



PCSAO Weekly Update

January 26, 2010

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4th QUARTER/2009 PCSAO SAFETY INCIDENT SUMMARY REPORT— PCSAO would like to thank the Counties who submitted the Worker Safety Incident report to PCSAO. There were 60 counties who submitted the report for the fourth quarter of 2009. There were 67 incidents reported. The summary report is available online www.pcsao.org/SafetyReportIncident/2009/2009_4thQuarterSummaryReport.pdf.

For more information on Caseworker Safety Incident Report, please visit <http://www.pcsao.org/SafetyIncidentReport.htm>

TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX WORK GROUP MEETING— The workgroup that the Governor had supported forming after passage of the 2010/2011 Biennial Budget to address the phase out of the Tangible Personal Property Tax met on Monday January 25, 2010. As we know in the budget bill \$11 million was included in the budget to cover the loss in 2011. However, the deficit grows considerably in the out years with all funding being phased out by 2018. The Ohio Tax Department gave a wonderful presentation about the history of this decision in HB 66 (with respect to tax reform) but also showing the present and future anticipated performance of the CAT tax, which is the source that was to be used to provide the states share of funding for the replacement dollars through 2018. It was clear that there certainly would not be enough CAT dollars to replace all of the new dollars needed to make up the total loss that local governments will be losing.

This brings us to the goal of the work group: to come up with proposals to give to the Administration for the 2012/2013 Biennial Budget for a permanent solution for the loss to local governments of the TTPT. At our next meeting we will be discussing some of the proposals our Local Government Coalition have considered over the past two years as possible options.

We have attached the [Power Point](#) from the Department of Taxation for your information. If you have any questions please feel free to email Gayle Channing Tenenbaum at Gtenenb@aol.com.

PCSAO RULE REVIEW COMMITTEE— met Friday, Jan. 22, 2010. We enjoyed meeting with Tony Coder, ODJFS' new Regulatory Ombudsman, with responsibility to address various rules issues, and evaluate rules that need changing. PCSAO rule members and ODJFS members discussed our process to both react to rules in clearance, and more effectively, to dialogue re: rules issues prior to clearance. Tony invited committee members to consult with him when issues are unable to be resolved within our committee process. We also **revisited the list of Rule Reduction items that PCSAO submitted to ODJFS in late 2008**, as the invitation of ODJFS. A number of the items had been addressed within rules, some recognized as SACWIS issues, some now moot. Issues for further work:

- Office of Families and Children staff will get back to provide further input on how CPOE and CFRS are being aligned within CPOE Stage 8.
- Face To Face visits – all agreed much discussion, work, and some SACWIS and rule adjustments had occurred. All agreed having an accessible data performance system for counties, supervisors, workers, would improve SACWIS documentation for this and other items.
- Supervisory Approval timeframes for Safety Assessments – all agreed a barrier is how SACWIS counts time, causing many cases to show out of compliance, yet they would be in compliance if SACWIS counted according to the intent of the rule. Given that this is not a high priority for SACWIS enhancement, discussion of how to adjust the policy and still embrace safety and good practice. Franklin CCS intake is working on language suggestion.
- MEPA Matching activities requirements – streamlining on the issue had not occurred although ODJFS has requested some amendments to Ohio's CARP (Corrective Action Plan) to address frequency of monitoring, etc. MEPA Monitor contract expires 9/10, but the CARP will remain in effect. Cycle 3 monitoring will begin in March 2010, OFC staff will continue to work on this.
- ICPC – since the original memo, ICPC has been decentralized, a special PCSAO/ODJFS meeting occurred (with kudos to the key state staff), new national reporting requirements have IDed gaps within SACWIS, state SACWIS staff is providing supplemental data to counties to assist with local info, and a SACWIS ICPC JAD session will occur in early February 2010.
- OAPL details – we updated the discussion to recognize the info gap since OAPL was eliminated summer of 2009, how AdoptUS Kids can supplement loss of OAPL, but also that federal funding was lost for Ohio link to AdoptUS Kids. Counties and state staff were asked to ID ideas that PCSAO should advocate for to most effectively address promotion of our waiting children.

The Rules Committee also **reviewed rules in recent or current Clearance:**

- Revisions to Expenditure Reports JFS 04280 and 04281 – after comments received ODJFS decided to keep as is, but they will now be submitted to a new electronic mail box.
- Clarification of Adoption Homestudy Updates – no comments

We also discussed **Rules implication of CHIPS legislation**. County questions were confirmed as the primary questions being considered by state staff. PCSAO Rule Review committee will plan for a more robust discussion of this topic at our next meeting.

OHIO CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND— met Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2010. Highlights of the meeting included:

- OCTF has purchase Pinwheels for Prevention for 88 counties to use in April 2010 Child Abuse Prevention month, and OCTF will be providing \$2,000/month for awareness materials and activities, as in past years. Final coordination including guidance for use of the funds and a letter outlining a common positive messaging theme to use with the Pinwheels will be sent out later this month. Counties will be expected to coordinate activities between the PCSAs and the F&CF Councils.
- OCTF is developing a quarterly session for networking/training sessions on various prevention topics. The plan is to offer them regionally.
- A menu of allowable funding opportunities for federal CBCAP funds was discussed (must be primary/secondary prevention). Board members asked OCTF staff to further assess and make a specific recommendation to the Board for investment of the funds.
- Process is ongoing with Prevent Child Abuse America toward OCTF becoming the Ohio Chapter. A PCAA Ohio site visit was made in the fall, looking at how the national goals and framework mesh with OCTF's goals and framework. We have also looked at how several other states have merged their Trust Funds as the state's Prevent Child Abuse chapter, and the many benefits. We are awaiting a final report, expecting a Board vote in April.
- OCTF has revised/enhanced the SFY 2011 Trust Fund application that each county must complete for their local allocation – the new forms will go out late January, all applications must be received no later than COB Thursday, April 1, 2010 – no exceptions. The application for Child Advocacy Center funds has also been improved.
- Strengthening Families, a framework to imbed protective factors with parents through community professionals (child care, educators, child welfare, etc.) continues to be examined by OCTF staff as a promising prevention strategy for Ohio. OCTF is creating a Leadership workgroup including multi-system state level representatives and representatives from Lucas and Hamilton counties (they have invested their local OCTF allocations into Strengthening Families).

PROTECTOHIO IV-E WAIVER CONSORTIUM— met Tuesday, Jan. 26, 2010. The group learned that their rate of placement usage for the past 12 months is decreasing at a faster rate than non-waiver counties. Formal evaluation by HSRI continues to be challenged by access to pertinent SACWIS data - regardless, a preliminary evaluation will be submitted to HHS in late March, with a final one in May, 2010. Also, James Bell and Associates is the cross site national evaluator of all the IV-E Flexible Funding Waivers. They will be coming to Ohio to meet with the Consortium and three waiver counties (Franklin, Lorain and Richland) to gain insight as to how the waiver is working in Ohio. We also heard that HHS might consider another bridge extension vs. making a final renewal decision by July 2010. Crystal provided strategy and activities related to advocacy and awareness coordination with the four other flexible funding waiver states: Florida, Indiana, Oregon and LA, California.

TREATMENT WORKS, PEOPLE RECOVER— this was the message of the Ohio Assoc. of County Behavioral Health Authorities at their Recognition Luncheon on Tuesday, Jan. 26, 2010. SAMHSA Administrator Pam Hyde (formerly of Ohio) was the keynote speaker and she indicated we could expect to hear the same messaging coming out of SAMHSA. OACBHA also release results of their Of-1-Mind Survey which confirms that a majority of those surveyed disagree that alcoholism, addiction and mental health are character weaknesses, most individuals believe treatment does work and people can recover, and 2/3 of all individuals have been personally impacted by someone with a serious substance abuse or mental health issue. To learn more about the survey and results, go to <http://of-1-mind.org/>

TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION TOOLS— Fact: Parents are the most important influence on their teens' decisions about sex. As child welfare workers we can help get the conversation started by empowering parents, kin caregivers, foster caregivers, and even have the conversation with youth ourselves!!! Good tools are below.

To raise awareness, spark conversation, and provide educational tools for prevention, *Lifetime and The National Campaign* are working in partnership to offer free resources to parents and teens on myLifetime.com:

- [Watch a PSA with Camryn Manheim](#) encouraging teens and their parents to talk openly with one another about relationships and sex in an effort to prevent teen pregnancy.
- Download discussion guides for parents and teens at myLifetime.com.
- [Click here for more facts and tips for parents.](#)
- For discussion questions and resources for teens, visit StayTeen.org.
- Learn more about how communities in Massachusetts are addressing teen pregnancy from the [Massachusetts Alliance on Teen Pregnancy](#).

ATTENTION NW PCSAO 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. Plus, PCSAO's new Asst Director, Rhonda Reagh (fresh out of retirement as the former Dir of Greene Co CS) will be there to provide PCSAO Updates and a discussion about HB 371, CHIPS legislation.

SW PCSAO DISTRICT— the inaugural meeting for Patti Jacobs as the new president of this region was held Wed, Jan 20th (thanks, Patti for your leadership!). Folks compared experiences w/CPOE 7 and anticipate start of CPOE 8. In depth discussion about HB 371, CHIPS legislation. Overall agreement in concept and working to understand future implications; plus appreciate materials provided by PCSAO to help distill 500+ page bill (visual of how CHIPS fits within big picture reform in Ohio and outline of bill). Requested PowerPoint presentation they can use/adapt for local presentations to schools, law enforcement, community, etc. Darren Varnado, SWORTC gave an informative training update: E-track rollout; physical restraint training on hold until Gov's Task Force releases its recommendations; successful coaching experiences offered to agency personnel in time management, family engagement, documentation, assessment and other areas of professional development. The roundtable discussion (agency/county specific updates) had common themes around finances, upcoming levies in Nov, staffing, caseload sizes, CPOE (and QIPs) as well as proactive initiatives (SAMHSA grant in Clermont Co and better prep for emancipating youth from foster care). Next meeting will be March 17th, 10 am, at the Golden Lamb.

CANTON PCSAO DISTRICT— met Friday, Jan 22nd in beautiful Roscoe Village in Coshocton Co. Unanimously, Dave Boyer (Dir Muskingum CS) was re-elected as president and Terry Miller (Dir Coshocton JFS) as Secy/Treas – many thanks to Dave and Terry for agreeing to serve; your steady leadership is appreciated! Similar discussion/themes as other district meetings around the state: CPOE 7 & 8; data reports for managing CS cases; agency finances; hopeful for release of tobacco settlement dollars. Other discussion revolved around issues specific to the region and partnering to maximize resources (joint grant applications, etc.). Detailed conversation about HB 371, CHIPS legislation and big picture impact (caseload size; cost/benefit analysis; training child protection partners...); as well as learning from other States' experiences that have adopted a CHIPS model. Much of the concern summed up as a product of timing coupled with managing various local pressures. We appreciate all of the feedback, questions and input! Next Canton Dist meeting will be held Apr 23rd, 10 am, Warehouse Restaurant in Roscoe Village.

PCSAO LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE— met Monday, Jan 25th and spent the better part of the meeting working on HB 371 and big picture questions related to: Ohio's 12 of 22 months provisions; protective supervision and dispositional statuses; as well as reviewing status of other bills monitored/worked on last year (remember bills introduced but not passed in 2009 are still "alive" in 2010; anything not passed by the end of 2010 will "die" and have to be reintroduced in 2011). You can visit the legislative page of our website at <http://www.pcsao.org/128thga.htm> for info on various bills.

NRC FOR ADOPTION NEWSLETTER ON TIMELINESS TO ADOPTION— The National Resource Center for Adoption at Spaulding for Children (a service of the Children's Bureau) publishes *The Roundtable* newsletter twice yearly. The purpose of this newsletter is to inform adoption practitioners, administrators and advocates of activities of the National Resource Center for Adoption; to present developments in the field of child welfare adoption; and to share ideas, challenges, and successes. The most recent issue focuses on "Timeliness to Adoption" and includes articles on programs and practices in Michigan, Oklahoma, Utah, and California, as well as information on management of adoption outcomes using data-tracking tools. <http://www.nrcadoption.org/roundtable/v24/Volume%2024%20-%20No%201%20-%202010.pdf>

DIRECTOR LUMPKIN PASSES 1-YEAR MARK WITH ODJFS— Doug Lumpkin knew the challenges would be tremendous when he accepted the job last January to become the State Director of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, but no one could have predicted all the trials and tribulations of one of the most contentious budgets in the states history, during the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. He has been tested as perhaps no state director in recent memory, and shown to all that he is the right person to lead the largest agency in the state.



Director Lumpkin took over the reigns of the agency amidst a scandal that still lingers in the Ohio courts and created a difficult transition period. Budget shortfalls required his immediate attention leading to

significant staff reductions; including lay-offs and office restructuring...a situation few would relish to start their career (and which many county directors can relate.) Director Lumpkin also had to become an immediate budget expert, as the General Assembly struggled to make billions in cuts and county agencies struggled to maintain services as record numbers of Ohioans seek assistance for services.

Doug accepted the challenges of the job and has continually worked with the numerous parties to ensure services and maximize flexibility to do the most with dwindling resources. He has built on the relationships he established with the counties during his tenure as Franklin County JFS Director and has proven to be an invaluable asset to county agencies.

During his first year, Doug has traveled to all five districts and the metro director meetings, talking with county directors first hand to discuss matters of local importance. He also provided the keynote address at the OJFSDA annual conference and took part in discussions with counties at the annual Atwood Training Conference. Director Lumpkin has also visited many local agencies and encouraged his executive team to do the same.

Some of the state/county successes of Doug's first year include:

- Providing the counties the ability to transfer up to \$66.7 million of their TANF allocation to the TANF Title XX program, preventing massive cuts to many child welfare programs
- Creating new flexibility for counties to utilize nearly \$29 million annually of the local TANF maintenance of effort funds for JFS programs. This flexibility has helped counties move these funds to areas of greatest need and pull down additional federal matching funds where appropriate The creation of the new "533 Account" which provides \$15 million annually in flexible funding to counties (and potentially another \$92 million this biennium pending the outcome of the tobacco lawsuit)
- The state has been recognized for being the 2nd most improved state in the nation for our Food Assistance error rate, receiving \$5.1 million in High Performance Bonus to assist counties make improvements to the local food assistance programs
- ODJFS allocated \$10 million in funds to counties in order to enable them to enhance existing Subsidized Employment Programs (SEP) or begin new ones.
- The state has received a federal grant to help create an online Food Assistance application as well as the ability to do on line change reporting and are moving forward with this initiative
- The face to face redeterminations have been waived for Food Assistance and OWF
- The state began using a mandatory standard utility allowance for the Food Stamp program thereby simplifying the Food Assistance policies
- Created the TANF/Food Assistance Policy Workgroup which allows counties to review available policy options, assist in making policies more understandable and user-friendly and to work towards simplifying and aligning programs wherever possible

Under Doug's leadership, the State has also begun the following work:

- Creating the Universal Profile so counties can access any case within their county as well as working across county lines
- Allowing 12 month recertifications for Food Assistance and OWF
- Expanding Simplified Reporting for Food Assistance Cases
- Requesting a waiver for reopening cases without an initial application or interview if the applicant meets the requirement that made them ineligible within 30 days of the closure date for all programs: Food Assistance, OWF and Medicaid

The job and family services system continues to face monumental challenges. The counties and states will not always see eye to eye on every issue, but the counties and Director Lumpkin mutually agree that services to clients are the priority.

OJFSDA is extremely grateful for the efforts of Director Lumpkin and are appreciative of his work. We look forward to continuing to build on the successes of the first year and wish Doug the best of luck in the coming year.

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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.

- Candinsky, Catherine [Poverty Soars in Ohio](#), *The Columbus Dispatch*. January 22, 2010. Rising unemployment and sinking wages have pushed record numbers of Ohioans into poverty. The State of Poverty in Ohio -- unveiled four days before Gov. Ted Strickland's official State of the State speech -- was released today by the Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies. It provides some startling statistics and reveals what many Ohioans know firsthand.
- Boseman, Julie. [New York merges juvenile justice and child welfare agencies](#). *The New York Times*. January 20, 2010. The Bloomberg administration plans to merge the city's Department of Juvenile Justice into its child welfare agency, signaling a more therapeutic approach toward delinquency that will send fewer of the city's troubled teenagers to jail. The integration of the agencies is effective immediately, and was announced by Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg in his State of the City speech Wednesday afternoon.

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

Posted Date	Organization	Available Position
1/25/2010	Union County Children Services	Director
1/25/2010	Adoption Network Cleveland	Program Manager Youth and Family - Full-Time
1/22/2010	Franklin County Children Services	Child Welfare Casework Supervisors
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

UPCOMING MEETINGS

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE
Feb 3	PCSAO Board of Trustees	PCSAO Office
Feb 4	Central Ohio Regional Training Ctr Directors	FCCS/CORTC
Feb 5	PCSAO PIO Committee	PCSAO Office
Feb 9	NW Ohio PCSAO Meeting	Hancock County JFS
Feb 12	PCSAO Conference Committee	PCSAO Office
Feb 15	Observance of President's Day	Office Closed
Feb 22	PCSAO Legislative Committee	FCCS, 855 E. Mound St., Cols
Feb 22	NE/Cleveland Ohio PCSAO Meeting	Quality Inn, Richfield
Feb 24	PCSAO HR/Safety Committee	PCSAO Office

GREEN LIVING TIP— Whether it's summer or winter, ceiling fans and roof turbines can save energy - that's good for your bank balance and good for the environment. For the full article, click [here](#).

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK— “We build on our strengths until our weaknesses become irrelevant.” *Tom Gregoire*

OHIO FACT— In 1922, Florence E. Allen became the first woman to sit as a judge on the Ohio Supreme Court.