

Health

Understanding

Education

(HUE) Newsletter



Special Edition:

Honoring Mrs. Cheryl A. Boyce

Date: September 18, 2020

Mike DeWine, Governor

Dr. Deena Chisolm, PhD, Chair

Angela Dawson, Executive Director

HONORING MRS. CHERYL A. BOYCE



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EMERITUS



Remembrance

In this issue of the Ohio Commission on Minority Health, HUE Newsletter, we focus on the idea of remembrance. Remembrance is the intersection between time and space, people and events that live on --- both now in the present and in the future because of history, this intersection.

The OCMH remembers Ms. Cheryl Boyce, our Executive Director Emeritus, a pioneer in the fight against inequality and injustice. Director Emeritus Boyce advocated, advanced, adapted and laid an unwearied course for a better and healthier Ohio. Her historical legacy is imprinted on our memories -- all that she embodied. She will remain, now and in the future, a steadfast beacon for us that follow.

Those that serve the public at every level live and love the ideas of equality, but we know that the path and ideal is a calling paved in gravel. Ohioans are facing challenges unprecedented but not new, confusing yet transparent, fearful yet emboldened. With each challenge we unite for the common good and for decency. In President Lincoln's second inaugural address he noted, "with malice towards none, with charity for all, with firmness in the rights as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nations wounds, to care for those in need." Let us take time to remember all those that came before us, including Ms. Boyce; they have revealed to us now and in the future that the gravelly path of equality and justice is worth treading. This is a fight worth our effort and time. With remembrance, patience, and each small step, we shall see the fruits of our labor and reveal a better Ohio and world. All of Ohio will remember Ms. Cheryl Boyce and all who work for the ideals of equality and justice in our communities. Their actions reveal the best in Ohioans.

*Dr. Timothy Barreiro, Vice Chair, Ohio Commission on Minority Health
Chair, Communications Committee
Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine
Northeast Ohio Medical University
Director, St. Elizabeth Pulmonary Health & Research Center*





We learn in John 3:16 this promise, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

There is no question that Cheryl Boyce loved the Lord. She believed and trusted in Him totally with all her heart and soul. That should give us great comfort in knowing that while Cheryl no longer inhabits this old earthly tabernacle she lives, and the good news is she will live forever, with God.

I was first introduced to Cheryl Boyce by one of my best friends--Ako Kambon. I had convinced Governor Richard F. Celeste to issue Executive Order 85 - 69 Creating the

Governor's Task Force on Black and Minority Health.

Ako called me and recommended Cheryl to be the Chief staff person to the Task Force. I talked it over with my Co-chair, Dr. Ronald Fletcher of Dayton, Ohio, and the rest is history. Cheryl recruited almost all of the members of the Task Force and the staff. She played the central role in defining our work, a statewide hearing schedule, and the expected outcomes of the Task Force.

After I sponsored legislation to create the Ohio Commission on Minority Health, the first such entity in America, we were blessed to have Cheryl to become our first Director and to lead the Commission for the next 24 years. She was a remarkable Director and a true visionary. Cheryl built the Commission, selected the staff, established Minority Health Month, established local offices of Minority Health, and helped to organize the National Association of Minority Health Offices.

Cheryl was a loving wife to her husband Russell, mother to her darling Ebony, a great sister, teacher, mentor, scholar, and grandmother. We will all miss her dearly. However, we are heartened by knowing that she lives in the hearts of us all who loved her for her vision, strength, and tenacity.

Senator Ray Miller (Ret.)

Founder and Visionary for the Ohio Commission on Minority Health

Publisher, The Columbus & Dayton African American



Creating the Governor's Task Force on Black and Minority Health
Governor Celeste, Representative Miller, Dr. Fletcher

I was with Cheryl in the beginning. Governor Celeste has established a task force to develop measures to remedy the inequities in health for minority people. With my Co-Chair Ray Miller we attempted to lay a framework for change. Cheryl was always there giving advise and quietly giving us her strength to succeed. Her fortitude helped the birth of the minority commission. A government entity that was unique in our nation.

No one was sure how this experiment would turn out and there was skepticism. With Cheryl as the Director, her bold vision and skillful leadership raised the stature of the commission to astounding prominence.

I had lost touch as I worked with Pharmaceutical companies throughout the world. Upon returning I was amazed to find our little effort in Ohio had blazed the trail for so many greater achievements. All because of the vision, fortitude and deep faith of a miraculous woman who would not rest until fair and just health care was available to all.

Rest now Cheryl, you lit the torch and now you can pass it on to those, who through your noble example, are inspired to carry on that which you initiated. Sleep in peace, you have run your race and ended "Victorious"!

Dr. Ronald L. Fletcher

Former Director of the Ohio Department of Health





I am saddened to hear of the transitioning of Ms. Cheryl Boyce. She will be forever remembered as the mother of entities created to address national minority health care disparities. Prior to this new and current awareness of inadequate minority health attention, she toiled tirelessly in the vineyards to bring about change. This trail blazer served as the guiding light to others in formulating new agendas to meet the challenge. Underserved populations are now recipients of the benefits of her work. Let us continue to build on her greatness.

There can be no better tribute than to continue and further amplify her groundbreaking efforts. Her thoughtful and wise counsel helped me immensely in the performance of tasks during my tenure at the Commission on Minority Health. She will be sorely missed.

May God wrap his arms around her and grant eternal peace.

*Walter T. Bowers II, MD
Former Board Member, Secretary, Vice Chair, Chair
Ohio Commission on Minority Health*





Tribute to Cheryl Bobbitt Boyce

Enjoying the Fellowship

People like Cheryl should live forever!

She left her mark! She made a difference! She truly SERVED. She was an amazing visionary and activist for health equity, well before others joined the movement of declaring racism as a public health crisis.

Cheryl cherished her family and loved her friends! I am honored to have been her friend for 35 years and serve as an Ohio Commissioner for Minority Health for 17 years. Why so long? Because Cheryl made our jobs so deeply passionate & truly meaningful!

Cheryl mentored students, whose lives would be enriched by her and the staff professionally and personally forever!

Cheryl was brave enough to take on the system, bold enough to endure ridicule and challenges as she fought for the hard causes, and talented enough to get the job done...to ensure quality health care for minorities and the underserved. A True Shero who ALWAYS put family first. A True Friend.

Gina Austin Lewis (Showell), PhD. FACHE



Appreciating the Friendships



Over 33 years ago, it was the vision, forethought and introduction of legislation by Senator Ray Miller that established The Ohio Commission on Minority Health, as the first freestanding state agency in the nation, to address the disparities that exist between the health status of minority and non-minority populations. Mrs. Cheryl A. Boyce served admirably as the agency's first Executive Director.

Mrs. Boyce was a leader and visionary in the field of minority health in the State of Ohio as well as the nation. She is held in high esteem as one who has influenced the work related to eliminating health care disparities in minority populations in this country. Under her leadership at The Ohio Commission on Minority Health, she successfully helped replicate the Ohio model and assisted the formation of forty-seven other State Offices of Minority Health in the United States.

We are grateful for Cheryl's tireless, compassionate and servant leadership. She showed us all the importance of investing in creative models of care to improve the health of racial and ethnic minority communities.

*Dr. Olivia Thomas
Chief Diversity and Health Equity Officer
Nationwide Children's Hospital
Former Board Chair
Ohio Commission on Minority Health*





I met Cheryl Boyce when I was appointed to the Ohio Commission on Minority Health in 2002 and she was the Executive Director. Always welcoming and gracious, she was eager to get my input on health disparities despite my insistence that she was the expert. She taught me many things in the years that passed about advocacy, community involvement, preparation, and most importantly how providers, like myself, also drive health disparities. Until I met Cheryl, I naively believed physicians and other providers treated all patients equally and without bias. Cheryl strategically opened my eyes to the many disparities in medical care while always admiring the professions' rigorous training and wide-ranging responsibilities.

As a physician, Cheryl stressed, I could “move up-stream” and open the eyes of other providers to areas of bias and inferior care for minorities.

Cheryl was a pillar in the community and a natural leader. She knew almost everyone. She would even come to Cleveland and introduce me to people here. And it didn't take her long to figure somebody out. She could size up a person in seconds and list their motivation for whatever they were doing. Her ability to navigate the precarious world of politics while working under governors of both parties was masterful. No one ever wanted to cross Cheryl Boyce.

Like E.F. Hutton, when Cheryl spoke, people listened. She had a way of pulling together the many ideas presented in a discussion and reflecting it back in a way that made it sound brilliant. Ideas always sounded better coming out of her mouth. With all of the power and influence that Cheryl had, she was most comfortable being Russell's wife and Ebony's mother . . . loving, supporting, laughing and joking, and striving for more for her family. Melanie and I will greatly miss Cheryl, her supportive smile, and never-ending advocacy on behalf of everyone's health.

Greg Hall, MD

*Former Board Chair and Vice Chair , Ohio Commission on Minority Health
Director, National Institute for African American Health
Board President, Cuyahoga County Board of Health
Medical Director, Eliza Bryant Village*





When I arrived on the campus of The Ohio State University as a graduate, I had no idea what I was doing with my life. I had embarked on a curriculum that focused on epidemiology, bio-statistics, and behavioral theory and I loved all of it, but I wasn't sure how that intriguing science was going to turn into a JOB. My first meeting with Ms. Cheryl Boyce, interviewing for a summer internship, helped me to crystallize my professional goals. She introduced me to the Commission and the important roles that community education, policy advocacy, and data could play in lifting the health of those facing the greatest challenges. She also embodied the power, grace, and determination needed to be a trailblazer in her field.

While I didn't end up working with the Commission that year, I built a relationship with her that yielded me a supportive smile and words of congratulations or encouragement whenever we met. When I joined the Commission and was later elected to the Chairmanship, I could see the pride in her eyes. She knew the impact that she had on an idealistic but uncertain young woman. I hope she also knew how grateful I was for our interactions.

*Deena J. Chisolm, PhD, Commission Board Chair
Nationwide Foundation Endowed Chair in Health Equity Research
Director, Center for Innovation in Pediatric Practice
Vice-President, Health Services Research
The Abigail Wexner Research Institute at Nationwide Children's Hospital
Professor, Pediatrics, Public Health, and Nursing—The Ohio State University*





Cheryl Boyce to me is someone who has my highest respect and admiration for everything that she has done in such a caring and loving way. She is an exemplar for community advocacy for all vulnerable groups to promote good health and overcome struggles and challenges. We celebrate her extremely productive life, her leadership locally and nationally in promoting minority health and her vision to transcend health disparities and one day achieve health equity for all.

Cheryl became a mentor and a friend while working with her at the Ohio Commission on Minority Health for many years. She is a true trailblazer where many had followed her like a bright light in a dark path. She is an inspiration for strength and resilience particularly as she coped with her illness that brought numerous challenges that she faced so courageously. I know that she is a God loving prayerful person whose faith brought her peace. Now she is in her eternal home to be in the presence of God's glory forever. Her job is done, and her mark on this earth is illuminated in the lives of so many she touched with love and grace. May she rest in eternal peace!

*Dr. Cora Munoz, Former Vice Chair, Ohio Commission on Minority Health
Retired Professor Capital University*



2018 Commission Expo: Former and Current Board Members, Representative Sykes and Keynote: Dr. Capers



Cheryl Boyce is a hero of the state and her name is synonymous with the words, "health equity for all." I was one of the fortunate people who had an opportunity to work with the Ohio Commission on Minority Health Executive Director Cheryl Boyce. Cheryl was a visionary in her exemplary leadership in the development of the Ohio Commission on Minority Health, which was the first statewide commission on minority health. She went on to help establish similar minority health statewide initiatives in several additional states. Cheryl with her calming voice and command of the subject matter of health disparities and using her powerful communication skills had the unique ability to inspire policymakers, health care providers, community leaders and the public to understand the importance of

taking action to address and eliminate health disparities. Cheryl personally inspired me on my personal career journey to eliminate health disparities. Knowing that she dedicated her life to moving the state and nation toward achieving health equity significantly compelled me to follow in her footsteps and to live up to her unspoken expectations that I do the same. Rest in peace Cheryl--we all love you- and please know that because you lived, countless others have lived fuller lives.

*Dr. Charles Modlin, Jr, MBA, F.A.C.S.
Former Board Member, Ohio Commission on Minority Health
Kidney Transplant Surgeon and Urologist - Founder and Director of Minority Men's Health Center*



Several years ago I contemplated leaving my practice of Obstetrics in Michigan to work in Ohio to help decrease the incidence of infant mortality and devise a mechanism of addressing the unacceptable racial disparity in birth outcomes. My deliberations resulted in meeting Mrs. Cheryl Boyce who not only encouraged me to come to Ohio but, after the move, continued to provide me with her incredible counsel. As the years passed I learned what a giant she was in addressing racial disparities. The depth of her knowledge informed my learning in many ways and on many occasions. She was a regular source of inspiration for me.

I am grateful that God arranged for her to share some of her time and expertise with me. I will miss Mrs. Boyce.

Arthur R. James MD, FACOG
Ohio Commission on Minority Health, Former Board Member
Franklin County Board of Health, Board Member
First Year Cleveland, Consultant
Indianapolis Healthy Start, Evaluator
Faculty Planning Committee Member, National Institute for Children's Health Quality (NICHQ)
Member, Black Mothers Breastfeeding Association Leadership Institute Advisory Committee
Member, State of Ohio Commission on Infant Mortality





Cancer Rally: Giving Honor Where Honor is Due.

I have had the privilege of knowing Cheryl Boyce since 1985. I first met her probably the same way she met many-it was while she was working her passion of reducing health disparities and recruiting, and by recruiting I mean assuring that if you were not already working in the vineyard that you were to join in her efforts, her noble efforts. In 1998 I got to know her as a patient, a patient who valiantly battled multiple myeloma for over 20 years. But, still she was a multi-battler- not a multi-tasker, but a multi battler- she continued to work and went forward with establishing national, statewide and local structures to address disparities. In addition, she co-founded and sustained the Hicks, Harris, Ferguson Multiple Myeloma Symposium. The same generous love that I saw her extend to her devoted husband Russell, and the apple of her eye, her daughter Ebony, she extended to me in honoring my mother as part of that conference. For that and her passion and strength to speak truth to power for the reduction/elimination of disparities, her name will be etched for eternity in my heart and I'm sure the hearts of many.

*Former Board Member,
Dr. William Hicks*



invites you to the

*8th Annual Hicks Harris Ferguson
Multiple Myeloma Symposium*

Saturday, March 3, 2018

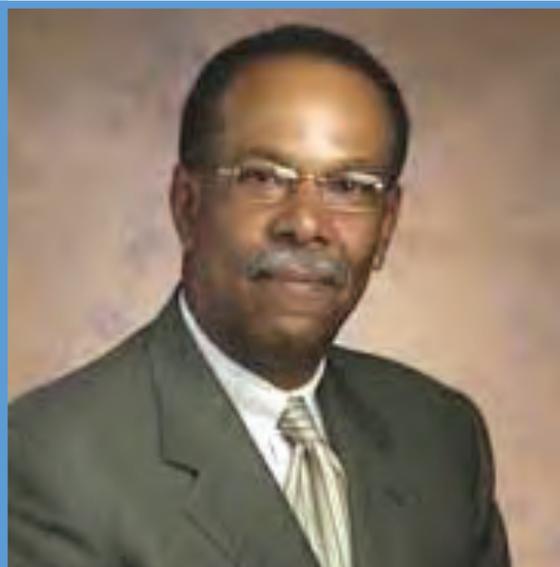
Registration: 8:30am Program: 9:00am

Headquarters 3rd Episcopal District of the AME Church
112 Jefferson Avenue | Columbus, Ohio

Register online: <https://2018hicksharrisfergusonmmsymposium.eventbrite.com>
Email: hhsymposium@gmail.com | Telephone: 614.754.6798

This event is free and open to the public.
Continental Breakfast and Boxed Lunch Provided

A limited number of gas cards will be available for participants driving 50 miles or more.





Hearing the Concerns

The other day, I watched a spectacular rocket liftoff from Cape Kennedy, Florida. While watching, I learned more facts about space than I will ever need or use. But I found one fact particularly inter-esting: There is a part of the rocket called the "booster." The sole responsibility of the booster is to push the rocket to the next orbit so that it can do what it was built to do. In other words, the rocket was perfectly created for a specific purpose. It simply needed a little push into the right orbit. Cheryl was perfectly created by God to serve the peoples of this world; she simply needed a little push to help get her into her orbit.

When I recommended Cheryl to Ray Miller to become the FIRST Director of the Ohio Office of Minority Health, I had NO IDEA that she would travel to heights that no person thought possible. But obviously she was created for just such a journey!

Thank you my sister for blazing a bright, supernal path that those who wish to make a difference can easily follow.

Your Brother in the Struggle,

Ako Kambon

President & CEO

Visionary Leaders Institute



Engaging National Leaders

Recognizing our Leaders



Congressional Recognition

In Memory Of

CHERYL BOYCE

On behalf of the citizens of the Third Congressional District of Ohio, I extend my sincere condolences to the family and friends of Cheryl Boyce on the sorrowful occasion of her passing. Her warmth, kindness, and spirit will be deeply missed.

A devoted family woman, her husband, Russell Elliot Boyce, daughter, Ebony (Dedric) Carter, and grandchildren, Azaria, Aniah, and Akenia, were the light of her life. While the community mourns the loss of such an upstanding individual, her family and friends mourn the loss of their rock and role model.

Ms. Boyce's life was defined by her dedication to advancing public health for minority communities. She was a pioneer in the field, and she is known nationally as the Mother of Minority Health. Ms. Boyce's efforts led directly to the establishment of the state, local, and federal agencies designed to research, understand, and address the disparities within healthcare. Through Ms. Boyce's efforts, over 30 states established Commissions on Minority Health, modeled after Ohio's during her tenure as Director. When Ms. Boyce was not advocating for healthcare rights, she was active in practicing her faith with St. Paul A.M.E. Church.

Although there are no words to ease the sadness we are now feeling, there is solace in the remembrance of having been touched by such an outstanding person as Cheryl Boyce. The love, compassion, and kindness she so easily extended to her family and the Central Ohio community will remain in the hearts of all those who were fortunate enough to know her.

Thus, with deepest sympathy, I mourn the loss and salute the memory of a truly inspiring individual, Cheryl Boyce, and I extend my sincere condolences to her family and friends.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joyce Beatty".

Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress, OH-03





In the Name and by the Authority of
THE STATE OF
OHIO



WHEREAS, Cheryl A. Boyce is celebrated as a pioneer in the fight for health equity in Ohio and throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS, she was born on June 17, 1949, to John and Alberta Bobbitt and raised in Illinois; and

WHEREAS, she earned a Bachelor of Science in health education from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale and a Master of Science in health planning and administration from the University of Cincinnati; and

WHEREAS, Cheryl became the executive director of the new Ohio Commission on Minority Health in 1986, where she worked to end racial and ethnic health disparities; and

WHEREAS, she became known by many as the “Mother of Minority Health” because her diligent efforts resulted in the establishment of the National Association of State Offices of Minority Health, as well as the Ohio Ethnic Health Coalitions and the Ohio Local Offices of Minority Health; and

WHEREAS, in 2011, Cheryl co-founded the Federation for Health Equity and Social Justice, a nonprofit organization that mobilizes against health disparities; and

WHEREAS, throughout her career, Cheryl served a role model and mentor to other professionals pursuing the important work of improving public health; and

WHEREAS, the DeWine administration, which on August 13, 2020, announced the creation of the Ohio Governor’s Equity Advisory Board, is determined to continue the fight against health disparities that Cheryl waged throughout her life; and

WHEREAS, we mourn the loss of Cheryl Boyce, who died on August 25, 2020.

NOW, THEREFORE, We, Mike DeWine and Jon Husted, Governor and Lieutenant Governor of the State of Ohio, do hereby pay tribute to

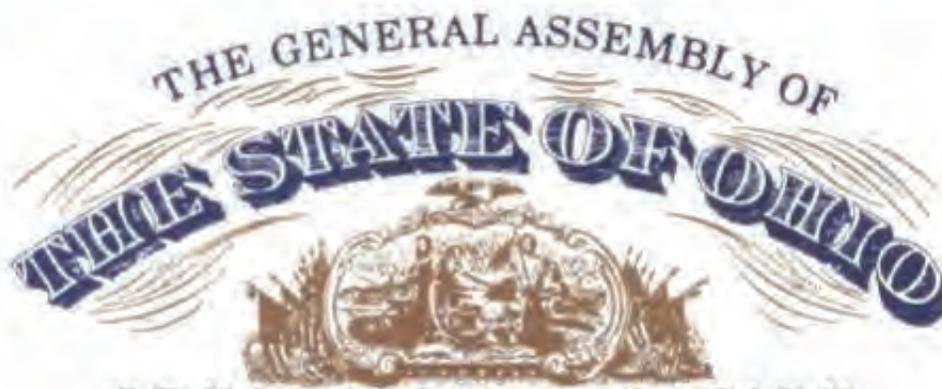
CHERYL A. BOYCE

on this 1st day of September 2020.

Mike DeWine
Governor



Jon Husted
Lieutenant Governor



SENATORIAL CITATION

on behalf of

STATE SENATOR HEARCEL F. CRAIG

in memory of

CHERYL BOYCE



As a member of the Senate of the 133rd General Assembly of the State of Ohio, I extend my sincere condolences to the family and friends of Cheryl Boyce on the sorrowful occasion of her death.

Cheryl — survived by her devoted husband, Russell Elliott Boyce; daughter, Ebony (Dedric) Carter, St. Louis, MO; three granddaughters, Azasia, Aniah, and Akenzia Carter; siblings, Charles (Anna) Bobbitt, Florissant, MO, and Mary E. Bobbitt, Lee Summit, MO; mother-in-law, Dorothy Boyce, Yellow Springs, OH; sisters-in-law, Clarendia (Chris) Jordan, McKinney, TX, and Elaine Boyce, Beaver Creek, OH; and a host of nieces, nephews, uncles, aunts, cousins and dear friends.

She was the Executive Director of the Ohio Commission on Minority Health for 24 years and helped over thirty states replicate this model of healthcare. Her groundbreaking efforts in Ohio have resulted in the creation culturally and linguistically appropriate chronic disease prevention initiatives, the replication and expansion of effective prevention models, creating the Research Enhancement Evaluation Program, and establishing the validity of health disparities in policy discussions. Cheryl's extraordinary visionary leadership, dedication, and service to the health and wellbeing of minorities in Ohio and around our nation will have a tremendous impact for generations. Cheryl was a close personal friend to me and my wife Linda and I will miss her dearly. It is for certain that the world is a richer place for her having been in it, and she will be truly missed.

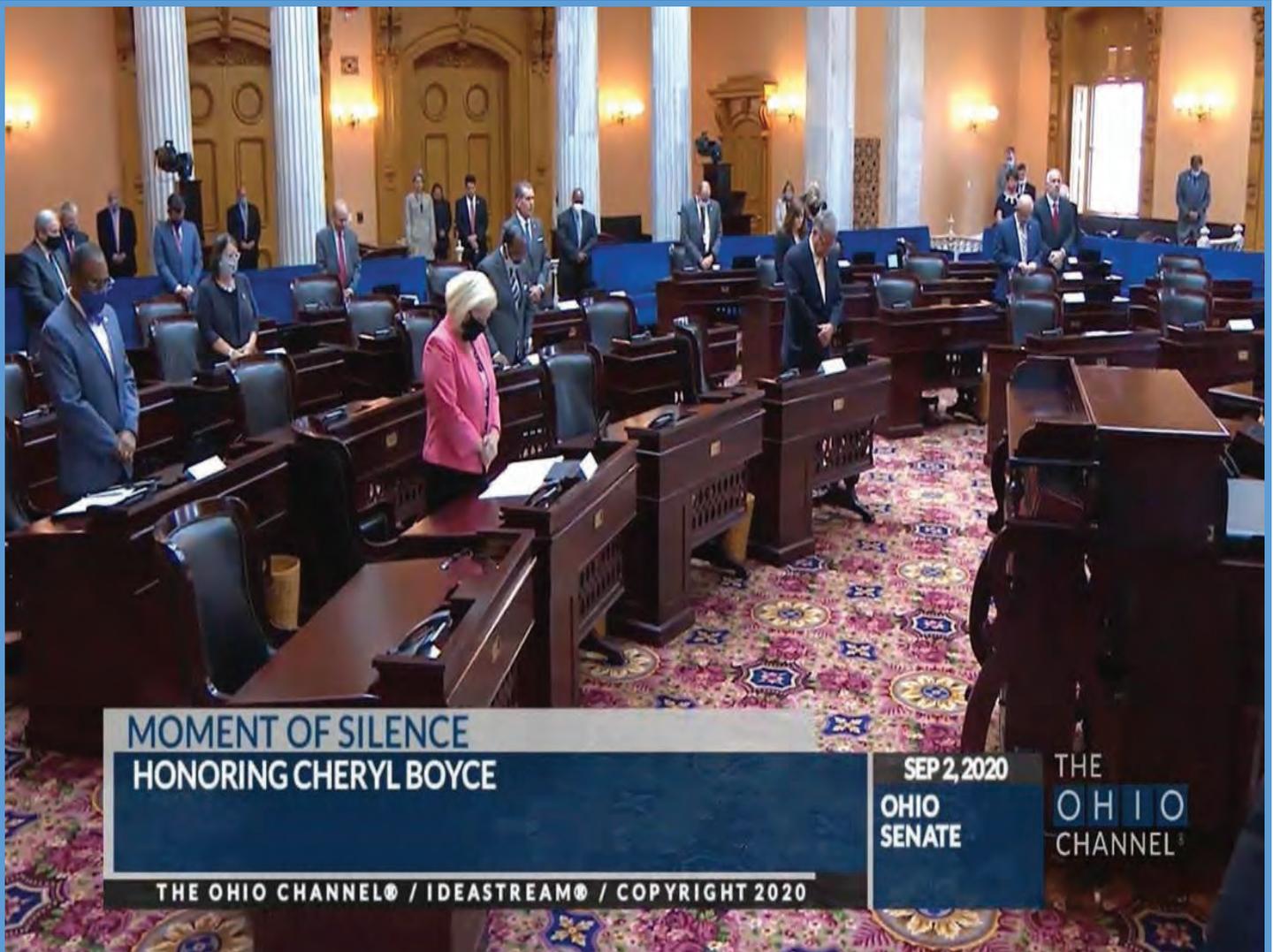
Thus, with deepest sympathy, I mourn the loss and celebrate the life of a truly exemplary woman and my dear friend, Mr. Cheryl Boyce.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

John 3:16

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Hearcel F. Craig".

HEARCEL F. CRAIG
STATE SENATOR
15th DISTRICT



A Moment of Silence. The Ohio Senate Recognizes Cheryl Boyce

OMH Salutes the Legacy of Cheryl A. Boyce

OMH salutes the life and legacy of health equity trailblazer, Cheryl A. Boyce, M.S. who passed away on August 25, 2020.

Cheryl A. Boyce, M.S. served as the Executive Director of the [Ohio Commission on Minority Health](#) for 24 years and helped 30+ states replicate the model. She was a pioneer in the Minority Health Month movement and organized the first celebration in Ohio in 1989. She was a trailblazer, thought-leader, mentor and tireless advocate for the communities she served.



“Thank you Senator Miller for conceiving the Taskforce on Black and Minority Health; selecting Mrs. Cheryl Boyce as its director; creating and funding the Ohio Commission on Minority Health; and appointing Mrs. Boyce as its Executive Director. You and Cheryl were a dynamic duo who I benefitted from personally and professionally. Cheryl was able to guide the Commissioners in Ohio for more than 25 years and helped to establish offices of Minority Health and Minority Health Month throughout the country. She was able to bring the voice of community and faith-based organizations to the forefront in developing health equity solutions.”

*Charleta B. Tavares, CEO PrimaryOne Health
Fmr. Ohio State Senator and State Representative
Legislative Assistant to Fmr. Rep. Ray Miller at Commission Inception*



Leadership across Generations



Standing on the Shoulders of Giants

Ohio has truly lost a tireless advocate for minority health in the passing of Executive Director Emeritus Cheryl Boyce. She was a pioneer whose work as director of the Minority Health Commission helped pave the way for those who serve on the commission today. Director Boyce gave voice to countless individuals during her selfless service to the State of Ohio. We as Commission members stand on her shoulders as she laid the groundwork and continued to build a solid foundation for the Commission to grow. Her legacy of selfless service and her memory will be treasured in the hearts of all those who had the privilege to share in that service.

*Senator Kunze
Ohio Senate 16th District*

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
THE STATE OF OHIO



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

UNDER THE SPONSORSHIP OF

REPRESENTATIVES C. ALLISON RUSSO
STEPHANIE D. HOWSE - ERICA C. CRAWLEY

On behalf of the members of the House of Representatives of the 133rd General Assembly of Ohio, we extend posthumous recognition to

CHERYL A. BOYCE

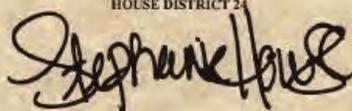
for her exemplary lifetime achievements.

Cheryl Boyce left an indelible impression on the people whose lives she touched, and she will long be remembered as a concerned and caring human being. Among her many endeavors, she was the executive director of the Ohio Commission on Minority Health for twenty-four years, an adjunct professor in the Health Services Administration Program at Franklin University, a co-founder of the Federation for Health Equity and Social Justice, a coordinator of the Governor's Task Force on Black and Minority Health, a program director and associate program director for Advocacy and Protective Services, Inc., and an employee of the Ohio Department of Health and the Rehabilitation Services Commission, and she was an active member of St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church and numerous professional organizations. The recipient of such accolades as the YWCA Women of Achievement Award for Racial Justice, the Columbus Urban League Award of Excellence, and the International Black Women's Congress ONI and National Black Programming Consortium Health awards, she demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the community, a legacy that will remain forever in the hearts and minds of all who knew her.

A devoted wife to her husband, Russell, a loving mother to her daughter, Ebony, and a committed grandmother to her three granddaughters, Azaria, Aniah, and Akenzia, Cheryl Boyce worked diligently to improve the quality of life in our society, and the laurels of her life stand as a tribute not only to her but also to those she left behind. Though the void her death has created can never be filled, the legacy of concern and commitment she established will continue to enrich the lives of everyone with whom she was associated.

Thus, we extend posthumous recognition to Cheryl A. Boyce and, in so doing, salute the memory of a truly honorable woman.

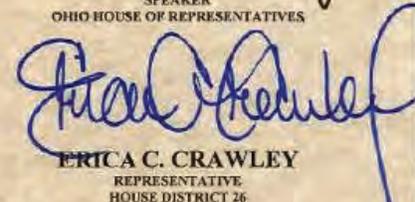

C. ALLISON RUSSO
REPRESENTATIVE
HOUSE DISTRICT 24



STEPHANIE D. HOWSE
REPRESENTATIVE
HOUSE DISTRICT 11




ROBERT R. CUPP
SPEAKER
OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES


ERICA C. CRAWLEY
REPRESENTATIVE
HOUSE DISTRICT 26

“Known as the “Mother of Minority Health,” Cheryl Boyce’s positive community impact is immeasurable. She dedicated her life to advancing racial justice and minority health equity. Cheryl Boyce always used her wisdom and experience to not only better the lives of those around her, but also to benefit society as a whole. Her memory will live on in the individual lives and communities that have been greatly improved in no small part because of her service to them over the course of her life.”

*House Minority Leader Representative Emilia Sykes
Ohio House District 34*

A true hero and national trailblazer are just a few terms to describe the late Ms. Cheryl Boyce. Her service to the Commission on Minority Health started in 1985 and has continued throughout her lifetime. Her service started at a time when racial and ethnic health disparities were absent from the conversation. Ms. Boyce served a pivotal role in starting that conversation and for that alone our community is indebted to her service. Her accomplishments are nothing short of amazing and have created a lasting effect across the country. From her diligent efforts to establish the National Association of State Offices of Minority Health, The Ohio Ethnic Health Coalitions and the Ohio Local Offices of Minority Health and serving as a role model and mentor to hundreds, her influence and efforts are immeasurable and I will forever be thankful for her impact.

*Representative Catherine D. Ingram
Ohio House 32nd District*



Serving as a Health Advisor to the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus

“Last week I was deeply saddened to hear that Ms. Cheryl Boyce, executive director emeritus of the Ohio Commission on Minority Health, had passed away. For 35 years, she diligently served the Commission and our state, and over that time she became known as a pioneer who helped start the conversation about minority health disparities. I had the privilege of working with Ms. Cheryl when she was Executive Director prior to my time in the legislature, so I can personally attest to the debt of gratitude we owe her for her advancement of minority health in Ohio and across the country. Her memory lives on in her husband Russell, her daughter Ebony and the many, many other lives she touched.”

*Representative Thomas West
Ohio House 49th District*



September 2, 2020

Dear Director Dawson and the Ohio Commission on Minority Health,

OLBC Leadership

President

Rep. Stephanie Howse

1st Vice President

Rep. Thomas West

2nd Vice President

Rep. Catherine Ingram

Treasurer

Rep. Janine Boyd

Sgt. at Arms

Rep. Phil Robinson

Parliamentarian

Rep. Erica Crawley

OLBC Members

Rep. Juanita Brent

Sen. Hearcel Craig

Rep. Sedrick Denson

Rep. Hicks Hudson

Rep. Tina Maharath

Rep. Fred Strahorn

Rep. Emilia Sykes

Sen. Vernon Sykes

Sen. Cecil Thomas

Rep. Terrance Upchurch

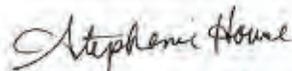
Sen. Sandra Williams

The Ohio Legislative Black Caucus gives tribute in honor of Mrs. Cheryl Boyce. Mrs. Cheryl Boyce left an indelible impression on the people whose lives she touched, and she will be remembered as a spirited individual who contributed immeasurably to the world around her. Although our hearts are heavy, we will strive to follow in her footsteps and fight for what is right to ensure African Americans and other communities of color can live healthy lives here in Ohio. As the OLBC carries out its mission to promote, foster, and sponsor education, civic, and political activities that enrich and improve African American communities across the state of Ohio, we will also remain committed to addressing racial and ethnic health disparities.

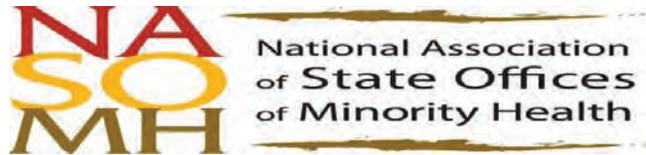
Among her many endeavors, Mrs. Cheryl Boyce was the Executive Director Emeritus of the Ohio Commission on Minority Health, and her concern for improving the quality of life in our society was clearly evident in her personal sacrifices of time and energy. Her groundbreaking efforts in Ohio resulted in culturally and linguistically appropriate chronic disease prevention initiatives, replication and expansion of effective prevention models, the creation of the Research Enhancement Evaluation Program and establishing the validity of health disparities at policy tables.

The legacy of care and commitment she established will surely live on. The world is certainly a richer place because of Mrs. Boyce, and she will be sorely missed. The entire Ohio Legislative Black Caucus extends our condolences to Mrs. Boyce's family, friends, and colleagues.

Humbly Submitted,



State Rep. Stephanie Howse



Vivian Lasley-Bibbs, MPH
President

Antoniette Holt, MPH
Vice President

Veronica Halloway, MPH
Secretary

Michelle R. Smith, PhD, MPH
Arkansas
Treasurer

Vacant
Region I

Vacant
Region II

Noel Brathwaite, PhD
Maryland
Region III

Vacant
Region IV

Angela Dawson
Ohio
Region V

Durand "Rudy" Macklin
Louisiana
Region VI

Josie Rodriguez
Nebraska
Region VII

Lilian Zuniga
Wyoming
Region VIII

Vacant
Region IX

Vacant
Region X

Geraldine Mccannon, MPH
At-Large

Lisa B. Stafford, BS
At-Large, CFO

Janice Edmonds-Wells
At-Large

Cheryl A. Boyce, MS
Advisory Board

William A. Robinson, MD, MPH
Advisory Board

Barbara Pullen-Smith, MPH
Advisory Board

Resolution in Loving Memory of Cheryl A Boyce

We are today comforted by the words of Our Lord in Revelations 21:4 which says: "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."

Whereas, Cheryl is considered the "Godmother" of the minority health movement. She was not only a faithful community and statewide leader, Cheryl's reach extended beyond the Ohio borders in Region V and throughout the United States. She was a true advocate for everyone she came into contact, without hesitation or complaint. Her legacy has been established and will continue to live on in all of those she has helped, mentored, or inspired to be a change agent and never back down or be afraid!

Whereas, the words of Jesus in John 14, "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. IN my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

Whereas it has pleased Almighty God to take unto Himself our sister, Cheryl, too soon by our measure but in the providence of the All-knowing Divine, and

Whereas, our cherished Cheryl shared the fruits of her labor as a principled and successful civic leader, entrepreneur, innovator, creator, planner, organizer, director, presenter, mentor, pioneer and contributed generously to minority health and health equity efforts, her church missions, family and

Whereas, Cheryl was a loving wife and mother who instilled in her family a strong relationship with God and love for His people.

Whereas, Cheryl help to create and was a past president for the National Association of State Offices of Minority Health (NASOMH).

Whereas, Cheryl was a true exalter, supporter, champion, and advocate of Minority Health in Ohio, Region V, and through the nation. Whenever called upon, she answered and delivered.

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3737 N. Meridian Street, Suite 300
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Invoices/Payments:
P.O. Box 32092
Columbus, OH 43232-2092

[Email:] nasomh@gmail.com

[Website:] www.nasomh.org



Whereas, Cheryl was always someone who put the needs of the community before her own. NASOMH and the world will forever be indebted to Cheryl Boyce for her many years of service.

Whereas, No words can adequately express the sorrow felt at the death of our friend and mentor Cheryl Boyce.

Whereas, Although Cheryl will be deeply missed, memories of this beloved and energetic and beautiful woman will forever be cherished by all those who held her dear.

Whereas, Cheryl's legacy of faith and service will continue to inspire loved ones, NASOMH, and the entire minority health workforce

Now, therefore be it resolved that we support and embrace Cheryl's Husband Russell, her daughter Dr. Ebony Boyce Carter and her loving husband Dedric and their darling children who brought such joy to Cheryl's life, her siblings; a host of extended family and friend, Lisa Stafford; The Ohio Federation For Health Equity and Social Justice, the Ohio Commission On Minority Health and its workers, the countless organizations and projects Cheryl was a part of, and the entire state of Ohio by demonstrating our love for her to you.

Submitted on this 30th day of August 2020.

National Association of State Offices of Minority Health & Executive Committee

Humbly Given,

Vivian Lasley-Bibbs
President

Antoniette Holt
Vice President/ Past President

General Correspondence:
3737 N. Meridian Street, Suite 300
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[Email:] nasomh@gmail.com

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P.O. Box 32092
Columbus, OH 43232-2092



Trusted Colleagues & Friends

Cheryl Boyce was committed to the elimination of health and healthcare disparities in racial and ethnic minority populations. As the Executive Director of the Ohio Commission on Minority Health she col-laborated with the US Department of Health and Human Services, Region V on several initiatives including a meeting in Columbus, OH for the public to comment on National Model Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Health Services.

*Mildred Hunter,
Regional Minority Health Analyst
US Department of Health and Human Services, Region 5*



An Enduring National and State Partnership



National Association of State Offices of Minority Health

We find comfort in knowing that our lives have been enriched by having shared their love. Dr. Leo Buscaglia

How do you honor a Giant? That is who Cheryl Boyce was a giant. I remember meeting Cheryl at a national conference held by the Office of Minority Health. It happened to be a NASOMH (National Association of State Offices of Health) meeting. Her presence alone filled the room and all of her wisdom and unabashed honesty and truth were appreciated. I was changed forever. Cheryl lived the servant life. God first, family always, and others before yourself. That's how she worked, how she led, how she taught and mentored. Helping to forge state offices of minority health, the countless sacrifices made to ensure health for all, helping to establish NASOMH cannot be put into words. We are grateful to Cheryl's family for sharing her and so grateful to God for allowing her to be part of this human tapestry of life and oh what a beautiful patch it left in this big quilt. So, NASOMH commits to continue this great legacy Cheryl has left. We honor and celebrate her brilliance, tenacity, and bravery. These tools NASOMH will continue to provide and lend support to the state offices of minority health and to all that in the fight to eliminate health disparities. Rest easy and receive your reward good soldier.

*Antoniette Holt, MPH
Past President/ Vice President NASOMH*



Cheryl Boyce: Mother of Minority Health & Founding Member of NASOMH

COUNCIL
HEALTH & HUMAN
SERVICES
COMMITTEE:
MINORITY HEALTH
MONTH



Although, we have only recently declared racism as a public health crisis; health disparities are not a new issue. We have been blessed with trailblazers who were not afraid to sound the alarm! Cheryl Boyce was that preeminent voice! As the first Executive Director of the Ohio Commission on Minority Health she was a voice for the voiceless and the underserved. The Annual Minority Health Month campaign that she started can now be seen across the United States. She embodied Dr. King's principle of, "the time is always right to do what is right." Her advocacy saved lives.

Columbus City Councilwoman Pricilla Tyson



Working with Ohio Governmental Officials

The passing of Cheryl is a great loss felt by all. Cheryl retired from a distinguished career serving as the original Executive Director of the Ohio Commission on Minority Health, the first commission dedicated to the elimination of health disparities in communities of color in the United States. Her life's work was dedicated to protecting our right to access affordable health care and eradicating systemic racial inequities within the health care system. A principled social justice warrior, Cheryl served our community with conviction and grace. Thank you, Cheryl, our community and the State of Ohio is better today because you answered the call to serve.

Franklin County Commissioner Kevin Boyce



Passing the Torch

“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few.”

Giving honor where honor is due, we are forever grateful for the life and service of our beloved Executive Director Emeritus Cheryl Boyce for her tireless efforts as a national and state trailblazer in Minority Health.

Former Senator Ray Miller’s vision for the Ohio Commission on Minority Health created the vineyard for her work to be cultivated and harvested.

When she began her service to the Commission on Minority Health in 1985, the issue of racial and ethnic health disparities was seldom acknowledged but she insisted on starting the discussion.

She is known nationally as the “Mother of Minority Health” because her diligent efforts brought forth the establishment of the national, state and local infrastructure to address racial and ethnic health disparities through the creation of the National Association of State Offices of Minority Health, as well as the Ohio Ethnic Health Coalitions and the Ohio Local Offices of Minority Health. Her influence is immeasurable as she served a role model, mentor, and “Mom” to hundreds of professionals as she personally encouraged them to be diligent in addressing health disparities.

As one of the individuals she pulled under her wings, I am forever grateful for the knowledge that she poured into me, her example of faith and trust in God and the guidance she provided as I navigated my road in service to others.

Her groundbreaking efforts in Ohio resulted in culturally and linguistically appropriate chronic disease prevention initiatives, replication and expansion of effective prevention models, the creation of the Research Enhancement Evaluation Program and establishing the validity of health disparities at policy tables.

It is an honor to continue to carry forward the work of achieving health equity for it is on her shoulders that we stand.

We are forever indebted to her husband Russell, daughter Ebony and her extended family for sharing her with us.

She often closed her presentations with these words –

“Go in search of your people. Live with them. Learn from them. Love them. Start with what they know. Build on what they have. But with the best leaders, when the work is done, the task accomplished, the people will say ‘We have done this ourselves.’ – Lao Tzu

Mrs. Cheryl, we could not have done this work without you!!

*Angela Dawson, M.S., MRC
Executive Director
Ohio Commission on Minority Health*

GO IN SEARCH FOR YOUR PEOPLE.

Words seem inadequate when attempting to pay homage to Cheryl A. Boyce. A visionary, a trail-blazer, a pioneer and much more. Cheryl's compassion for humankind and her passion for life was depicted in her years of work in the area of minority health. I am grateful to have worked with her and to have been mentored by her and counted her friendship as a tremendous blessing. So, as the song "My Tribute" says, "How can I say thanks for the things you have done for me...To God Be the Glory for the things you have done"

*Sincerely,
Carol E. Ware
Retired Health Equity Administrator
Ohio Department of Medicaid*



Giving Earned Recognition



Appreciating our Federal Support

Cheryl became my mentor in 1994 when I was selected to head a State agency, joining her as one of the few African Americans to head a state agency at the time. I remember a conversation that we had shortly after her diagnosis and she said, "Carl everybody has a different spiritual journey!" Cheryl understood her purpose and her unwavering faith guided her. She began as an advocate for the underserved and she entered retired life as a crusader against diseases impacting minorities. I realize that her lesson was not in her words, but the example she lived – a life serving others.

*Carl Williams, M.P.A.
Legislative Analyst
Columbus City Council*

Cheryl Boyce was my boss while I served as Program Director and she remained my friend afterwards. I remember how honored I was when she asked me to facilitate a Healing Circle for her sister-friends after the diagnosis of multiple myeloma.

In that circle of sister-friends she expressed her heart's desire then as being able to see Ebony graduate. Well, God granted her that and more! She was able to experience Ebony's graduation and Ebony as bride, doctor and mother!

Cheryl has joined the Cloud of Witnesses and will continue to inspire and guide us. She was a tireless warrior for health equity and a generous friend. May she rest in Power and Peace!

*Respectfully Submitted,
Denise Goodrich Neil
Former Program Director, Ohio Commission on Minority Health*



The Outstanding Staff of OCMH



Saying What Needs to Be Said

Cheryl Boyce was a national leader placing minority health at the forefront of the Ohio agenda well before, and becoming a model for, other states. Cheryl was a progressive administrator and thought leader insistent on developing and promoting the highest quality of culturally relevant health services. We have been well served by her contributions to improving the health of Ohioans and reducing health disparities. She no doubt rests in power.

*Linda James Myers, Ph.D.
Professor of African American and African Studies
Ohio State University*

LIVE WITH THEM.

In 2017, I was humbled and honored to be recognized by the Ohio Commission on Minority Health as a recipient of the Cheryl Boyce Health Knowledge Award. To receive this award in honor of a woman that was a pioneer in the minority health movement, and who spent her time and passion focused on health advocacy for minority populations, was indeed an honor. Although, I did not have the privilege of working closely with Ms. Boyce our paths did cross often throughout her years of service to the state of Ohio. As a result, I was able to learn and grow my own advocacy, from her words, teachings and strong conviction she showed towards improving the health outcomes of communities of color.

Rest in Peace Ms. Boyce!

*Sincerely Theresa Seagraves,
Assistant Health Commissioner, Franklin County Public Health*



Recognizing Committed Efforts



Be Prepared and Be Persistent

I met Mrs. Boyce 25 years ago. When the Ohio Commission on Minority Health created the local office on Minority Health in collaboration with the City of Cleveland I became the first director. As the director I hosted the largest local conversation on health disparities in the US and none other than Cheryl Boyce served as the keynote speaker. Personally she has been my mentor and friend. My life is forever changed because God allowed me to cross paths with a POWERHOUSE. Cheryl, thank you so much for the opportunity to learn from a true leader. You are now among the ancestors.

Ashe

Yvonka Marie Hall, MPA

Northeast Ohio Black Health Coalition

Former Local Office on Minority Health Director, Cleveland, Ohio



Well Deserved: Staff Recognition

Cheryl A. Boyce, Change Agent. She believed in equitable change. My first real glimpse into the pinnacle of leadership was on a visit to a pickle farm just outside of Toledo. As we looked at the deplorable living conditions of the migrant workers, she turned to me and said, "If you are going to be an advocate for the people, you have to see and understand their experiences." I live by that principle today. She taught me how to lead with conviction, purpose, direction, humility, generosity, integrity, passion and compassion. Thank you Ms. Boyce, my friend, mentor and Guardian Angel-Love al-ways, Gina!

*Gina Green-Harris, MBA, Director
University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health
Center for Community Engagement and Health Partnerships
Wisconsin Alzheimer's Institute, Regional Milwaukee Office*





“The world owes Cheryl Boyce a debt that can never be repaid. This often happens when certain people have a positive impact on humanity. In Cheryl’s passing we lost a giant in the pursuit of health equity, but her legacy lives on in everyone who shared her vision.

Cheryl stood on the shoulders of giants like former State Senator Ray Miller whose vision and support enabled her to speak truth to power. Speaking this type of truth, especially by a person of color, was not easy during Cheryl’s tenure nor is it easy now. However, Cheryl spoke this truth with humility, courage and righteous indignation.

I remember listening to Cheryl speak in front of local and national audiences and the impact her words had on me. After hearing a Cheryl Boyce speech, one couldn’t help but feel a deeper commitment to improve the health of minority communities. Cheryl pursued health equity before the term became popular. Today, racism is declared as a public health crisis which is a major milestone. However, we must acknowledge that this milestone would not have happened without the ground-work laid by Cheryl Boyce.

As we celebrate Cheryl’s life’s work, we must never forget the professional and personal sacrifices she endured to save the lives of people she would never meet.

The following quote from Marcus Garvey reminds me of the way Cheryl approached minority health: **“Chance has never yet satisfied the hope of a suffering people. Action, self-reliance, the vision of self and the future have been the only means by which the oppressed have seen and realized the light of their own freedom.”**

*Johnnie (Chip) Allen, MPH - Director of Health Equity
Ohio Department of Health*

The Ohio Commission on Minority Health Celebrate its 30th Year!

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John R. Kasich, Governor Gregory L. Hall, M.D., Chairperson Angela Dawson, Executive Director

LEARN FROM THEM.

A courageous woman whose battle with Multiple Myeloma inspired us all. My life is forever changed by one who showed me the importance of exercising professional political prowess, how to wield data to our advantage, how to effectively speak to legislature and how education really is the number one health disparity. I will fondly miss those trips on the side of I-70 bringing her King's BBQ Rib tips when I traveled to Indianapolis. Most of what I became professionally- it is because of Director Boyce's guidance and direction. Thank you for changing my life!

*Duane Herron, Project Manager, Northwest Ohio Pathways HUB
Hospital Council of Northwest Ohio
Former Local Office on Minority Health Director, Toledo*



Always a Student



Learning from A Master Teacher

Cheryl Boyce was more than a mentor to me. She was a dear friend and my Shero. She spoke with power and conviction about injustice; passion and purpose about inequity; kindness and love for the community. I am grateful for every mile we traveled together, humbled by her commitment to create lasting change, and thankful for the indelible mark she left on my life. Her voice echoes in my mind and her light lives on in my heart and in the hearts of all who were lucky to know her, to love her, and to fight the good fight with her.

*Jen Patterson, MSNM
Former Vice President of Community Relations
InHealth Mutual*



Stay the Course

She was an encourager who emphasized perseverance. She was quick to support and guide people through the barriers of equity work. She knew where the land mines were and how to get around them. She was an innovator and trailblazer for all who would come behind her.

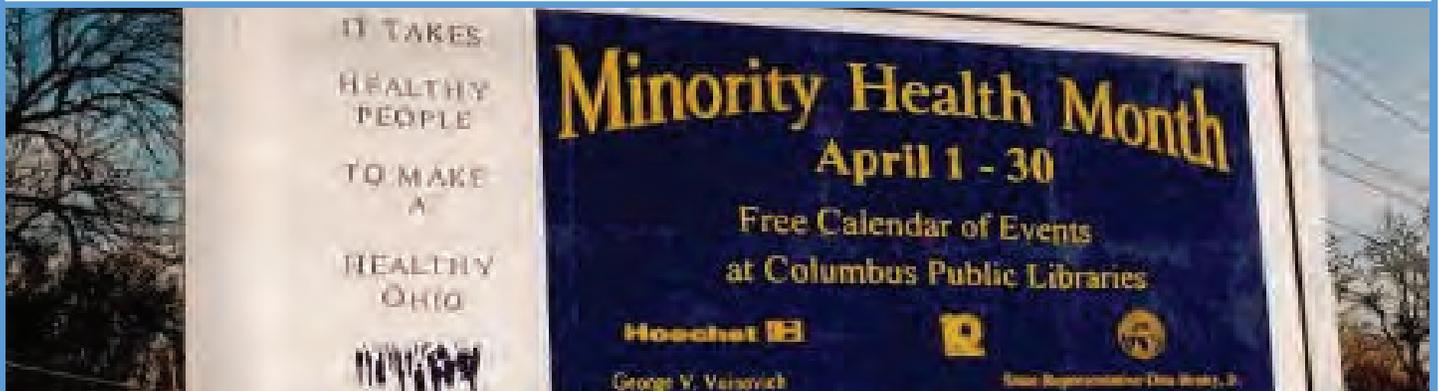
*Francis Mills, Director
Cleveland Local Office on Minority Health*



Try Another Way

I am grateful for the vision of Director Emeritus Cheryl Boyce, for if not for her vision and passion for health equity, I would not have discovered my passion in doing the same work. I was the second Director for the Youngstown Office on Minority Health. I was blessed to be offered the position, however, I had no idea how it would impact my life. Because of her vision and my desire to continue the work of health equity in my community, I have completed my degree in Masters of Social Service Administration concentrating in Community Practice for Social Change.

*Leigh A. Greene, MSSA, LSW
Director, Youngstown Local Office on Minority Health*



Minority Health Month was nationally recognized in 2000 as an annual event

LOVE THEM.

Ms. Boyce was a major source of help, support, and guidance to the Community Health Access Project (CHAP), a small nonprofit organization in Mansfield, with a mission to improve health and social equity. As Director, Ms. Boyce saw the potential in the newly developing Pathways Community HUB model focused on evidence-based approaches and accountability. In addition to providing grant funding, she helped CHAP develop administrative processes, community health worker (CHW) training, and state certification for CHWs.

OCMH has continued to build upon Ms. Boyce's vision with expansion of the model across Ohio and nationally to improve health and social outcomes.

Sarah A. Redding, MD, MPH, Executive Director—Pathways Community HUB Institute

It is with great sadness that we say good-bye to a great icon during our time- Cheryl Boyce. I write this tribute for a great woman, leader and role model on behalf of those of us who share her deep passion for improving health and health equity for minority populations. No one worked harder than Ms. Boyce to establish the Ohio Commission on Minority Health - the first State agency in the nation created to address the elimination of health disparities and the Federation for Health Equity and Social Justice.

As a Leader of the Pathways Community HUB for Cuyahoga County, I express my sincere appreciation for the opportunity to contribute to her mission and ensure her legacy continues to be lived every day. While she may have left us physically, the imprint she leaves behind on our minds and hearts will last an eternity.

*God Bless,
Rita Horwitz, President and CEO
Better Health Partnership
Better Health Pathways HUB*

A life well lived, is what comes to mind when I think of Cheryl Boyce. Maya Angelou said, "People will never forget how you made them feel." This is true of Cheryl. She empowered people far beyond her job description. She made it personal. Many lives in Jefferson, Harrison and Belmont counties in Ohio have been saved and changed through the vision she had and the way she shared it with me and many others. I'm retired now, but I still get "thank yous" and recognition for the work we did and the work that continues.

Cheryl was a mentor, leader, motivator, and a friend. She greeted me the same as she greeted the mayor or the governor and made me feel just as important. I thank God for sending her our way.

*Sharon Kirtdoll,
Founder and Former Director—Urban Mission Ministries*



A Valued Colleague

Condolences to the family.

It is a privilege to lend our voice with others who have been asked to offer thoughts about Cheryl. In my experience with Cheryl it became evident early on, she had an undying love for people. Through to this time she did not waiver from that first impression. I also consider it a duty to do so because Cheryl answered the clarion call of our Ancestors to pick up the spear waging the fight against racial and social injustice that in her professional world manifests itself in health inequities.

Cheryl was committed to improving the human condition of underserved, vulnerable and under resourced community's in general and the African American community in particular. She was a woman of integrity who refused to be seduced or intimidated by politics or a position. She remained true to the people and we are rewarded with programs that advance health equity and achieve systemic change today.

I am thankful and honored to have known and served with Cheryl to that end.

May she Rest in Peace.

*Noble Maseru, Ph.D. MPH
Health Commissioner, Cincinnati (Retired 2006 – 2016)*



A Willing Mentor

START WITH WHAT THEY KNOW.

Ms. Cheryl Boyce was a phenomenal woman. Beautiful inside and out, Ms. Boyce was a pioneer and Ohio Commission on Minority Health trailblazer giving so much of herself to civic activities. Her advocacy efforts and dedicated work for minorities led the way for social justice and change that spanned way beyond Ohio. UMADAOP of Dayton is ever so grateful to Ms. Boyce for laying a foundation, sharing her wealth of knowledge, and developing a model that is used in over 30 states. My hope is that she rests in peace knowing she did all that she could and that her memory will always be in our hearts.

You will be missed but not forgotten.

Dr. Marketa Robinson and The UMADAOP of Dayton staff



Listening to the Elders



Connecting with the People

In 1975, I met a phenomenal woman in the person of Cheryl A. Boyce. She had just obtained her Master of Science degree from the University of Cincinnati and was hired as the first African American Health Educator at the Ohio Department of Health. Cheryl cracked the glass ceiling for women of color. Then she went on to shatter that same glass ceiling when the Ohio Governor appointed her as the first Executive Director of the Ohio Commission on Minority Health. Thank you for fighting tirelessly to identify and address health disparities in people of color.

Victoria Wilder Crews

Chief, Division of Prevention Services, Retired

Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services

Ohio Asian American Health Coalition on behalf of its member Organizations would like to pay tribute Ms. Cheryl Boyce. Ms. Cheryl Boyce was a great visionary and an inspiration. She was also a warm, kind, and caring person. She has provided support and inspiration along with encouraging words and guidance. She gave us the reason why we needed to bring the community together to create a Coalition to bring all the Asians in Ohio to receive the status we have today. Ms. Boyce with her diligent efforts brought forth the establishment of the Ohio Ethnic Health Coalitions and encouraged the Asian Community to create the Ohio Asian American Health Coalition. Her influence is immeasurable and was bestowed upon us. She served as a role model, mentor and taught us to be diligent in addressing health disparities.

The Ohio Asian American Health is forever grateful to have had a great relationship with Ms. Boyce. She was one of those individuals who left giant footprints of kindness, love, courage, compassion, humor, inspiration and joy. She will never be forgotten and always missed.

Ms. Boyce, we could not have built our Asian American Health Coalition without you!

We have definitely lost a treasure whose work, or should I say passion, touched thousands in her lifetime! Myself and our family have lost a friend and the magnitude of this loss is immeasurable. Cheryl and her family will always be in our thoughts and our prayers, as we truly loved her. She talked of her husband and daughter so much so that we felt like we knew them. Her legacy will always be seen in those of us who followed and strived to walk in her footsteps. She has left a piece of herself in each of us and her love, warmth and leadership taught us that as human beings we have the power to help make changes for our fellow brothers and sisters of all races.

Love and prayers to all of you. Lanna Samaniego and family – North American Indian Cultural Center – Native American/Alaskan Native Health Coalition

Too much to say and too much history in so little time. Looking back to today. She helped me walk through minority challenges. She was a beautiful black lady. In memoriam we will be placing a dozen books about lupus in Columbus libraries. They will hold a placard in her memory. Truly will be missed by me and more.

*Suzanne Tierney | Chief Executive Officer
Lupus Foundation of America—Greater Ohio Chapter, Inc.*

I was honored to meet and work with Ms. Boyce at the Ohio Commission on Minority Health nearly 20 years ago. During the early days of the Community Health Access Project in Mansfield. Ms. Boyce was not only our funder, but also a mentor, confidante, and guide. She cared deeply about ensuring that Ohio's citizens of color were moving toward steadily toward improved health outcomes and culturally appropriate care.

Although we mourn her loss, we honor her legacy of advocacy and support that she modeled for not only for Ohio but our entire nation. May she rest in peace.

*Deanna West-Torrence
Executive Director
North End Community Improvement Collaborative — Mansfield, Ohio*

A warrior is defined as a person engaged in a struggle. A champion is defined as one that does battle for another's rights and honor. A Shero is defined as a person admired for achievements and noble qualities. Sister Cheryl represented all of that for us. She was unapologetic about the health inequities of minority populations all wrapped up in her heart of gold. She was that gold standard that we strive to achieve. Now that she is elevated to ancestral status – her work continues alongside Martin and Malcolm, John and Julian, Coretta and now Cheryl. We know she continues her heavenly spiritual work and we must continue that vision here on earth. Cheryl embodies the wisdom of Mary McCloud Bethune, "We are heirs and custodians of a great legacy, and we shall bare this burden with strength, dignity, and determination."

*Kevin Dixon, PhD
Franklin County ADAMH Board
Vice President—Community and Cultural Engagement*



Honoring her Colleagues



Appreciating her Friends

It's rare to meet someone and know right away how significant and revered they are to others. This was my impression when I met Cheryl Boyce in 2002. Those first impressions were confirmed by many opportunities to see Ms. Boyce's unwavering commitment to the vision of equity and optimal health for those most at-risk. It was not only her subject matter expertise of the various health issues such as access, tobacco, lupus, heart disease and cancer that was so impressive, it was her unique ability to lead a conversation and bring to light how disparities were affecting our residents and communities across the state. I had the honor of being in meetings and events with Ms. Boyce to learn from and admire first hand her executive leadership and advocacy. It's for all of these reasons and more her legacy will endure in organizations, communities and individuals. Her life's work improved the health of so many and will have a lasting impact on future generations

*Joe Mazolla,
Franklin County Health Commissioner*

BUILD ON WHAT THEY HAVE.

Remembering My Friend – Cheryl Boyce:

I met Cheryl at the U.S. Public Health Service, Office of Minority Health in 1989, and we became friends on that very day. It's never easy to say goodbye to family or friends then let them go, especially to Cheryl Boyce, a long-time friend that commanded much respect and admiration during the course of her career and her special relationship with the Federal Office of Minority Health where it all started for me.

Cheryl was a strong advocate for communities of color, health equity, and for eliminating racial and ethnic health disparities. She stated many times that, "addressing minority health is not just a job, it's a passion and if you're working in this area and don't feel the passion, you're in the wrong field." That statement has stuck with me, and I'm sure with others. She worked tirelessly, but always with a smile and laughter that lit up any room. She was insightful, innovative and strategic. She was candid, classy, courageous, and nourishing.

Cheryl, you can depart knowing you have made a difference in so many people's lives - facilitating their ability to access culturally and linguistically appropriate health care services. These folks will never get to thank you but you knew, and we know that the quality of their lives is better because of your dedicated efforts on the front line as well as behind the scenes.

Rest well my dear friend in the arms of our Lord, though you are no longer physically in our lives to share, but in our hearts, you're always there.

Gerrie Maccannon, Former Special Assistant to the Director—Office of Minority Health, US Public Health Service, DHHS



2017: 30th Anniversary Health Equity Panel -- Dr. Brian Smedley, Keynote

We were honored to learn from Ms. Cheryl Boyce during her tenure as a board director of the Health Policy Institute of Ohio. Her passing is a loss for our state and country. Her leadership laid a foundation for an ongoing commitment in our organization to take on racism and as a driver of health disparities and inequities. Her legacy lives on, in the work of her daughter and all who were mentored and nurtured by her, the efforts of the Ohio Commission of Minority Health and the commitment of many to advance the mission of advancing health equity.

*Amy Rohling McGee, President
Health Policy Institute of Ohio*



Creating a New Generation of Leaders—Directors of the Local Office of Minority Health

The legacy of Mrs. Chery A. Boyce has had a lasting impression on my life not only professionally but on a personal level. Long before racism was considered a public health issue Mrs. Boyce spent her entire career tirelessly serving our community in addressing equity issues. A true visionary and pioneer who led the way in social justice well before it became the mainstream narrative. Mrs. Boyce was instrumental in the establishment of Local Offices of Minority Health within health departments in Ohio. As a result of that vision we are now able to work with a number of local agencies, clinics, health professionals and other health entities to coordinate, educate, and collect data on issues impacting disparities. For all that you have done, Mrs. Boyce, I personally want to say thank you! Thank you for instilling the importance of being strategic and deliberate in addressing health and equity in all policies. Thank you for mentoring countless young professionals like myself instilling the values of commitment and perseverance. Thank you for your humility, grace and professionalism as those lessons have impacted how I interact with colleagues. I am honored to have had the pleasure of working with you, to learn from you, and to carry on the vision you have set in place.

*Ryan Johnson, Director
Columbus Local Office of Minority Health
Columbus Public Health Department*

As a Local Office of Minority Health Coordinator, Ms. Boyce was my beacon of light on how to endure hardship as a good soldier and work tirelessly, strategically, and unapologetically. She knew that the work was more than a job, but a calling to address historical, systemic forces that contribute to poorer health, quality of life and length of life of brown-skinned people. Ms. Boyce was always ready to encourage and lend her support. She was an answer to many people's prayers, including mine. Her value and contributions are inestimable and I will be forever grateful to have known her.

*Cheryl Cain Scroggins
Program Coordinator, Retired
Dayton Local Office of Minority Health
Public Health of Dayton and Montgomery County*

BUT, WITH THE BEST LEADERS,

Cheryl Boyce was a health equity warrior. She led and inspired so many to work as tirelessly as she did to eliminate racial and ethnic minority disparities in health and health care. I am one of those she inspired. She advised, supported and magnified the work of the HHS Office of Minority Health (OMH). She made me realize that every effort and task I completed as an OMH staff member contributed to the fight for health equity. Although she is no longer with us physically, I will support and continue her efforts to reach the goal of health equity.

*Stacey Williams, Program Coordinator/Team Lead
Division of Program Operations*

Office of Minority Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

When I think of Mrs. Cheryl Boyce, I think of her as a “Phenomenal Woman”, a “Trailblazer”, and:

Charismatic — Humble — Enduring spirit — Relational — You are lively — Leader

I am blessed to have worked with her through the Wright State University School of Professional Psychology’s Child and Adolescent Violence Prevention Center under the leadership of Dr. Rodney Hammond, Dr. Betty Yung, and Ms. Kim Hudson.

*May she rest in peace,
Janeece Warfield, Psy.D.*

*Director of Child and Adolescent Violence Prevention
Wright State University School of Professional Psychology*

I was administrative support for Wright State University School of Professional Psychology projects funded by the Commission and I remember that Cheryl Boyce always had a smile on her face and remembered my name whenever I saw her. Her presence was elegant and regal, yet warm and generous. She was an amazing woman.

*Kim Hudson,
Administrative Specialist,
School of Professional Psychology
Wright State University*



National Policy Efforts to eliminate Health Disparities

I met our dear colleague and friend Cheryl in 1989, not long after I became Director of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services' Office of Minority Health (OMH). My key staff were anxious for me to meet her because she had already established credibility and some valuable partnerships that our office would need if our national efforts were to move forward. Cheryl was instrumental in both demonstrating the importance of State Offices of Minority Health locally, and concurrently helping our OMH reach out to other states to form similar organizations and networks.

Cheryl's wonderfully bright personality, her wit and intelligence, and her ability to negotiate with people across political lines were critical to her successes with the Ohio Commission on Minority Health. We were indebted to her for helping to teach these skills to many of our other state and local partners. Especially during these troubling times, we can appreciate what a rare person we were blessed to have with us in the struggle for improved health for minority populations. She has more than earned her reward with our Lord Jesus Christ, Who has welcomed her home.

*William A. (Bill) Robinson, MD, MPH
Past Director, HHS/OMH*



Cheryl opened my eyes and sparked the passion I have for minority health and health disparities. It was through her mentorship; I continue to serve those in need. It was a true honor and a pleasure to serve under her leadership from 1993-2010 and become loyal friends. Her legacy will live on in the many lives she touched and impacted through her unselfish fight for health equity for all. Cheryl, you will be missed but never forgotten – the torch has been passed!

Rest in Peace Mother of Minority Health!

Lisa B. Stafford
Former Associate Director
Ohio Commission on Minority Health



An Excellent Mentor to her employees

Cheryl Boyce was one of God's faithful servants who fulfilled her work and mission on Minority Health throughout the country in quiet fidelity and love until ill-health finally overcame her. She was well known, loved and deeply appreciated by many including those in the African American, Hispanic/Latinx, Asian, Native American and Pacific Islander communities.

Cheryl had extraordinary accomplishments throughout her life and in her career as a HealthCare Advocate, especially on Minority Health issues. She was brilliant, inspiring, impactful and touched many lives in highlighting issues concerning minority health. The death of a healthcare person is unlike the death of any other: we feel it differently, deeply.

We sense that in losing Cheryl, we have lost not only the person but also her unique way of manifesting God's healing. Thank you for your dedication, steadfast love and contribution in addressing minority health issues. Rest peacefully in God's bosom. Adieus!

Benjamin Ibe, Former Fiscal Manager , Ohio Commission on Minority Health

WHEN THE WORK IS DONE,

Cheryl Boyce was my extraordinary mentor, teacher, and sister warrior. The one thing that was so loving, she could be very ill and would check on me to make sure I was doing well with her distinctive encouragement. I will feel the absence of her presence nevertheless, I will carry her in my heart with enduring love, her memories, her passion, her leadership, her empathy, her honesty and integrity, her fight for health equity, and her infectious laugh will remain forever. Rest in loving peace until we meet again.

*Wanda Dillard, RRT, MS
Director of Community Development
OSU Wexner Medical Center*



Recognizing our Partners through the Years



Unwavering Support of Family and Friends

Cheryl Boyce dedicated her life to the elimination of disparities for those most vulnerable, particularly, people of color. Long before it was fashionable to say that racism was a public health crisis, she stood on the mountain and declared it so. From her humble beginnings in the projects of East St. Louis, IL, to the White House, she never demurred in her passion for change. Much like Harriet Tubman, Ida B. Wells, and Sojourner Truth, Cheryl will be remembered for her professional and personal fight to challenge and eliminate disparities.

*Ron Browder
Co-founder and Director,
The Ohio Federation for Health Equity and Social Justice*



Breaking New Ground: Recognizing Violence as a Public Health Issue in Ohio

Cheryl Boyce was the first Public Health Leader in the State of Ohio to recognize violence prevention as a public health risk factor, and the Commission on Minority Health was one of the first state health authorities funding violence prevention efforts.

Cheryl's leadership was instrumental in funding the Positive Adolescent Choices Training (PACT) video, a widely disseminated training tool demonstrating how to work with African American at-risk middle school youth to prevent violence.

The Leader's Guide for the Dealing with Anger video series was dedicated to the Ohio Commission on Minority Health for providing partial funding.

Cheryl's passing hurts tremendously but her support and recognition of our initiatives will be in our hearts forever.

*Rodney Hammond, Ph.D.
Professor Emeritus Wright State University
School of Professional Psychology*

I am Gerald Yung, husband of the late Dr. Betty Yung of Wright State University. I only had the pleasure of meeting Cheryl twice, once with Betty and then in 2012 at a celebration of her life. But I always felt I knew Cheryl based on Betty telling me about the wonderful things Cheryl was developing with Betty's help in finding grant support. What sticks in my mind is I remember Betty saying Cheryl isn't a talker, she actually gets things done.

*Mr. Yung, husband of the late Dr. Betty Yung,
Director of the Research Evaluation Enhancement Program
Wright State University*



Learning New Strategies

Cheryl Boyce is someone who gave so much, especially in the State of Ohio. She served faithfully and made a difference. Many of us stand on her shoulders. I first became acquainted with Cheryl during the 1986 Governor's campaign; I was privileged to meet Cheryl while on leave to serve as Deputy Campaign Manager for the Minority Initiative.

Cheryl Boyce, a funny and playful colleague with a serious business side will be sorely missed. A staunch advocate for minority health and a leader for improving the health of Ohioans and all Americans, she served as founding director of the Ohio Commission on Minority Health. Due to overall needs and circumstances in the community, Cheryl played other roles besides being committed to her professional life, especially working in her church. She was an outstanding health advocate and much more.

In 1987, under Cheryl Boyce's leadership, the Ohio Commission on Minority Health invested in the Community Action Akron Summit with a major cocaine prevention grant which included resources for outreach, connecting African Americans to addiction treatment, and training UMADAOP staff to understand cocaine addiction and the ravages of other drugs. By the mid 80's, these issues had been harshly impact-ing African American communities for some time with few alternatives other than incarceration. Innovative help and support from the Commission on Minority Health made the difference in achieving successful outcomes. The director's accessibility was important and contributed to achievement of program outcomes. Cheryl's community involvement extended to her faith and hard work with her church.

My best also goes out to her husband Russell, daughter, and family. Crystal Ann and I share your grief; but know that, "Joy cometh in the morning." God Bless, so long my friend.

*Malcom Costa , President and CEO
Community Action Akron Summit*



THE TASK ACCOMPLISHED,

Cheryl Boyce frequently quoted Rev. Jesse Jackson in pointing out there are, "two types of people in this world. There are trailblazers and pathfinders." Cheryl was a trailblazer!

She established the first minority health office in the nation, which set the stage for all states having offices of minority health.

She realized and dedicated her life's work to reduce the health disparities that exist between the majority population and persons of color. Her legacy of love and excellence will last forever.

Rick Spencer,

President of CA Wordsmith , Englewood, Ohio

Former Associate Director of the Ohio Commission on Minority Health



The Ohio Commission on Minority Health Staff: Dedicated to Service

Cheryl A. Boyce was a pioneer, trailblazer, speaker, wife, mother, and grandmother. She was at the forefront of bringing awareness to health disparities in minority communities. That was her passion!

It takes a village, but it also requires a leader. Cheryl's leadership, dedication, and tireless efforts for this worthwhile cause touched the lives of many and will impact generations to come.

Cheryl was my mentor and friend. I am forever grateful for the opportunity to have helped her breathe life into the Ohio Task Force on Black and Minority Health, which later became the Ohio Commission on Minority Health in 1987. Cheryl is my SHERO.

Rhonda Zigler

Former Employee,

Ohio Commission on Minority Health



Cheryl's Faith

It is with the deepest sympathy that we, the Bean Family, send heartfelt prayers to the Boyce Family. Russell and Ebony, may God grant you all that you need as you adjust to the physical absence of your beloved Cheryl.

For 23 years I had the blessing of being Cheryl's pastor through the many experiences and vicissitudes of life. As a promoter of health and wellness in leading the Ohio Commission on Minority Health two scriptures bear witness to Cheryl's 'faith' in God and her relationship with Christ, who gave the great commission to His disciple to go into all the world and minister.

"Faith is the substance of things hoped for. The evidence of things not seen."

Hebrews 11:1

"I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me." Philippians 4:13

Reverend Dr. Michael Bean

Former Pastor of St. Paul A.M.E.—Columbus, Ohio



THE PEOPLE WILL SAY...

What can you say about a leader, visionary, torchbearer, teacher and friend? A legend.

What can you say about the same person that you call on the phone and before saying a word, she breaks out with "Did you see?" And then bursts into a full-blown laugh. Tears rolling down your face laugh. Folks come in the office and check on you because in that moment you find the joy and lighter side of any story.

Then she pulls it together and says "I just had to say it. Now, how can I help you missy."

It becomes the best part of your day. Your career. Your life.

Cheryl Boyce had a knack for breaking up hard conversations and tough situations. As I was starting my career at the Columbus Urban League, she was a confidant, advisor, mentor and friend. She helped me break up doubt, fear and insecurity.

She broke down the stereotype that great leaders were untouchable, unavailable and unfriendly. Rather, she would take your call, draw you in with that distinctive voice and listen attentively to your proposal, ideas and concerns. "If it's going to help the community..." she was all for it.

She supported so many innovative programs that were ahead of time but not beyond her vision. Even with her intensive schedule, she showed up to your events, she would speak on the program and provide every resource she had to show her support. Cheryl Boyce spoke life into so many of us who still model her courage, grace under fire and unapologetic commitment to our communities.

We should all remember her for her amazing achievements, championing the Ohio Commission on Minority Health, courageous battle with cancer and breaking through barriers for people of color around the world. I will also remember and miss her smile, humor, candid conversations and motherly love that can never be replaced.

My condolences to her family and friends who have shared in the joys of her life and honor her unbreakable spirit.

W. Shawna Gibbs
Former Columbus School Board Member





Challenging Paradigms and Beliefs

In my study I have a picture of me and Cheryl sitting next to each other on a panel where the topic of the conference was about Black people and people of color.

We had to be in our late 30's. Cheryl was the Director of the Commission on Minority Health and I was the Director of Cultural Initiatives for the state department of Human Services.

I was excited to be sitting next to Cheryl. She was dynamic. A change agent in her own right bringing the health issues of Black people front and center.

I applauded her for her forthrightness in telling us about why it is so important to understand the re-relationship between health, economics, education and the role of racism in all those social determi-nants.

Cheryl took her vision nationally and is responsible for the creation of 30 other state offices of Minority Health. She is a "badddd" Sister!

Cheryl Boyce is a gift to our people. Her legacy continues to bless.

*In deep gratitude,
Fran Frazier, Principal Investigator
Rise Sister Rise*



“WE HAVE DONE THIS OURSELVES”



Leading Communities to healthy outcomes

The Voice from the Asian communities in Ohio and the nation tribute to Cheryl A. Boyce

My name is Bounthanh L Phommasathit. I have known and worked with/for and Mrs. Boyce for over 25 years at the Ohio Commission on Minority Health. She was my boss, mentor, sister, and an unforgettable friend. Her passing has left a deep hole in my heart and the Asian communities forever.

To each member of the Boyces, the Carters, and the Dungeys, especially, Russell, Ebony, Detric, Azaria, Aniah, and Akenzia whom Mrs. Boyce held closely...

Mrs. Boyce was much more to everyone than a wife, mother, grandmother, and friend, she was a treasure to her family, friends, communities, and non-profit organizations throughout the state of Ohio and the nation. Mrs. Boyce will be sorely missed by all of us who loved her and knew her. Her profound commitment and dedication to giving and establishing the Ohio Commission on Minority Health was a major landmark in her career and life.

Her leadership, devotion, and appreciation to the people is what made her special. Mrs. Boyce was a sincere person that gave back not because she had to, but because she wanted to. We should all be grateful to Mrs. Boyce for setting an example for many to see. She enriched our lives because she was loving and caring, she was calm, kind, and generous with her time.

Without her, I would not be the woman that I am today. Thank you, Cheryl!

You will be greatly missed, - Bounthanh and family—Former Program Specialist , OCMH



"I believe in You"

About My Friend, Cheryl Boyce,

Cheryl Boyce is my good friend. I speak of her in the present because I believe, though she is physically gone, as long as we speak her name, she lives. I joined the U.S Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as Associate Director for Minority Health, in August 1988.

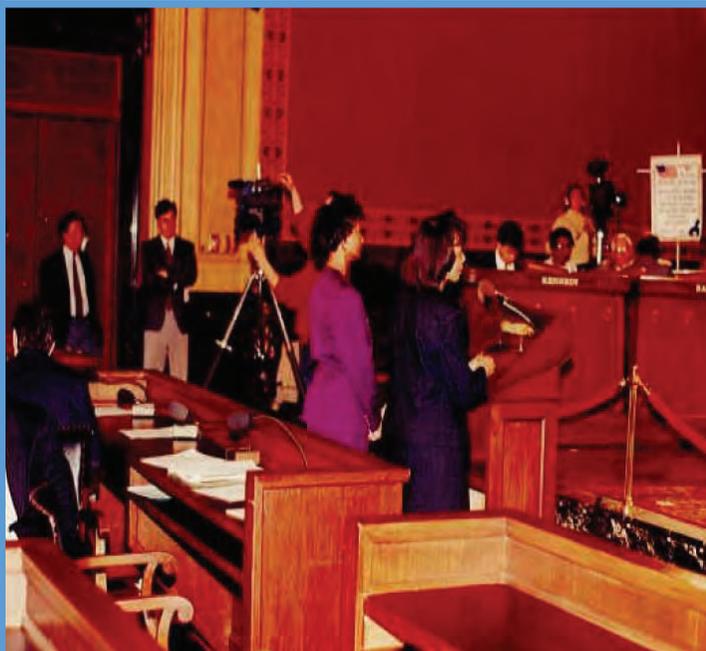
Soon after, I learned that the major constituencies for CDC was state health departments. As we expanded to include non-government organizations, state health departments remained the primary venue to reach people of color. The Honorable Congressman Louis Stokes (D) from Ohio was among the most influential congressional representatives in the U.S. House of Representatives. He was the federal advocate for Minority Health.

The Nation also needed a strong health advocate for minority populations and communities of color at the state level. That strong advocate was Cheryl Boyce. She was the *first Director, of the first Office of Minority Health, in Ohio, the first state* to establish an Office of Minority Health in the U.S. Cheryl was the leader.

She was insightful, innovative and strategic. She was candid and courageous, yet she was compassionate and empathic. Cheryl provided leadership at the local, state and national level; inside and outside of the Academy. As the health of people of color improves, the name Cheryl Boyce will be chronicled, amongst its champions. Cheryl Boyce *is* my good friend.

Rest in peace, my sister, rest in peace.

*Rueben C. Warren DDS, MPH, Dr. P.H., M.Div.
Professor of Bioethics & Director
National Center for Bioethics in Research and Health Care,
Tuskegee University.
Former Associate Director for Minority Health
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
US Department of Health and Human Services*



Testimony: Setting the Record Straight



Grateful for Powerful Leaders

**MRS. CHERYL,
WE COULD NOT HAVE DONE THIS
WITHOUT YOU!**



CHERYL A. BOYCE, M.P.H.
Executive Director,
Ohio Commission of Minority Health

Governor Michael DeWine

Commissioners



Deena Chisolm, Ph.D.
Chairperson
Columbus



Timothy Barreiro, D.O.
Vice Chair
Youngstown



Carla Hicks, R.N.
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Cecil Thomas
9th Senate District



State Senator
Stephanie Kunze
16th Senate District



State Representative
Erica Crawley
26th House District



House Representative
Todd Smith
43rd House District



Kimberly Hall
Director
Ohio Department of Jobs
& Family Services



Lori Criss, Director
Ohio Department
of Mental Health and
Addiction Services



Lance Himes
Interim Director
Ohio Department of
Health



Jeffery Davis, Director
Ohio Department
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Begins With You!*[®]



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