

PCSAO Weekly Update

January 24, 2012



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Advocating for safe children, stable families, and supportive communities

PUBLIC HEALTH LAW RESEARCH CONFERENCE/ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION GRANT – PCSAO, in partnership with the Research Foundation of State University of New York (on behalf of University at Buffalo), is proud to be a grantee funded by Public Health Law Research, a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, to study the impact of sources/types of funding on outcomes for children in foster care in Ohio. Specifically we're asking: What influence does funding (amount, source, ownership, flexibility, accountability) make on improving outcomes? Public health law research usually focuses on the substantive laws that effect health, not the accompanying funding law – which is what makes our project so unique. We will use Ohio CFSR outcomes, outcome and fiscal data from the PCSAO Factbooks over time, along with county director interviews/surveys to measure impact of various funding sources. We are extremely grateful for this opportunity. [Click here to access additional information about Public Health Law Research.](#)

As new grantees for a research project, Crystal and Greg – and our research partner Sue Mangold of SUNY Buffalo - enjoyed several days in New Orleans at the kickoff conference. The experience was eye opening – great public health research topics including

- Effects of soft drinks that have citric acid in them on teeth (it is bad) – the worst? Snapple, then sports drinks such as Gatorade, then yellow/clear soft drinks such as Mountain Dew.
- Structure, empowerment, balance of power on the effectiveness of Local Boards of Health
- Opportunities for improved public safety through better mental health services for re-entry of incarcerated individuals who have mental illness. All expected due to Affordable Care Act (federal healthcare reform)
- Exploring health impact of law requiring radon testing at point of real estate transactions

And of course childhood obesity issues, smoking laws on public health and many more. Did we mention the food? Increased weight? Local music? All great!



Crystal and Greg in New Orleans at the kickoff conference, January 17-20

CLEVELAND SAFETY SUMMIT HOSTED BY ATTORNEY GENERAL MIKE DEWINE – held Jan. 23 on the campus of Cuyahoga Community College (Tri C as they call it), a lively discussion ensued addressing Safety, Permanency and improved services for Transitioning Youth. AG DeWine kicked off the panel, explaining his concern that federal Adoption and Safe Families Act policy that he authored was intended to focus on safety and timeliness of permanency – with a question as to whether the reality is that either children are reunified too soon (safety risk) or permanency decision is delayed (more birthdays in care).

Crystal shared that Ohio has a really good safety risk record, consistently meeting safety benchmarks in the CFSR re recurrent abuse, also meeting stability benchmarks for kids in care. However, we have far too many children re-entering foster care, permanency achievement too delayed and too many youth aging out of foster care. PCSAO recommendations for achievable change include expanding the continuum of support for relative caregivers – legal documentation for informal relatives (HB 279, expanding the grandparent caregiver forms), IV-E Relative Guardianship support for permanent kinship caregivers, policy that would prevent courts from delaying permanency, review/narrowing of PPLA standards, and supporting youth for success in higher education. Cuyahoga CDFS Director Pat Rideout talked extensively about collaboration with courts and community providers, also shared some of their statistics.

The full panel had a great discussion about the need for accessible community based services (especially behavioral healthcare, and healthcare/housing for transitioning youth even beyond age 21).

These panels will continue throughout the state and are a great venue for child welfare to educate others and promote policy improvements.

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND CHILD WELFARE: Multi-System Integration Certificate Programs - The [Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown University's Public Policy Institute](#) is pleased to announce its **2012 Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare: Multi-System Integration Certificate Programs**. The Certificate Programs are week-long periods of intensive study designed for organization and system leaders working with youth known to the juvenile justice and child welfare systems—youth commonly referred to as “crossover youth.” The programs are targeted at public and private sector leaders working in the juvenile justice, child welfare, judiciary, behavioral health, education and other systems that serve crossover youth.

The programs utilize a multi-systems and multi-disciplinary approach in focusing on policies, programs and practices that improve outcomes for this population. Upon completion of the week-long program, participants apply the knowledge they gain via a Capstone Project—a reform agenda they implement in their organization/ community to make a positive impact on the lives of crossover youth. In order to enhance the possibility of implementing cross systems change after returning from the program, applicants from the same jurisdiction are encouraged to apply as “mini-teams.”

Certificate Program for Public Sector Leaders

- July 6-13, 2012 (*applications due by March 22, 2012*)
- October 10-17, 2012 (*priority application deadline is March 22, 2012*)

For more information and to apply, please visit <http://cjr.georgetown.edu> and click on “Certificate Programs” or email CJJR at jireform@georgetown.edu.

4th QUARTER, 2011 PCSAO SAFETY INCIDENT SUMMARY REPORT – the summary of PCSAO Safety Incident Report for 4th quarter of 2011 is available online. There are 45 counties who submitted reports, and 71 incidents that occurred during the quarter. For more information, please click [here](#). The 2011 annual summary report will be available by the early February.

DISTRICT MEETINGS – Both the Southwest District and the Canton District met last week at quaint, historic restaurants in Lebanon and Coshocton, respectively. Hot issues for the two groups include caseworker compensation, board training, state funding and flexible funding advocacy, tablet/notebook purchases, and behavioral health. Be sure to check the [PCSAO calendar](#) for dates of future district meetings.

PCSAO LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE – met Monday, January 23rd by conference call to touch base on a few legislative items, including: proposed amendments to HB 279, the budget neutral kinship bill; review PCSAO’s response/feedback to Sen Kearney re: sibling connection legislation; and talked thru due diligence re: possible legislative proposal related to disrupted adoptions and child support. Next meeting is Monday, February 27th 10 am – 2:00 pm at Franklin Co Children Services (855 W. Mound ST, Cols 43223).

EFFECTIVE HOME VISITS—DISTANCE LEARNING TRAINING — “*Why drive in the snow?!*” YOU can have 9 potential hours of OCWTP credit without leaving your agency!

Dates: February 15, 29, and March 14, 2012 (9.0 OCWTP HOURS = 6 online instructor led hours + 3 self-study hours)
Time(s): 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on each of the dates listed.
Trainer: Val Larkin, L.S.W.
Learning Description: Effective Home Visits is a three-part distance learning course for caseworkers to enhance their skills in making home visits. The course consists of three sessions: Preparing for Home Visits, Conducting Home Visits, and Documenting and Debriefing Home Visits.

Each session has three parts: a self-guided Power Point presentation that workers will complete at their desks, field assignments to apply the learning with families on their caseloads, and a facilitated GAP (guided application and practice) discussion via Go-To-Meeting regarding successes, problems. (**CFSR, CPOE, DIFFERENTIAL RESPONSE AND PROTECT OHIO ENHANCER!!**)

Reserve your seat today by faxing your name, agency, contact number, and your supervisor’s name to: ECORTC, 740-439-2683. Attn: Brian K. Wear, RTC Director (**This course is limited to Public Child Welfare Staff only.*)

AOF RELEASES FIRST ANNUAL REPORT – Advocates for Ohio's Future has released its first annual report, a look back at the last 15 months since the Campaign to Protect Ohio's Future changed its name and hired its first staff. Co-Chairs Gayle Channing Tenenbaum and Mark Davis described the report as a brief look at AOF's activities and accomplishments on both the state and federal budget fronts. They credited the hard work of the coalition's steering committee and staff. [Read AOF's 2010-2011 Annual Report.](#)

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.

- [Many teen moms didn't think they could get pregnant, study says](#) – A new government study suggests a lot of teenage girls are clueless about their chances of getting pregnant. *By Mike Stobbe, The Associated Press. 1/20/2012.*
- [Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine pushes for foster care review](#) – Too many Ohio children are languishing in foster care, Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine said Monday. *By Laura Johnston, The Plain Dealer. 1/24/2012*

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

Posted Date	Organization	Available Position
1/16/2012	ODJFS	Administrative Professional 4
1/23/2012	Hardin County DJFS	Social Services Worker II
1/23/2012	Huron County DJFS	Human Services Administrator
1/23/2012	Franklin County Children Services	Services Desk Supervisor
1/12/2012	Gracehaven	Lead Residential Counselor , and Residential Counselor
1/12/2012	Hamilton County DJFS	Family Services Supervisor
1/10/2012	Washington County Children Services	Executive Director
1/8/2012	Ashland County DJFS	Social Services Worker II
1/8/2012	Stark County DJFS	Fiscal Officer

UPCOMING MEETINGS

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE
January 26	Distance Learning	Contact: Rhonda Reagh (rhonda@pcsao.org)
February 1	PCSAO Trustees Meeting	PCSAO
February 2	CORTC/PCSAO District meeting	FCCS
February 3	PIO Committee	Conference Call
February 14	NW/Findlay – District Meeting	Hancock County DJFS
February 20	Presidents' Day	Holiday – PCSAO will be close.
February 22	HR/Safety Committee	PCSAO
February 27	Legislative Committee	FCCS
February 27	NE/Cleveland– PCSAO District Meeting	Days Inn and Suites, Richfield



GREEN LIVING TIP – Use earth-friendly fertilizers. For garden and home products, visit www.green-living.com.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY – 1st canned beer, "Krueger Cream Ale," is sold on January 24, 1935 by Kruger Brewing Co.

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK – “Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power.” ~ *Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865)*