

## PCSAO Weekly Update

### November 29, 2011

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#### PCSAO Staff

**Crystal Ward Allen**  
Executive Director

**Gayle Channing Tenenbaum**  
Director of Policy and Governmental Affairs

**Gregory R. Kapcar**  
Legislative Director

**Scott Britton**  
Assistant Director

**Jeed Jitprasert**  
Operations Manager

**Editor:** Jeed Jitprasert  
E-mail: [Jeed@pcsao.org](mailto:Jeed@pcsao.org)



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**WORLD AIDS DAY, THURS, DEC. 1** - The United Nations' (UN) World AIDS Day is an occasion to honor those who have died of AIDS and those who live with HIV or AIDS and to increase awareness of these conditions. AIDS is a condition resulting from damage done to the human immune system by HIV. It affects tens of millions of people around the world. The United Nations' (UN) World AIDS Day is held on December 1 each year. How will you promote prevention and bring awareness to those in your personal and professional life? [Learn more.](#)

**METROS PCSA DIRECTORS CONVENE** – the metro PCSA Execs met Monday, Nov. 21 to discuss child welfare outcomes, strategies to improve, common organizational excellence issues, and to generally network with one another. As metros are often geographically distanced, this gave them a time to note common challenges, share approaches for success and network and consider future partnerships.

**ODJFS MEMO RE FCM REIMBURSEMENT OF LEAVE DAYS** – several PCSAs were to experience substantial loss of IV-E foster care reimbursement related to respite, leave and SACWIS financial rollout. PCSAO was very appreciative of action by Office of Families and Children's Dan Shook and Jennifer Justice to review this situation, and positively address it. *Please see email and memo to 88 PCSA Execs, from Acting Deputy Director Jennifer Justice, dated November 29, 2011 to ensure your PCSA does not lose out* on FCM reimbursements. Every dollar helps when working to keep children safe and in stable, permanent homes.

**UPDATED CASEY FAMILY PROGRAMS GUIDE FOR ASSISTING FOSTER YOUTH WITH COLLEGE FINANCIAL AID** - the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, the California Community College Chancellor's Office and Casey Family Programs have released this updated guide for compliance with the current FAFSA. The publication provides information for anyone who helps youth from foster care and unaccompanied homeless youth to secure financial aid for postsecondary education or training programs. (September 2011) [www.casey.org/resources/publications/ProvidingEffectiveFinancialAid.htm](http://www.casey.org/resources/publications/ProvidingEffectiveFinancialAid.htm)



## RESOURCES FROM CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA

- **GAO Study on the Adoption Tax Credit** - The Government Accountability Office (GAO) has just released a study on the federal adoption tax credit. From analysis of Internal Revenue Service (IRS) data and documents, observations of IRS examiners, and interviews of IRS officials and other stakeholders, the GAO explored IRS' communications, processing, and auditing strategy regarding the credit. CWLA and member agencies on our adoption advisory committee were among the stakeholders consulted for this report. [Read More](#)
- **Senate Committee Announces Hearing On Child Abuse** - Prior to the introduction of his Speak Up to Protect Every Abused Kid Act of 2011, Senator Bob Casey (D-PA) wrote to the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Subcommittee on Children and Families, requesting a hearing to examine federal statutes designed to force those who witness the sexual abuse of a child to report the crime to authorities. Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-MD), the Chairwoman of the Subcommittee, along with Ranking Member Richard Burr (R- N.C.), and Casey announced that the Senate would hold its first hearing in the wake of the Penn State child abuse scandal on Tuesday, December 13th. [Read More](#)
- **New Study Examines Antipsychotic Treatment in Foster Care** - A new study, Antipsychotic Treatment Among Youth in Foster Care, examined concomitant antipsychotic use among Medicaid-enrolled youth in foster care, compared with disabled or low-income Medicaid-enrolled youth. The findings suggest that children in foster care are being prescribed antipsychotic drugs just as frequently as some of the most disabled children on Medicaid. In recent years, doctors and policy makers have grown concerned about high rates of overall psychiatric drug use in the foster care system. [Read More](#)

**LAW ADDRESSES IDENTITY THEFT FOR FOSTER CHILDREN** – a piece of H.R. 2883 the Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act (Public Law 112-34) as signed into law on September 30th by President Obama, was designed to protect foster youth from an all-too-common problem – identity theft. Stats show as many as 30% of foster children become victims of identity theft before emancipating from care. This portion of PL 112-34 ensures that youth 16 and older receive free credit checks before they exit foster care, and that any youth whose identities have been stolen will receive help to fix their credit. Click here to link to PL 112-34 (the ID theft piece is Sec 106 (b); p. 9).

**OHIO WELFARE OVERPAYMENT POLICY REVERSED** – Advocates for Ohio's Future celebrated a small victory yesterday as Governor John Kasich put a stop to efforts by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services to recover 25-year-old welfare overpayments. Our lead advocates worked behind the scenes last week after news broke that the Department had sent 14,000 collection notices to Ohioans demanding prompt repayment for errors the Department itself made.

The collection notice letters affected people who had not committed fraud and who likely did not have documentation going back a quarter-century to confirm or refute the claims. Coming, as they did, just before the holidays, the letters likely caused confusion and added concern for individuals and families struggling because of the economy.

Advocates for Ohio's Future, which PCSAO is a member, the Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies, the Athens County Department of Job and Family Services, and the Ohio Poverty Law Center highlighted the harmfulness of the new policy and called on Governor Kasich and ODJFS Director Michael Colbert to take swift and decisive action.

As a result, Governor Kasich and Director Colbert decided to revert to the Department's standard practice of looking back no more than 10 years. However, the governor is also exploring the possibility of no longer doing look backs for 10 years if the department was in error. AOF and PCSAO are grateful for the Administration's decision to revert to the prior policy.

## 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.

- [Drugs Used for Psychotics Go to Youths in Foster Care](#) – Foster children are being prescribed cocktails of powerful antipsychosis drugs just as frequently as some of the most mentally disabled youngsters on Medicaid, a new study suggests.  
*The New York Times, 11/20/2011. By Benedict Carey.*
- [Time for action on childhood hunger](#) – I am old enough to remember when President Lyndon Johnson declared War on Poverty. Even in these tough economic times, poverty and hunger seem to have fallen off the radar screen.  
*Cincinnati.com/Guest Column, 11/21/2011. By Sue Wilke.*
- [A program that helps youths find jobs](#) – As high unemployment rates remain stubbornly unchanged, the charge for our leaders is to strengthen job and training opportunities, particularly for disadvantaged young people.  
*Cincinnati.com/Guest Column, 11/22/2011. By N. Robert Grillo.*

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

Posted Date	Organization	Available Position
11/22/2011	Portage County DJFS	<a href="#">Full- time Administrative Secretary</a>
11/16/2011	Hamilton County DJFS	<a href="#">Investigations Supervisor</a>
11/16/2011	Portage County DJFS	<a href="#">Full-time PCSA Aid</a>
11/14/2011	Franklin County Children Services	<a href="#">Fiscal Officer/ CPA</a>
11/14/2011	Erie County DJFS	<a href="#">Employment Opportunities</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
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	PCSAO
December 26	Christmas Day observed	PCSAO will be closed.
January 2	New Year’s Day observed	PCSAO will be closed.
January 4	PCSAO Board of Trustees	PCSAO
January 6	PIO Committee Meeting	Conference Call

*PCSAO 2012 Calendar is available online at: [www.pcsao.org/AboutPCSAO/2012/12PCSAOCalendar.pdf](http://www.pcsao.org/AboutPCSAO/2012/12PCSAOCalendar.pdf).*



**GREEN LIVING TIP** – Don’t get a paper phone book. Use an online directory instead.

**TODAY IN HISTORY** – On November 29, 1975, President Gerald Ford signed the Education for All Handicapped Children Act into law.

**THOUGHT OF THE WEEK** – Education is an ornament in prosperity and a refuge in adversity. ~*Aristotle*.