

## PCSAO Weekly Update

### November 2, 2011

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**3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL STATEWIDE ADOPTION ADVOCACY DAY** – hope to see you there! Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup> at the Studio Theater Lobby (4<sup>th</sup> Fl) of the Riffe Center in Columbus (77 South High St) from 11:30-12:15 pm (participants are encouraged to arrange ahead of time to visit their state legislators immediately following the program to talk about adoption – it is an advocacy day after all!) Please share this information with your colleagues, friends, families and most important remember to invite foster/adoptive families and their youth!

Among others, a goal is to raise awareness to reduce the number of youth aging out of foster care.

In addition to three young adopted adults, speakers include: Melinda Sykes, Dir of Children's Initiatives for Attorney General Mike DeWine; Rita Soronen, President/CEO Dave Thomas Fdn; Denise St. Clair, Exec Dir Nat'l Ctr for Adop Law & Plcy; and Senators David Burke and Charleta Tavares (both will be presented with Adoption Leader Awards). Click [here](#) for the event flyer.



**KINSHIP NAVIGATOR UPDATE** – if you attended the Kinship Navigator workshop at the PCSAO Conference, you not only heard great research and data on grandparents and their kids, but you heard and learned about the seven Kinship Navigator Initiative grant sites here in Ohio. *The fourth semi-annual report has now been posted, at <http://www.kinshipohio.org/resources.htm>.* Our two year evaluation will be available by early December. The seven sites (Ashtabula CCS, Clark JFS, Clermont JFS, Hardin JFS, Lorain Office on Aging, Portage JFS, and Richland CCS) are just beginning their third (and final) year of the grant. As part of the most recent posted report, you can access wonderful summaries from each site, as well as overall statewide activities. Much has been accomplished – in addition to local activities, there has also been much progress on addressing kinship legal concerns, linkages between informal and formal kinship cases, and much public education and building of value for kin caregivers. We will create a Replication Manual

during this third year (many PCSAs were interested in how and lessons learned, at the conference), and work on sustainability issues.

The [www.KinshipOhio.org](http://www.KinshipOhio.org) website has a page for county profiles – *please look to see if your county has info, if not, please send us what you would like us to post* – we want this website to be a statewide resource.

**TRANSITIONAL YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES** – ODJFS has announced significant work to better support our transitional youth

- **Transitional Youth Supports Funding** - \$2 M/year TANF funds allocated to 88 PCSAs for foster youth age 16+, and emancipated youth up to age 21.
- **Foster Youth Initiative** – ODJFS is leading an initiative to improve the educational and employment outcomes for Ohio youth aging out of foster care, better supporting their transition to adulthood. By collaborating between PCSA Independent Living programming, and Youth WIA programming, to “connects the dots” between foster care and employment services, we will be able to better address all the needs of transitioning foster youth: their needs related to family and personal support systems, education, employment, health, food, housing and transportation. Briefing webinars for professionals, foster caregivers and transitioning youth, start Nov. 3. See Oct. 14 and Oct. \_\_ emails from Jennifer Justice
- **Housing Options for Transition-Aged Youth Partnership Forum** – in partnership with the National Center for Housing and Child Welfare and others, PCSAO is proud to co-sponsor this conference, Dec. 11 & 12, 2011. This free conference will join regional housing, child welfare, and youth services leaders to galvanize housing resources and supportive services to prevent and end youth homelessness. Link for more info <http://www.pcsao.org/WeeklyUpdate/2011/HousingOptions.pdf>.
- **OhioReach** – Completing the circuit (support our youth with skills, work experience, housing and higher education) the OhioReach initiative is entering its fourth year, we have 25 colleges and universities in Ohio with foster student liaisons, the OhioReach Advisory Board has again been awarded NACADA status (a national org) and an anonymous funder sponsored the 2011 Conference, and is considering sponsoring again in 2012. The Advisory Board has now drafted a funding proposal for a staff person to manage this successful collaborative effort, and we are sharing with others.

**WENDY’S WONDERFUL KIDS** – as an arm of the Dave Thomas Foundation, the life-changing research of Wendy’s Wonderful Kids program was recently released. Not only is Wendy’s Wonderful Kids working, the research shows that children, particularly older children, served by our incredible WWK recruiters are up to 3 times more likely to be adopted. This is incredible news! Thanks to all for your leadership and your partnership helping us find homes for thousands of children, particularly those most at risk of turning 18 and leaving foster care without a family. Please take a moment to watch a short compelling video about this linked [here](#), check out today’s edition of *USA Today* to see our ad, and review all of the research materials, including the executive summary on our [website](#).

While PCSAO is very excited about the list of transitional youth opportunities summarized above, wouldn’t it be wonderful if we had permanent homes for all our foster youth???? November is Adoption Awareness Month...

**ODJFS RULES UPDATE** – ODJFS TAS Susan Halter (SW Ohio) regularly summarizes rule updates for her district. If you don’t get this her it is, <http://www.pcsao.org/WeeklyUpdate/2011/RuleUpdate.pdf>. Nicely done Susan!

**OHIO DRUG TRENDS** – while we know you are out there in the field actually experiencing the epidemic of painkillers and heroin addiction impacting our families and children, ODADAS regularly publishes trend data, the OSAM report. You can link <http://www.odadas.ohio.gov/public/OsamHome.aspx>, for a wealth of information, including regional and rural drug trends, bath salts info and highlights, and more.

**DUAL DIAGNOSIS COLLABORATION CONFERENCE** – was held October 27<sup>th</sup> with a mix of professionals, advocates and families from multiple systems like Developmental Disabilities, Child Protection, Mental Health, Law Enforcement, Courts and others serving the same youth, individuals and families. Andrea Reik (Dir Athens CS), Matthew Kurtz (Dir Knox DJFS), Bruce Anderson (CS Admin for Licking DJFS) and Greg Kapcar, PCSAO presented on Child Welfare Best Practices and Collaboration. Other great presentations and workshops included the opening plenary by Ed Comer, long time DD advocate, expert and father of a 43 yr old adult w/intellectual disability; mental health courts (did you know? Ohio leads the nation with its mental health courts and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the nation related to drug crts); Collaborating with transitional youth (Jana Shira, Admin Knox Co CS presented on this panel); Understanding the DD Systems; and much more. I (Greg) learned a lot and was inspired by the good work and collaborative practices around the state. There’s much to be done, but we’ve come a long way too.

**EDUCATIONAL STABILITY FOR FOSTER KIDS** – Representatives from ODJFS and the Ohio Department of Education attend a national two-day conference in Washington this week entitled "Child Welfare, Education, and the Courts: A Collaboration to Strengthen Educational Successes of Children and Youth in Foster Care." At the same time, Congress is reauthorizing the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. You may remember that under the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008, the burden falls primarily on child welfare to develop relationships with school systems to fulfill our responsibilities to foster kids for educational stability. Sen. Al Franken has introduced an amendment (Fostering Success in Education Amendment) that would require state education agencies to collaborate with child welfare in this effort. On October 20, the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee held a markup on the Elementary and Secondary Education Reauthorization Act of 2011 and approved Senator Franken's amendment by a 13 to 9 vote. This could go a long way toward helping Ohio meet the educational stability requirement of Fostering Connections. The Senate returns today and may soon take up the bill.

**SOUTHWEST DISTRICT MEETING** – Directors from eight southwestern counties met Wednesday for the regular district meeting at The Golden Lamb in Lebanon. As usual, there was a rich exchange of information. Independent living and aging out of foster care were hot topics, as were reports of agencies losing staff or receiving raises for the first time in years (yes, it is happening in some counties!). The group nominated Susan Bailey-Evans, director of Champaign County DJFS, to represent Southwest on the PCSAO Board of Trustees. (Her nomination will be voted on at tomorrow's meeting.) The next meeting of the Southwest District will be December 14, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

**STATE ISSUE 3** – PCSAO has been working in these weeks leading up to the election to educate our membership about State Issue 3, the Constitutional amendment on health care and health insurance. If you missed last week's webinar hosted by Advocates for Ohio's Future, catch up [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.

- [Adoption recruiters raise odds of a match](#) – The files she receives are almost always thick, their contents a chronicle of trauma and instability that no child should endure. The pages in just one might cover a conference table.  
*The Columbus Dispatch, 10/26/2011. By Rita Price.*
- [Children Services helps fathers play active roles](#) – All children have two biological parents. Through its Fatherhood Initiative, Lucas County Children Services (LCCS) aims to ensure those with the Y chromosome play a significant role in their children's lives  
*Toledofreepress.com, 10/27/2011. By Joel Sensenig.*
- [Homeless young adults get place to live in Akron](#) – An area agency is giving some young people a place to hang out on their way from being homeless to being successful.  
*Ohio.com, 10/27/2011. By Dave Scott, Beacon Journal Staff.*
- [Ohio Teens Raising Voices and Giving Back](#) – While some young people in Ohio are looking for tricks and treats this Halloween weekend, others will gather to raise their voices and discuss ways they can lend a helping hand to their communities.  
*Public News Services, 10/28/2011. By Mary Kuhlman.*
- [Kids levy has \\$28M in reserve: Children's Services may owe the feds up to \\$60M](#) – Even as they ask voters to approve a \$39.1 million-a-year levy, the agency that cares for Hamilton County's neglected and abused children has set aside \$28.6 million that was collected from the levy over the past five years.  
*Cincinnati.com, 10/28/2011. By Sharon Coolidge.*
- [Adrian McLemore, Veteran of Foster Care Seeks to Save His Own Kin](#) – As a child, Adrian McLemore was a troubled little soul who spent much of his time exploding in confusion and rage – acting up in school, running away from home.  
*Huff Post College, 10/31/2011. By Helen O'Neill.*
- [Sen. Burke, Rep. Boyd Get Children Services Award](#) – The Public Children Services Association of Ohio said it named Sen. Dave Burke (R-Marysville) and Rep. Barbara Boyd (D-Cleveland) its Outstanding Legislators of the Year at its recent conference.  
*The Hannah Report, 11/1/2011.*

**JOB OPENINGS** – for more information, please visit [www.pcsao.org/Employment.htm](http://www.pcsao.org/Employment.htm).

Posted Date	Organization	Available Position
11/1/2011	National Center for Adoption Law & Policy	<a href="#">Part- time staff attorney</a>
10/31/2011	The Salvation Army, Columbus Area Services, Southwest Ohio/Northeast Kentucky Division	<a href="#">Anti-Human Trafficking Volunteer County Coordinator</a>
10/25/2011	Geauga County DJFS	<a href="#">Child Protective Social Worker</a>
10/25/2011	Ashland County DJFS	<a href="#">Social Service Supervisor</a>
10/25/2011	Huron County DJFS	<a href="#">Children and Adult Services Supervisor</a>
10/24/2011	Warren County DJFS	<a href="#">Part-Time Foster Care/Adoption Caseworker</a>
10/14/2011	Policy Matters Ohio	<a href="#">Budget Analyst, Columbus Development &amp; Communications, Cleveland</a>

**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 2	PCSAO Trustees Meeting	PCSAO
November 3	CORTC District Meeting	FCSS/CORTC
November 4	PCSAO PIO Committee	PCSAO
November 11	Veteran’s Day	PCSAO will be closed.
November 14	PCSAO Legislative Committee	FCSS
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	The Quest Conference Center, Columbus
December 8	PCSAO Trustees Meeting	The Quest Conference Center, Columbus
December 9	PCSAO Conference Committee	PCSAO
December 12	PCSAO Legislative Committee	FCSS
December 26	Christmas Day observed	PCSAO will be closed.



**GREEN LIVING TIP** – Compost your pumpkins! After you've finished celebrating Halloween, compost your jack-o-lanterns, instead of tossing them in the garbage – unless, of course, you are going to be turning them into yummy pumpkin pie, muffins or even flan. ([www.thedalygreen.com](http://www.thedalygreen.com))



**TODAY IN HISTORY** – On November 1, 1897, the first Library of Congress building opened its doors to the public. Previously, the Library had been housed in the Congressional Reading Room in the U.S. Capitol.

**THOUGHT OF THE WEEK** – A good book is the best of friends. ~ *English Proverb*