



PCSAO Weekly Update

March 9, 2010

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NEW KINSHIP WEBSITE LAUNCHES— this week, PCSAO launched the new www.KinshipOhio.org website, designed to connect relatives and other kin caregivers with resources to assist them as they step up to provide safe, familiar homes for children as part of their extended family. The website welcomes kin families, lists statewide resources and how to access them, and has a clickable county map of Ohio to direct caregivers to local contacts and resources. Initially loaded with local resources for the seven HHS Kin Navigator Grant counties, PCSAO now invites all other counties to send us your local contacts and resources and we will post so the clickable map helps caregivers in your community! Send info to crystal@pcsao.org.

FOSTER YOUTH SCHOLARSHIPS— Children's Action Network and the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption have partnered to create a national scholarship program, Fostering a Future, sponsored by Capital One, to benefit youth adopted from foster care. The fund was designed to provide children who were adopted from foster care with the opportunity to pursue their educational goals. In addition, the fund will provide parents considering the adoption of an older child an opportunity for education assistance by adding this special scholarship to existing post-adoption resources. The fund is also intended to help alleviate some concerns about new financial obligations facing adoptive parents.

They are currently accepting applications. Applicants must:

- have been adopted from the United States foster care system after the age of 13
- be graduating high school seniors.
- maintain or improve qualifying grade point average throughout applicant's senior year
- demonstrate financial need

Applications will be accepted between now and April 20, 2010. To download an application, please visit Children's Action Network: <http://www.childrensactionnetwork.org/NAS2010.pdf>.

ADVANCE FATHERHOOD OHIO! SUMMIT— A series of regional summits dealing with critical fatherhood policy issues was launched by OPNFF in 2008 called the Advance Fatherhood Ohio! Summits. The goal of the Summits is to convene hundreds of public and private stakeholders, fathers, advocates and practitioners to learn about, discuss, and set action steps for public policy affecting fathers and families. To date, four successful Summits have been held and one more Summit is currently planned for **April 8, 2010 in Springfield**. Registration information can be found at <http://www.opnff.net/default.asp>.

LIST YOUR FATHER SERVING PROGRAMS— the Ohio Practitioners' Network for Fathers and Families invites you to make your services known! New funding opportunities for fatherhood and family-serving programs and father-friendly public policy reforms are in the works both locally and nationally these days... As these potential enhancements to your work with fathers and families are released, you will all want to make sure that your program contact information is correct in local, state and federal directories. Here are two such opportunities: The Federal Department of Health and Human Services is building one directory for their use – to get your program listed in that database: <http://173.66.246.2/fhinfo.php>.

In Ohio, here at OPNFF we are updating our database of father and family serving programs and have released a new survey of social and health services for fathers in the State of Ohio. Our goal is to develop a database of targeted fatherhood programs and family service programs that engage fathers as part of their programming. The database will help us understand the scope of fatherhood services in the state and connect fathers to programs in their communities. Complete our brief survey at <http://healthyfathers.ohioprogramsurvey.sgizmo.com>

Please forward this email to other father and family serving programs in your community. Thanks for all you do for Ohio's Fathers and Families!

SAVE THE DATE!!!! — Are you curious about what has been happening in the Alternative Response pilot counties since 2008? Are you thinking about applying to become an Alternative Response county in the next wave of applications? Do you just want more information about the future of AR in Ohio? Then save the dates of May 13-14 when the first Ohio AR Symposium will be held at the Airport Embassy Suites in Columbus. This symposium will highlight the work of the current ten pilot counties and discuss how pilot findings will influence future implementation. Be on the lookout for registration information in the next two weeks.

PIO COMMITTEE MEETING UPDATE—The PIO Committee met on March 5, 2010 with a jam packed agenda. county PIO reps did updates on Child Abuse Prevention Month activities, Choose Your Partner Carefully campaigns, foster and adoption recruitment activities and a general discussion on what's going on in counties. Plans are underway to update the PCSAO Levy Guide and to incorporate feedback from counties given on the guide. The Committee heard from guest Paula Kyle, author of The Edge of Unthinkable. Take a moment to visit her website at www.edgeofunthinkable.com. It was quite a thought provoking presentation!

NEW EXECS ORIENTATION CONFIRMED!—The next New Executives Orientation will be held at PCSAO on April 20-21. Please e-mail Rhonda Reagh (rhonda@pcsao.org) to express your interest. This Orientation is open to all new directors, child welfare administrators and any mid-level managers who want to attend.

ATTENTION NW DISTRICT! — please join us for a NW District Discussion on CHIPS, HB 371 on **Friday, Mar 19 from 10 am to noon at Hancock Co JFS** (thanks to Judy Wauford for hosting; and Rodney Traxler, NW Dist chair for coordinating). Crystal and Rhonda will be there to hear your comments, concerns and respond/take your good input to the statewide level. We have been providing lots of info out (refer to Greg Kapcar's email sent to Directors and Legislative Cmte on 3/4/10). As you can see we have had numerous district, committee and statewide stakeholder discussion forums, lots of important issues have been raised, and important amendment issues are being addressed. Since the Feb. 9 NW PCSAO Dist meeting to discuss CHIPS was cancelled due to snow, we are rescheduling in your neighborhood, so your voice can be heard. The bill will soon be receiving hearings; PCSAO needs to make sure we represent input from all. We hope you will join us:

NW PCSAO District CHIPS discussion
Friday, March 19, 2010, 10 – noon
Hancock CDJFS, 7814 CR 140, Findlay, OH 45840
Ph. 419/424-7022

STATE TAX AND BUDGET WORKSHOPS— the Center for Community Solutions continues its tour around the state, hosting workshops to analyze the SFY 2010-2011 budget, review strategies for maintaining human service and education programs in a recession, the effects of the 2005 tax changes on state revenues, and a look ahead to the SFY 2012-2013 state budget. Questions? Contact David Howard at 216-781-2944, ext 406 or DHoward@communitysolutions.com:

- Defiance** – Mar 16, 1:30-3:30 pm, Defiance County East Building
- Dayton** – Mar 18, 3-5 pm Miami Valley Child Development Ctr
- New Philadelphia** – Mar 23, 10-noon, 1260 Monroe St, New Philadelphia, 44662
- Marietta** – Mar 30, 9-11 am, Washington State Community College

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.

- **PCSAO Launches KinshipOhio.org Website** – A new KinshipOhio website was unveiled Monday by the Public Children Services Association of Ohio (PCSAO) in collaboration with seven Ohio counties. It can be found at www.KinshipOhio.org.
Source: The Hannah Report, 3/9/10: www.hannah.com/DesktopDefaultPublic.aspx?type=hns&id=182015.
- **Children's services program lauded** – State officials say the Lake County Job and Family Services Department is doing a quality job when it comes to children protection services.
Source: Willoughby News Herald - 3/9/10: www.news-herald.com/articles/2010/03/09/news/nh2204771.txt.

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

Posted Date	Organization	Available Position
3/5/2010	Marion County Children Services	Caseworker
2/25/2010	Department of Health and Human Services	Program Specialists (AT318652 , and AT318656)
2/23/2010	Athens County Family and Children First Council (FCFC)	FCFC Coordinator
2/22/2010	Highland County Children Services	Ongoing Caseworker and Intake/Assessment Case Worker

UPCOMING MEETINGS

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE
March 12	PCSAO Conference Committee	PCSAO Office
March 15	PCSAO Legislative Committee	FCCS 855 W. Mound St.
March 17	SW PCSAO District Meeting	Golden Lamb Restaurant
March 24-25	Executive Membership Meeting	Riffe Ctr, Downtown Cols
March 25	Legislative Breakfast	Riffe Ctr, Studio Lobby, 4 th floor
April 7	PCSAO Board of Trustees	PCSAO Office
April 9	PCSAO Conference Committee	PCSAO Office
April 19	PCSAO Legislative Committee	PCSAO Office
April 23	PCSAO Canton District Meeting	Old Warehouse Restaurant
April 26	SE Ohio Regional Training Center Directors	SEORTC
April 28	PCSAO HR/Safety Committee	PCSAO Office
April 30	Rules Review Committee	ODJFS, Lazarus Bldg.

GREEN LIVING TIP— If you use plastic grocery bags, recycle them for doggie poop bags or for small trashcan liners. More for more green tips, please visit: <http://www.divinecaroline.com/22355/28177-50-green-tips-earth-day>.

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK— I like the silent church before the service begins better than any preaching. – *Ralph Waldo Emerson*

OHIO FACT— while teaching at Kenyon College, John Crowe Ransom founded the prestigious literary magazine *Kenyon Review* and was its editor from 1939-1958.