



PCSAO Weekly Update

February 9, 2010

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PCSAO STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS— in last week’s Weekly Update we welcomed Rhonda Reagh as our new Assistant Director covering items such as training, organizational excellence and practice reform such as Alternative Response. We have additional announcements and congrats:

Gayle Channing Tenenbaum is our new Director for Policy and Governmental Affairs – Gayle continues to positively impact policy with her unique brand of grassroots advocacy, coalition building and high up relationships and connections. Her advice and direction is always valuable, and she opens doors as no one else. We are fortunate to continue to have her leadership.

Greg Kapcar has been promoted to Legislative Director – he has wowed all with his competence, responsiveness, thoroughness, inclusiveness, and he has taken full advantage of learning from a great, Ms. Gayle Channing Tenenbaum. Greg is leading the Association as we educate and respond on HB 371, CHIPS.

2010 PCSAO CONFERENCE— MARK YOUR CALENDAR! PCSAO will celebrate its 24th annual conference on October 6-7, 2010 at the Doubletree Hotel of Worthington/Columbus.



The conference theme is **Strengthening Our Foundation**. The conference is designed to offer a wide variety of topics to public and private child welfare professionals.

CALL FOR PRESENTERS

The PCSAO Conference, which draws nearly 500 participants each year, is an outstanding opportunity for you to make a valuable contribution to the improvement of child protection practices in Ohio. We invite you to add your knowledge and expertise to this great learning opportunity by submitting a presentation proposal to the PCSAO Conference Planning Committee. You can download the Call for Presenters online at <http://www.pcsao.org/AnnualConference.htm>.

About the Conference artwork:

The artworks on the cover were created by youth and families in the Project Jericho program. Project Jericho, a collaborative program of the Clark State Performing Arts Center and Job and Family Services of Clark County, provides positive, in-depth arts experiences to at-risk youth and families in Clark County. Project Jericho provides several workshops and modules each year exploring a wide variety of art forms including watercolor, theatre, dance, creative writing, and more, to teach participants positive expression skills and help

them connect to one another and the community.

PCSAO TRUSTEES— met Wed, Feb. 3, 2010. Attendance was full, and the room was brimming with child welfare expertise and leadership. Highlights of the meeting included:

- **2009 PCSAO year end Treasurer's report** - came in just as budgeted for revenues and expenditures, and left us in the black once again. Of course revenue projections for 2010 are lower due to smaller foundation support, so operations and budgeted expenditures have been reduced accordingly
- **2010 Membership dues** – 60 agencies have already paid this year, many thanks!
- **PCSAO Staff** – staff recently reviewed primary roles and responsibilities and arranged to cover gaps since we lost the communications position.
- **Child Welfare Data Performance efforts** – PCSAO and ODJFS continue to explore ways to get performance data into the hands of local agency staff. Both agree upon the goal, and activities continue to review products and decide on a solution soon.
- **Federal Finance Reform** – Trustees joined a nationwide call hosted by NAPCWA to learn about different options for bringing flexibility to our Title IV-E funds. As a member of the NAPCWA Exec Committee, PCSAO President Eric Fenner then led a discussion after the call to bring Ohio preferences back to the national NAPCWA discussion. Trustees are anxious for flexible financing, but were careful to consider risks and varying resources.
- **CHIPS, HB 371** – led by PCSAO's Greg Kapcar, Trustees appreciated the vigorous discussion throughout the state on CHIPS, questions, concerns, and requests for implementation info from states that have similar legislation. Greg is talking

with others states to find out how CHIPS impacted their central registries, how existing case law fit with new law, and more. Trustees were pleased the sponsor is hosting a stakeholders meeting in late Feb. to respond to questions.

GOVERNOR'S YOUTH IN TRANSITION GROUP— Ohio Family & Children First has hosted a Steering Committee of state agencies to develop a more comprehensive approach to better supporting youth in transition regardless of which system they are aging out of (foster care, DYS, DD, other). Much good work had already been done to research funding streams, programmatic eligibility, etc. A beginning strategic plan had been framed including following broad initiatives: aligning agency processes, communication across systems and with transitioning youth, youth empowerment, sustainable resources (yes, this one is hard...), and exit strategies for positive community

connections. External stakeholders (such as PCSAO) joined the work, and we will move forward from here. We are very pleased with this effort.

PROPOSED FEDERAL BUDGET— Last week President Obama introduced his proposed spending and policy priorities for the year. NACHSA'S Tom Joseph summarized highlights as listed below:

- Extending the increased federal matching for Medicaid and IV-E for an additional six months, through June 30, 2011
- Continuing the TANF-ECF program through FFY 2011 via a new, \$2.5 billion program giving additional incentives to invest in subsidized jobs.
- Extending the ability to use as match child support performance incentive funds through FFY 2011.
- Delaying the reauthorization of TANF until next year.
- A new \$500 million fatherhood initiative.
- Continued funding for the Social Services Block Grant at current levels.

Next week, the Senate is expected to consider the first of what may be a series of jobs bills. While details are not yet available, the first bill is expected to contain small business tax credits for hiring, an extension of unemployment and COBRA insurance. States, counties and low-income advocates are pushing the Senate to include in a subsequent bill an extension of the Medicaid and IV-E FMAP boost for six months and a one-year extension with additional funds for the TANF Emergency Contingency Fund.

HB 371, CHIPS LEGISLATION UPDATE— we continue to gather feedback and questions on the bill and had a robust discussion at Trustees, Feb 3. A summary of feedback and next steps was emailed to all 88 PCSA Feb 4th; that summary's available on our website at <http://www.pcsao.org/LegislativeIssues/2010/CHIPSMembershipFeedback.pdf>. To be responsive to members' questions and concerns, next steps include:

- Ongoing member dialogue/education thru district, RTC and committee meetings (and of course emails too).
- Provide synopsis of other states with CHIPS, by end of Feb, to Trustees and membership (include fiscal/cost of care impact? Handling of NCANDS & Central Registry, others?).
- Represent big picture questions at stakeholders meeting (amendments needed?). Note: the sponsor decided to postpone proponent testimony, at a hearing scheduled for Feb 9, until after the stakeholders meeting on Feb 23.

For additional info on HB 371, be sure to check out:

- the legislative page on PCSAO's website (for specific legislative info) [http://www.pcsao.org/128thga.htm#HB_371_CHIPS_\(Pillich,_C._-D\)](http://www.pcsao.org/128thga.htm#HB_371_CHIPS_(Pillich,_C._-D)); AND
- the National Center for Adoption Law and Policy's website (wealth of info, including FAQs; case scenarios; info specific to professional disciplines like PCSA, Educator, Prosecutor, Judges/Magistrates, Health/MH care, CASA/GAL, etc...) <http://www.ohiochildlaw.com/>

HAVE A HEART OHIO— met Tuesday, Feb 2, highlights included:

- **Reaffirm mission and principles** (the mission is reprinted below); plus noted that Families USA and other national groups praise Ohio's statewide advocacy coalitions (HAHO, Coalition to Protect Ohio's Future, Family Coverage, Ohio Consumers for Health Coverage, etc.) as highly effective and models for other states.
- **Health Care Reform Update** – great resource for status of health care reform go to <http://blog.communitycatalyst.org/>
- **Save Transit Now, Move Ohio Forward! Coalition** – includes social service, public policy, transportation, and environmental organizations to reduce the decline in public transportation around Ohio. For many low-income individuals, persons with disabilities and seniors, public transit is their only means of transportation.

Public Transit Facts:

- More than 350,000 Ohioans each day use buses and trains to reach jobs, medical appointments, grocery stores, day care, pharmacies, schools, job training, etc.
- Ohio will spend more to cut grass along its Interstates than for public transit operations.
- More Ohioans travel on buses and trains within our metro areas each day than fly in and out of Ohio's airports.
- **Campaign for Better Care** – national effort to improve health care delivery for older adults with chronic health conditions and their family caregivers. Look for this campaign to grow in Ohio. http://www.nationalpartnership.org/site/PageNavigator/cbc_index
- **Oral Health Campaign** - <http://www.oralhealthamerica.org/OralHealthParity.html>

Mission: Have A Heart Ohio is a nonpartisan, statewide network of over 100 organizations and individuals who advocate for policies and sufficient funding invested in programs that meet basic human needs and develop human capital in order to improve the quality of life of Ohio's most vulnerable persons – including low-income individuals, families, children, the elderly and persons with disabilities.

CORTC DIRECTORS/LIAISONS— met Thursday, Feb 4 with updates from PCSAO (staff updates; HHS Kin Navigator Grant; Title IV-E waiver activities; Legislative updates/discussion; Screening Task Force). Leslie Ahmadi and Lois Tyler from IHS gave a great overview of focus group results and training needs assessments. Updates from Franklin CORTC: E-track going live spring/summer, which will include elimination of hard copy evaluations and switch to online evaluation (7 day window for completion); new web based evals will allow supervisors to pull up individual training records and needs. Look for modified and improved ITNAs. Next meeting Thursday, May 6.

FEDERAL STUDY DOCUMENTS DECREASE IN INCIDENTS OF CHILD ABUSE—Findings of the Fourth National Incidence Study of Child Abuse and Neglect (NIS-4) document a dramatic decrease in incidents of child abuse, especially sexual abuse. The report estimates that 553,000 children suffered physical, sexual or emotional abuse in 2005-2006, down from an estimated 743,200 abuse victims in 1993. The report also finds that the number of sexually abused children decreased from 217,700 in 1993 to 135,300 in 2005-2006, a decrease of 38 percent. The study found that poor children were three times more likely than other children to experience abuse.

The NIS-4 is a congressionally mandated study that has been conducted once each decade, beginning in 1974. The previous version of the report was released in 1996 and based on data from 1993. Data from Child Protective Services is supplemented with reports from more than 10,700 “sentinels.” Sentinels are professionals who regularly come into contact with children and families and who are able to recognize situations that fit into the study’s definition of abuse and neglect. They watch for maltreated children during the study reference period. Data was collected from 122 randomly selected counties throughout the nation.

While the 455-page report avoids explanations about the trends, experts are hailing the findings as proof that crackdowns and public-awareness campaigns are making headway. Others point out that the study was conducted before the United States plunged into a recession. To view the study and related information, http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/opre/abuse_neglect/natl_incid/index.html#overview.

FOSTER YOUTH AND IDENTITY THEFT— There are over 10 million victims of identity theft nationwide and over \$56 billion lost each year because of fraudulent activities. In 2007, there were 1 million children who had their identities stolen in the United States. Children from foster care are twice as likely to become a victim of identity theft. On Tuesday, March 16, 2010 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. there is free webinar training on protecting former foster youth from identity theft. The goal of the webinar is to provide social workers, educators in both K-12 and higher education, advocates, caregivers, and community organizations on ways to prevent, detect and resolve identity theft issues.

Participants will learn about resources and recommendations on how they can assist their foster youth in securing their private information. A panel of experts from Public Counsel, Los Angeles County Department of Consumer Affairs, and the Alliance for Children's Rights will address the following topic areas:

- Why foster youth are vulnerable to fraud and identity theft.
- Tips foster youth need to know to prevent identity theft.
- Models/best practices and resources that can assist foster youth who have had their identity stolen.
- Vital documents foster youth will need during their transition into college and how to protect those documents.

Title: Theft and Vital Documents: Protecting Foster Youth from Fraud. Date: Tuesday, March 16, 2010. Time: 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. How to participate: Audio for the training will be available through your computer and a call-in number. To register and receive log-in and audio instructions, click here <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/130567800>.

Ample time will be provided to answer your questions. For more information, contact Jenny Vinopal at (562) 951-4734 or jvinopal@calstate.edu.

To learn more about California College Pathways, visit www.cacollegepathways.org

OHIO YAB PARTNERS WITH OHIO CASA— The OHIO Youth Advisory Board determined that more is needed to be done to ensure youth voice in court. As part of their previous strategic plan, one object was to *EDUCATE FOSTER YOUTH AND CHILD WELFARE PROFESSIONALS REGARDING THE CASA/GAL PROGRAM*.

After several meetings with Ohio CASA, these flyers were developed to provide some awareness of CASA/GAL:

- Handout: <http://www.pcsao.org/WeeklyUpdate/2010/OhioCASAhandout.pdf>
- Card: <http://www.pcsao.org/WeeklyUpdate/2010/OhioCASAcad.pdf>

OHIO YAB strongly encourages all case managers to distribute to youth so that they may learn more about these valuable resources in their community. If you are interested in OHIO YAB's direction for the future, there updated strategic plan may be found here: http://www.pcsao.org/OhioYAB/2010/OHIOYABStrategicPlan2010_2011.pdf.

MOMENTUM 2010: OHIO WOMEN'S SUMMIT— Momentum 2010: Ohio Women's Summit will be held in Columbus, Ohio on International Women's Day, March 8, 2010. The Summit is being coordinated by the Governor's Office for Women's Initiatives and Outreach and First Lady Frances Strickland. The Summit will focus on strengthening our families and communities by promoting the advancement of women through education, economics, and health. For more information, check out the Momentum 2010 website at www.ohiowomen2010.org and register for the conference.

NEEDS OF FOSTER YOUTH IN ILLINOIS: FINDINGS FROM THE MIDWEST STUDY— Far too many of the young people who age out of foster care in Illinois fare poorly in the labor market during their transition to adulthood. Since the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program was created in 1999, it has been providing states with funds to help foster youth making the transition to adulthood achieve self-sufficiency. A major purpose of the program is to ensure that youth who remain in foster care until age 18 or older "receive the education, training and services necessary to obtain employment."

Unfortunately, the limited research that has been done on young adults who "aged out" of foster care has found that their labor market outcomes are generally quite poor. This study describes what Illinois young people told us about their current and prior participation in the labor force, including work-related training or services they received. Throughout the report, we make comparisons between the young people who were under the care and supervision of the juvenile court in Cook County (hereafter referred to as the Cook County sample), and the young people who were under the care and supervision of juvenile courts in other counties (hereafter referred to as the Other Counties sample).

Although most had some work experience, they had difficulty staying employed. Moreover, despite the fact that the percentage of young people who were working was greater than the percentage that were not, most of those who were employed were not working at a job that paid a living wage. The Foster Care Independence Act specifically mentions employment-related services and supports as being among the types of assistance that states should use their Chafee funding to provide. At baseline, when these young people were age 17 or 18, only 63 percent reported having received at least one service or support to help prepare them for employment. Unfortunately, the percentage of young people who reported receiving services or supports to prepare them for employment fell over time. To read the full report, please visit:

<http://www.chapinhall.org/research/report/employment-needs-foster-youth-illinois-findings-midwest-study>

FEDERAL EARMARKS FOR CHILD-SERVING AGENCIES ARE DOWN— [Youth Today](#) reports that congressional earmarks for nonprofit agencies serving children and youth are down in 2010. Their annual review, published in the February issue, found 813 earmarks for these organizations in FY 2010 federal appropriations bills. That is down from just over 1,000 in FY 2009 and far below the peak of 1,363 in FY 2005. The drop was steeper in dollar terms. Youth earmarks totaled \$309 million in FY 2010, down from \$636 million in FY 2009. The report indicates that several residential providers — including Starr Commonwealth in Michigan and Pennsylvania-based KidsPeace — successfully obtained earmarks to offset state budget cutbacks. In the case of KidsPeace, funding was used to support therapeutic foster care, among other services. During his January 27 State of the Union address, President Obama [called for increased transparency](#) in the federal earmark process, asking Congress to publish all earmarks on a central, publicly-accessible web site. The Alliance for Children and Families supports increased transparency in the earmark process, believing that increased transparency will help ensure that earmarks are used for public purposes. By [Patrick Lester](#) — February 3, 2010.

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

- Shofar, Cassandra. [Benefit bank helps Geauga residents](#). *The News Herald*. February 8, 2010. With a rough economy and tight wallets, public benefits or a decent tax refund could provide a boost for families in Geauga County. United Way Services of Geauga County partnered with the Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives and the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Food Banks to provide low- to moderate-income families or individuals an opportunity to meet one-on-one with a trained Ohio Benefit Bank counselor who can check eligibility for public benefits.
- Troy, Tom. [Mental health agency looks to pare \\$3.5M from services](#). *The Toledo Blade*. February 8, 2010. The Lucas County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board is considering cuts in services and programs to save up to \$3.5 million in its next fiscal year, and the board will lay out a menu of options to its member nonprofit boards today. One proposed cut would save \$450,000 by referring a projected 500 people with low-priority mental health issues to support groups rather than to professional treatment.

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

Posted Date	Organization	Available Position
2/5/2010	Franklin County Children Services	Associate Director
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	Huron County Children Services	Children Services Supervisor
1/27/2010	Franklin County Children Services	Social Program Developer , and Program Evaluation Specialist

UPCOMING MEETINGS

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE
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— Handy with knitting needles, a sewing machine or crochet hooks? Here's some [links](#) to interesting and useful craft items you can make from plastic bags, complete with photos and instructions!

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK—The grand essentials of happiness are: something to do, something to love, and something to hope for. – *Allen K. Chalmers*

OHIO FACT— Cleveland boasts America’s first traffic light. It began on August 5, 1914.