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Feb. 7, 2022

CCAO recognized former Defiance County Commissioner Ryan Mack for his service to county government. Mack, pictured with CCAO Assistant Director John Leutz, CCAO Executive Director Cheryl Subler and Henry County Commissioner Glenn Miller, recently accepted a new position as Assistant Defiance City Administrator. Thank you for your dedication to CCAO and CORSA, and best of luck in your new role!

If you are having issues viewing Counties Current in your email, click [View this email in your browser] at the top of the email.

Counties Current will now be released Monday mornings at 9 a.m.

Association News

- Commissioner Ehemann writes article on how Shelby County is Leveraging COVID Relief Funds to Expand Access to Quality Child Care
- CCAO releases Comparison of Ohio Procurement Law and Federal Uniform Guidance document
- Save the Date: OCCO Legislative Reception – April 6 at 5 p.m.

State News

- A message from First Lady of Ohio Fran DeWine on the Ohio Imagination Library

Federal/NACo News

- PCSAO Executive Director Angela Sausser testifies on mental health crisis before U.S. House Ways and Means Committee
- NACo publishes legislative analysis on The Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act
- Explore NACo's analysis of the Final Rule for the Fiscal Recovery Fund
- 2022 NACo Achievement Awards applications now open

Education and Grants

- Ohio Safety Congress & Expo virtual event March 9-10
- 2022 Ohio Land Bank Association Conference - April 27 through April 29
- Ohio EPA to host Open Burning, Odors, Dust, and Asbestos in Demolition in Your Community webinar – Feb. 10
- Ohio EPA to host Preparing a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP Tips) webinar – Feb. 24
- Utility-Scale Solar in Ohio event will discuss growing solar industry – Feb. 7 at 2:30 p.m.
- OhioRISE wants to hear from you, schedules listening sessions for February
- NTIA to provide broadband grant programs public virtual listening sessions

County News

A weekly look at news throughout Ohio's 88 counties

Did You Know? - Cuyahoga County

Statehouse Report

Check out the Statehouse Report for the CCAO Policy Team's updates about legislative activity affecting Ohio's counties.

Job Postings

CCAO publishes classified ads on our website free of charge as a service to counties. When submitting your ad to CCAO, please provide a link to the online job posting and a deadline date. Email your classified ad to Communications Coordinator Andrew Johnson.

Print Version

Dates to Remember

Commissioner Ehemann writes article on how Shelby County is Leveraging COVID Relief Funds to Expand Access to Quality Child Care

(Originally published on the Groundwork Ohio website)

The Shelby County Commissioners have recently entered into a contract with 4C for Children to expand the supply of Family Child Care in Shelby County, Ohio. 4C for Children is part of the Ohio Child Care Resource & Referral Association (OCCRRA), serving 15 counties in Southwest Ohio and the Miami Valley region.

Factors that helped to determine this decision included noted workforce gaps in Shelby County, with many businesses struggling to find workers, and a lack of child care options in Shelby County. It is hoped that expanding child care options will result in an expanding workforce for the county, and thus fill in some of the workforce shortages.

In 2019, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, 49% of children under the age of 5 in Shelby County were not receiving affordable high-quality child care. While Shelby County has approximately 25 preschools, there is a tremendous need for infant and toddler care. For example, one local provider recently had a waiting list in excess of 60 slots for their infant and toddler program. An additional goal of providing quality child care is to increase kindergarten readiness in Shelby County, as just 35% of kindergartners in the county enter the classroom ready to learn. Geographically, licensed center-based child care options are found only in the City of Sidney (the county seat), with the rest of the county lacking center-based options. Our hope is that new providers will be situated in some of the surrounding villages.

Click here to read the complete blog.

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CCAO releases Comparison of Ohio Procurement Law and Federal Uniform Guidance document

CCAO last week published a Comparison of Ohio Procurement Law and Federal Uniform Guidance on the CCAO website. This document is intended to provide a comparison of the procurement rules and regulations prescribed by both federal law and state law, as they relate to Ohio counties using ARPA funds. Counties must comply with both state and federal law, where possible. Where federal requirements are more restrictive than state law, federal law must be followed. Where state law is more restrictive than federal requirements, state law must be followed.

The information presented in this chart was prepared by Bricker & Eckler LLP as a service to CCAO. This information is intended solely for informational purposes of CCAO and its members. The contents herein are not intended to constitute legal advice to, and may not be relied upon by, any party. Readers should engage legal counsel to provide legal advice related to any specific transaction.

Click here to read the document.

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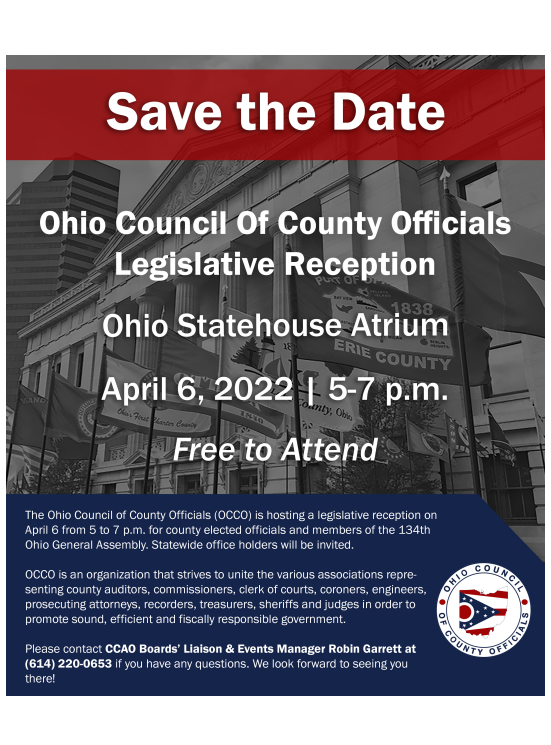
Save the Date: OCCO Legislative Reception – April 6 at 5 p.m.

The Ohio Council of County Officials (OCCO) is hosting a legislative reception on April 6 from 5 to 7 p.m. for county elected officials and members of the 134th Ohio General Assembly. Statewide office holders will be invited.

OCCO is an organization that strives to unite the various associations representing county auditors, commissioners, clerk of courts, coroners, engineers, prosecuting attorneys, recorders, treasurers, sheriffs and judges in order to promote sound, efficient and fiscally responsible government.



Save the Date

Ohio Council Of County Officials Legislative Reception

Ohio Statehouse Atrium

April 6, 2022 | 5-7 p.m.

Free to Attend

The Ohio Council of County Officials (OCCO) is hosting a legislative reception on April 6 from 5 to 7 p.m. for county elected officials and members of the 134th Ohio General Assembly. Statewide office holders will be invited.

OCCO is an organization that strives to unite the various associations representing county auditors, commissioners, clerk of courts, coroners, engineers, prosecuting attorneys, recorders, treasurers, sheriffs and judges in order to promote sound, efficient and fiscally responsible government.

Please contact **CCAO Boards' Liaison & Events Manager Robin Garrett at (614) 220-0653** if you have any questions. We look forward to seeing you there!

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A message from First Lady of Ohio Fran DeWine on the Ohio Imagination Library

Thank you, County Commissioners Association of Ohio, for allowing me to share information about the Ohio Governor's Imagination Library. The Ohio Governor's Imagination Library, in partnership with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, mails kids one free book each month until their 5th birthday. Any child in Ohio between birth to age 5—regardless of their zip code—can enroll in the program at no cost to their family.

Children enrolled in the program are mailed one new book each month that's age appropriate. Newborns receive board books, while toddlers receive books with more complex story lines. The Imagination Library is a diverse collection of books, selected by a panel of literacy experts each year. This year, the collection includes a few books written and illustrated by Ohioans, including *There's a Hole in the Log at the Bottom of the Lake* by Loren Long.

At the end of 2021, we celebrated having more than 300,000 kids enrolled in the Ohio Governor's Imagination Library. Ohio is one of 12 states with a statewide program, and now has more kids enrolled in the Imagination Library than any other state's program!

In 2022, I'm hopeful even more families will take advantage of this great program. My goal is to have over 50% of kids in Ohio receiving these books—and you can help us reach that goal! Currently, Ohio has more than 309,000 kids each month receiving a book. That's about 44% of kids under the age of 5 in Ohio. You can help us reach our goal by signing up your kids; telling your family, friends, and neighbors about the program; and promoting the program as a resource that's available for families within your county.

To learn more about partnership opportunities, please contact Catherine Sulecki at Catherine.Sulecki@ohgil.org.

We know that these books are making a difference in each child's life. They are preparing kids for kindergarten, and giving families another opportunity to read and learn together.

You can enroll your kids in the Imagination Library today by visiting: OhioImaginationLibrary.org.

Thank you for your support in promoting childhood literacy throughout our great state.

Fran DeWine
First Lady of Ohio

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PCSAO Executive Director Angela Sausser testifies on mental health crisis before U.S. House Ways and Means Committee

A survey of county children services agencies revealed that in 2021, nearly 1 in 4 (24%) children entered children services custody primarily because of mental illness, developmental/intellectual disability, or as a diversion from juvenile corrections. A workforce crisis in child protective services and behavioral health care, combined with a shortage of placement options for children with high-acuity needs, has led to children sleeping in county agencies at least one night rather than immediately accessing the services they need.

The report released today by the Public Children Services Association of Ohio was developed in the wake of concerns from county directors about a rising crisis in finding appropriate, available placements for youth with significant behavioral needs, developmental/intellectual issues and as a diversion from juvenile corrections, said Angela Sausser, PCSAO's executive director.

Sausser testified on "America's Mental Health Crisis" before the U.S. House Ways and Means Committee last Wednesday as one of five invited national experts. "We confirmed just how serious the issue is, and we are issuing a call to action to Gov. DeWine's Administration and to our system partners at the state and local level," she said. "Child Protective Services (CPS) has become the system of last resort for any youth whose behaviors require assistance outside the family, regardless of whether the child has been abused or neglected, and our system does not have the tools to serve these youth."

The survey also showed that a concerning number of youth diverted to children services custody were accused of or committed felonies. "Our agencies are charged with protecting children from abuse or neglect, but in these cases, we are being asked to protect the community from youth with criminal behaviors. We don't have many foster parents willing to bring young people with a history of violence into their homes," Sausser said.

While a residential treatment facility is not the preferred option for any child, many of the youth identified in the survey appear to require such placement, at least until their condition can be stabilized. "Staffing shortages in these facilities, brought on in part by the pandemic, mean that many of the centers we turn to are full or lack the expertise to care for these youth with complex trauma, high-acuity, multi-system needs," Sausser said. "Caseworkers make a hundred calls to find a foster family willing and supported to take such a child or an available bed in a treatment facility, sometimes leaving youth to spend one or more nights at the agency with round-the-clock staffing. It's simply unsustainable, and it will lead to further trauma for the youth and unsafe conditions for staff and the community."

Sausser's Congressional testimony highlights how this placement crisis has further exacerbated the children services workforce crisis. Sausser noted that new investments by Gov. DeWine's Administration and the General Assembly designed to serve multi-system youth are starting to make a difference and that new programs like OhioRISE are on the horizon, but the crisis requires immediate action in addition to these longer-term solutions.

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NACo publishes legislative analysis on The Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act

On Nov. 15, President Biden signed the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* (IIJA/P.L. 117-58), enacting the legislation into law following a vote in the U.S. House of Representatives, where the legislative package passed 228-206 earlier that month. These final steps follow the August 10th U.S. Senate passage of the bill in a strongly bipartisan vote of 69-30.

The bipartisan infrastructure law provides $973 billion over five years from FY 2022 through FY 2026, including $550 billion in new investments for all modes of transportation, water, power and energy, environmental remediation, public lands, broadband and resilience. In addition to providing authorizations for a wide variety of programs, the IIJA also makes advanced appropriations over a number of years to several federal agencies. Typically, federal appropriations are made over one fiscal year by an appropriations act or an omnibus. Currently, federal appropriations are being governed by a Continuing Resolution through February 18, 2022.

Counties play a major role in America's transportation and infrastructure network, owning and operating 44 percent of public roads and 38 percent of bridges -- more than any other level of government. Simultaneously, counties directly support 78 percent of public transit systems and 34 percent of airports that keep our residents connected in every corner of the country. Each year, counties invest $134 billion in the construction of infrastructure and the maintenance and operation of public works.

To view the complete analysts, click here.

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Explore NACo's analysis of the Final Rule for the Fiscal Recovery Fund

On Jan. 6, the U.S. Treasury Department released the Final Rule for the State and Local Coronavirus Fiscal Recovery Fund. The Final Rule will go into effect on April 1, 2022, however, counties can pursue the Final Rule's new flexibilities and simplifications now.

NACo worked closely with Treasury to ensure county recommendations and priorities were included in the Final Rule.

EXPLORE NACo's ANALYSIS OF THE FINAL RULE | NACo RECOVERY FUND RESOURCE HUB

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2022 NACo Achievement Awards applications now open

Applications are now open for the National Association of Counties (NACo) 2022 Achievement Awards. Please join us in celebrating 52 years of county innovation by applying today.

Since 1970, the NACo Achievement Awards have recognized outstanding county government programs and services. Through a non-competitive application process, noteworthy programs receive awards in 18 categories that cover a vast range of county responsibilities. By participating, your county can earn national recognition.

NACo will highlight the 18 "best of category" winners, as well as feature all winners in NACo materials and online. We also provide a customizable press release for you to share the good news with the media and residents.

EARLY BIRD APPLICATION DEADLINE: March 4, 2022 (save $25 off the application fee)
REGULAR APPLICATION DEADLINE: March 31, 2022

For more information, please review the Achievement Awards online brochure, or email awards@naco.org with any questions.

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Ohio Safety Congress & Expo virtual event March 9-10

The BWC will host the Ohio Safety Congress & Expo March 9-10, 2022 as an *online-only event* with dozens of learning sessions and a digital expo, allowing participants to chat virtually with vendors about new and existing products and services.

Many sessions will qualify for the 2-hour Group Retro and Group Rating annual safety training requirement.

By attending the safety congress, you will learn to:

- Prevent workplace injuries and illnesses.
- Achieve better outcomes for injured workers.
- Reduce workers' compensation claims costs.
- Keep Ohio's work force healthy and productive.

Registration is free and is now open.

If you have any questions, please call 1-800-644-6292 or check the Safety Congress website https://www.ohiosafetycongress.com/index.cfm

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2022 Ohio Land Bank Association Conference - April 27 through April 29

Ohio Land Banks Association and Greater Cleveland Habitat for Humanity announced that the 2022 Ohio Land Bank Association Conference will be held in Cleveland, Ohio at the Huntington Convention Center.

Pre-conference activities, including mobile tours, begin at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, April 27 with the official conference kick-off taking place on Thursday, April 28 and concluding on Friday, April 29, 2022.

Please visit the Ohio Land Bank Association website at www.ohiolandbanks.org for conference details.

You can register today using this link: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/11th-annual-ohio-land-bank-conference-2022-tickets-238342808757

If you have questions, please feel free to contact Sarah Norman at snorman@cuyahogalandbank.org

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Ohio EPA to host Open Burning, Odors, Dust, and Asbestos in Demolition in Your Community webinar – Feb. 10

Join the Ohio EPA for their Open Burning, Odors, Dust, and Asbestos in Demolition in Your Community webinar on Feb. 10 at 10 a.m.

The most frequently reported complaints to Ohio EPA's Division of Air Pollution Control are for open burning, odor, and dust. Ohio EPA also receives numerous questions about the regulation and management of asbestos during demolition. There are state regulations dealing with open burning, dust, and nuisance odors, but what should you do if you or your community is having issues with these? And how should your community deal with various asbestos issues that may arise when demolition occurs, including handle emergency demolitions.

Click here to register.

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Ohio EPA to host Preparing a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP Tips) webinar – Feb. 24

Join the Ohio EPA for a Preparing a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP Tips) webinar on Feb. 24 at 10 a.m. Do you need to develop a SWPPP to comply with a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System industrial stormwater permit? Learn the elements of a SWPPP and mistakes to avoid.

Click here to register.

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Utility-Scale Solar in Ohio event will discuss growing solar industry – Feb. 7 at 2:30 p.m.

The state of Ohio is experiencing significant investment interest in utility-scale solar projects. A recent report by Ohio University predicted over 7,500 megawatts (MW)of new solar projects will be developed in Ohio resulting in more than 55,000construction jobs.

Join Utility Scale Solar Energy Coalition, BlueGreen Alliance and the Natural Resources Defense Council for **Utility-Scale Solar in Ohio**, a virtual networking event on Feb. 7 at 2:30 to 4 p.m. to learn more about Ohio's growing solar industry, hear about relevant state and local policies, and the different ways Ohio's labor unions have prepared for this opportunity.

During the event, solar developers, engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) firms, and labor representatives will have the ability to ask questions and discuss the significant job potential of Ohio's growing solar industry. RSVP here.

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OhioRISE wants to hear from you, schedules listening sessions for February

The Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) and Aetna, Better Health of Ohio are hosting OhioRISE listening sessions in February 2022.

OhioRise is a partnership between Aetna and the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) that provides behavioral health services and supports to children and youth and their families. This program will start on 7/1/2022.

During the OhioRISE listening sessions, participants will give their recommendations and feedback on improving the youth, family and provider journey to best support youth and families starting in July 2022. The important feedback gathered during listening sessions will be reviewed and may influence implementation, policy, and process development to ensure a more comprehensive readiness before go-live.

Dates are Feb. 15 at 6 to 7:30 p.m.; Feb. 17 at 12 to 1:30 p.m.; and Feb. 23 at 6 to 7:30 p.m.

If you are interested in joining one of the sessions, you can register at https://occrra.org/about/ohiorise-aetna-better-health-of-ohio/

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NTIA to provide broadband grant programs public virtual listening sessions

National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) will host broadband grant program public virtual listening sessions in connection with the five new broadband grant programs authorized and funded by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act: The Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program; the Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program; and the Digital Equity Act Programs, which include the State Digital Equity Planning Grant Program, State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program, and Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program. These public virtual listening sessions are designed to collect stakeholder input to help inform program development and implementation.

NTIA will hold the public virtual listening sessions based on the following schedule:

- **Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Broadband Programs Public Virtual Listening Session** Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2022, from 2:30–4 p.m. and**.**
- **Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Broadband Programs Public Virtual Listening Session** Wednesday, Feb. 23, 2022, from 2:30–4 p.m.

These listening sessions will be hosted via NTIA's virtual platform and conducted as a live public listening session. NTIA will post the registration information on its BroadbandUSA website.

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County News

Allen County commissioners share 'State of the County'
LimeOhio.com., Jan. 31, 2022
Property loomed large during the annual Allen County commissioners' annual State of the County speech.

The Lima Rotary Club played hosted to the commissioners Monday afternoon at Veterans Memorial Civic Center.

Commissioner Cory Noonan talked about having 20 facilities that house the 25 departments he and fellow board of commissioners Beth Seibert and president Brian Winegardner oversee. Noonan spoke about consolidating buildings to provide empty spaces and the potential to raise funds by selling off others.

"Efficiency is important," Noonan said. "You have to have a plan, and we have a lot of these structures that are spread out. There is a way to, in my opinion, kind of consolidate and be able to sell some properties that we no longer need."

Lake County Commissioner John Hamercheck appointed NOACA president
The News-Herald, Feb. 3, 2022
Lake County Commissioner John Hamercheck has been unanimously voted to serve as president of the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency.

NOACA is the transportation and environmental planning body that serves as the conduit for about $50 million in federal and state spending representing Lake, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lorain and Medina counties.

In the recent past, a majority of the funding for the Vrooman Road Bridge and Vrooman Road resurfacing project in Perry and Leroy townships came through NOACA. Recently, the Jackson Street interchange was announced by NOACA as one of their major upcoming projects in the city of Painesville.

Sales tax increase to fund jail operations headed to ballot in Lawrence County
WSAZ, Jan. 25, 2022
Voters will now have to decide at the polls whether to approve or deny a half percent sales tax increase across the county during the May 3rd primary election.

The increase would help fund and maintain the new Lawrence County Jail.

"This is the way we felt was a fair way to assess a new revenue with the sales tax [so] that everyone could pay a fair portion of what the cost of the new jail operation would be," said Commissioner Dr. Colton Copley.

Copley says if passed, it means one half of a penny from every dollar will go to help offset costs and keep the new jail in business.

"What we have come up with is a back up plan to the plans that have come before us, and this is a real solution," Dr. Copley said. "This is the closest Lawrence County's been to having a real solution to the jail crisis that we've faced for a long time now."

Originally built to house 50 inmates, the now 48-year-old county jail is only certified to house 27 offenders.

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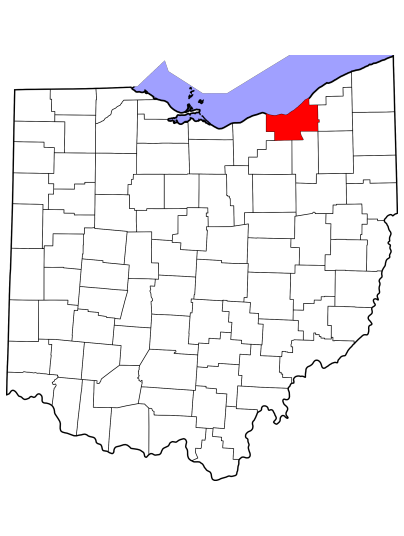
Did You Know? - Cuyahoga County

Cleveland is named for the region's first surveyor, Moses Cleaveland. The first "a" was dropped in 1831, when a local newspaper, the Cleveland Advertiser, shortened it to fit their masthead.



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Dates to Remember

FEBRUARY 11, 2022
CORSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

FEBRUARY 17, 2022
GENERAL GOVERNMENT AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

FEBRUARY 18, 2022
CCAO BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

FEBRUARY 25, 2022
CEBCO BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

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