

**From:** "Vestewig, Lauren J."  
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**Subject:** 05-25 BP for CHC (Youngstown,OH)  
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[05-25 BP for CHC \(Youngstown,OH\).doc](#)

my suggestions. thanks.

## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

### A CONVERSATION ON HEALTH CARE AND COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

Tuesday, May 25, 2004  
1:20 p.m. – 2:40 p.m.  
Youngstown State University  
Youngstown, Ohio  
Margaret Spellings / Karl Rove

#### I. PURPOSE

To participate in a conversation on community health care centers.

#### II. BACKGROUND

You will participate in a conversation on community health centers with the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration, the CEO of Ohio North East Health Systems, an OB/GYN doctor, and two community health center patients.

The policy memo for today's event contains additional background information relevant to today's Conversation.

Youngstown State University (YSU) is located on 140 acres near downtown Youngstown, Ohio. YSU has an enrollment of approximately 12,700 students, of which approximately 11,375 are undergraduates. YSU has already concluded its spring semester and recently began its summer session. Approximately 2,500 students are enrolled for the summer semester.

**Note:** Today's event is in Congressman Tim Ryan's (D, OH-17) district, but he will not attend.

#### III. PARTICIPANTS

##### Stage Participants

Dr. Elizabeth "Betty" James Duke, Administrator, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

Dr. Ronald "Ron" Dwinells [dwin-NELLS], Chief Executive Officer, Ohio North East Health Systems, Inc.

Dr. Compton Girdharry, OB/GYN, Good Samaritan Community Health Center

Cynthia "Cindy" Sacco, Cancer Survivor, Youngstown Community Health Center

Joyce Phifer, Patient, Youngstown Community Health Center

##### VIPs in Audience

Senator George Voinovich (R, OH) (T)  
Congressman Steve LaTourette (R, OH-14) (T)  
Mayor George McKelvey (D) City of Youngstown (T)  
Mayor Toni Middleton (R) City of Alliance (T)  
TBD Atwater, Provost, Youngstown State University  
Bill Addington, Chief Operating Officer, Ohio North East Health Systems, Inc.  
Paul Sracic, TBD Title,  
Dr. Bill Binning, TBD Title  
George Brown, TBD Title  
Todd Dicken, TBD Title, YSU

Sidney “Sid” M. Harris, USA Freedom Corps Greeter

185 invited guests, including staff, friends, and family of the Youngstown Community Health Center, state and local elected officials, and community leaders

White House Staff

COS: Joe Hagin, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations  
Event/Policy: Alan Gilbert, Special Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy  
Press: Scott McClellan, Press Secretary

IV. PRESS PLAN

Open

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- You arrive at Youngstown State University, proceed to the Actor’s Studio One and are greeted by Bill Addington, Paul Sracic, Dr. Bill Binning, George Brown, and Todd Dicken.
- You proceed to Actor’s Studio Two to greet stage participants.
- Stage participants proceed to stage.
- You are announced on to stage and proceed to your seat.
- Dr. Ron Dwinells welcomes guests.
- You begin conversation.
- Upon conclusion of the conversation, you work rope line, and depart.

VI. REMARKS

Provided by Speechwriting

VII. ATTACHMENT

## Background Information on Conversation Participants



## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON CONVERSATION PARTICIPANTS**

**Note: A condensed version of this background is included on the large-print cards for use at the event.**

Elizabeth “Betty” James Duke, Ph.D., Administrator, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) (Rockville, Maryland)

- Betty was named administrator for HRSA on March 6, 2002, after serving as acting administrator for the previous year. HRSA is part of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).
- HRSA is responsible for the implementation of your Health Centers Initiative, which seeks to expand access to high-quality, affordable health care for low-income Americans by adding 1,200 new or expanded sites to serve an additional 6.1 million more people by 2006. This increase in funding will increase the total number of patients served each year from about ten million in 2001 to more than 16 million in 2006.
- HRSA helps expand access to quality health care for all Americans through an array of grants to state and local governments, health care providers, and health professions training programs.
- Your Administration’s 2005 total budget request for funding of the Community Health Centers (CHC) program was \$1.8 billion, representing a \$218 million increase over the 2004 budget. This funding supports a nationwide network of approximately 3,200 health center sites serving some 11 million low-income people, especially those without health insurance.
- HRSA also administers the National Health Service Corps (NHSC), which provides scholarships and student loan assistance in exchange for service by physicians and other health care professionals in underserved rural and inner-city areas, including community health centers.
- Betty previously served as deputy assistant secretary for administration in HHS’ Administration for Children and Families.
- She earned a bachelor’s degree in political science from Douglas College of Rutgers University, a master’s degree in political science and African studies from Northwestern University, and a doctorate in political science from George Washington University.
- Betty is married to Richard and is the widow of Carroll James. She has two daughters and three granddaughters.

Dr. Ronald “Ron” Dwinells [dwin-NELLS], Chief Executive Officer, Ohio North East Health Systems, Inc. (Youngstown, Ohio)

- Dr. Dwinells was named CEO of Ohio North East Health Systems in 1998 and is responsible for the overall administration of business and clinical activities at four health clinics in Youngstown, Warren, and Alliance, Ohio. These clinics are all part of the network that is funded under the Community Health Center (CHC) program.
- Dr. Dwinells has worked aggressively under your initiative to expand access to health care in the Youngstown community. Since your initiative began, Ohio North East has expanded its capacity to treat more patients in existing locations and added one new clinic.
- Dr. Dwinells applied for and received a grant at the end of 2003 to open a new clinic in Alliance, a neighboring community. The community did not have a Federally supported



CHC, and low-income residents of Alliance who needed affordable health care either had to drive to Youngstown or another community to receive care or schedule an appointment at a small, free clinic in town that was open several days each week.

- The new CHC in Alliance will operate five days each week beginning in June, and it has been operating on a temporary basis in recent months. It will provide primary and preventive service.
- Alliance and other areas in the state are experiencing a shortage of doctors, especially obstetricians, because of the medical liability crisis. The Alliance CHC has hired two obstetricians to serve the community (the Federal government provides medical liability insurance to CHCs and their health care workers under a special provision in Federal law).
- Dr. Dwinells has also worked to improve health care for minority populations in his area, and he received a \$40,000 grant in 2003 to help deliver better health care services to minorities with diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and depression. He has also participates in a similar program on cancer prevention.
- Prior to this position, Dr. Dwinells was a practicing pediatrician.
- He received his bachelor's and Doctor of Medicine degrees from the University of Kentucky and a master's in business administration from Youngstown State University.
- Dr. Dwinells and his wife Kathy have five children: Erin (15), Sarah (14), Emily (12), Abby (9), and Buddy (3).

Dr. Compton Girdharry, OB/GYN, Good Samaritan Community Health Center (Alliance, Ohio)

- Dr. Girdharry had been practicing obstetrics/gynecology in Alliance for the past 20 years when increasing medical liability insurance forced him to retire in February 2003.
- When Dr. Girdharry retired, many women in the area were forced to drive to other cities to receive services, and Dr. Girdharry feared many were forgoing prenatal care because of the inconvenience.
- He signed a contract to begin practicing with Good Samaritan Community Health Center on June 1, 2004. He and another OB/GYN will each work part-time so the health center will be able to provide full OB/GYN services.
- 28 pregnant women have already made appointments to see them when they open the practice in June.
- Dr. Girdharry says "this is a dream come true for me. I can practice medicine again and reach people that normally would not see a doctor".
- Dr. Girdharry and his wife Kimberly have **TBD** children.

Cynthia "Cindy" Sacco, Cancer Survivor and Patient, Youngstown Community Health Center (Vienna, Ohio)

- Cindy was uninsured and had not seen a doctor in a few years when she started having medical problems.
- She visited a free clinic for about six months, but they failed to diagnose her disease.
- Her daughter talked her into seeing the OB/GYN at the Youngstown Community Health Center (YCHC).

b(6)

b(6)

- Cindy believes that YCHC “saved her life” and is working at YCHC as a data entry assistant.
- Cindy is a widow and has two children. Her daughter, Beth, also works at YCHC. Cindy’s two grandsons are in the military. One is a marine and was stationed off the coast of Iraq for ten months. The other is in the army reserves and recently served in Kuwait.

Joyce Phifer, Patient, Youngstown Community Health Center (Youngstown, Ohio)

- b(6) She began visiting YCHC for regular check-ups and has been a regular patient at YCHC since 1997.
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- Joyce continues to visit YCHC b(6)
- b(6)
- Joyce believes YCHC has been a lifeline for her, and she appreciates that the health center treats all people in the community, regardless of their ability to pay.
- Joyce and her husband, William, have twelve children from this marriage and previous ones.