

PCSAO Weekly Update

November 15, 2011

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3RD ANNUAL ADOPTION ADVOCACY DAY – Many thanks to all of you



who participated and made this year's event a success! As usual, our young people (pictured here) were stars and there wasn't a dry eye in the room. James (adopted at 16; vice-president of Leaders of Tomorrow); Civonna (17; permanent custody, awaiting adoption); and Mandy (Foster care alumni; attending college, raising three sons) – all extremely articulate with distinct experiences, but same message to support adoption as an

option for all youth, every child is adoptable. Great media coverage (see separate Ohio News Service story); wonderful words of wisdom from Melinda Sykes, Dir of Children's Initiatives, AG DeWine's office and adoptee; Rita Soronen, Pres/CEO Dave Thomas Foundation; Denise St. Clair, Exec Dir Nat'l Ctr for Adoption Law & Plcy; and Senators Dave Burke and Charleta Tavares (both presented with Adoption Leader Awards).

88 PCSA Execs
Please make your plans & mark your calendars now!
PCSAO Exec Membership Meeting
Dec 8 & 9, 2011
@ The Quest Training Center, Cols

Our next exec membership meeting will have a whole day devoted to Behavioral Health transformation issues; the second day will cover trends at DYS, expanding Differential Response to rest of state, Human Trafficking collaboration discussion, and OCWTP training opportunities.

Info about arranging lodging and other details, click [here](#).

Please rsvp your attendance to jeed@pcsao.org no later than 12/2/11.

Click [here](#) to view the slideshow of Ohio's waiting children (slides change every 10 secs; or use your arrow keys. Photos from today's event available on PCSAO's Facebook, click [here](#).

CRYSTAL'S EDITORIAL CORNER – the media has been filled with news of events at Penn State University. Without rehashing the full situation, I had two major take-aways I thought I would share:

- I believe there are multiple necessary responses to the child sexual abuse cases that were revealed in this case – all members of society have a moral obligation to act; acknowledgement and therapeutic services regarding the trauma is due

the involved children; actions to protect those and other children from ongoing/future abuse is required; the criminal justice system must pursue prosecution; and institutions must examine themselves to prevent future abuses from occurring.

- Thank you Penn State University Trustees for acting decisively to remove those in authority upon learning of the criminal case against former assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky. In a press conference announcing their decision to immediately remove the President and longtime football coach Joe Paterno, the Trustees dismissed any discussion of football implications and focused on child safety, taking responsibility for the events and reflecting on the integrity of Penn State University. I note that the President of Second Mile has also now resigned for failure to act in the past.

It seems that institutional protection was valued more highly than other aspects in this case. Apparently officials at Penn State University and Second Mile Foundation (and perhaps others) were informed about multiple incidents of alleged abuses years ago. Both took actions at some point by dismissing the alleged perpetrator from employment and/or formal association with their institutions. A worthy step, but missing the essential steps for individual child trauma services, ongoing/future protection of other children, or criminal justice actions.

As the experts in child protective services, we must be ready to swiftly investigate and assess such serious reports of child maltreatment, we must work in coordination with law enforcement and prosecutors, and we must be expert in accessing trauma informed therapeutic services for affected children. And of course, it appears that additional training for mandated reporters and public awareness for all on how to recognize and report child abuse is in order.

Just as in-house handling of sexual abuse cases did not work for the Catholic Church, it did not work for Penn State or the Second Mile Foundation. The new journal article highlighted below and distributed by CWLA this week indicates child abuse reporting is a challenge for primary care physicians as well. We have a lot of work to do.

Study Finds that Health Providers Fail to Report Child Abuse - According to a recent study, child abuse is significantly underreported by primary health care providers. Researchers from Boston University School of Medicine and Boston Medical Center interviewed primary care providers about 111 cases involving injured children. The cases were also reviewed by child abuse experts. [Read More](#).

THE FOSTER YOUTH INTERNSHIP PROGRAM - Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI) hosts an internship program for young adults who spent at least 24 consecutive months in foster care at any point in their life and who have completed at least 4 semesters of higher education by May 29, 2012. CCAI places these interns in Congressional offices in Washington, DC for a 9-week internship program. The goal of the program is to educate policymakers about the experiences of foster youth in an effort to inspire legislative improvements to the foster care system. Interns gain life and professional while also networking and making foster care policy improvement recommendations. Housing, travel, and a weekly stipend are provided by CCAI. Applications are accepted now until January 6, 2012. The program will run May 29-July 28, 2012. For more information and to apply, visit www.ccainstitute.org/fyiapply or contact Emily Collins at Emily@ccainstitute.org or 202-544-8500.



PCSAO CONFERENCE RECAP – The 2011 PCSAO Annual Conference (October 19-20) was indeed a great creative collaboration, time well spent learning and networking with Ohio's child welfare professionals. PCSAO wants to thank everyone for helping to make this a great event. Thank you also to all of the presenters for kindly sharing their knowledge and expertise. We appreciate our exhibitors, who always add an informative dimension.

We are grateful to the [OCWTP Regional Training Centers](#) and to the [Institute for Human Services](#) for their important contributions and partnership. Their indispensable efforts are greatly appreciated. A very special thank goes to the [CareSource Foundation](#), and the [Ohio Children's Hospital Association](#) for their support of our award luncheons. We also want to thank [My Very Own Blanket](#) for generously giving more than 2,000 beautiful handmade blankets and hygiene kits to Ohio's foster children. The value of this wonderful gift is immeasurable. Finally, we want to express our appreciation to the [conference committee](#) and volunteers. Their selfless hard work and commitment are instrumental to the success of the conference year after year. It couldn't be done without this incredible committee! [2011 PCSAO Conference News Released October 25](#) and HeartBeat Newsletter [Special 2011 Conference Edition](#) are available. Don't forget to check out our Conference Photo album on [PCSAO Facebook](#).

WEBINAR TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) FOR OHIO SPEAKS – You are invited to join a webinar *tomorrow* sponsored by Advocates for Ohio’s Future about a new story-banking initiative called *Ohio Speaks*. *Ohio Speaks* will collect stories about the value of health and human services, including child welfare. The webinar will be Wednesday, November 16 from 3-4:00 pm. [Register here.](#)



Ohio Speaks is a new collaborative project of local and statewide health and human service organizations working to collect and highlight stories of struggle and hope. The stories will illustrate the value of human needs programs that support Ohio's most vulnerable children, families, seniors, and people with disabilities. *Ohio Speaks* will also put a human face on budget cuts and show the effect of budget cuts in our communities. The stories will be used in advocacy and education work with lawmakers, the media, and the public to highlight the impact of human needs programs. *Ohio Speaks* is a great opportunity to promote the powerful stories of outstanding families and youth in the child welfare system. Join the webinar to learn more about *Ohio Speaks* and how to get involved when the project launches on Thursday.

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.

- [Researchers, Policymakers Call on U.S. Government to Take Immediate Action to Address National Epidemic of Child Abuse and Violence Against Children](#) – Leading policymakers, researchers, scholars, jurists, and child advocates from across the country have issued a public statement calling for the development of robust plans of action at federal, state and local levels to address all violence against children.
PR Newswire, 11/7/2011.
- [Thousands of Ohio Children Waiting for a Home](#) – Lawmakers, clergy members, young adults and community leaders are gathering in Columbus today as part of National Adoption Awareness Month to draw attention to the number of children without a permanent home.
Public News Service, 11/15/2011. By Mary Kuhlman.

JOB OPENINGS – for more information, please visit www.pcsao.org/Employment.htm.

Posted Date	Organization	Available Position
11/14/2011	Franklin County Children Services	Fiscal Officer/ CPA
11/14/2011	Erie County DJFS	Employment Opportunities
11/14/2011	Policy Matters Ohio	Budget Analyst, Columbus Development & Communications, Cleveland
11/9/2011	Athens County CS	Child Welfare Caseworker
11/7/2011	Ohio Job and Family Services	Human Services Program Administrator 2
11/2/2011	Van Wert County DJFS	Full-time Investigator
11/1/2011	Montgomery County DJFS	Budget and Financial Planning Manager
11/1/2011	National Center for Adoption Law & Policy	Part- time staff attorney
10/31/2011	The Salvation Army, Columbus Area Services, Southwest Ohio/Northeast Kentucky Division	Anti-Human Trafficking Volunteer County Coordinator
10/25/2011	Ashland County DJFS	Social Service Supervisor

PCSA agencies – if you’re looking at hiring graduates from the University Partnership Program (UPP), please visit the list of [UPP graduates](#) who look for employment in an Ohio public children services agency.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE
November 18	PCSAO Conference Committee	PCSAO
November 18	Canton/Coshocton District Meeting	Olde Warehouse Restaurant, Roscoe Village
November 24 & 25	Thanksgiving	PCSAO will be closed.
December 8 & 9	PCSAO Execs Membership Meeting	Quest Conference Center, Columbus
December 8	PCSAO Trustees Meeting	Quest Conference Center, Columbus
December 9	PCSAO Conference Committee	PCSAO
December 12	PCSAO Legislative Committee	FCCS
December 26	Christmas Day observed	PCSAO will be closed.



GREEN LIVING TIP – Teach kids about the environment.

TODAY IN HISTORY – On November 15, 1969, Dave Thomas opened the first Wendy’s Old Fashioned Hamburgers restaurant in Columbus, Ohio. Today, Wendy’s is the third-largest hamburger chain in the world.

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK – “Every child deserves a home and love. Period.” ~ *Dave Thomas, Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption.*