



PCSAO Weekly Update

January 19, 2010

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DISPROPORTIONALITY AND CHILD WELFARE— PCSAO participated in a meeting with metro agencies, ODJFS and Casey Family Programs last week to discuss ways to address this topic. There are a number of innovative activities happening in Ohio and across the country, and Ohio data (summarized by data guru Roger Ward) shows not just that there is an overrepresentation of black children in our system, but provides guidance as to age at entry, length of stay, etc. It is very exciting to move into a discussion for action, and PCSAO is appreciative of the state, local and foundation leadership at this time.

CHIPS, HB 371— The Child In Need of Protective Services legislation will receive sponsor testimony today in the Ohio House of Representatives. PCSAO continues to distribute info to ensure membership is well informed and has a chance for conversation, questions and answers as the General Assembly considers this important legislation. See emails (with brief attachments) sent to Execs and Legislative Committee members from Crystal and Greg on Feb. 8 and Feb. 11. As more becomes available, we will keep you up to date!

OHIO YAB CRAFTS NEW STRATEGIC PLAN— Saturday, Jan. 19, 2010 officers of the OHIO Youth Advisory Board met to be installed as officers and decide the direction of the board for the next couple years. While the final draft of the new strategic plan is being developed several concepts will be addressed in the new plan:

- Workforce Development and Higher Education
- Youth Voice in Court Proceedings
- Independent Living Services
- Further Board Development.

The OHIO Youth Advisory Board reviewed their annual plan accessible online here: <http://www.pcsao.org/OhioYAB/2009/OHIOYABAnnual%20Report.pdf> and well as there former strategic plan. The organization's officers celebrated much success as most of the previous strategic plan was accomplished. OHIO YAB is excited about the promise of the new plan and what the accomplishment of the goals outlined in the plan will mean for youth currently in care or aging out of care.

LISA DICKSON NAMED FCAA VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR— The Board of Directors of Foster Care Alumni of America, the only national association for adults who experienced foster care as children, has named Ohio resident, Lisa Dickson as Volunteer of the Year. Lisa lived in foster care from ages 12-16 in a variety of placements, including group homes and an emergency shelter, and "aged out" of foster care to attend college at age 16. Now a librarian with the Columbus Metropolitan Library, Lisa is one of the most enthusiastic and memorable volunteers you will ever meet! She serves as the Communications Chair for FCAA-Ohio, and has partnered with the OHIO Youth Advisory Board, the OhioReach Initiative, PCSAO, the Ready to Launch group representing several organizations, and is a strong advocate for foster youth. Lisa is a frequent speaker at national, state and local events, and did a workshop for PCSAO Exec Director membership at our June 2009 meeting on PTSDT and Foster Youth.



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We are proud of Lisa, as she facilitates the voice of foster youth in Ohio and across the nation. To learn more about Foster Care Alumni go to <http://www.fostercarealumni.org/>, the national site and/or <http://www.fcaa-oh.org/> for the FCAA-Ohio chapter.

To see a quick review of **FCAA-Ohio's 2009 Accomplishments**, go to <http://ohiofostercarealumni.blogspot.com/2010/01/fcaa-ohio-year-in-review.html> - it is impressive and a quick read.

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ATTENTION NW DISTRICT!— Roger Ward, OCF Data Guru, will be at the PCSAO NW District meeting on Feb 9 at 10 am (at Hancock JFS; 7814 County Rd 140; Findlay OH 45840) to give his much sought after presentation on new data tools available to guide specific casework as well as management decisions. He's been to a number of other regions and received rave reviews for the data tools. Don't miss this opportunity to see Roger live and in person! (many thanks to Sandra Holt, Michael McCreight and ODJFS for sharing Roger and his expertise with the counties – we appreciate it very much!). If you want a preview, take a moment to watch the short video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JtzNd5Q-6DM>; otherwise, we'll see you on Feb 9th – you'll be glad you attended.

INTENTIONS AND RESULTS: A LOOK BACK AT THE ADOPTION AND SAFE FAMILIES ACT— The Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA), signed into law on November 19, 1997, was the most significant piece of legislation dealing with child welfare in almost twenty years. The ambitious new law aimed to reaffirm the focus on child safety in case decision making and to ensure that children did not grow up in foster care but instead were connected with permanent families. Twelve years after the law was enacted, the Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP) in partnership with the Urban Institute co-sponsored this series of papers to examine effects of the ASFA law and its implementation. (December 2009). http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/1001351_safe_families_act.pdf

2010 PCSA DIRECTORY— the 2010 Public Children Services Agency Directory is available online. Please visit our website, www.pcsao.org or click [here](#).

ASSESSING LESBIAN AND GAY PROSPECTIVE FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE FAMILIES— Foster care and adoption by gay men and lesbians is not a new phenomenon. Children and youth have always been placed by states and public agencies in homes with gay and lesbian parents. Some gay men and lesbians have fostered or adopted children independently from private agencies or have made private adoption arrangements with individual birth mothers; others have fostered or adopted through the public system. This article, which draws on research literature, practice wisdom from 34 years of child welfare experiences, and case examples, offers child welfare professionals guidelines for competent assessment with prospective foster or adoptive parents who identify as lesbian or gay. (2007). http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/nrcfcpp/info_services/LGBT_homestudies.pdf

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES 12TH ANNUAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM (YLF) — The Ohio Governor's Council on People with Disabilities (GCPD) is proud to announce that the 12th Annual Ohio Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) will be held in Columbus, Ohio from July 19-22, 2010 at the Embassy Suites Airport Hotel in Columbus, Ohio. At this time they are extending an invitation to all interested high school juniors and seniors that have a disability to apply to attend this exciting, interesting and empowering forum.

All persons in the education community and every organization that shares in working with or serving people with disabilities are asked to encourage their youth to apply to be a part of YLF 2010. Please visit www.gcpd.ohio.gov for more information about the GCPD and YLF. From the website you can read more detailed information about YLF and you can download the application and instructions by following the link for "Youth Leadership Forum."

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CHILDREN'S CAUCUS FIRST 2010 BRIEFING ON CHILDHOOD TRAUMA— *Last week we posted this article, but the link wasn't working. Please click below to see Dr. Putnam's full presentation.* The House of Representatives Children's Caucus, Co-Chaired by Representative Steve Driehaus of Cincinnati, Ohio and Representative Mary Landrieu of Louisiana, had their first briefing on Tuesday January 12, 2010 on the impact of Childhood Trauma on our nation's children and families. Frank Putman, MD, Professor of Pediatrics and Child Psychiatry at Cincinnati Children's Medical Center; Director of the Mayerson Center for Safe and Healthy Children (child abuse evaluation, treatment and research center); Director of the NCTSN Trauma Treatment Training Center (SAMHSA funded); Member of the Ohio Children's Trust Fund Board and the Governor's Early Care Advisory Board, gave a presentation to the caucus on the implications of childhood trauma as well as some of the promising practices occurring in Ohio. The following are some of the points highlighted in his presentation:

1. Childhood trauma is a huge and costly problem
2. Childhood trauma makes large (but preventable) contributions to major public health and social problems
3. Childhood trauma is preventable and treatable
4. Identify bottlenecks to implementing evidence-based interventions on a sufficient scale to address size of the problem
5. What Ohio is doing to address these bottlenecks

Please click [here](#) to see his full presentation.

CHILD WELFARE IN THE NEWS— Child Welfare in the News highlights important child welfare news and articles that focus on a positive program or effect of an Ohio public children services agency, and other agencies across the country.

- Smyth Carr, Julie. [Phase out of state income tax costly, analysis finds](#). *The Columbus Dispatch*. January 14, 2010. Legislative analysts have determined that a proposal to phase out Ohio's income tax -- a key issue in the 2010 governor's race -- would cost state and local governments and libraries more than \$800 million next year. Losses would rise from \$814 million to more than \$12 billion by 2020, according to an Ohio Legislative Service Commission analysis obtained by the Associated Press. The commission reviewed the proposal because it's been introduced as a bill in the Ohio House.
- Cose, Ellis. [Children are not too old to change](#). *Newsweek*. January 15, 2010. One day, treatment of young people who run afoul of the law may be guided by logic rather than politics, prejudice, and uninformed passion. That was the implicit message of a report delivered to New York Gov. David Paterson last month, just in time for Christmas. The report, from the governor's task force on reforming criminal justice, came on the heels of a U.S. Justice Department investigation that found New York's juvenile penal system to be tragically mismanaged.

- Fontana, Cyndee. A sense of home: [University program aids students who were in foster care](#). *The Bismark Tribune*. January 11, 2010. In foster care, Kenyon Whitman changed families a half-dozen times before settling down with someone he now calls his grandmother. That carousel of foster care could have destroyed any college ambition. But Whitman found another home at California State University, Fresno, where a program supports former foster youths and guarantees them a place to stay - even during the holidays. Whitman, 22, is one of 33 students in the Renaissance Scholars Program. The grant-funded program caters to the academic, financial and emotional needs of former foster youth.

JOB OPENINGS— for more information, please visit <http://www.pcsao.org/Employment.htm>

Posted Date	Organization	Available Position
1/19/2010	Wood County Children Services	Social Services Worker 3
1/15/2010	Tuscarawas County Children Services	Social Services Worker 3 , (more for Job Description)
1/15/2010	Clinton County Children Services	Child Support Investigator I , and Families Support Specialist
1/14/2010	Starr Columbus Hannah Neil Center	Job opportunities
1/12/2010	Clinton County Children Services	Director and Caseworker
12/29/2009	Clermont County DJFS	DJFS Director
12/22/2009	Lorain County Children Services	Child Welfare Workers 3

UPCOMING MEETINGS

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE
Jan 20	SW PCSAO District Meeting	Golden Lamb, Lebanon
Jan 21	OHIO YAB Statewide Meeting	ODJFS Air Center, Columbus
Jan 22	PCSAO Canton District Meeting	Warehouse Restaurant, Roscoe Village
Jan 22	Rules Review Committee	ODJFS, Lazarus Bldg, C606
Jan 25	PCSAO Legislative Committee	FCCS, 855 E. Mound Street, Cols.
Jan 25	SEORTC Director's Meeting	SE Regional Training Center, Athens

GREEN LIVING TIP— Do you have a fallen tree in your yard or perhaps one needing to be removed for safety reasons? Save time, cash, make better use of the tree and prevent it going to landfill - see if you can treecycle it! Click [here](#) for the full article.

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK— Faith is taking the first step, even when you don't see the whole staircase. *Martin Luther King, Jr.*

OHIO FACT— The Ohio General Assembly enacted the Ohio Civil Rights Act in 1959 to help eliminate racial discrimination in this state. The legislation replaced the Ohio Public Accommodations Law of 1884, which prohibited discriminatory practices in public facilities.