



## **Policymakers visit McGregor PACE**

*“Expand PACE Ohio” launches to improve awareness of PACE effectiveness and cost-savings*

**CLEVELAND, Ohio** - On Friday, October 1, State Senator Mark Romanchuk (R-Mansfield), State Representative Bill Roemer (R-Richfield), and leaders from the Ohio Departments of Medicaid and Aging joined LeadingAge Ohio to visit McGregor PACE in Warrensville Heights, located in Cuyahoga County. [The Program for All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly \(PACE\)](#) provides comprehensive medical and social services to certain frail, elderly people (participants) living in the community. The vast majority of Ohioans who are in PACE are dually eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid.

By ensuring access to vital medical and social services, as well as care coordination, many community-residing Ohioans who meet nursing home level-of-care can maintain their independence safely and for longer through PACE. Unlike neighboring states such as Pennsylvania, Indiana, and Michigan, which have embraced the PACE model, Ohio is home to only one PACE provider – McGregor PACE.

“McGregor is proud to provide services and supports through the PACE program and we believe it is critical to expand this option for Ohio’s older adults,” said Ann Conn, President/CEO of the McGregor Foundation. “The demographics of Ohio are changing - PACE can be one of the community-based options that meet the demands of Ohio’s rapidly-growing older adult population. This proven model is one of the best ways McGregor meets its mission of supporting seniors in need while still remaining in the community.”

Ohio is home to many PACE-ready sites where providers are seeking to offer this program. A plan to expand PACE to other metropolitan regions of the state, such as Columbus, Cincinnati, Toledo, Dayton, and Lorain, was included in the [As Passed by the Senate version of the state budget bill, HB 110](#). Efforts are underway to complete the expansion, which can be achieved through rulemaking by the DeWine Administration or legislative action. A coalition of quality-focused providers who directly care for over 60,000 Ohio elders in all corners of the state, along with state and federal advocates, have launched [www.ExpandPACEOhio.org](http://www.ExpandPACEOhio.org) and @ExpandPACEOhio (Twitter). These resources are meant to educate policymakers and the public as Ohio moves toward greater utilization of PACE.

“McGregor PACE’s innovative model of care is limited to those adults within the greater Cleveland market and must now be expanded throughout the state,” said Laurence “Larry” Gumina, CEO of Ohio Living, the state’s largest not-for-profit provider of life plan communities and services. “The PACE model of care has been proven to effectively and efficiently coordinate preventive, primary, acute, behavioral, and long-term care services, while enhancing the outcomes of older adults, many of those who are relying on Medicaid.”

Data show that PACE offers proven cost savings, costing 33% less than what otherwise would have been paid under the Medicaid state plan. PACE also offers unmatched participant satisfaction, with over 97% of participants reporting high satisfaction with the care received. Respected organizations including [the Health Dimensions Group](#), [the Center for Community Solutions](#), and [the National PACE Association](#) have conducted research to support this data and exemplify the effectiveness of this model.

"Organizations across the country have looked for ways to effectively and safely care for older Americans in their homes and communities, and as a result, interest in PACE has grown," said Shawn Bloom, President and CEO of the National PACE Association. "We are very excited to see interest in developing PACE in Ohio, shared among a group of highly-respected providers that have served their communities for decades. These "PACE-ready" providers are experienced in providing care to the population served by PACE, and can build upon their current array of home- and community-based services."

-30-

*Since 1877, McGregor is a leading provider of services for seniors throughout Northeast Ohio and Cuyahoga County through its residential care services, community-based PACE program that keeps people connected in the community, and its grant-making foundation that supports affordable housing with services, workforce development and quality of life.*

*Founded in 1937, LeadingAge Ohio is a nonprofit organization that represents over 400 long-term care organizations and hospices, as well as those providing ancillary health care and housing services, in more than 150 Ohio towns and cities. The continuum of care reflected by the member organizations serve an estimated 400,000 elderly Ohioans daily and employ more than 35,000 persons statewide.*