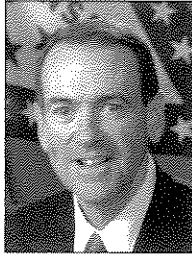


Huckabee Draws Crowd to Annual Award Dinner

Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee was the keynote speaker at the Health Improvement Collaborative's 2005 Award Dinner, the third annual celebration of collaborative leadership, held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel downtown in October. Nearly 400 Greater Cincinnati community leaders gathered for the evening to recognize several Collaborative volunteers and to celebrate the Collaborative's successes.



Huckabee shared his message that there is an ongoing disaster of national proportions occurring. A total of 600,000 Americans die each year, or nearly 2,000 per day, due to lack of exercise and smoking, as compared to 3,000 on September 11 and 1,000 in Hurricane Katrina. Huckabee suggested some systemic changes and encouraged the audience to take responsibility for eating less and exercising more to maintain their health.

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Huckabee, president of the National Governor's Association and entertaining a run for President in 2008, saved his own life through a radical change in what he eats and how he exercises. Diagnosed in 2003 with diabetes, he lost 110 pounds and completed the Little Rock Marathon last March.

"I realized my personal situation was really a picture of the country," Huckabee said. "Obesity rates are up in this country by 77 percent since 1990."

Awards were presented to several outstanding Collaborative volunteers at the dinner.

A. David Jimenez, CEO of Presenting Sponsor Catholic Healthcare Partners, presented the Friend of the Collaborative Award to Ambassador Rob Portman, which was accepted by his representative. Portman provided assistance to the Collaborative to identify funding opportunities for Ohio On the Move and is one of the Collaborative's more vocal and renowned public advocates.

Volunteer Leadership Awards were presented by Tom Finn of Procter & Gamble, a Platinum Sponsor of the event, to David Jimenez, Paul Beckman (Anthem Blue Cross & Blue Shield) and Nora Zorich, MD, PhD (Procter & Gamble Pharmaceuticals). All three recipients contribute significant time and energy to the Collaborative, serving on committees in leadership roles, attending events and activities and constantly work to further the mission of the organization.

The Collaborative's highest honor, the Collaborative Leadership Award, was given by Dorothy Coleman of UnitedHealthcare, a Platinum Sponsor, in memory of former Cincinnati Health Commissioner, Malcolm Adcock, PhD, who passed away in December 2004. At the time of his death he was chair of the Collaborative's Community Health Assessment Committee and took particular interest in the Collaborative's measurement and analysis component. Dr. Adcock maintained a constant presence at the Collaborative as a "hands-on" volunteer and an endless champion of the Collaborative's work. ■

Collaborative Update

Cincinnati MD Resource Center Expands Services

Cincinnati MD Resource Center held its first ever career fair for physicians on November 10, which has already resulted in a new hire. While the turnout at the event was fewer than hoped, the attendees were all high quality candidates, sincerely interested in working in Greater Cincinnati. Sponsors reported that they were pleased with the event, and they look forward to supporting a larger event next year.

The Cincinnati MD Resource Center recently participated in a physician career fair in Cleveland where its staff spoke with 200 residents/fellows and created the highest month to-date of new candidate registrations. Due to the positive experience, Cincinnati MD Resource Center is scheduled to participate in six physician career fairs in the coming months.

Thirteen people attended the first "Physician Employer Roundtable" to

learn more about maximizing the services of Cincinnati MD Resource Center and sharing recruiting and retention ideas with each other. For more information about the monthly series, visit www.cincinnatiMDjobs.com.

To date, Cincinnati MD Resource Center has participated in 39 hires and it has 222 candidates actively seeking work in Greater Cincinnati. There are 135 jobs posted on its Web site, www.cincinnatiMDjobs.com, from 81 employers. The site has received 230,000 hits, 18,333 unique visitors and 5,302 of those visitors came back more than once.

HealthBridge Chosen to Participate in Designing a National Health Information Network

The Health Improvement Collaborative's subsidiary, HealthBridge, was recently selected by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to participate in a groundbreaking project to

develop a prototype for a Nationwide Health Information Network (NHIN) architecture. Over the coming year, HealthBridge will be working with a group of organizations, led by Northrop Grumman, to design and implement a standards-based network prototype. Four total consortia were chosen to participate in this program, each comprised of technology developers and health care providers. The four consortia will share ideas and information about their efforts with each other and the public in order to accelerate secure and seamless exchange of health information across the nation. For more information on HealthBridge, visit www.healthbridge.org.

Collaborative Welcomes New Staff

The Health Improvement Collaborative welcomed two new staff members to its organization in December.

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