

PCSAO Weekly Update

December 20, 2011

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PCSAO TRUSTEES – Trustees had their final meeting of 2011 Dec. 8 following the Exec Membership meeting. At this board meeting, we thanked Denise Stewart, Director of Mahoning CCS, for her six years of service as a Trustee (that is a lot of driving back and forth from Youngstown to Columbus.) We also appreciate the years Teresa Alt of Huron JFS served, she is now the Family and Children First Director in Richland County! Other highlights included approving a new 2012 PCSAO Budget, voting on a slate of 2012 PCSAO Officer and Trustees, and the Executive Director evaluation. As always, you can access approved minutes from Trustees at www.pcsao.org/trustees.htm.

Approved 2012 PCSAO Officers and Trustees (welcome to the new board members, as highlighted)

Chip Spinning, MPH, Franklin CCS, President
Moira Weir, MPA, Hamilton JFS, V-President
Kate Offenberger, Carroll JFS, Treasurer
Randall Muth, JD, Wayne CCS, Secretary
Susan Bailey-Evans, MSW, Champaign JFS
June Cannon, Miami CCS
Gary Crow, PhD, Lorain CCS
Scott Ferris, MPA, Allen CCS

Judee Genetin, JD, Portage JFS
Catherine Hill, Hocking CCS
Dwayne Pielech, Belmont JFS
Andrea Reik, MSW, Athens CCS
John Saros, JD, Summit CCS
Dean Sparks, MSW, Lucas CCS
Corey Walker, Paulding JFS
Lisa Wiltshire, MSW, Scioto CCS

We are very pleased to have such a distinguished group! There is a nice diversity re: geographic areas, agency structure, levy/non-levy, and gender. Please be sure to provide input to them, to ensure your voice is represented.

PCSAO EXECUTIVE MEMBERSHIP MEETING – we had a packed two day meeting Dec. 8 & 9, 2011 at the Quest Training Center north of Columbus. **Day One was devoted to Health and Behavioral Healthcare Transformation**, facilitated by Maureen Corcoran, President of Vorys Healthcare Advisors, with assistance from the PCSAO Behavioral Healthcare Steering Committee (Lisa Wiltshire/ Scioto, Rich Bowlen/ Fairfield, Kythryn Carr Hurd/ Franklin, Marsha

Coleman/ Richland, Gayle Channing Tenenbaum/ PCSAO and Crystal Allen/ PCSAO. Besides learning a whole lot about the planned changes and opportunities, attendees participated in a World Café exercise to provide input to a variety of related BH topics including what BH issues are presenting with your children, youth and families, and what service gaps you deal with. This critical input will allow the BH Steering Committee to provide meaningful input at the opportune time, geared toward ensuring child welfare needs are addressed. There was no Quiz (thankfully, as this is a challenging amount of information to process), but the Steering Committee greatly appreciates the input from all – we will keep you updated and continue to seek your input for that immediate opportunity.

Day Two was equally enriching – Kim Kehl and Ryan Geis from the **Dept of Youth Services provided trends re the DYS population reduction**, looking at their strategies to provide safe community alternatives, and understand the wide variety of dynamics that affect juvenile justice outcomes. PCSAO members challenged presenters as to whether the youth have been diverted to the child welfare system, but since our custody numbers have also decreased, a more nuanced look at the trends is required. PCSAO will work with ODYS and ODJFS for a data analysis of this issue. Then **Scott Boone of Hamilton JFS provided a briefing about their local intersystem Crossover Youth Initiative**. It is clear both PCSAs and Juvenile Justice have opportunities for better information sharing on specific youth to better serve them. PCSAO is represented on a couple of juvenile justice task forces (Scott Britton on the JJ Mental Health Task Force, Greg Kapcar on the JJ Competency Workgroup).

We also had a dialogue with **Jennifer Justice, Interim Deputy Director for the Office for Families and Children**, particularly focused on the upcoming statewide implementation rollout for Differential Response. She is very interested in what will best work for the remaining 44 PCSAs to implement between now and June 2014. Think about what local dynamics will influence your preference, and call Jennifer to discuss.

Brent Currence of the Ohio Attorney General's office provided a passionate overview of Human Trafficking in Ohio, specifically as it related to minors. It is in our own backyard. OAG office hopes to facilitate local task forces including law enforcement and PCSAs to flag high risk youth (victims of sex abuse, runaways 4 times or more) to connect to well trained law enforcement and social service staff that will ensure minors are treated as victims not offenders, to connect to effective services, and to collaborate to seek prosecution for the traffickers.

Finally, the **OCWTP Opportunities** - Steering Committee Members Russ Moore, Director of Gallia CCS, PCSAO's Scott Britton and IHS' Stacey Saunders Adams did a role play to demonstrate benefits of direct dialogue with your local RTC and IHS staff to respond to your agency's workforce and performance needs.

Presentations from all the topics are available on PCSAO's Website at www.pcsao.org/PCSAOTools/tools.htm.

Evaluation Reminder!

If you attended the [Dec. 8-9 Executive Membership meeting](#) but have not yet submitted your evaluation, *we need your input* – and we need you on record with an evaluation so that you can qualify for CEUs. The [online survey](#) is a new approach for PCSAO to streamline data collection and summary. Help us make it successful by [taking the survey now!](#) Your candid responses will help us improve future meetings. Please complete it by [December 23, 2011](#).

2012 PCSAO CALENDAR – Mark your calendar now for the **2012 Executive Membership meetings** - March 13 & 14 (Riffe Center, Columbus), June 21 & 22 (Mohican State Park), Dec. 6 & 7 (Quest Center north of Columbus). You can access the full PCSAO 2012 Calendar on our homepage at <http://www.pcsao.org/>

DIFFERENTIAL RESPONSE LEADERSHIP COUNCIL – met Dec. 6 & 7. This group is doing such great work to support counties as they implement and continue DR/AR. Work is being done on transferring training responsibility from American Humane to OCWTP (2012 is the dual transition year), enhancing tools and ensuring fidelity among the DR counties, providing input both for the continuing evaluation for the Ohio pilot counties and the national QIC SOAR counties, providing enhanced training and capacity for Safe and Together Domestic Violence training for DR counties, and looking at the statewide rollout for the seven new counties to come on in early 2012 and the other 44 PCSAs prior to June 2014. This is a dedicated and expert group, investing their time and expertise to quality expansion of services.

TRANSITIONAL YOUTH AND HOUSING CONFERENCE – held Dec 12 & 13 in Columbus. The National Center for Housing and Child Welfare chose Ohio to hold their regional conference, to bring together housing and child welfare experts. The estimated 150 folks that attended represented about 1/3 housing, 1/3 private providers, 1/4 PCSAs and of course transitional foster and unaccompanied homeless youth. It was illuminating – clearly I (Crystal) discover more of what I don't know at every turn. Having youth involved really does ensure professionals keep real about what needs exist and inspiration

to take advantage of opportunities. Besides panels of youth and their consistent input, highlights included presentations by Mark Kroner of Lighthouse Youth Services down in SW Ohio, Karla McDay of Summit CCS, and Linda Kramer and colleagues from Daybreak in Dayton. Regional breakout sessions closed Day 2, to develop next steps.

Congress held a hearing on youth homelessness issues on Dec. 15. PCSAO was pleased to be able to provide fresh input to Congressman Steve Stivers on this issue, and he did co-sponsor a bill to improve the definition of homeless youth, in order to improve their access to critical services.

OHIO REACH UPDATE – speaking of transitional youth, the OhioReach Advisory Board (Chris Klefecker and Joe Murray of Miami U/Hamilton, Lisa Dickson of FCCA-Ohio, Mark Mecum of OACCA, Lisa Phillips of Otterbein U, Elaine Early Hall of ODJFS and Crystal Allen of PCSAO) is **pleased to announce that once again, we will receive full funding from an anonymous donor, for an OhioReach Summit in May, 2012 (details to come).** This is the FREE opportunity to connect child welfare professionals with higher education professionals as current and former foster youth reach for higher education success. PCSAO is the fiscal agent for this conference, other supporters include ODJFS and Casey Family Programs.



PCSAO is also in conversation with Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine, ODJFS and the Chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents about funding a staff position for OhioReach. OAG DeWine spent quite a while in a meeting with us last week, especially interested in talking with Miami U student Alex McFarland (former OHIO YAB President!) Once again, involving the youth voice makes a big difference.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING COMMISSION – Attorney General Mike DeWine’s Human Trafficking Commission met Wed, Dec. 14. The Commission is charged with acting on the recommendations made in 2011. The Prevention, Education and Awareness Committee, chaired by Crystal, has made a lot of progress in terms of bringing awareness to the PCSA directors, we hope to launch a Social Media campaign by February (wonderful U of Dayton students will lead this), we have a plan in development about ODE working with HT experts to develop factsheets and some webinars for educators and other child serving professionals, that will be available on their website. Finally, Governor John Kasich has let the committee know his office will facilitate the creation of a video Public Service Announcement, which was a recommendation from 2011. The Legislative Subcommittee is regrouping to review federal and state proposed Safe Harbor legislation that would ensure minor trafficking victims are treated as victims and not offenders. Greg Kapcar will join that subcommittee for PCSAO.

PCSAO STAFF RETREAT – as is tradition, the PCSAO staff retreated on Dec. 16 to get organized and plan ahead for 2012. There are LOTS of exciting opportunities and moving parts. Of course, at 2 pm, we did relax, eat a lot, have a champagne toast to our good fortune to work for YOU, and have great colleagues and friends, and do the traditional association gift exchange – you will all be happy to know Jeed received the definitive book of American Slang...in her words “This is really dope!”

SW PCSAO DISTRICT – ten counties, plus several ODJFS partners (including both Susan’s from Cincy Field Ofc; and others from Policy) met Wednesday, December 14th at the Golden Lamb in Lebanon, Oh. In addition to PCSAO Updates from Greg (recap from Exec’s Mtg, Housing Cnf; recent release/posting of Recruitment Guide by PIO cmte; Legislative updates; AG’s Child Safety Summit), Sandra Holt and Doncella Alexander gave an overview of policy and modernization efforts (we’re all familiar with Collabor8 and the tri-county JFS special district involving Vinton-Ross-Hocking; other efforts include the Southern Seven – to share svcs/standardize processes; plus the 23 County Collab – which stretches along I-77 North, involving PA w/3 ties of tech assistance). Danielle Ell-Rittinger provided details about the ODJFS “Child Safety: Intake and Screening” training (related to state PIP activities and as a resources for counties, especially line supervisors and casework staff); be on the look out for upcoming forums in 2012 (approx. Feb/Mar).

Congratulations to the re-elected, SW Dist Officers, including: Pres, Patti Jacobs (Warren CS); VP, Jeff Centers (Butler CS); Secy, Traci Marr (Hamilton JFS); and Treas, June Cannon (Miami CS).

ANNUAL CONFERENCE FOR CHILD AND YOUTH CARE PROFESSIONALS – The Ohio Association of Child and Youth Care Professionals will hold its annual conference Feb. 8-9 in Huron. Dr. Martha Mattingly and Dr. Dale Curry will make special presentations, and CEUs are available for a dozen workshops. [Download the conference brochure](#) or [visit the conference website](#).

JUVENILE JUSTICE/BEHAVIORAL HEALTH – The Interagency Task Force on Mental Health and Juvenile Justice, established by HB 86 (Criminal Sentencing Reform), met for the second time on Monday. Though PCSAO was not included among the statutory agencies named to the task force, we were invited to the table to ensure an additional voice for child welfare (along with ODJFS). The task force is charged with improving the statewide system response to children in juvenile justice who have mental health issues. Led by ODYS Director Harvey Reed and staffer Kim Kehl (who presented on [DYS trends and strategic planning](#) at the Executive Membership meeting Dec. 9), the task force is examining (1) information access and sharing across systems, (2) access to mental health services, (3) needs of youth committed to ODYS, and (4) protective/risk factors and the role of prevention. The group, which includes representatives from all relevant state agencies as well as Supreme Court Justice Yvette McGee Brown, will meet monthly through its March 31 deadline for delivering fiscal, administrative, and legislative recommendations to the Governor.

OCWTP HOLIDAY LUNCH AND MEETING – The Ohio Child Welfare Training Program met for its final meeting of the year last Wednesday. In addition to the much-anticipated holiday lunch and dessert bar, the steering committee finalized its strategic plan; learned about the rollout of new DR counties (Allen, Belmont, Clinton, Lake, Marion, Stark, and Vinton) and the change in process for selection going forward; and reviewed data including the CAPMIS final report, permanency training needs, and CPOE.

DECEMBER 25, 2011 - FREE TOYS FOR NEWBORN TO 14 YEARS OLD CHILDREN – You’re invited to a Christmas Party at Take It To the Highways and Byways Church. FREE toys will be given away to children all ages (newborn to 14 years old). Please register and bring children.

- WHEN: December 25, 2011, noon to 2:00pm
- WHERE: 848 E Main Street, Columbus, Ohio 43205
- CONTACT: Pastor Timothy or Cassandra Aarons at 614-598-3441 or hiway_biway@yahoo.com

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.

- [Aid for Child Care Drops When It Is Needed Most](#) – With states under pressure to cut their budgets and federal stimulus money gone, low-income working parents are facing a paradox. Just when they have to work longer hours to make ends meet, they are losing access to the thing they need most to stay on the job: a government subsidy that helps pay for child care.
The New York Times, 12/13/2011. By Sabrina Tavernise.
- [More Ohio children are homeless: Numbers grew by more than 50 percent from 2006 to 2010, new report says](#) – The number of homeless children is growing in Ohio and nationwide, and the state needs to do a better job of providing services to homeless and at-risk kids, according to a new report.
The Columbus Dispatch, 12/14/2011. By Meredith Heagney.
- [DeWine tries to transcend politics with foster care](#) – In Attorney General Mike DeWine’s office, there’s a 1997 photo of DeWine holding his daughter Anna, who was 5 at the time, at a White House bill-signing ceremony with President Bill Clinton.
Dayton Daily News, 12/17/2011. By William Hershey.

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


Posted Date	Organization	Available Position
12/19/2011	Wayne County Children Services	Assistant Prosecuting Attorney - Juvenile Division
12/19/2011	Delaware County DJFS	Social Services Worker III
12/14/2011	Richland County Children Services	Social Work Trainee I, II, or III
12/13/2011	Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption	Grants Manager
12/8/2011	Warren County DJFS	Part-time Foster Care/Adoption Caseworker
12/1/2011	Erie County DJFS	Employment Opportunities

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

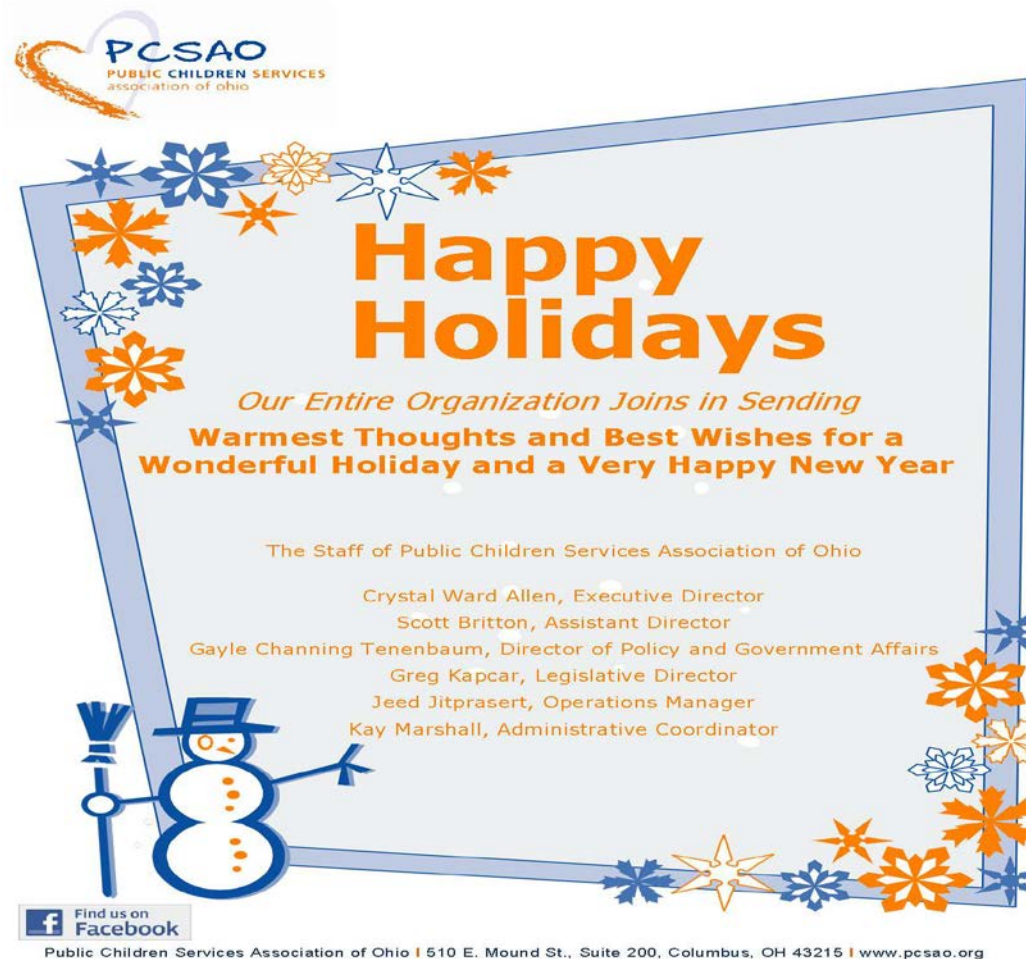
WHEN	WHAT	WHERE
December 26	Christmas Day observed	PCSAO will be closed.
January 2	New Year's Day observed	PCSAO will be closed.
January 4	PCSAO Board of Trustees	PCSAO
January 6	PIO Committee Meeting	Conference Call
January 13	PCSAO Conference Committee	PCSAO
January 16	Martin Luther King Day	PCSAO will be closed.
January 18	SW/Cincinnati District Meeting	Golden Lamb, Lebanon
January 20	Canton/Coshocton District Meeting	Olde Warehouse Restaurant, Roscoe Village
January 23	SEORTC Directors/District Meeting	SEORTC
January 23	PCSAO Legislative Committee	Franklin CCS/CORTC
January 26	Distance Learning	Contact: Rhonda Reagh (rhonda@pcsao.org)

[PCSAO 2012 Calendar](#) is available on our website for download.

 **GREEN LIVING TIP** – Consider donating food you don't use for the big dinner or party. Local food banks appreciate many canned items, including juices, nuts, fruits and vegetables. Food banks generally do not want open items, perishables or homemade foods.

TODAY IN HISTORY – The Post Office in Honolulu was officially established by a Decree signed on December 20, 1850 by the Prime Minister and King Kamehameha.

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK – “One resolution I have made, and try always to keep, is this – To rise above the little things.” ~ John Burroughs




PCSAO
PUBLIC CHILDREN SERVICES
association of ohio

Happy Holidays

*Our Entire Organization Joins in Sending
Warmest Thoughts and Best Wishes for a
Wonderful Holiday and a Very Happy New Year*

The Staff of Public Children Services Association of Ohio

Crystal Ward Allen, Executive Director
Scott Britton, Assistant Director
Gayle Channing Tenenbaum, Director of Policy and Government Affairs
Greg Kapcar, Legislative Director
Jeed Jitprasert, Operations Manager
Kay Marshall, Administrative Coordinator

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