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## **Community Action network elects leadership**

The Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies elected officers for its Board of Trustees at its annual Summer Conference June 16.

Gwen L. Robinson, President and CEO of Cincinnati-Hamilton County Community Action Agency, was reelected President of the OACAA Board. Ms. Robinson has been president and CEO of CHCAA since 1995 and grown the agency into a major institution of service in the community. She also oversaw the construction of two new multi-million dollar facilities to serve CAA's clients and families.

David Brightbill, Executive Director of the Community Action Corporation of Washington and Morgan Counties was reelected First Vice President. Mr. Brightbill has been with Washington-Morgan for 40 years, with 23 of those years being in the position of Executive Director. He has shown his leadership and dedication to not only the area, but to the entire Community Action Network. In addition to the OACAA Board, he currently serves on the boards for the Corporation for Ohio Appalachian Development (COAD) and Community Action Program Legal Services Inc. (CAP Law). He is also a Trustee for his alma mater, Ohio University.

William T. Locke, Executive Director of Lorain County Community Action Agency was reelected Second Vice President of the OACAA Board. Locke has an extensive history in community service. After leading Lorain CAA from 1988 to 1999, he came out of retirement in 2006 to serve again. He also has extensive experience in Community Action in Portage County, in Cincinnati and at the state level. He also serves as a board member on the Ohio Urban Resources System, the Workforce Development Board of Lorain County, the Children and Family Council of Lorain County and the Lorain City Schools Financial Advisory Committee. He is a U.S. Army veteran of the Vietnam War.

Ruthann House, Vice President of WSOS Community Action Commission, was reelected treasurer of the OACAA Board. Ms. House is a 25-year employee of WSOS and has served as treasurer since 2006.

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Janice W. Warner, Executive Director of Erie Huron Counties Community Action Commission, was reelected Secretary of the OACAA Board. Ms. Warner has been the Executive Director since 2003 and employed with the agency for a total of 17 years. She also serves as Secretary for the Ohio Urban Resources Systems (OURS). She is the chairperson of BANDC; chairperson of the Civil Service Commission; Board Member of the Family and Children First Counsel for both Erie and Huron counties; and a member of both the Erie County Transportation Advisory Council and the Erie County Housing Task Force.

Ohio's Community Action network consists of 51 agencies around the state serving the needs of low-income people in all of Ohio's 88 counties. The agencies administer nearly \$750,000,000 in resources aimed at alleviating the problems of poverty in Ohio's communities. They employ more than 6,000 people and provide service to nearly 800,000 Ohioans. Programs include home heating assistance, weatherization, food pantries, Head Start and emergency shelters.

For more information on Community Action Agencies in Ohio, visit [www.oacaa.org](http://www.oacaa.org).

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