by CMH Regional Health System and scheduled to open in February. Ling, originally from Beaver-

creek, Ohio, is moving back to Ohio from Berkeley, California, where she was medical director for the Bay Area Regional Cancer Center in Pinole.

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**Leigh Gerdson**, chief operating officer of Hospice of Cincinnati, has been chosen as the recipient of this year's Heart of Ohio Award from the Ohio Hospice and Palliative Care Organization. This honor is given to hospice professionals who have made significant and repeated achievements in palliative care. ■



## **Christ Hospital Eliminates Visiting Hour Restrictions**

Effective December 1, The Christ Hospital eliminated visiting hour restrictions for private room inpatients. The time restrictions were lifted to promote a family-centered environment.

## **Dearborn County Hospital Installs New MRI System**

Dearborn County Hospital has installed a new high-definition magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) system. The GE Healthcare Signa® EXCITE 1.5 Tesla HD magnetic resonance imaging system provides detailed anatomy and pathology pictures to aid physicians in evaluating a wide range of patient conditions. Additional MRI scans that Dearborn County Hospital can now provide include assessments of the brain, liver, pancreas, bile ducts, pelvis and abdominal area, in addition to more comprehensive imaging of the brain.

## **TriHealth to Expand Services with Butler County Land Purchase**

In November TriHealth officials announced the purchase of 15 acres of land from Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. The \$3.6 million purchase is part of TriHealth's long-term growth strategy and allows for a defined presence in Butler County. The land is part of 65 acres recently purchased by Cincinnati Children's. Development of the land is anticipated to begin in 18 months to two years, with preliminary plans to include adult ambulatory services with a full array of outpatient services, as well as primary and specialty care physician offices.

## **St. Luke Hospital West to Offer Open Heart Surgery and Emergency Angioplasty Services**

St. Luke Hospital West in Florence has been approved by the Commonwealth of Kentucky to establish an open heart surgery program. The Certificate of Need (CON) allows St. Luke West to provide open heart surgery and emergency angioplasty services. The program is expected to be available within a year.

## **Health Alliance Breaks Ground for The Lindner Center of HOPE**

On October 27 the Health Alliance of Greater Cincinnati broke ground for The Craig and Frances Lindner Center of HOPE (Helping Other People Excel). The new mental health facility will be built on a secluded site off Old Western Row Road in Mason. Construction is anticipated to be complete by mid-2008. The 86,500-square-foot facility will be located on 35 acres, with 56 inpatient beds, including units serving adults, older adults and adolescents. It will be jointly operated by The Health Alliance and The Lindner Foundation. The Center of HOPE will offer comprehensive inpatient and outpatient psychiatric treatment for adolescents, adults and older adults through an integrated, evidence-based program of patient care, education and research.

## **Shriners Hospitals for Children in Cincinnati Wins National Top Performer Award**

Press Ganey Associates has named Shriners Hospitals for Children – Cincinnati a 2006 Summit Award Winner. Press Ganey is a nationally recognized company that partners with health care facilities to measure the level of customer satisfaction and improve their quality of health care delivery. Shriners was one of 61 health care organizations nationwide to win this award. The Summit Award recognizes top performing facilities that sustain the highest level of customer satisfaction for three or more consecutive years.

## **Major Gift Completes St. Elizabeth Foundation Project Goal for New Hospice Facility**

A \$2 million gift from the Carol Ann and Ralph V. Haile/US Bank Foundation has enabled St. Elizabeth Medical Center Foundation to exceed the goal of funding the new freestanding inpatient hospice facility on the Edgewood campus. The gift is the largest ever received by the medical center. The hospice building will be named in honor of the Haile/US Bank Foundation. The facility is currently under construction on the St. Elizabeth South campus and is expected to be completed in March.

## **Mercy Hospital Clermont Recognized as a National Leader in the Treatment of Pneumonia**

Mercy Hospital Clermont is among the top 4 percent of hospitals nationally in the treatment of pneumonia. The recognition comes from CareScience, an independent health care monitoring organization that rates hospitals on quality of care in disease-specific categories.

## **Deaconess Hospital Coding Wins National Recognition**

Deaconess Hospital has been ranked one of the top 200 hospitals in the country, based on the most complete and compliant coding practices in 2005, according to the "2006 Top 200 Coding Hospitals in the U.S." report by HSS, an Ingenix company and nationally recognized leader in solutions for streamlining coding, regulatory and reimbursement processes. More than 3,000 hospitals in four categories were analyzed nationwide. Deaconess was identified as a top performer in its peer group – urban, non-teaching – and is recognized for setting a high standard for effective coding and documentation practices. ■

## ***Collaborative Celebration***

*continued from page 5*

A special award was presented by incoming chair, James E. Schwab to L. Thomas Wilburn, Jr. who has been chairman of the Collaborative's board of trustees since its inception. Wilburn received the honor of being the Collaborative's first chair emeritus.

The Collaborative would like to thank those individuals and organizations that supported this year's event and whose support will enable the continuation of the programs of the collaborative and improving community health through collaborative leadership. Sponsors included:

- Presenting Sponsor: TriHealth
- Platinum Sponsors: Procter & Gamble Pharmaceuticals and Procter & Gamble Global Beauty, Personal Health Care and Oral Care
- Gold Sponsors: Catholic Healthcare Partners, GE – Aviation, and Queen City General and Vascular Surgeons Group. ■

# Go for the Gold at Solutions 2007!

Welcome to today – the Golden Age of health care! At Solutions 2007, a treasure trove of information awaits – complete with pearls of wisdom, gems of insight, and silver-lined strategies for maintaining a gold standard of service in an ever-changing world!

- Learn from kick-off speaker Emily Friedman how your quest toward a gold standard of service begins with a focus on quality in three crucial areas: care, community and conscience.
- Gain insight from keynote speaker Tim Porter O’Grady about how evidence-driven actions are your keys for ushering in a new phase of health care.
- Understand why integrity and credibility, according to Solutions Spotlight speaker Adrian Gostick, are vital cornerstones for effective leadership.
- Identify methods for retaining the Tristate’s most experienced nurses.



## SOLUTIONS 2007

- Participate in a dialogue about best methods to communicate hospital benefits to the community.
- Be “in the know” about the Tristate’s emerging health care market trends.
- Celebrate “outside-the-box” quality initiatives during the presentation of the Health Council’s second annual Innovative Solutions Award. ■

**Solutions 2007 is Wednesday, February 28, at the Northern Kentucky Convention Center.**

**For more information, call (513) 531-0200 or visit [www.gchc.org](http://www.gchc.org).**

## Greater Cincinnati **Health Council**

If it involves health,  
we’re involved.

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## Committee Updates

*continued from page 4*

of three positions to the Board for the upcoming year. The Coalition sponsored four Advanced Trauma Life Support classes throughout the year, preparing residents and physicians for care of trauma patients. The regional registry is currently in the implementation stage and scheduled to “go live” on January 1. Tristate hospitals submit data, which is aggregated regionally. The data from the Ohio hospitals will be forwarded up to the state to meet the mandatory reporting requirement. Quality improvement initiatives and opportunities will be pursued based on regional data to improve the trauma system.

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The **Long-Term Care Committee** has concluded its year of CEU educational programs/networking opportunities for long-term care members. The 2006 sessions addressed the topics of disaster awareness; working with challenging families; recruitment/retention issues; and safety and ergonomics. Planning for 2007 programs is underway, including a March 21 program on conflict management. ■

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