



PCSAO Weekly Update

February 2, 2010

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WELCOME RHONDA REAGH— Dr. Rhonda Reagh has officially joined the PCSAO team as Assistant Director. As the former Director of Greene CCS, Rhonda is extremely knowledgeable, experienced and well respected by everyone. Primary responsibilities will include co-chairing the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program Steering Committee; supporting and promoting organizational excellence items such as staffing the PCSAO Human Resources Committee, Council on Accreditation, and the University Partnership Program; providing technical assistance to members, as requested (including levy assistance!); supporting Alternative Response expansion, and staffing the Public Information Committee. Sound like a lot? Rhonda is excited about it, and we are thrilled to have her here. Hooray for PCSAO!

SSI APPLICATIONS FOR EMANCIPATING FOSTER YOUTH— Effective immediately, the Soc Security Admin may accept an SSI application from a disabled youth in foster care up to 90 days before federal foster care payments are expected to end. This is an exception to the general rule of accepting an SSI application in the month before the month of eligibility. This really helps our children in custody emancipating out of foster care. Link to the policy at <https://secure.ssa.gov/apps10/poms.nsf/lnx/0500601011>

SAMSHA WEB CAST ON CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH— On Wednesday January 27, 2010 SAMHSA presented a WEB Cast for State Mental Health Leadership to outline priority areas for this agency with respect to children's mental health in the Obama Administration and working with the states and local communities.

Pam Hyde, the newly appointed director of SAMSHA, and formally Director of the Ohio Department of Mental Health led the Web Cast. Immediate research shows that 1 in 5 children in the United States have a Mental Health Diagnosis and right now we continue to address this issue across a system of silos: Mental Health; Juvenile Justice (50%-60% mental health diagnosis); Child Welfare (50%-mental health diagnosis); Education; and Health Care (including Medicaid).

SAMSHA staff is working with their colleagues at Health and Human Services, US Department of Education and Justice to break down these silos so that they can plan programs and funding to address the needs of these children rather than the systems they are in.

SAMSHA's Priorities:

1. Prevention and Wellness, Many of the illnesses that children experience could be prevented with focus on family supports and engagement and community engagement. This will be a focus across all programming in HHS with programs such as Home Visitation, and programs to prevent violence and trauma.
2. Trauma Informed Care. With 1 in 4 or 26% of our country's children experiencing serious violence before they complete adolescence it is essential that we prevent, intervene and treat trauma with evidenced based practices.
3. Support for military families: Both soldiers returning and families waiting for returning members are facing huge stresses and experiencing rising cases of mental illness including Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome. Supports must be provided for these families at the community level.
4. Health Reform: Although no one at this time knows exactly what will be in the finally passed National Health Reform Package it is hoped that things such as EPSDT covering treatment for mental illness for children and Home Visitation, and expansion of Medicaid for youth until they are 25 will stay a part in the Bill so we can serve our children and families.

Across all the priorities of SAMSHA as well as the other programs is the focus on Evidenced Based and Evidenced Informed Care such as: Multi Systemic Treatment; Functional Family Therapy; Multi Systemic Treatment Foster Care and Wrap Around. Performance Measurement Systems such as collecting client level data on outcomes for case decision making and continuous quality improvement are also necessary.

SAMSHA has a National Registry of Evidenced Based Care describing 127 programs which can be accessed by going to the web site at www.SAMHSA.gov

OCWTP'S TARGETED NEEDS ASSESSMENT— The OCWTP is currently engaged in a targeted needs assessment process looking at a variety of data sources (CFSR and CPOE findings, etc.) to help identify priority training needs of county staff and foster caregivers. Thus far, 9 counties have provided feedback to the OCWTP though focus groups and another 7 are scheduled. Findings will provide direction to several OCWTP initiatives. For information contact Kyle Hoffman at khoffman@ihs-trainet.com.

The February 2010 CommonGround, OCWTP's newsletter for trainers, is now available online at: <http://www.ocwtp.net/PDFs/Trainer%20Resources/CG%200210.pdf>. Information regarding CAPMIS, new training evaluation surveys, and tips for great training are included in this issue.

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

KINSHIP NAVIGATOR GRANT NEWS – the HHS Kinship Navigator Grant in seven counties (Ashtabula, Clark, Crawford, Hardin, Lorain, Portage, Richland) is moving right along, here is an update:

- Local Kinship Navigators hired
- Training held 1.27.10 by Dr. Denise Goodman w/ collaboration with OCWTP – 21 Kin Navigators and Supervisors trained
- All Kin Navigators will be trained as Benefit Bank counselors
- Progress for connections with 211 and other local I & R processes
- Lots of PR / Outreach
- PCSAO is building separate Kinship website to be launched soon!
- Heavy focus on evaluation activities, data collection, counties will use a common web-based tool for data collection and assessment
- Each county has a Local Advisory Group (multi-system for education, collaboration, system change)
- Ohio Statewide Kinship Caregivers Advisory Council to serve as Statewide Advisory Group (SAG) – for education, collaboration, policy and practice enhancement and sharing, system change.

HB 197 KINSHIP BILL— this budget neutral bill would expand the HB 130 Grandparent Power of Attorney and Caregiver Authorization Affidavit forms out to other kinship caregivers. Now we have six years of experience and value using the forms, plus an evaluation from Wright State University that shows big value among grandparent caregivers; no safety issues; no implementation problems with courts, caseworkers, schools; and need with other kin caregivers.

A hearing in House Judiciary was held Wed, Jan. 27, 2010. A great line up of proponents came, that described how well the grandparent forms work, and ongoing barriers experienced by non-grandparent kin caregivers. Two awesome caregivers (grandparents and aunts) clearly described unnecessary bureaucracy and barriers they faced while trying to get kids in their care enrolled in school. Also, Patrick Donovan of Muskingum CCS that highlighted a young man that stayed out of school for most of the year waiting for judicial action (thankfully he did graduate and is on to better things); Dawn Yeakley of Clinton CDJFS that gave several examples of relative caregivers unable to get kids enrolled in school in a timely fashion due to documentation issues; Dionne Simmons of Dayton's Center for Healthy Communities that explained their active local use of HB 130 forms (hundreds last year) and the local task force that created a process for smooth sailing; and PCSAO's Crystal Allen to summarize history, data and issues. You can access testimony and an outline of the bill at [http://www.pcsao.org/128thga.htm#HB_197_Kinship_Care_\(Harris,_M._-D\)](http://www.pcsao.org/128thga.htm#HB_197_Kinship_Care_(Harris,_M._-D)).

Courts however, continue to feel discomfort with expanding the policy, as when kinship (or any) families do come to their attention, there are usually significant problems – thank goodness we have the courts to turn to in those situations! Sponsor Marian Harris will coordinate a stakeholders meeting, including members of the judiciary, to further discuss.

NAPCWA SPRING CONFERENCE— The NAPCWA Spring Conference will open on Friday, March 26, with a *special pre-conference Town Hall Meeting on child welfare financing*. The APHSA meeting begins on Sunday, March 28, and continues through Tuesday, March 30; both are at the Fairmont Hotel in downtown Washington. Full hotel and registration details, together with a preliminary agenda, are posted on APHSA's conference calendar at <http://www.aphsa.org/Conference/calendar.asp>.

CENTER FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT— Created as part of Ohio’s last biennial budget, you get an idea of the goals and vision, and take a look at the Implementation Plan at <http://www.build-ohio.org/> (link on right of home page). PCSAO recently participated in a stakeholder’s focus group led by Alicia Leatherman, most gave kudos to the planning group for an ambitious plan. Our group did suggest that the planning group consider integrating Strengthening Families as a unifying framework for the plan. SF is not a program, but a frame to instill five Protective Factors with parents, early childhood caregivers and others that work with and support young families (like child welfare workers!) It builds on strengths of parents and families and community. The positive possibilities are exciting.

ONE-THIRD OF TEEN MOTHERS DON’T EARN A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OR GED— Here is yet another reason to invest in teen pregnancy prevention efforts. Child Trends research finds that one in three (34 percent) young women who had been teen mothers did not earn a high school diploma or a GED, compared with only 6 percent of young women who had not had a teen birth. "Earning a high school diploma or GED reduces the risk of subsequent teen pregnancy, which has been linked to even poorer outcomes," said Kate Perper, M.P.P., lead author of the study. "Higher parental education is also linked to improved outcomes among children that may reduce their risk of early sexual activity and teen pregnancy, thus reducing intergenerational cycles of disadvantage." Data used in this study were drawn from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth-1997 Cohort. To access this report visit: http://www.childtrends.org/Files//Child_Trends-2010_01_22_FS_DiplomaAttainment.pdf

BOB BEN’S FREE WEBINAR— **One Approach to Performance Leadership: Twelve ‘Better Practices’ that Can Help ‘Ratchet Up’ Performance.** Let’s face it, Bob doesn’t have the foggiest idea how to create a useful Webinar. So this is his first experiment with this maybe-just-too-trendy technology of generating some discussion about how to improve the performance of public agencies. Still, if you are free on Tuesday, February 9 at 2:00 pm, you might want to check out what he’s saying. Bob’s Webinar is sponsored by *Government Executive* magazine. [To Register for Bob’s free Webinar: CLICK HERE](#)

SAVE THE DATE!— Please mark your calendars. The annual PCSA Attorney Seminar (hosted by ODJFS) is scheduled for Friday, May 7, 2010 at the Ohio Department of Transportation in Columbus (tentatively from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm). This will be a FREE CLE! NOTE: The Planning Committee is in the beginning stages and working on a list of topics that will be included in the seminar; rest assured they will be timely and informative! Returning for the third year, the “PCSA Attorney of the Year” Award will be given out at the end of the seminar. Please be thinking about nominating the outstanding PCSA advocate that you know. Anyone currently practicing is eligible. Look for further details about the entire event in early spring (topics, time, and registration info). Please forward this info to other PCSA attorneys in your county and in other counties. The Planning Cmte is trying very hard to ensure participation by PCSA attorneys from all Ohio counties. Questions? Contact the PCSA Attorney Seminar Planning Committee at Legal_PCSA@jfs.ohio.gov.

SE PCSAO DISTRICT— met Monday, Jan 25th As with other areas throughout the state, there was a healthy discussion regarding HB 371 – CHIPS. This led to a number of important questions including: alignment with SACWIS, timeframe for passage, impact on custody. An additional meeting will be held in February with PCSAO Assistant Legislative Director Greg Kapcar to provide guidance surrounding this legislation. Other discussion included CPOE, PCSA policy assistance, and an upcoming broad salary survey. Last but not least, Stacy Saunders led an IHS Needs Assessment IHS Focus Group concerning not only training needs but also the best methods and vehicles for specific trainings. Fruitful discussion was had specifically on the topics of service provision and permanency. Several group members made very positive remarks with regard to networking trainings that OCWTP has facilitated in the past. Date for next SE District will be identified for a day in February for a special meeting on CHIPS.

PCSAO STAFF RETREAT— given recent staff changes – reduced funding caused PCSAO to lose the Communications position held first by Jessica Schneider Chance, then by Brandi Scales; and the Assistant Director position earlier held by Max Bucey is now held by Rhonda Reagh; it was time for staff to revisit the membership created Strategic Plan (also reviewed by membership in December 09), and ID primary responsibilities, how we fit together, and how to handle gaps due to changes. As usual, we also had a potluck and spent a lot of time laughing and feeling fortunate we are passionate about our work, have a wonderful membership, great partners and a solid team. Want to see the new staff picture? <http://www.pcsao.org/AboutPCSAO/staff.htm>

TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS SURVEY— The Trafficking in Persons Study Commission Victim Assistance and Safe Locations sub-committee needs your assistance. They have created an on-line survey to help them answer the following research questions:

- What is the level of human trafficking awareness in Ohio?
- What services currently exist for trafficking victims?
- What are barriers to providing services to trafficking victims?
- What assistance or support do service providers need to effectively serve trafficking victims?

They would like for you to answer the survey and also forward the link to others in your network who may represent social service agencies that work with victims.

The confidential survey can be accessed at <http://www.surveygizmo.com/s/197719/human-trafficking-in-central-ohio>.

The survey can take up to forty-five minutes to complete. However, the survey has been set up to allow respondents to save their progress and return to the survey later. You will need to supply an email address to save your progress. A unique link will be emailed to you that will allow you to return to your survey where you left off.

The survey will be open until March 8, 2010. If you have questions please contact Trisha Smouse at 937.207.3914 or smouse.3@buckeyemail.osu.edu.

SAVE THE DREAM OHIO FORECLOSURE PREVENTION CAMPAIGN ANNOUNCED— This statewide, grassroots campaign involves several state government agencies, community partners, HUD-approved housing counseling agencies and legal services organizations in providing resources to connect borrowers with local agencies and legal aid, as well as offers information to avoid foreclosure. Help is needed to expand the campaign across the state. Organizations interested in participating and obtaining Outreach Toolkits should contact Stephanie Casey Pierce, Ohio Department of Commerce at stephanie.pierce@com.state.oh.

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

- Hallet, Joe and Niquette, Mark. [All eyes on Ohio's Senate fight](#). *The Columbus Dispatch*. January 31, 2010. Ohio is used to being the epicenter of presidential elections, but now the impending retirement of Sen. George V. Voinovich has cast the state into a central role in the battle for control of the U.S. Senate.
- Staff Writer. [CWLS reveals top 5 child welfare challenges and opportunities for 2010](#). *Center Daily Times*. January 27, 2010. Kicking off the year, the Child Welfare League of America (CWLA), the nation's oldest and largest membership-based child welfare organization, announced its top challenges and opportunities for 2010, during its "Children 2010: Leading a New Era" National Conference.
- Armon, Rick. [Akron hospital to take over medical clinic for Children Services](#). *Akron Beacon Journal*. January 26, 2010. Akron Children's Hospital will begin providing medical care this year for kids in the custody of Summit County Children Services. The hospital and the county agency, which is closing its on-campus medical and dental clinic to save money, announced the new partnership Tuesday. Hospital and agency officials are still working out details of the agreement, but hope the transition will be made in March or April. Summit County Director John Saros is quoted.
- Staff Writer. [Documentary examines problems that confront children who "age out."](#) *Greater Tulsa Reporter*. January 28, 2010. Montana social worker Matt Anderson is on a mission to educate the public about the pitfalls of American foster care, especially older children about to age out of the system. Anderson is working to complete the documentary "From Place to Place" that follows teenagers who have turned 18 and left foster care. SocialWorkersSpeak.org sat down with Anderson, who is a member of the National Association of Social Workers, to talk about why he is so passionate about this issue.

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

Posted Date	Organization	Available Position
1/29/2010	Richland County Children Services	Program Supervisor I
1/29/2010	Clinton County Children Services	Adult Protective Service and Fraud Investigator
1/27/2010	Medina County Children Services	Protective Services Worker 2
1/27/2010	Huron County Children Services	Children Services Supervisor
1/27/2010	Franklin County Children Services	Social Program Developer , and Program Evaluation Specialist
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— thinking about getting into green business or steering a current one to more environmentally friendly practices? Learn more about the term "[Triple Bottom Line](#)".

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK— “Days may be gloomy, but life can always be full of sunshine with a positive attitude and some luck.” *Judge Anthony Cappizi*

OHIO FACT—Salem became known as “Ohio’s City of Friends” because of its early concentration of Quakers.