Ohio State Representatives Bride Rose Sweeney and Terrence Upchurch visited Cleveland Sight Center last week on Tuesday, August 17th. Both of these local representatives were here for a tour of the agency and conversation with Larry Benders (President and Chief Executive Officer) and Alicia Howerton (Community Relations Specialist). Along the way, the group had an opportunity to meet various staff and clients in the building attending the Leisure & Lifestyle Services department’s End-of-Summer social in the Clyde E. Williams, Jr. Auditorium.

State Representative Sweeney serves the people of the 14th Ohio House District, which includes Ward 16 and 17 of Cleveland as well as the suburbs of Brooklyn, Brook Park, Middleburg Heights and Parma Heights. She was the first woman elected to represent the district and the youngest Democratic Member of the 133rd General Assembly.

State Representative Upchurch was born and raised in the greater Collinwood and Glenville communities where he now serves the people of House District 10. He recently served as a special assistant to Cleveland Council and previously worked alongside Cuyahoga County Councilman Anthony Hairston. From his time working in city council, he has learned and developed a keen understanding of the nuances of government which he brings to the Statehouse.
Educating the Community:

- Earlier in August, the Outreach team facilitated panel discussions among 16 first-year medical students at Case Western Reserve University in the Chronic Conditions Field Experience program with 16 CSC clients (and some family members). A note was recently received from the Field Experiences Coordinator of the program, which stated:

  “On behalf of the Block 1 Curriculum Design Team, we wanted to take the opportunity to thank you and your organization for virtually hosting our first-year medical students to learn about your mission and work as part of our Health Systems/Chronic Conditions Field Experiences 2021!

  The experiences they had with you were very powerful and will frame their approach to the rest of their medical education and careers, especially in light of continuing global constraints of a world with COVID-19.

  We know that these visits, whether virtual or our traditional in-person format, take time and effort to coordinate and we greatly appreciate your willingness to contribute to the training of our next generation of physicians who will carry this new vision to change our healthcare system for the better.”

- The Outreach team received an email from a low vision support group leader in follow-up to their in-person and virtual presentation at the Strongsville Senior Center this week, stating "thank you for your wonderful and informative presentation. The members were very enthusiastic about the meeting and gained so much information. Your friendly, relaxed presentation style was very welcoming and encouraging to the participants."

- Cleveland Clinic Cole Eye Institute resident Dr. Kevin Zheng recently shadowed Dr. Annalisa Schloss (Optometrist) in the Low Vision Clinic and toured the agency with Alicia Howerton (Community Relations Specialist). Dr. Zheng is very interested in learning more about pediatric ophthalmology after touring the Empowerment Park and Bright Futures Preschool areas of the agency.

- The marketing team recently worked with the Low Vision Clinic (LVC) staff to distribute their first digital newsletter, “Focal Points.” Focal Points will be sent to ophthalmologists and other doctors that refer to LVC on a quarterly basis to update them on the below:

  • Information about diagnosis-specific interventions that we provide to help patients maximize their remaining functional vision, including articles from our specialized staff
  • Patient success stories
  • Information about low vision products and aids

  The first newsletter was sent to nearly 200 contacts and is available to view here: https://mailchi.mp/bf7cf6d1fa9f/focal-points-when-glasses-arent-enough-for-your-patients-4944342
Barb Williams (Early Childhood Intervention Specialist) recently recorded a conference presentation with three colleagues from other agencies on the topic of Cortical Visual Impairment, or CVI. The presentation will be shown at OCALICON, a state-wide conference for professional and parents in Ohio taking place November 16 – 19 in a virtual format. OCALI is the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence populations.

What’s Happening at CSC:

- Leisure & Lifestyle Services (L&LS) is staying busy and are excited to announce two events coming up in September. See details below and for more information about L&LS programming, call the Recreation Line at 216-658-4600.

Come one, come all to the Cleveland Sight Center Carnival! Get ready for classic carnival games like “Duck Pond” and “Bean Bag Toss” as well as an ice cream stand and crafts galore! Each activity booth will pass out tickets for a raffle, with prizes like audiobooks, craft supplies and more! The carnival will be held in the Clyde E. Williams, Jr. Auditorium and Recreation Room at Cleveland Sight Center on Tuesday, September 14th from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Image is a graphic stating “Cleveland Sight Center Carnival” as though they are a lit-up sign, with a big top carnival roof.

-The time has come for what many have been waiting for: the return to overnights at Highbrook Lodge! Join the Highbrook Lodge team for Fall Weekend at camp as 15 camper spots are available for the weekend of September 24th-26th. Help the crew solve the mystery of the “Highbrook Ghost,” who has been pulling hilarious pranks on Camp Manager Bobbie Szabo and Camp Ranger Kevin Pye for the past year! For registration information, pricing, eligibility and more, visit: www.clevelandsightcenter.org/highbrook-lodge

-A group of 20 students from Case Western Reserve University recently spent time volunteering at Highbrook Lodge completing tasks like painting, landscaping and weeding, cleaning and stacking wood into piles for upcoming fall festivities.

-The CSC Safety Committee gathered on Thursday, August 19th to review incident reports filed in the last quarter, review the results of their quarterly walkthrough and discussed general safety matters. The Safety Committee consists of Charlotte Fornal, Chris Gruber, Cathy Javorsky, Kevin Krencisz, Scott Malone, Sherry Raymont, Curtis Smiley and Ali Thomas.
-Please be aware there are two trees that have limb damage and in general are no longer healthy as determined by our arborist vendor. The trees are in between the north wing of the building and the north parking lot and they have yellow caution tape around them. Please avoid the area.

**Item of Note:**

-The prices for postage will be increasing effective August 29th, 2021. If you have any prepaid envelopes please give them to Bobbie Christopher (x4551) for postage adjustment.

-An announcement from the Ohio Department of Transportation:

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has extended the face mask requirement for all transportation networks, including public transportation, through January 18, 2022. TSA’s initial face mask requirement went into effect on February 1, 2021 with an expiration date of May 11, 2021 and was then extended through September 13, 2021.

While this announcement extends the date of enforcement, all other aspects of the requirement remain unchanged, including exemptions and civil penalties. Learn more about FTA’s guidance to the transit industry on the Federal mask requirement for public transit at the [FTA Transit Mask Up webpage](#).

**Links**

TSA: [Face Mask Requirement Extension Press Release](#)
TSA: [Security Directive 1582/84-21-01](#)
CDC: [Requirement for Face Masks on Public Transportation Conveyances and at Transportation Hubs](#)
FTA: [ Transit Mask Up Webpage](#)

**Did You Know:**

-Did you know in a typical grocery store, one-fourth of all the products contain ingredients that come from corn. For example, soft drinks contain corn syrup...and french fries and chicken nuggets would not be crispy without corn fiber.