

## **CSC Introduces Lawrence E. Benders, 10<sup>th</sup> Executive Director of the Agency:**

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Cleveland Society for the Blind, Board Chair Bill Spring announced today CSC's new President and Executive Director, Lawrence E. Benders. Larry will be the 10<sup>th</sup> Executive Director in CSC's storied 109-year history.

"Cleveland Sight Center has a century-old reputation in the community for service delivery and advocacy. I'm honored by this opportunity and look forward to working with Steve Freidman, Cleveland Sight Center's staff, volunteers and board to help our clients achieve their full potential in life," said Larry Benders.

On April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015, Larry Benders will succeed outgoing President and Executive Director Steven Friedman, PhD, who last summer announced to the Board his intention to retire. Steve has made a significant impact over his seven years, leading the agency to a successful conclusion of the Vision 21 Capital Campaign and overseeing the renovation of CSC's main campus building. These, along with other accomplishments across Dr. Friedman's tenure, will be recognized at CSC's Annual Meeting on May 13<sup>th</sup>. Special thanks to the executive search committee, led by Board Trustee Rob Hartford in this extensive, nationally-conducted search.

Larry's most recent position was the Director of Development for Cuyahoga County, where he managed a \$100 million economic lending program and oversaw numerous federal and state community development grants. His personal community experience is substantial; he served on the Boards of the Deaconess Foundation; Cleveland Public Art; Malachi House; the Cleveland Sight Center; Roots of American Music; 10,000 Villages of Cleveland; and the Fund for the Future of Shaker Heights.

Larry will bring a fresh vitality and focus to our services to people who are blind or have vision loss – from the youngest preschooler to the oldest senior. CSC's mission will be well served by Larry's experience and abilities.

Larry and his wife, Alison Mearns Benders JD, PhD, are residents of Cleveland Heights.

### **Strengthening Partnerships:**

Christina Delos Reyes, M.D., Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at University Hospitals of Cleveland, joined the weekly Supported Employment (SE) team meeting on March 17<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Reyes participates in the SE team meeting once each month to offer Employment Specialists guidance on helping clients better manage psychological issues that are affecting their progress in achieving employment. Regularly-scheduled consultation of this kind is one of the 25 standards of the evidence-based Supported Employment/Individualized Placement and Support (SE/IPS) vocational services model, which CSC adopted in 2010 and is now in its 5<sup>th</sup> year of implementation. During the last fiscal year, 50 clients of the SE program achieved employment in competitive jobs. Later this year, Case Western Reserve University's Center for Evidence-Based Practices will conduct its 5<sup>th</sup> Fidelity Review of CSC's SE program. The Fidelity Review audits the SE team's adherence to each of the 25 practice standards of the SE/IPS vocational services model and offers the team guidance when shortcomings are observed.

Tim Moran represented CSC at the Ernfeldt Senior Center Health Fair in Strongsville on Thursday.

Bright Futures Preschool visits Case Western Reserve University on Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> as the Delta Gamma's complete a service project, which will include arts, crafts, lunch and interaction with the youngsters.

### **Supported Employment Stakeholders Meeting:**

On March 26<sup>th</sup>, the Supported Employment (SE) department will host their quarterly Stakeholders Committee meeting. The Stakeholders Committee, a voluntary group that advises the SE team, was created for the purpose of bringing all SE stakeholder interests together in a group. Stakeholders can provide recommendations directly to SE staff on services provided, networking opportunities and any other matter of concern. Having a Stakeholders Committee is part of maintaining fidelity with the Supported Employment Model.

### **CARF Corner:**

CARF is the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities and its mission is to promote the quality, value and optimal outcomes of services through a consultative accreditation process and continuous improvement services that center on enhancing the lives of persons served.

Why does accreditation matter? When an agency is CARF-accredited, it means the organization has passed an in-depth review of its services. CARF accreditation means that you can be confident that an organization has made a commitment to continually enhance the quality of its services and programs and its focus is on consumer satisfaction.

Opportunity for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) providers *must* be accredited by either CARF in an accepted employment area, the Joint Commission (JC) in the area of behavioral health or the National Accrediting Council on agencies serving the Blind & Visually Impaired (NAC).

### **Great Lakes Theatre Visits CSC:**

The Recreation team hosted Great Lakes Theatre on Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup> and the production of "The Great Globe Itself".

### **Weekend Action at Highbrook Lodge:**

The Arc of Greater Cleveland, an agency that helps people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, visits Highbrook Lodge this weekend for a Partners & Policies workshop.

### **Consumer Council Update:**

The Consumer Council hosted a forum at CSC on Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup> with over 50 people in attendance. Dr. Steven Friedman welcomed the group then Lisa Cellura provided an overview of the agency's history. Steve Frohwerk discussed agency communications and special events and Curtis Smiley talked about transportation offerings. Oliver Draper, Director of Paratransit Services for the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (RTA), answered questions facilitated by Dr. Anthony

Easley. Thanks to Dr. Easley and Board Trustee Cheryl Fields for organizing a great event and the volunteer students from Case for Sight. The next Consumer Council Forum is scheduled for Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at CSC and advocacy will be discussed.

[Click here](#) to an article that discusses accessibility to cable boxes and television.

### **Upcoming Events:**

CSC welcomes the Delta Gamma Fraternity as they celebrate Founders Day Brunch 2015 on Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at CSC. The event, which is being chaired by Board Trustee Mary Tookman, welcomes over 140 Delta Gammas and will celebrate membership milestones and accomplishments through special awards and recognitions. On behalf of the agency, Dr. Steven Friedman will welcome members followed by a brief history of the agency by Lisa Cellura. Tours of our facility will also be offered to attendees.

CSC's young professionals group, the Visionaries, will host a "bring a friend" open house on Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup>. The event is from 5:30pm – 7:30pm in the Clyde E. Williams, Jr. Auditorium and will include hors d'oeuvres, drinks and tours of the agency.

CYAS Spring Fling is Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am – 12:00pm. Tickets for raffle baskets will be available for purchase next week. Contact [Lorie Marsalis](#) (x8768) for details on this family-fun event!

Night at the Races will be held at CSC on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. Any donation will be matched, dollar for dollar, by an anonymous (and generous!) donor. All proceeds will benefit Highbrook Lodge! For more information including buying tickets or sponsoring a horse [click here](#).

### **Items of Note:**

The Eyedea Shop has inventory slated for March 30 – 31. Get your shopping in before March 30!

The winter 2015 edition of Geauga Business Magazine features the Red Maple Inn, located in Burton, OH and owned by Board Trustee Gordon Safran and Evie Safran. [Click here](#) for the magazine – the article can be found on pages 14-15 of the publication.

### **Tickets Still Available for "The Way He Looks":**

Join us this year at the [Cleveland International Film Festival](#) as CSC sponsors the film "The Way He Looks." Meet Leo, a blind teen who navigates growing up and falling in love in Brazil. The film is in Portuguese with subtitles. For more information on the film and to purchase tickets [click here](#).