

September 30, 2003

The Honorable John Carey
Ohio Senate
Statehouse
Columbus, OH 43215
Attention: Matt Whatley

Re: DRAFT MH Custody Relinquishment Legislation, LSC 125 0670
Meeting Summary

Dear Senator Carey and Matt,

Thank you for your time today to discuss PCSAO concerns with the draft bill listed above. I so much appreciate your willingness to consider our perspective, and know your intent is not to add new unfunded costs and responsibilities to the child welfare system, but to assist families in crisis due to the mental health needs of their children.

As a summary of our meeting, I understood the following:

- As always, you continue to support the Public Children Services Agencies in their mission of child protection, strengthening families, and achieving timely permanency for children within their own home, that of a relative, or an adoptive home.
- The PCSAO Legislative Committee is analyzing the bill this month, and I will be able to give very specific feedback on the draft language after October 20, 2003.
- After receiving and reviewing our feedback, you will re-convene the group of key stakeholders, that met to originally consider this legislative effort.
- It is not your intent to introduce this draft legislation, but to continue proactive efforts to address the issue.

As always, thank you for your leadership and efforts on behalf of Ohio's children and families.

Sincerely,

Crystal Ward Allen
Executive Director