



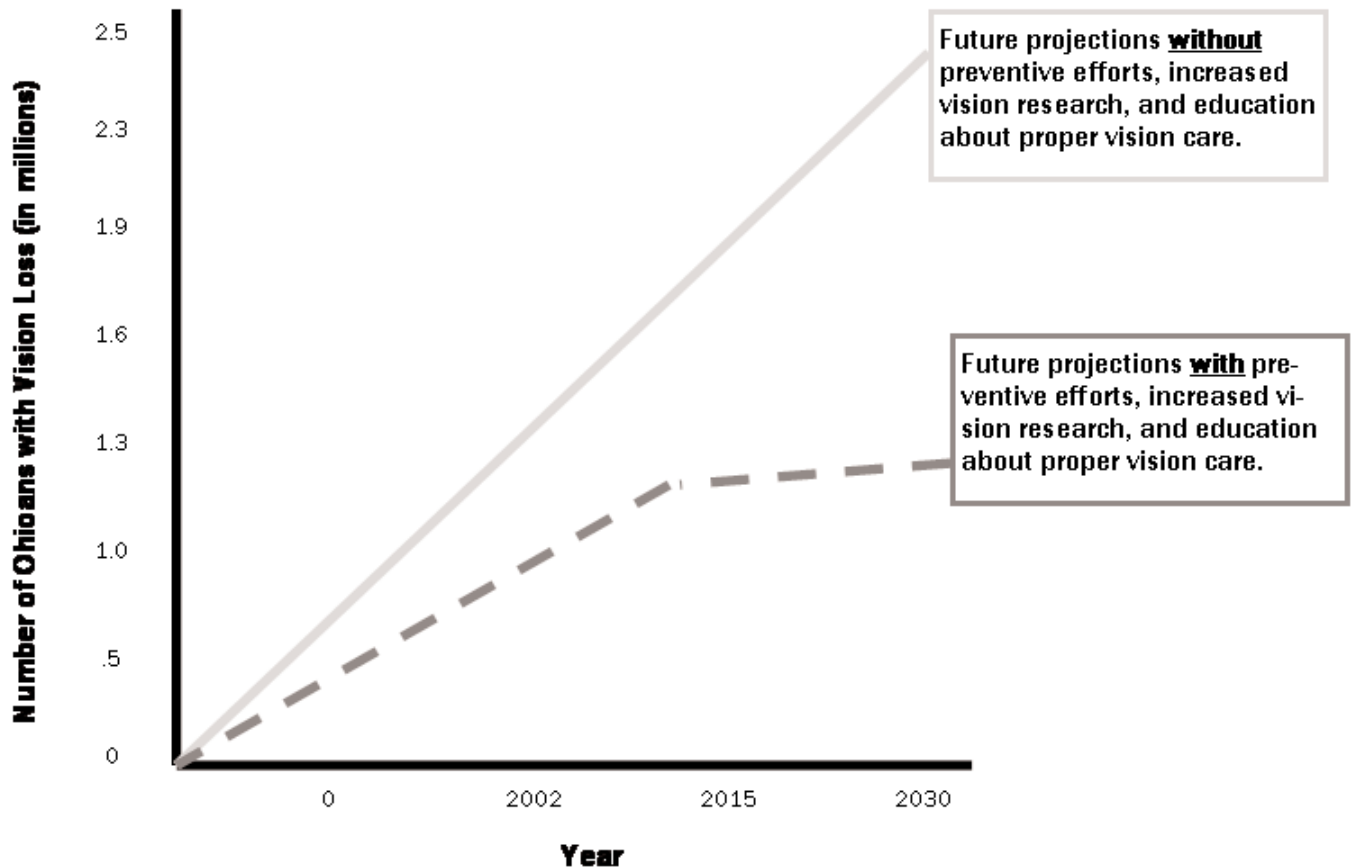
# Ohio's Aging Eye Public Private Partnership

A statewide collaboration preparing for the growth of aging eye challenges in Ohio

## REPORT TO GOVERNOR BOB TAFT & THE OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

January 2005

### Growth of Vision Loss in Ohio



STATE OF OHIO  
**Executive Department**

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

*Columbus*

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, on April 28, 2003, an Aging Eye Public Private Partnership” has been established; and

**WHEREAS**, more than 2.5 million Ohioans will be affected from the threat of blindness from age-related eye disease. The number of Ohio seniors affected by these diseases is expected to double over the next 30 years as the Baby Boomer generation ages, largely resulting from the eye disease of diabetic retinopathy, cataract, glaucoma, and age-related macular degeneration (AMD); and

**WHEREAS**, the Aging Eye Public/Private Partnership will be formed within the Department of Aging to develop a strategic plan of action for public/private partnerships to address issues relating to vision care public policy, vision care services, vision education, and vision research that impact the quality of life for Ohio’s seniors now and in the future; and

**WHEREAS**, the Aging Eye Public/Private Partnership will build partnerships and collaborations to provide input to various state agencies and organizations concerned with Ohio’s aging population to insure a consistent and comprehensive statewide plan of action. Advise and make recommendations as to ways of increasing awareness about the growing future vision needs of Ohio’s aging population; and examine and recommend best practices for seniors in the area of identifying eye problems and maintaining healthy eyes; and

**WHEREAS**, the formation of an Aging Eye Public Partnerships supported by the following organizations: NASA Glenn Research Center, National Governors Association, Office of the Governor, Ohio Department of Aging, Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission, Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Ophthalmological Society, Ohio Optometric Association, Ohio Veteran’s Administration Work Group, Opticians Association of Ohio, and Prevent Blindness Ohio.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, BOB TAFT, Governor of the State of Ohio**, do hereby recognize April 28, 2003 as the

**AGING EYE  
PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP**

throughout the State of Ohio and encourage all Ohioans to join with public and private entities across the state in understanding the importance of vision care.

On this 28<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2003;

*Bob Taft*

Bob Taft  
Governor



# Ohio's Aging Eye Public Private Partnership

December 28, 2004

The Honorable Bob Taft  
77 South High Street  
30th Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6117

Dear Governor Taft:

On behalf of Ohio's Aging Eye Public Private Partnership (AEPPP), we are pleased to present our first Annual Report summarizing our accomplishments to date and future directives. Ohio's Aging Eye Public Private Partnership is a statewide collaboration formed to respond to the growth of age-related eye disease in Ohio. The mission of the AEPPP is to develop a strategic plan of action to address issues relating to vision care public policy, vision care services, vision education, and vision research that impact the quality of life for Ohio's seniors now and in the future.

The work of the AEPPP is the first of its kind in the U.S., representing the only organized effort to create a statewide plan of action to curb the growth of age-related vision problems and preventable blindness. A broad constituency of Ohio agencies and organizations has been brought together to direct the mission of the AEPPP and fulfill the goals. Each partner represents thousands of Ohioans that would be dramatically impacted by vision loss if not for the work of the AEPPP. Each agency has a role to play in the intervention and prevention of blindness in Ohio- educating consumers, increasing access to vision care, communications, and advancing research.

The need for a plan of action is apparent! The report, *Vision Problems in the U.S.* (2002), has shown that over 187,000 Ohioans age 40 and older are currently legally blind or visually impaired, largely resulting from age related eye diseases which include diabetic retinopathy, cataract, glaucoma, and age-related macular degeneration (AMD). More Americans and Ohioans than ever are facing the threat of blindness from age-related eye disease. The number of Ohio seniors and adults affected by these diseases is expected to double over the next 30 years as the Baby Boomer generation ages- reaching more than 2.5 Million Ohioans if nothing is done to curb this growth.

While it is believed that half of all blindness can be prevented, the number of Ohioans who suffer from vision loss continues to increase. Vision disorders and impairment are major public health problems. Vision ranks only behind arthritis and heart disease for impaired function in people age 70 and older. In addition, vision is critical to conducting activities of daily living, is a portal for language, and affects developmental learning, communicating, working, health, and quality of life. Vision impairment is one of the most feared disabilities.

Currently, there is no local or state government agency that has responsibility for addressing the eye health concerns of Ohio's adults. That's why the Aging Eye Public Private Partnership was formed - to provide for a volunteer movement to bring this important concern to the attention of the Ohio decision-makers and the general public.


Based on these startling statistics, policymakers, government, social service and health care organizations, researchers and other statewide organizations representing broad constituencies are working together in partnership to address the impact vision loss will have on quality of life for Ohio's citizens and economy.

We thank you for your leadership in creating the Aging Eye Public/Private Partnership, and look forward to your continuing support of our efforts as we all help Ohioans enjoy good sight for life.

Sincerely,



Joan W. Lawrence  
Director, Ohio Department of Aging  
Co-Chair, Ohio's Aging Eye Public Private Partnership



Robert D. Newcomb, OD, MPH  
Professor of Clinical Optometry  
The Ohio State University College of Optometry  
Co-Chair, Ohio's Aging Eye Public Private Partnership

"These aging eye diseases are a looming healthcare issue expected to affect 2.5 million Ohioans in the next 30 years. Baby Boomers, in particular, need to take preventive steps to protect their eyes."

- Robert Newcomb,  
OD, MPH  
The Ohio State  
University College of  
Optometry  
Co-Chair, Ohio's  
Aging Eye Public  
Private Partnership

"The goal of Ohio's Aging Eye Public Private Partnership is to raise awareness of the important detection, treatment and rehabilitation services that will be needed."

- Joan W. Lawrence  
Director, Ohio  
Department of Aging  
Co-Chair, Ohio's  
Aging Eye Public  
Private Partnership

## The Costs of Vision Loss for Ohio



Normal vision



Vision with Age-Related Macular Degeneration

Age-Related Macular Degeneration (AMD) creates a loss of sharp, central vision. No successful treatment is currently available.

Today: 71,113 Ohioans have AMD

By 2030: 142,226 Ohioans will have AMD

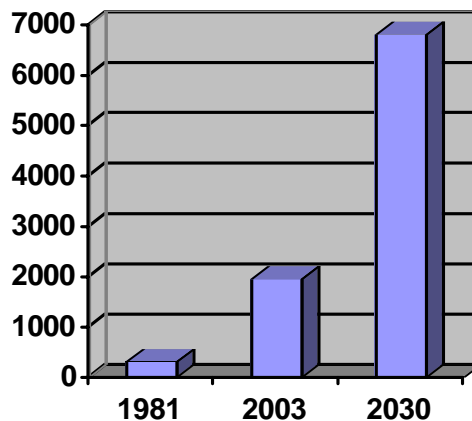
(Source: Vision Problems in the U.S. - a study published by Prevent Blindness America in partnership with the National Eye Institute in 2002.)

Blindness and visual impairment represent a significant human and economic toll on individuals and society. In order to ensure access to and availability of treatment and rehabilitation services, it is necessary to promote awareness of the value of vision and its cost to society. Based on a 2004 study published by the National Eye Institute, currently the annual economic costs of visual disorders and disabilities in the U.S. and Ohio are estimated to be over \$67.5 billion and \$2.7 billion

respectively. Based on the estimation in the doubling of vision loss over the next three decades and figuring an annual inflation rate of 3%, the cost of visual disorders and disabilities in Ohio can reach over \$9.4 billion annually by the year 2030!

(For the complete study and data source, click on "What's New" and see Estimates of the Economic Costs of Visual Disorders and Disabilities in the U.S. and Ohio at [www.preventblindness.org/ohio/agingeye](http://www.preventblindness.org/ohio/agingeye).)

### Estimated Growth of Economic Costs of Vision Loss to Ohio from 1981 to 2030 (in Millions):

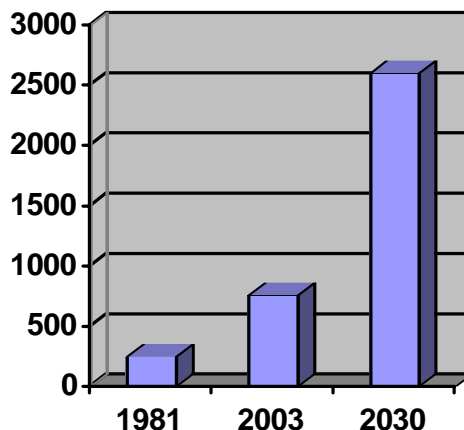


#### Direct Costs

1981= \$316 million  
2003= \$1.95 billion  
2030= \$6.8 billion

#### Direct Costs include:

- Visits to Ophthalmologists
- Visits to Other M.D.s
- Eye Surgery (M.D. fees)
- Optometrists' Services and Materials
- In-patient Hospital Care
- Nursing Home Care
- Ophthalmic Drugs and Optical Goods
- Rehabilitation Services and Equipment



#### Indirect Costs

1981= \$250 million  
2003= \$756 million  
2030= \$2.6 billion

#### Indirect Costs include:

- Days Lost from Work (acute episodes)
- Persons Unable to Work
- Persons Unable to Keep House
- Institutionalized Persons
- Waiting Time for Eye Care

## Positioning Ohio as a Leader in Vision

### *The work of the Aging Eye Public Private Partnership*

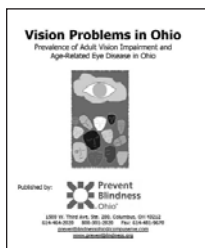
Ohio's Aging Eye Public Private Partnership is working to position Ohio as a leader in age-related eye disease research, prevention, and awareness and creating a model for other states to use in addressing the increasing prevalence of glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, cataract, and age-related macular degeneration. Since its formation in August 2003 through the publication of this report, the AEPPP has accomplished the following:

#### **Aging Eye Website:**

Ohio's Aging Eye Public Private Partnership website went "live" in January 2004. Visit [www.preventblindness.org/ohio/agingeye](http://www.preventblindness.org/ohio/agingeye) to learn more about the background, goals, activities, and membership of the AEPPP. Since going "live", the AEPPP website has received over 800 hits monthly.

#### **Vision Problems In Ohio:**

Vision Problems in Ohio was developed by the AEPPP and Prevent Blindness Ohio, and is based on the national study *Vision Problems in the U.S.* published by Prevent Blindness America, the National Eye Institute (NEI) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH). This 100-page study is the only comprehensive resource detailing the prevalence of the four leading causes of vision loss in Ohio. Demographic information is presented for each Ohio county. A full copy of the study is available on the AEPPP website: [www.preventblindness.org/ohio/agingeye](http://www.preventblindness.org/ohio/agingeye).



Institutes of Health (NIH). This 100-page study is the only comprehensive resource detailing the prevalence of the four leading causes of vision loss in Ohio. Demographic information is presented for each Ohio county. A full copy of the study is available on the AEPPP website: [www.preventblindness.org/ohio/agingeye](http://www.preventblindness.org/ohio/agingeye).

#### **Informational Brochures and Fact Sheets:**

Informational brochures and fact sheets describing the growth of vision loss among Ohio's seniors, the work of the AEPPP have been developed and are being distributed to community leaders and decision-makers by members of the AEPPP. Samples of the materials can be found on the AEPPP website.

#### **Toll-Free Hotline:**

Prevent Blindness Ohio, a member of the AEPPP, supports a toll-free hotline (800-301-2020) to answer questions and provide further information/referral for vision questions and concerns from

consumers, professionals and community leaders.

#### **Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS):**

The BFRSS is the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) annual health monitoring telephone survey that is conducted throughout the United States. Through the commitment of The AEPPP and the Ohio Department of Health, Ohio is among the first states to implement the optional vision module included in the survey beginning in January 2005. The data resulting from this survey will be the first of its type available and will assist the AEPPP and its member organizations in its work to develop a strategic plan of action to address issues relating to vision care public policy, vision care services, vision education, and vision research.

#### **Vision Facts Questionnaire:**

A 12-question pre/post vision questionnaire was developed for members of the AEPPP to utilize with a variety of audiences to raise the level of awareness regarding the growth of vision loss among Ohio's seniors. The questionnaire has been used at workshops and presentations to encourage discussion and learning. The test can be accessed through the AEPPP website.

#### **Senior Eye Health Vision Screening Training:**

Through a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Prevent Blindness Ohio offers free vision screening training and equipment for providers of primary health care and senior care professionals to conduct vision screenings for the senior and adult populations that they serve. Over 100 primary health care/senior service providers were trained in 2004.

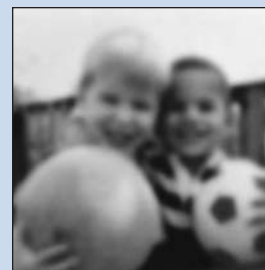
#### **Legislative Breakfast:**

Plans to create the Legislative Task Force for Preserving Adult Vision were announced at Ohio's Aging Eye Public Private Partnership Legislative Breakfast on May 19, 2004. The Breakfast raised awareness among Ohio policy-makers about aging eye issues and the need to create a plan of action for the state. Speaking on the issues surrounding the growth of vision loss among Ohio seniors were

(continued on page 6)



Normal vision



Vision with **Cataract**

Cataract is a clouding of the eye's naturally clear lens and is usually treatable by surgical means only.

Today:  
879,217 Ohioans  
have Cataract

By 2030: 1,758,434  
Ohioans will have  
Cataract

(Source: Vision Problems in the U.S. - a study published by Prevent Blindness America in partnership with the National Eye Institute in 2002.)



Normal vision



Vision with  
**Diabetic Retinopathy**

Diabetic Retinopathy involves abnormal growth of blood vessels in the back of the eye which can leak. Management of diabetes and regular preventative eye exams are the best defense against development of diabetic retinopathy.

Today: 216,861  
Ohioans have  
Diabetic  
Retinopathy

By 2030: 433,722  
Ohioans will have  
Diabetic  
Retinopathy

(Source: Vision Problems in the U.S.- a study published by Prevent Blindness America in partnership with the National Eye Institute in 2002.)

(continued from page 5)

The Honorable Joan Lawrence, Director of the Ohio Department of Aging, Senator Randy Gardner, Senator Steve Stivers and William Casto Director, Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired, Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission.

AEPPP members Senators Randy Gardner and Steve Stivers issued a Letter of Commendation from the Ohio Senate and Representative Kathleen Chandler issued a Letter of Commendation from the House of Representatives to raise awareness of the need for the Partnership's activities.

### Task Force for Preserving Adult Vision:

Senate Concurrent Resolution 33, legislation to form The Task Force for Preserving Adult Vision, was developed in response to growth in the number of Ohio seniors affected by aging eye diseases. AEPPP Member, Senator Steve Stivers (R-Columbus) is the sponsor of SCR 33 and Senators Randy Gardner (R-Bowling Green), Ray Miller (D-Columbus), Jeffrey Armbruster (R-North Ridgeville), David Goodman (R-Columbus), Bill Harris (R-Ashland), Ron Amstutz (R-Wooster) were co-sponsors of the resolution. The bill was passed unanimously in the closing days of the 125th General Assembly. Representative Geoff Smith (R-

Columbus) championed the resolution in the House of Representatives.

### Diabetes Cost Reduction Act:

Diabetes is the fastest growing cause of blindness and can lead to kidney failure, heart disease, limb amputation, disability and death. The AEPPP joined forces with the Ohioans for Diabetes Control Coalition to promote the passage of Sub. HB 146, the Diabetes Cost Reduction Act (DCRA). The DCRA requires certain health care policies, contracts, agreements, and plans to provide benefits for equipment, supplies, and medication for the diagnosis, treatment, and management of diabetes and for diabetes self-management education. HB 146 did not pass in the 125th General Assembly, but will likely be reintroduced in the 126th General Assembly.

### Ohio Eye Research Directory:

The Ohio Eye Research Directory is a listing of 72 Ohio vision researchers currently involved in 257 vision research projects at 14 institutions of higher education. The AEPPP compiled the directory to provide Ohio vision researchers the opportunity to learn about vision research conducted in Ohio, the funding sources supporting the research and opportunities for collaboration. Click on Eye Research Directory at [www.preventblindness.org/ohio/agingeye](http://www.preventblindness.org/ohio/agingeye).

## Future Plans

The *Legislative Task Force for Preserving Adult Vision* chaired by Senator Jeffrey J. Armbruster (R-North Ridgeville), will begin its work during the 126th General Assembly to examine the current status of vision services available to Ohio adults, recommend ways to increase public awareness about the future vision needs of Ohio's aging population, and examine ways to increase vision research in Ohio which seeks the causes of and cures for vision loss. A report of the Task Force recommendations will be provided in June 2005.

The AEPPP has scheduled an *Ohio Vision Loss Prevention Research Symposium* for June 6, 2005 at COSI - The Center for Science and Industry, in Columbus, Ohio. The goal of the symposium is to foster a collaborative environment for accelerating the translation of vision research discoveries into the creation of Ohio health care products and services that prevent

vision loss due to aging eye diseases. The Planning Committee is chaired by Tim Kern, PhD, Professor of Medicine & Ophthalmology, Director, Center for Diabetes Research, Case Western Reserve University and Marc Cloutier, PhD, Special Assistant for Biotechnology, Ohio Department of Development. Approximately 200 leaders from government, public health, eye care research/clinical practice, senior care and the bio-science/biotech community are expected to attend.

An *Eye Health Resource Directory* listing organizations that can assist seniors and senior care professionals in finding an eye doctor, consumer information about eye health and safety connecting with vision rehabilitation, senior services and, financial assistance is under development. The directory will be widely distributed to primary care professionals, social service agencies, state departments and community centers.

## Financial Support

The Ohio Aging Eye Public Private Partnership's work has been supported entirely by donated products and services from its member organizations and contributions from private sources. Prevent Blindness Ohio serves as the fiscal agent for contributions supporting the work of the AEPPP. Direct funding for educational materials, advocacy, printing, supplies, meeting expenses and the Ohio Vision Loss Prevention Research Symposium has been provided by:

Allergan  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
Kemin Foods  
KnowledgeWorks Foundation  
Medical Ophthalmics

NASA Glenn Research Center  
National Eye Institute  
National Governors' Association  
Northeastern Ohio Healthcare Foundation  
Ohio Department of Aging  
Ohio Department of Health  
Ohio Osteopathic Heritage Foundation  
Ohio Rehabilitation Services  
Commission/Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired  
PhRMA  
Prevent Blindness America  
Prevent Blindness Ohio



Normal vision



Vision with **Glaucoma**

## Visionary Leadership

Aging Eye Public Private Partnership member organizations have integrated a wide range of aging eye activities and messages into their existing communications/programs which serve their 1 million+ Ohio constituents. AEPPP member organizations

have promoted awareness and action in regard to curbing the rise of vision loss among Ohio seniors in a variety of ways. Following is a summary of programming activity reported by members of the AEPPP.

Organization	Articles published in newsletter/magazine	Information Provided on website	Sponsored a Workshop or exhibit	Trained to Conduct Adult Vision Screenings	Distributed Educational Materials	Contacted Ohio's Legislators
Area Agency on Aging- PSA 3	X				X	
Area Agency on Aging- PSA 5		X		X		
Association of Ohio Philanthropic Homes	X	X	X			X
Cincinnati Association for the Blind	X	X		X	X	X
Cleveland Sight Center	X		X	X	X	X
Cloverbrook Center	X	X			X	
Council for Older Adults	X	X				X
Easter Seals of Northwestern Ohio	X	X	X		X	
Ohio Agencies Serving the Visually Impaired	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ohio Department of Development	X	X	X		X	
Ohio Department of Aging	X	X	X		X	X
Ohio Department of Insurance	X	X	X			
Ohio Department of Health	X		X	X	X	X
Ohio Nurses Association	X	X				
Ohio Ophthalmological Society	X	X			X	X
Ohio Optometric Association	X	X	X		X	X
Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission- BSVI	X	X				X
Ohio Senate (Stivers)	X	X				X
Opticians Association of Ohio	X	X	X	X	X	X
Prevent Blindness Ohio	X	X	X	X	X	X
Sight Center of Northwest Ohio	X				X	
Vision Center of Central Ohio	X	X	X	X	X	X

Today: 91,884 Ohioans have Glaucoma

By 2030: 183,768 Ohioans will have Glaucoma

(Source: Vision Problems in the U.S. - a study published by Prevent Blindness America in partnership with the National Eye Institute in 2002.)

Photo credit: National Eye Institute, National Institute of Health

# Ohio's Aging Eye Public Private Partnership Membership Roster

Hon. Joan Lawrence  
AEPPP co-chair  
Dr. Robert Newcomb  
AEPPP co-chair

Richard T. Bunner  
Public/Professional Awareness  
Subcommittee Chair

William Casto  
Public Policy Subcommittee Chair

Dr. Rafat Ansari  
Vision Research Subcommittee Chair

Association of Ohio Health Commissioners  
[www.aohc.net](http://www.aohc.net)

Association of Philanthropic Homes for the Aging  
[www.aopha.org](http://www.aopha.org)

Council for Older Adults  
[www.growingolder.org](http://www.growingolder.org)

KnowledgeWorks Foundation  
[www.kwfdn.org](http://www.kwfdn.org)

NASA Glenn Research Center  
<http://technology.grc.nasa.gov>

Ohio Agencies Serving the Visually Impaired  
[www.rsc.ohio.gov/VR\\_Services/BSVI/bsvi.asp](http://www.rsc.ohio.gov/VR_Services/BSVI/bsvi.asp)

Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging  
[www.ohioaging.org](http://www.ohioaging.org)

Ohio Association of Gerontology and Education  
[www.ohioaging.org](http://www.ohioaging.org)

Ohio Council for Home Care  
[www.homecareohio.org](http://www.homecareohio.org)

Ohio Department of Aging  
[www.goldenbuckeye.com](http://www.goldenbuckeye.com)

Ohio Department of Health  
[www.odh.state.oh.us](http://www.odh.state.oh.us)

Ohio Department of Insurance  
[www.ohioinsurance.gov](http://www.ohioinsurance.gov)

Ohio Nurses Association  
[www.ohnurses.org](http://www.ohnurses.org)

Ohio Ophthalmological Society  
[www.ohioeye.org](http://www.ohioeye.org)

Ohio Optometric Association  
[www.ooa.org](http://www.ooa.org)

Ohio Osteopathic Association  
[www.ooanet.org](http://www.ooanet.org)

Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission  
[www.rsc.ohio.gov](http://www.rsc.ohio.gov)

Opticians Association of Ohio  
[www.oao.org](http://www.oao.org)

Prevent Blindness Ohio  
[www.preventblindness.org/ohio](http://www.preventblindness.org/ohio)

Representative Kathleen Chandler  
[www.house.state.oh.us](http://www.house.state.oh.us)

Senator Randy Gardner  
[www.senate.state.oh.us](http://www.senate.state.oh.us)

Senator Steve Stivers  
[www.senate.state.oh.us](http://www.senate.state.oh.us)

VA Health Care System of Ohio, VISN 10  
<http://www1.va.gov/vsn10/>