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PCSAO Weekly Update

January 5, 2010

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REMINDER: PCSAO SAFETY INCIDENT REPORT, 4th QUARTER, 2009— If an incident has occurred in your county, please submit your safety report to PCSAO by January 15, 2010. The Safety Incident Report form is available online at http://www.pcsao.org/SafetyReportIncident/Safety%20Incident%20Report%20Form_updated.pdf. If your county has not had an incident, please e-mail jeed@pcsao.org to let us know. For more information about the Safety Report, visit <http://www.pcsao.org/SafetyIncidentReport.htm>. Thank you very much.

TOBACCO SETTLEMENT FUNDS DECISION - Appellate Court Decision issued 12/31/09, affirmed that the General Assembly can dedicate Tobacco Settlement funds for key purposes including allocating an additional \$43M/year of each year of the biennium, into the **Line 533** below. Link here: <http://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/rod/docs/pdf/10/2009/2009-ohio-6993.pdf>

CHILD, FAMILY AND ADULT COMMUNITY & PROTECTIVE SERVICES— new biennial budget line item 533; \$15 M / year already distributed to county JFSs, using same formula as Title XX funds. Flexible funds to investigate/assess/serve abused and neglected children and senior citizens, as well access to safety net services – Food Stamps, Medicaid, etc. Another \$43 M / year was promised in the biennial budget, contingent upon the court decision to release the funds.

No additional funds will be allocated until the time for an appeal would be passed, or if appealed, a Supreme Court decision issued. The strength of the appellate court decision is wonderful, however, with all three Judges agreeing and contributing to the written decision. Once again, we thank Wayne CCS Director (and new PCSAO Trustee) Randy Muth, JD for his leadership and assistance in the written Amicus Brief that was jointly submitted on behalf of CCAO, PCSAO, OJFSDA and OCDA.

REDUCING DISPROPORTIONALITY— Casey Family Programs' Breakthrough Series Collaborative has released a report on Reducing Disproportionality and Disparate Outcomes for Children and Families of Color in the Child Welfare System. Link at http://www.casey.org/Resources/Publications/BreakthroughSeries_ReducingDisproportionality_process.htm

This report provides a detailed description of the Disproportionality BSC experience, including a full description of the BSC Framework for Change, the BSC methodology and model for improvement, and a detailed summary of the major strategies developed by participating jurisdictions to reduce rates of disproportionality and disparate outcomes for children and families of color. Also included is a description of the major implications of this work as described by the judges and other court representatives from participating jurisdictions.

PCSAO is dedicated to highlighting strategies to address this issue in Ohio. What works? What makes a difference? Already, we will evaluate the impact of Alternative Response on reducing minority overrepresentation, the HHS Enhanced Kinship Navigator Grant will evaluate kinship supports on reducing overrepresentation, and PCSAO is working with researchers to evaluate flexible and local financing impact on reducing overrepresentation of minorities.

NEW FED FUNDING FOR TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION CONFERENCE CALL— The Office of Adolescent Health within HHS will soon announce the availability of competitive grants to a broad range of public and private entities for effective and promising teen pregnancy prevention programs. This important initiative will provide \$75 million for replicating programs that have been shown through rigorous evaluation to have positive effects on teens' behavior, and \$25 million for research and demonstration on promising programs. **Please join Staff at The National Campaign this Thursday, January 7, 2010, from 3-4pm ET, for a discussion about the new funding, what states and communities can be doing to prepare for this important opportunity, and resources and assistance available from The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy to support your efforts.** Participants will hear the latest available information on the teen pregnancy prevention initiative, resources that will be helpful in choosing and running evidence-based programs ([including our new web portal](#)), and answers to questions. [Click here for more information and to register for the call.](#)

PCSAO CHOSEN TO PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH COMMUNITY RESEARCH CONFERENCE – along with academic partners from the Universities of Rochester and Buffalo, NY, Crystal Allen and Greg Kapcar of PCSAO will participate in a NIH sponsored community based research conference to further our work on *Child Welfare Financing: Impact on Health Outcomes and Disproportionality*. This will further a current collaboration using PCSAO Factbook Data and the researcher's national work on child welfare financing and outcomes impact – a law journal article will be published this spring. Roger Ward, ODJFS Data Guru is participating as part of the "home team". We hope this work will contribute to accessing flexible financing, as well as addressing disproportionality issues in child welfare.

CHILD CENTERED RECRUITMENT TASK FORCE REPORT – please take time to review and share the email sent by Sandra Holt on Dec. 24, 2009, providing the report on effective methods for adoptive placement of older children, especially those that have been lingering in foster care for awhile. Great stuff, and PCSAO Exec Membership affirmed a commitment to focus renewed efforts on permanency strategies for our lingering foster youth at our December membership meeting.

HAVE A HEART OHIO— the statewide network of organizations and individuals who advocate on behalf of vulnerable Ohioans (children, families, low-income individuals, the elderly, persons w/disabilities, etc.) held its monthly meeting on Tue, Jan 5 with two very important guest speakers: 1) Rep. Seth Morgan, Chair of the House Republican Policy Committee who discussed their government reform package of legislation (10 pieces of legislation focusing on gov't efficiency, accountability and transparency); and 2) Pamela Rosado, Outreach Coordinator from Policy MattersOhio who presented on ways to talk about public sector services without tapping into preconceived notions/misperceptions about government (ie, relate public priorities to the unique values and mission of government; and public systems and structures that help create community wellbeing). As Ohio faces a budget shortfall for the 2012-13 budget that is projected to be between \$4-\$9+ billion and the potential for additional budget corrections in the current biennium – all options have to be on the table for discussion. PCSAO continues to be part of the Coalition to Protect Ohio's Future that will continue to call on legislators to use a balanced approach (ie, not cuts alone, but revenues as well) – at a time when people's needs are rising and the state's ability to meet those needs is decreasing. In order for us to make sure struggling families get the help they need, the state must use a balanced approach.

SIGNS OF SAFETY APPROACH TO CHILD PROTECTION— Looking for a solution focused approach to child welfare that is grounded in actual, on-the-ground human practice that makes a difference for professionals and families; AND creates meaningful safety for children in high-risk cases? Then the resource you'll want to check out is "*Signs of Safety: A Solution and Safety Oriented Approach to Child Protection Casework*" by Andrew Turnell & Steve Edwards. Several Ohio child protection professionals participated in a webinar on Jan 4th hosted by American Humane to learn directly from Carver County, Minnesota and the work they're doing with this. As you know, Minnesota has been using Alternative Response for the past 11+ years and is part of the model for Ohio's AR pilot. In Carver Co, they've seen positive results (e.g. decreased average length of child protection cases) by using Signs of Safety and its many creative ways of engaging children, youth and their families. Find out more at www.signsofsafety.net (be sure to explore the buttons/drop-down boxes just below the Signs of Safety logo; you'll find a plethora of valuable information!)

CENTER FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT— Am. Sub. H.B. 1 authorized the Governor and Superintendent of Public Instruction to create a Center for Early Childhood Development within the Ohio Department of Education. Last week, the Implementation Plan was submitted to the Governor and Superintendent Delisle. You can access the plan at www.build-ohio.org (the link to the plan is on the front page of the website; right-hand side). Interested in receiving updates on early childhood directly to your email?? Sign up for email updates at http://www.build-ohio.org/cecd_updates.html

AMERICAN HUMANE'S NATIONAL CENTER ON FAMILY GROUP DECISION MAKING (FGDM) 2010 WEBINAR SERIES— American Humane is offering a Live Meeting webinar series to complement their introductory and intensive trainings, technical assistance and coaching, and annual conference. They recognize that some coordinators, workers, facilitators, and other service providers are geographically isolated, work independently in their communities, or have limited resources to attend skills-based trainings. The series is designed to: Promote stimulating dialogue that helps community leaders advance the practice, policy and implementation of FGDM and other family engagement approaches; create a culture of support and learning for coordinators, facilitators, and other service providers; build strategic solutions to roadblocks encountered with implementation; and, leverage expertise within the FGDM and family engagement networks. Further details about the webinar series, including a schedule and descriptions of webinar topics, a registration form, and information about Continuing Education Units are available online. <http://www.americanhumane.org/assets/docs/protecting-children/PC-fgdm-webinars-2010.pdf>

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: NDACAN SUMMER RESEARCH INSTITUTE JUNE 14-18, 2010— **Application Deadline: Friday, January 29, 2010** National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect (NDACAN) will sponsor its 18th Summer Research Institute (SRI) for child maltreatment researchers on the Cornell University campus in Ithaca, New York on June 14-18, 2010. The Institute will be an intensive experience in secondary data analysis that combines colloquia with hands-on computing time. Participants are selected on a competitive basis from a variety of disciplines including psychology, social work, and medicine. The primary goal of the Institute is to facilitate secondary analysis projects from which researchers can publish their findings. In addition, the Institute will provide child maltreatment researchers an invaluable opportunity for networking and collaboration. http://www.ndacan.cornell.edu/Ndacan/Summer_Institute/SRI2010.html

FREE SPECIAL ISSUE OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT: THE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL, 1989-2009— Elsevier, the leading publisher of scientific, technical and medical information products and services, recently announced the publication of a freely available Special Issue of Child Abuse and Neglect: The International Journal, 1989-2009 on the 20th Anniversary of the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). The Special Issue aims to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. It provides an overview of two decades of development in the areas of child maltreatment research, data collection, and reporting practice, as required by the Convention on the Rights of the Child and will facilitate information and practice exchange to support governments and professionals in their important efforts globally. The Special Issue will be freely available online, to all, for a year, along with Part 2 of the Special Issue which will be published in January 2010. Part 1 can currently be accessed at: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/issue/5847-2009-999669988-1554191>

UNDERSTANDING HOW PLACE MATTERS FOR KIDS— Urban Institute's Program on Neighborhood and Youth Development released findings on how places in which a child grows up might affect development. Researchers looked at the neighborhood characteristics that can lead to negative outcomes, affect development, health and risky behaviors and community-based policy initiatives aimed at improving outcomes for youth. Read more at http://www.urban.org/uploadedpdf/411974_place_matters.pdf

POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT TRAINING MATERIALS— The National Clearinghouse on Families & Youth has created training and informational materials on positive youth development and leadership. The Positive Youth Development: An Introduction includes resources to engage young people in both national and grassroots efforts to enrich their neighborhoods, schools, and futures. Read more http://www.ncfy.com/publications/positive_youth_development_an_introduction/index.htm.

TRAFFICKING AND CIVIL SOCIETY: DENIAL, DISTRESS, DANGER—Tuesday, January 12, 2010 at 4 p.m., at the Mershon Center for International Security Studies on the Ohio State University Campus, 15 Jennings Hall, 1735 Neil Ave. *Cosponsored by the [Center for Slavic and East European Studies](#), and the [Columbus Council on World Affairs](#)* The U.S. Department of State estimates that 600,000 to 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders each year. Of these, 80 percent are women and children, most of whom are trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Also known as trafficking in persons, human trafficking comprises the fastest growing criminal industry in the world. Despite this, governments around the world are only beginning to address the problem. In most countries, traffickers operate with almost total impunity even in the most severe cases. Trafficking and Civil Society: Denial, Distress, Danger is an interdisciplinary discussion of the realities of human trafficking and analysis of how NGO networks, government officials, and civil society as a whole can effectively work together to address and combat human trafficking. Panelists include [Yana Hashamova](#), director of the Center for Slavic and East European Studies; [Marguerite Hernandez](#), PhD candidate in sociology; and Kristin Silver, undergraduate major in psychology. The panel features [Ambassador Mark P. Lagon](#) (above), executive director and CEO of Polaris Project, a leading anti-human trafficking nonprofit organization running the primary national hotline, the National Human Trafficking Resource Center. Lagon will speak on "The Crucial Role of Civil Society in Fighting Human Trafficking: As Much in America as the World." [Read more and register](#)

NEW MUSIC BY A TRANSITIONAL YOUTH— Just in case you *still* haven't listened to the song recorded by the Seneca County foster youth and his colleagues with the help of their music teacher, we wanted to highlight one more time. Please enjoy "Road to Redemption" [here](#).

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.

- Siegel, Jim. [Bigger budget problems loom](#). *Columbus Dispatch*. December 27, 2009. It took Ohio lawmakers more than two months of grueling debate to figure out how to deal with an \$851 million budget shortfall. Some wonder what will happen in 18 months, when the deficit is a few billion dollars or more.
- Chen, Stephanie. ['Unadoptable' as child, man gets new parents](#). *Cnn.com*. December 28, 2009. As far back as John could remember, he was on his own. Like the 20,000 foster children who "age out" of the system each year, John left California's foster care system six years ago believing he had missed his chance to be part of a family. But then something unexpected happened.
- Nash, James. [Taxpayers asked to cover rising pension costs for government employees](#). *Columbus Dispatch*. January 3, 2010. At a time when budget cuts are forcing Ohio schools to lay off teachers and cities to raise taxes, eliminate jobs

or both, one expense government leaders have not cut is pensions for their workers. The pension cost to local governments in Ohio now stands at \$4.1 billion a year. If current trends continue, pension costs will grow by \$604 million to \$768 million during the next five years, according to a *Dispatch* computer analysis. The costs are directly related to the size of government payrolls, which continue to grow across Ohio.

- Staff Reporter. Pension Protection. *Akron Beacon Journal*. January 5, 2010. The state's largest newspapers devoted their front pages on Sunday to the challenges facing public pension plans in Ohio. They did so because of the substantial amount of public money in play, local governments tapped for \$4.1 billion in pension costs last year, and now looking at the prospect of having to reach deeper to cover pension shortfalls totaling \$400 million by 2020. Pensions have become one of many competing priorities in a recession-battered era of scarce resources, cities and schools, among others, slashing budgets to make ends meet.
- Troy, Tom. Pensions put Toledo area budget under strain. *Toledo Blade*. January 4, 2010. The cost of paying for the pensions of public employees locally has risen to be one of the biggest challenges for public officials facing ever-shrinking tax revenues.

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

Posted Date	Organization	Available Position
12/29/2009	Clermont County DJFS	DJFS Director
12/22/2009	Ashtabula County Children Services	Family Caseworker
12/22/2009	Lorain County Children Services	Child Welfare Workers 3
12/21/2009	Stark County Children Services	Social Services Worker 2
12/18/2009	Marion County Children Services	Family Support Services Caseworker
12/16/2009	Ashtabula County Children Services	IT/M.I.S.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE
Jan 6	PCSAO Board Meeting	PCSAO Office
Jan 8	PCSAO Conference Committee	PCSAO Office
Jan 8	PIO/Recruitment Committee	Franklin County CS/RTC
Jan 16	OHIO YAB Officer's Retreat	PCSAO Office
Jan 18	Observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day	Office Closed
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	Olde 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— Most of us have a mattress and we'll likely have quite a few throughout our lifetimes. This means a lot of mattress related waste and associated environmental impact. Learn more about mattress choice, care, disposal and recycling by clicking [here](#).

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK— “Establishing goals is all right as long as you don't let them deprive you of interesting detours.”– Doug Larson

OHIO FACT— Dayton suburb Beavercreek was officially proclaimed a city in January of 1980.