

PCSAO Weekly Update

November 8, 2011

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November is National Adoption Awareness Month

“Children Can't Wait: Support Adoption!”

3rd Annual Adoption Advocacy Day

Hosted by the Ohio Adoption Planning Group

Tuesday, November 15, 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
Registration: 11-11:30 a.m. Program Begins: 11:30 a.m.
Riffe Center, 77 S. High Street, Studio Theatre Lobby, 4th Floor, Columbus

3RD ANNUAL STATEWIDE ADOPTION ADVOCACY DAY

WHEN: Tuesday, November 15
WHERE: Studio Theatre Lobby, 4th FL., Riffe Center, 77 South High St.
TIME: 11:30a.m. – 12:15p.m.

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 & Pcly; and Senators David Burke and Charleta Tavares (both will be presented with Adoption Leader Awards). Click [here](#) for the event flyer.

Hope to see you there!



Today is Election Day!

GOOD LUCK TO PREBLE, LUCAS AND HAMILTON PCSAs AT THE POLLS – three PCSAs are on the ballot today for levy issues. Each have run good campaigns, and absolutely need the resources. Info below for PCSA levies below (check out the use of Facebook for each campaign!), full health and human service levy line up as listed in the Hannah Report at [Local Human Service Agencies Put Issues on November Ballot](#). PCSAO will distribute levy results on Wednesday.

Agency	Millage	Type of Levy	Length of Levy	 Campaign Facebook Page
Preble County DJFS	.4 & .6	Renewal	5 & 4 years	www.facebook.com/pages/Protect-Preble-County-Children/217216278325900
Lucas County CS	1.4	Renewal	5 years	www.facebook.com/groups/committee4children/
Hamilton County DJFS	2.77	Renewal	5 years	www.facebook.com/ChildrensServicesLevy

PCSAO TRUSTEES – met Wed, Nov. 2, 2011. Highlights include the following:

- **New Trustees - Susan Bailey-Evans, Director of Champaign Co. JFS** was unanimously approved for SW Trustee spot open when Chip Spinning left Madison JFS. Sue received a strong recommendation from the SW District PCSAO group. Welcome Sue! Nominations are being sought for 2012 opening in NW District (Teresa Alt of Huron is leaving) and NE District (Denise Stewart, current PCSAO VP has completed six years as a Trustee – thanks for your work Denise!) If interested in serving, please contact Nominations Committee members Andrea Reik of Athens CCS or Scott Ferris of Allen CCS, or you can talk with Crystal at PCSAO.
- **Trustees congratulated Conference Coordinator Jeed Jitprasert, and her amazing Conference Committee** on another fabulous conference with over 400 registered child welfare professionals, most attending two days; 500 attendees at our award luncheons and many awards; 36 vendors showcasing state of the art services for our child welfare work; 31 workshops with CEUs and/or CLEs awarded.
- **Trustees authorized Crystal to work with other local government groups** to ensure effective data on levy and other local government funding, as well as unified messaging.
- **PCSAO Trustees and OACCA Board representatives will jointly meet Jan. 4, 2012** to discuss partnership for change management. Trustees then had a robust discussion for agenda focused on child outcomes; desire for development of a fuller continuum of services vs. primarily placement services, and how to fiscally make that feasible; partnership on improving post-reunification outcomes; public agency need for easy identification of expertise, especially in residential services and mechanism for consumer feedback prior to purchase of service.
- **Trustees voted to approve PCSAO support of Juvenile Rule 3** currently proposed by the Supreme Court of Ohio, to ensure juveniles consult with legal counsel prior to waiving their right of counsel; also support of a **Congressional amendment to an Education bill** – this language would require public schools to partner with child welfare to improve educational outcomes for our foster students (summary at www.cwla.org/advocacy/FrankenAmendmentSummary.pdf). Support letters will be sent on behalf of PCSAO.
- **Continued Trustee discussion on Child Welfare Financing, Behavioral Health transformation and more.**

CONGRATS MARIAN MCCOY, FRANKLIN CCS – for her great work as an Adoption Assessor, Marian McCoy was named Caseworker of the Month by AdoptUSKids. Read [more](#).

YOUTH WEBINAR SCHEDULE – The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services has scheduled five webinars targeted toward youth who have emancipated from foster care or are preparing to live independently.



Each webinar will teach the youth about a different on-line tool for career exploration, job search, and independent living. The webinars will last less than 1 hour and air at 6:30 p.m., so they will be easy for youth to view from any computer, including those at a public library. Click [here](#) for schedule, descriptions, and registration instructions. The first webinar, on the topic of the Ohio Career Information System, is scheduled for Thursday, November 17th.

OHIO COMMISSION ON FATHERHOOD GRANTS & MORE - OCF is releasing a Request for Grant Applications for organizations to increase and enhance their work with Ohio's fathers. OCF will award eight programs \$75,000. Click [here](#) to learn more about this RFGA and to apply for funding. The Ohio Commission on Fatherhood launched the first ever Ohio County Fatherhood Initiative in 12 counties located throughout Ohio. County leaders participated in a six-month training that helped them identify assets and challenges fathers face in their county. Click [here](#) to read more about the Initiative and how your county can participate in the future.

FOSTER PARENT MILEAGE POLICY SURVEY – Allen County Children Services is conducting an informal survey on foster parent mileage reimbursement. Does your county reimburse foster parents for mileage? If yes, at what rate and under what circumstances? Is there a minimum and/or maximum dollar amount you will reimburse? If no, have/did you increase per diems and if so, how much? Please e-mail responses to ferris@odjfs.state.oh.us.

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICERS COMMITTEE – The PIO Committee met Friday to wrap up the year, celebrating at a Columbus-area restaurant. The group re-elected Kathryn Whittington (Ashtabula County CS) and Chris Vasco (Summit County CS) as co-chairs for next year. Committee members reflected on the new recruitment guide, released at the PCSAO annual conference in October and available soon on the PCSAO website; they looked ahead to updating the media guide and other materials and to planning a unified public information campaign for Child Abuse Prevention Month in April. The committee will be meeting monthly, starting with a conference call December 2. To join the committee, contact the co-chairs or Scott Britton at scott@pcsao.org.

CEU “BANKING” NOW PERMITTED – a rule change for counselor and social work licenses now allows licensees to bank up to 12 hours of CEUs (in excess of 30 hours of CEUs) from the immediately prior renewal period, if any. For example, a licensee earned 42 hours of CEUs from May 20, 2008 to May 20, 2010. That licensee may use up to twelve hours of CEUs from the May 20, 2010 renewal toward the renewal due in May 20, 2012. If you are audited using up to 12 hours of prior CEUs, a licensee will be audited for that period and the prior period and will have to show at least 60 hours of CEUs. If you have questions, be sure to double check [OAC 4757-9-04](#) or contact the [CSWMFT Brd](#) (614-466-0912). Additional details also available in [the Counselor and SW Brd fall newsletter](#) (on p. 4).

CORTC DIRECTORS/LIAISONS – met Thursday, November 3rd at Franklin Co CS. Highlights included:

- **PCSAO updates** from Greg Kapcar (CW Incentive Fund proposal, Transitional Youth opportunities, Legislative updates,)
- Pam Severs, I.H.S gave a first hand look/tour of the [CAPMIS Tool Kit](#) (on the OCWTP website) - a great tool and ton of info/resources incorporating multiple learning venues (readings, activities, coaching, curriculum, PowerPoints, etc). Be sure to check it out!
- Lois Tyler, I.H.S. – overwhelming interest in **coaching opportunities** (staff, caregivers, execs/admins)
- Shancie Jenkins, Sandra Holt and others from ODJFS policy provided overviews of **modernization/collaborative efforts** around the state (see article below for brief overview of each).
- **County Roundtable discussion** – remember statewide adoption advocacy day on Nov 15th; FCCS’ emancipation dept is creating a guide for youth called, “What’s Next: A Guide to Post Secondary Education”; once completed, they’ll share it with us.

MODERNIZATION/COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS – here’s a brief summary/overview of various business process redesigns going on around the state:

- **South Central Ohio JFS, Special Purpose District** – administrative cost savings through consolidation of three county JFS’ into a single entity. Counties include Hocking, Ross, Vinton. Scope of project: Income Maintenance (Food Assistance, Cash Assistance and Medicaid), WIA, Child Support, and Child Welfare for Ross & Vinton Counties. Projected to “go live” July 1, 2012. Expect to see related draft legislative language soon (OJFSDA taking lead on drafting this language).
- **Collabor8 Pilot Project** – intended to validate that service delivery, efficiencies and performance improve as a result of sharing of cases across county lines. Counties include Delaware, Hancock, Knox, Marion, Morrow, Sandusky, and Wood. Scope: Income Maintenance. Projected “go live”: January 2012.
- **Wayne County CSEA Mobile Workforce Project** – targeted to provide cost savings through elimination of a county facility, and enhancement of performance through implementation of a mobile workforce. County: Wayne. Scope: CSEA. Go Live: August 2012.
- **Southern Seven** – leverage subject matter expertise amongst the counties in order to build a foundation for future modernization. Counties: Lawrence, Jackson, Gallia, Scioto, Pike, Meigs, Pickaway. Scope: Income Maintenance. Go Live: already collaborating.

JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM – as part of a National Campaign to Reform State Juvenile Justice Systems, Ohio is a leader and fortunate to have the continued generous support of The MacArthur Foundation and George Gund Foundation. PCSAO (thru Gayle Channing Tenenbaum and Greg Kapcar) is participating in a series of stakeholder workgroups, over the next 12+ months or so, led by Oh Supreme Court Justice Evelyn Lundberg Stratton and Marcia Egbert, Senior Program Officer, George Gund Foundation that will advance an agenda including: effective implementation & monitoring of changes made by HB 86 (which included promoting research informed practices; uniform juv competency standards; juv crt authority to allow for judicial release throughout youths term of commitment; revises four mandatory sentencing gun specs related to youth who weren't the main actor in the crime; changes related to mandatory bindover; creates interagency mental health juvenile task force); “unfinished business” from HB 86 (collateral consequences; sealing/expungement issues; discretion vs mandatory sentencing; placement issues for youth bound over to adult prison; data collection/mgmt/reporting), among others. While the workgroup’s focus will be on the criminal side of juv justice reform, we know there are several children/families that cross-over between the child welfare and JJ systems and we appreciate having seats at the table for this very important work.

3rd QUARTER/2011 PCSAO SAFETY INCIDENT SUMMARY REPORT – PCSAO would like to thank 44 counties that submit the Worker Safety Incident report to PCSAO. The total of incidents is 41. Click [here](#) for the summary report. For more information on Caseworker Safety Incident Report, please visit www.pcsao.org/SafetyIncidentReport.htm.

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.

- [Mother reunited with kids: JFS success story](#) – In an effort to provide balanced news, FOX19 reached out to the Hamilton County Job and Family Services department following the death of Damarcus Jackson to share a positive story of the agency's impact on local families. *Fox19.com, 11/1/2011. By Jennifer Grove.*
- [Study: 1 in 4 Kids Exposed to Violence at Home](#) – At least one in four children has been exposed to physical violence between their parents at some point in their lives, a new report finds, and more than 10 percent witnessed this violence in the past year. *Public News Service, 11/4/2011. By Mary Kuhlman*
- [Seven counties merge offices](#) – With more cases and less money, some county Job and Family Services offices are getting creative with how they do business. Beginning next month, seven counties will start to pool applications for food stamps, Medicaid and cash assistance. They are Delaware, Knox, Wood, Hancock, Marion, Morrow and Sandusky counties. *The Columbus Dispatch, 11/6/2011. By Allison Manning.*
- [Wealth gap between young, old is widest ever](#) – The wealth gap between younger and older Americans has stretched to the widest on record, worsened by a prolonged economic downturn that has wiped out job opportunities for young adults and saddled them with housing and college debt. *Cincinnati.com, 11/7/2011. By Associated Press.*

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

Posted Date	Organization	Available Position
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
10/25/2011	Huron County DJFS	Children and Adult Services Supervisor
10/14/2011	Policy Matters Ohio	Budget Analyst, Columbus Development & Communications, Cleveland

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 11	Veteran's Day	PCSAO will be closed.
November 14	PCSAO Legislative Committee	FCCS
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	FCCS
December 26	Christmas Day observed	PCSAO will be closed.



GREEN LIVING TIP – Leaf It for Compost! Instead of bagging up all those pretty fall leaves and stacking them out at the curb, turn them into compost, and save energy and landfill space.

TODAY IN HISTORY – November 08, 1910 First Washington State election in which women could vote.

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK – Always vote for principle, though you may vote alone, and you may cherish the sweetest reflection that your vote is never lost. ~ *John Quincy Adams*