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**July 1, 2024**

**Last week, Shelby County Commissioner Tony Bornhorst retired after more than a decade as a county commissioner. In addition to his service to Shelby County, Commissioner Bornhorst was long-time chair of CCAO's Agriculture Committee and served many years on CEBCO's Board of Directors, including as president in 2023.**

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## ASSOCIATION AND MEMBER NEWS

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### June opioid settlement payments distributed

Earlier this month, counties who opted into the Distributor settlement received Distributor Payment 18. The Distributors have the option to make up to three prepayments over the course of the 18-payment settlement. The parameters are as follows:

- A Settling Distributor shall make no more than three (3) prepayments over the eighteen (18) year payment term.
- The amount of any Prepayment represents the net present value of the Settlement Prepayment as of the Prepayment Date based on the Settlement Prepayment Reduction Schedule using a discount rate equal to the prime rate as published by the *Wall Street Journal* on the date of the Prepayment Notice plus 1.75% (such net present value amount, the "*Net Settlement Prepayment Amount.*"
- A Settling Distributor shall not make more than one (1) prepayment in a five (5) year period.
- In the Ohio agreement, prepayments are counted against the company's Payment Year 16, 17, and 18 obligations. That is not the case for the National Settlement Agreement. Under the National Agreement, the companies can create gaps in the payment stream by choosing to prepay a given year.

Cardinal and Cencora (previously AmersourceBergen) opted to make Payment 18 early, so the counties received part of Payment 18 this month. As of now, counties will still receive part of Payment 18 on schedule (summer 2038) from McKesson, the third Distributor.

Distributor Payment 4 is still scheduled to be paid in July. Counties should have also received Janssen Payment 4 in June, as scheduled.

If you have questions, please contact CCAO Outreach & Member Engagement Manager Rachel Reedy (rreedy@ccao.org) or CCAO Research Analyst Nick Ciolli (nciolli@ccao.org).

### Three weeks left for Early Bird pricing to the CCAO Summer Symposium

Join us for the CCAO Summer Symposium 2024, set amidst the serene beauty of Hocking Hills. This year's event promises to deliver relevant and timely sessions, foster valuable relationships across the state, and align with our 2024 President's vision: "Teamwork for a Better Tomorrow, Stronger Counties, Stronger Ohio."

Register now!

If you haven't attended a CCAO Summer Symposium since its inception in 2022, we invite you to register at a discounted rate. Contact Tim Hoverman at thoverman@ccao.org to see if you qualify and learn how you can save 25% off the registration fee.

**Early Bird Registration:** $249 (until July 19)

**Standard Registration:** $295 (after July 19)

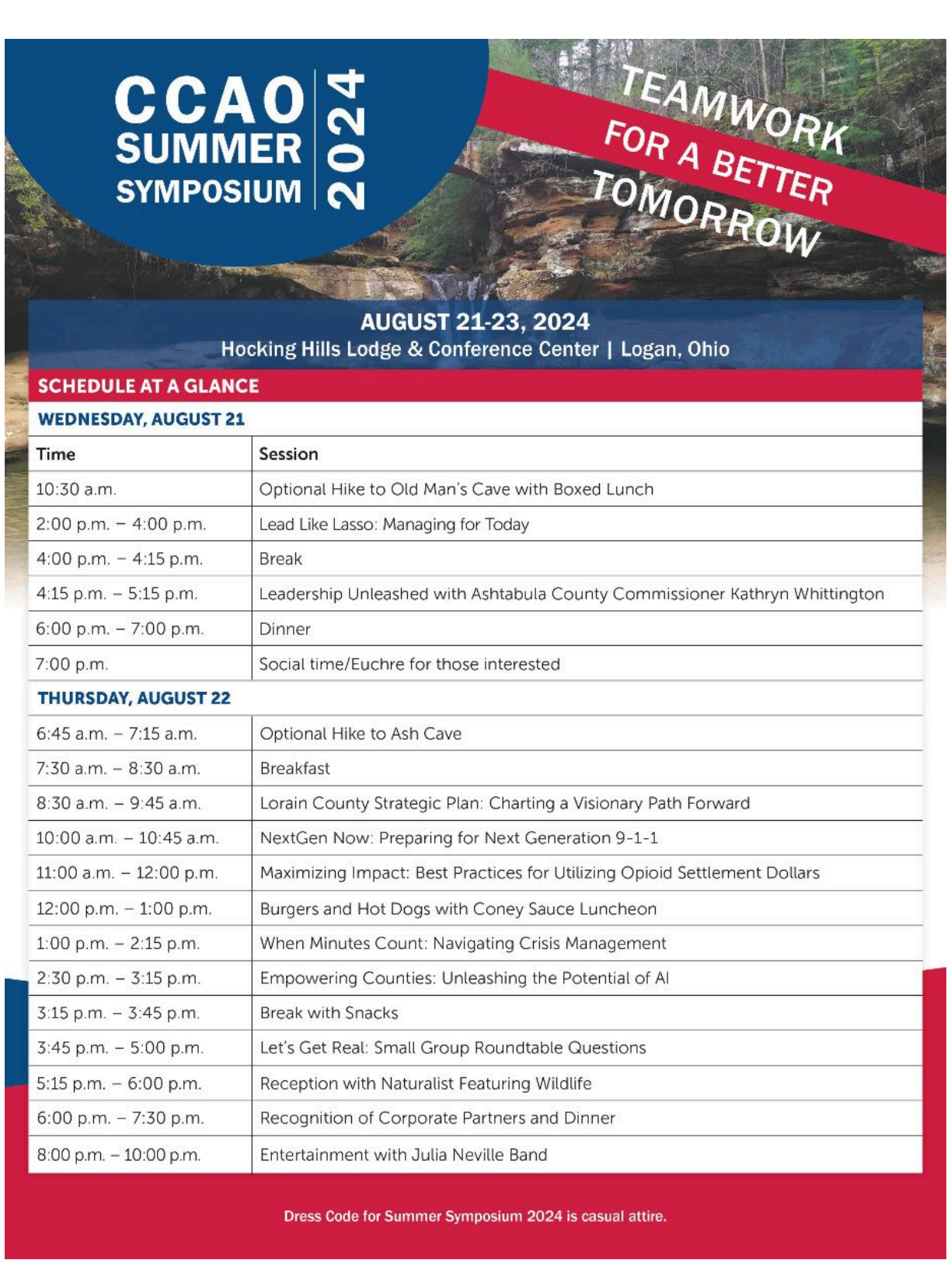
**Reserve Your Room:**

To book your room, call 1-800-282-7275 and mention the CCAO Summer Symposium block or use Block Code #1017E3. A deposit for the first night's room, taxes, and fees is required at the time of reservation. This deposit is fully refundable up to 72 hours prior to arrival. Cancellations made within 72 hours of arrival will incur a no-show fee.

**Room Rate:** $107 + tax and fees (available until July 19, 2024)

**Note:** Rooms are limited, so reserve yours today.

You can view the current agenda below (click to enlarge)!


CCAO SUMMER SYMPOSIUM 2024
TEAMWORK FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

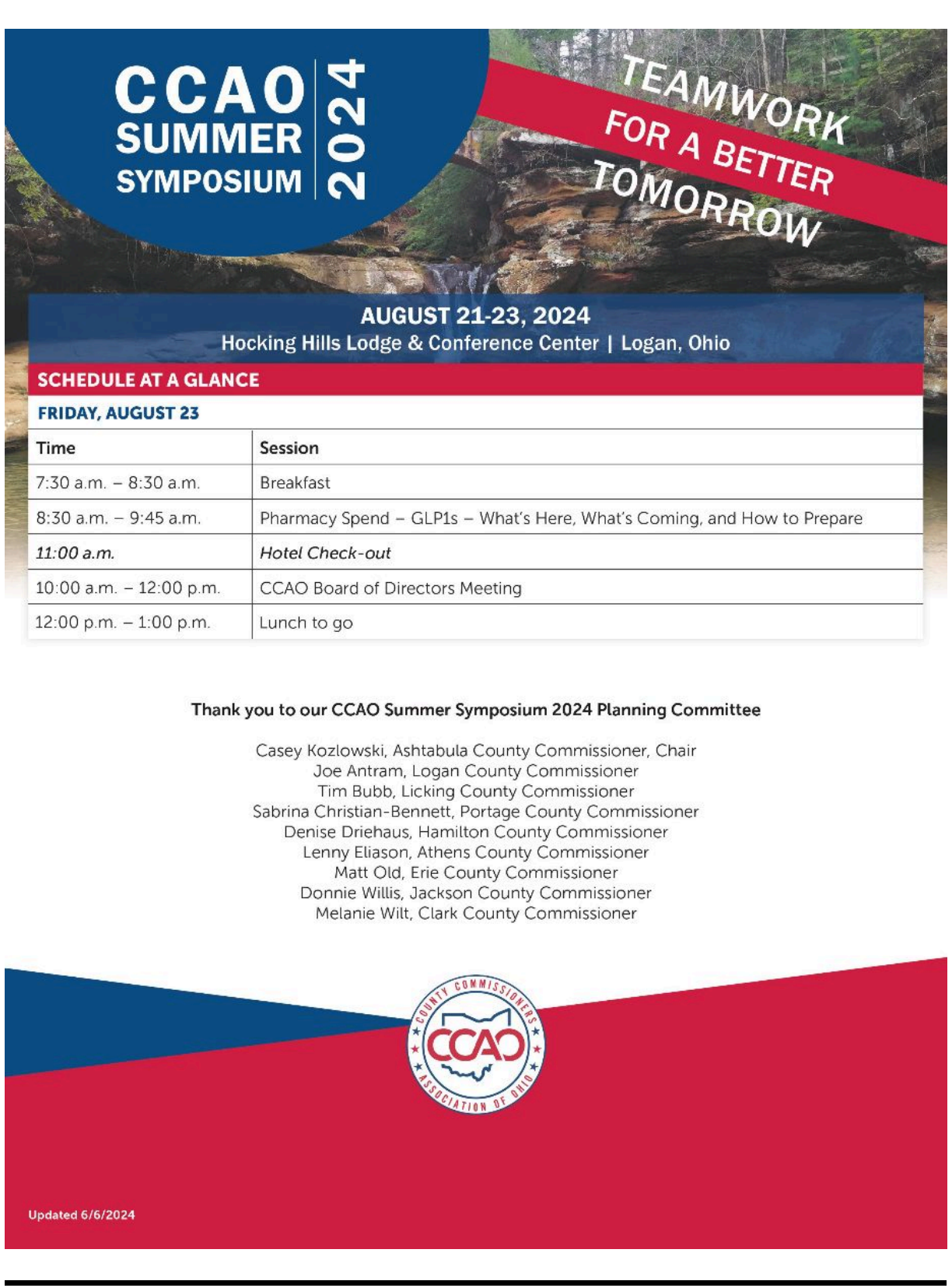
AUGUST 21-23, 2024
Hocking Hills Lodge & Conference Center | Logan, Ohio

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21

| Time | Session |
|---|---|
| 10:30 a.m. | Optional Hike to Old Man's Cave with Boxed Lunch |
| 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. | Lead Like Lasso: Managing for Today |
| 4:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. | Break |
| 4:15 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. | Leadership Unleashed with Ashtabula County Commissioner Kathryn Whittington |
| 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. | Dinner |
| 7:00 p.m. | Social time/Euchre for those interested |
| **THURSDAY, AUGUST 22** | |
| 6:45 a.m. – 7:15 a.m. | Optional Hike to Ash Cave |
| 7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. | Breakfast |
| 8:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. | Lorain County Strategic Plan: Charting a Visionary Path Forward |
| 10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. | NextGen Now: Preparing for Next Generation 9-1-1 |
| 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. | Maximizing Impact: Best Practices for Utilizing Opioid Settlement Dollars |
| 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. | Burgers and Hot Dogs with Coney Sauce Luncheon |
| 1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. | When Minutes Count: Navigating Crisis Management |
| 2:30 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. | Empowering Counties: Unleashing the Potential of AI |
| 3:15 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. | Break with Snacks |
| 3:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. | Let's Get Real: Small Group Roundtable Questions |
| 5:15 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. | Reception with Naturalist Featuring Wildlife |
| 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. | Recognition of Corporate Partners and Dinner |
| 8:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. | Entertainment with Julia Neville Band |

Dress Code for Summer Symposium 2024 is casual attire.


CCAO SUMMER SYMPOSIUM 2024
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SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

FRIDAY, AUGUST 23

| Time | Session |
|---|---|
| 7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. | Breakfast |
| 8:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. | Pharmacy Spend – GLP1s – What's Here, What's Coming, and How to Prepare |
| *11:00 a.m.* | *Hotel Check-out* |
| 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. | CCAO Board of Directors Meeting |
| 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. | Lunch to go |

**Thank you to our CCAO Summer Symposium 2024 Planning Committee**

Casey Kozlowski, Ashtabula County Commissioner, Chair
Joe Antram, Logan County Commissioner
Tim Bubb, Licking County Commissioner
Sabrina Christian-Bennett, Portage County Commissioner
Denise Driehaus, Hamilton County Commissioner
Lenny Eliason, Athens County Commissioner
Matt Old, Erie County Commissioner
Donnie Willis, Jackson County Commissioner
Melanie Wilt, Clark County Commissioner

Updated 6/6/2024

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## STATE AND FEDERAL NEWS

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### OPD updates Standards & Guides, informs counties of capital case compensation rate

Last week, the Ohio Public Defender (OPD) issued a memo to indigent defense system stakeholders providing an update on OPD's Reimbursement Standards & Guidelines and the hourly compensation rate for capital cases.

The Office updated the standards and guidelines, available here, by making the following major changes:

- The Maximum Fee Schedule has had the two-attorney maximum removed
- Updates to all reimbursement forms, including the elimination of separate forms for Supreme Court cases
- Attorney Supreme Court Registration Numbers must be included on itemized time logs
- Clarifies that counsel may only be appointed to serve as counsel or guardian ad litem, not in a dual capacity.

There are additional changes, so please review the full update. OPD is requesting that counties comply with these updates beginning on their January 2025 reimbursement submissions.

Additionally, the Capital Case Attorney Fee Council conducted its annual review of compensation rates for attorneys representing indigent defendants in capital cases and has informed OPD that the rate will remain at $140 an hour.

Should you have any questions about either of these updates, please contact OPD's Policy & Outreach Department by emailing outreach@opd.ohio.gov or calling 614.466.5394

### Auditor of State issues bulletin on fraud, theft in office, and misuse/misappropriation of public funds training and reporting

Last week, Auditor of State Keith Faber issued Bulletin 2024-005, which focuses on the requirements to report fraud, theft in office, and misuse or misappropriation of public money. The bulletin comes after the key Revised Code section pertaining to these issues, R.C. 4113.52, was amended by the state operating budget and by Senate Bill 91.

Additionally, the Auditor of State is required to develop training material detailing Ohio's fraud-reporting system and the means of reporting fraud, waste, and abuse and required to be viewed by every employee and elected official of political subdivisions (along with state agencies and the General Assembly).

Elected officials and employees of counties are required to compete the training no later than September 28, 2024. The training can be found here. Please ensure that you and all county employees complete this training within the 90-day window.

If you have any questions regarding the information presented in the Bulletin, please contact the AOS's Special Investigations Unit at (800) 282-0370

### Voter registration data integrity program rolled out statewide

Last week, Secretary of State Frank LaRose announced the statewide expansion of a new voter registration data integrity program aimed at improving the accuracy of Ohio's statewide voter rolls.

The program initially launched with six county boards of elections, providing them with county-specific digital dashboards to help identify voter registration discrepancies. The dashboards offer immediate access to registration records that have been flagged for additional review and correction, such as illegal characters in name fields, placeholder birth dates, unreasonably high ages, and improper birth/registration date combinations. After successfully testing, the Secretary of State's office is now deploying the tool to all remaining county boards of elections with the goal of helping them meet their obligations to research and remedy voter registration anomalies.

Utilizing the new Registration Audit Dashboard, county boards of elections will now be required to review and resolve the following errors:

- **Prohibited name characters**: The Election Official Manual Chapter 4 lists data entry standards for voter names, including a list of characters that are not permitted in name fields such as hyphens, apostrophes and periods. The dashboard flags voter names containing these characters for correction by the boards of elections.
- **Placeholder birth dates**: Prior to the creation of a statewide voter registration database, boards had inconsistent methods of recording birth dates. This led to the use of "placeholder" dates, such as January 1, 1800, that need to be corrected to reflect the voter's actual birth date.
- **Registration before birth**: The voter's Registration Date is earlier than their Birth Date, indicating they registered to vote before they were born. This issue is most caused by human error when entering voter registration information.
- **Registration under 17**: The voter's Registration Date is less than 17 years after their Birth Date, indicating they registered to vote before they were 17 years old. This is also generally the result of a data entry error.
- **Unreasonably high age**: The voter's age is 110 years old or greater according to their Birth Date. The oldest living American is 114, so these registrations will need to be investigated. Generally, this type of error occurs when a board fails to remove a voter registration after a voter has died.

If you have any questions, please contact Laura Davis, in the Secretary of State's Elections Division, at (614) 696-8885 or ldavis@ohiosos.gov.

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## EDUCATION AND GRANTS

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*Visit the Grants and Funding Opportunities page on the CCAO website for a detailed listing of open grant programs.*

### CCAO, DCY to hold child welfare placement webinar

On Thursday, July 25, CCAO and Department of Children and Youth (DCY) Director Kara Wente will provide an update on the department's transition and strategic goals. The director will focus on updates regarding Ohio's child welfare placement challenges, including information on the department's Children Services Placement Crisis Working Group.

Members will have the opportunity to ask questions.

House Bill 33, the state operating budget, created DCY as a new cabinet level agency. DCY operates programs and services previously housed at six other cabinet agencies and serve children prenatal to age 21.

Director Wente has spent her career advocating for children. She has served as the Director of the Governor's Children's Initiative since January 2023 and was previously the Chief Operating Officer for Future Ready Columbus. With more than 20 years in dedicated state service, Wente has extensive experience in serving the most vulnerable children and families in Ohio.

She used data as an accountability tool for systemic change during her time as the Assistant Director of Health and Human Services at the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services and led several large-scale system and policy changes as Deputy Director at the Office of Family Assistance.

You can register for the webinar here. If you are unable to register with this link, please contact Nedra Benson, CCAO administrative professional, at nbenson@ccao.org or call 614-221-5627, and provide her with your email address.

### Registration for SPBR conference open until July 31

Registration is now open for the State Personnel Board of Review (SPBR) conference and will continue through the month of July.

The conference, to be held on August 22, is intended for those new to the field of managing exempt and non-exempt employees in the classified civil service. This SPBR Conference is also for new or current managers, union officials, attorneys, staff, human resource professionals, elected officeholders, and those who are or will be working in positions where they need to know how Ohio's laws and court decisions are evolving to impact public varied employment issues and questions.

Registration costs $175 and can be completed here. Rooms are available at the Marriott Columbus Northwest as well (SPBR requests that you abstain from booking hotel rooms until your registration for the event is confirmed).

The session topics include the following:

- How Will AI Impact Tomorrow's Workforce?
- Best Practices and Challenges to Implementing R.C. 124.34 Orders
- Whose Side is HR On? Employer vs Employee Interests
- Social Media: Work or Personal Expression?
- Public Records: Challenges and Solutions
- Bridging the Generational Divide: Building a Cohesive Workplace Culture

An application for 5.5 continuing legal education hours is pending.

### Application available, window to open July for Opportunity Zones

Applications for the latest round of Opportunity Zone tax credits will open on Wednesday, July 10 and last through August 1.

The Opportunity Zone program is intended to spur investment in low-income communities by offering preferential tax treatment to awardees. There are currently 320 Opportunity Zones across the state; 73 counties have at least one Opportunity Zone.

While counties are not an eligibile entity to apply. the opening of the window may be of interest to those in your communities, so CCAO wanted to bring the impending application window opening to your attention.

More information about the program can be found on the Department of Development's website.

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## COUNTY NEWS

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*Each week Counties Current highlights the happenings in our counties in the words of their local media. One story from each of the CCAO's five districts is highlighted, and on occasion other stories may be highlighted as well.*

### Northwest District

County hears update on grant for seniors

**Advertiser-Tribune, June 30, 2024**

At the Seneca County Commissioners' meeting Thursday morning, the board heard an update from the Seneca County Commission on Aging Executive Director Bryan Glover about the Healthy Aging Grant.

In November 2023, the Ohio Department of Aging announced the launch of the Healthy Aging grant program. As of November, 85 of the 88 counties in Ohio participated in the program, and Seneca County received $233,147.81.

According to Glover, half of the funds were allocated toward nutrition, housing, technology, transportation, and education. A total of $4,238 was to be allocated toward administration. However, since there was no budget for administration, the commission is using the remaining money toward fees for meals until July.

The commission awarded three subgrants from the initial grant funds, a company and two organizations received funds from said subgrants. The Allen Eiry Center, 28 Hopewell Ave., received funds to provide classes, training and education. The Fostoria Senior Citizens Center, 125 W. North St., was another recipient of the funds.

Bascom Communications, 5590 W. Tiffin St., was the company that received funds. Glover explained that part of the grant money was set aside for technology, so, the commission partnered with Bascom Communications to provide a call desk for seniors who receive internet services through the company and assistance with routers for rural internet.

### Northeast District

Ashland County commissioners approve 'trial' budget for 2025

**Ashland Source, June 28, 2024**

Ashland County commissioners approved a trial budget on Thursday that showed a $3.3 million gap between revenue and expenditures.

The trial budget does not replace the existing budget, officials said.

Typically, the county commissioners finalize a budget toward the end of the year. But Ashland County Auditor Cindy Funk said she prefers to take a close look at the spending plan in the middle of the year so officials don't run into any surprises in December.

"This is a guess-timate," said commissioner Michael Welch.

Funk affirmed.

"It's a good start of where and what elected officials are thinking for their expenses for (2025). It at least gives us a base on whether to decrease or increase it in our appropriations," she said.

### Central District

Richland County commissioners review rising health insurance costs

**Mansfield News Journal, June 27, 2024**

Richland County's health insurance plan may have to stop covering the cost of drugs used to treat Type 2 diabetes when they are used for weight loss only.

County Employee Benefit Consortium of Ohio representative Wendy Dillingham told the county commissioners on Tuesday that increasing drug prices continued to be the major reason for higher overall costs for the program during the first quarter and in comparison to year-to-date figures.

Dillingham reported that combined medical and prescription costs for the first three months of 2024 are running at 102.5% with prescription alone at 109.6%, while 12-month figures show 114.1% for medical and prescriptions and 123.8% for just medications. A figure over 100% means the insurance plan is paying out more in claims than it is taking in in premiums.

Dillingham noted the top 10 prescriptions represent 3.7% of the total filled but 57.2% of the medical spending for the period, with the average cost of the top 10 medications at $2,758 for 30 days. She told the board CEBCO is paying close attention to GLP-1 medications used to treat diabetes such as Ozempic, Jardiance and Trulicity that are on the county's top 10 list.

### Southwest District

MC Commissioners OK facilities, maintenance projects

**Miami Valley Today, June 27, 2024**

The Miami County Commissioners authorized multiple purchases for the facilities and maintenance department during their meeting on Tuesday, June 25.

The commissioners authorized Larry's Electric of Piqua for the electrical work at the Auto Lift in the Ohio State Patrol Garage at the Miami County Commerce Center in Troy for $7,300.

"One clarification about that also includes the electrical run for the tenant signage along Barnhart Road," Ben Howlett, facilities and maintenance director said, adding the work won't affect the cost of the project.

The commissioners also accepted a quote from Waibel Energy Systems to replace the HVAC 5-ton Rheem package unit and rework concrete pad to fit the new unit at the Miami County Power Plant. The current unit which was installed in 2009 has reached its end of life. The repair costs of these units are $15,975, and 100% eligible to receive American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) project funds.

Commissioner Greg Simmons asked Howlett about other facilities in the county with HVAC units approaching their end of life.

Howlett replied two possible facilities are the transfer station and administration building.

### Southeast District

Harrison County Commissioners approve $1 million grant-funded road project

**WTOV9, June 26, 2024**

Harrison County Commissioners approved more than $1 million during its Wednesday meeting all for a major road reconstruction project happening in the county.

Commissioners approved the funding and the contractor for the repaving project on County Road 51. The project is being funded through grants that will handle the costs of the project.

"Over a million-dollar project at no cost to our taxpayers," Commissioner Paul Coffland said. "This is obviously the road that leads to APEX Environmental. So, those funds have been secured through grants and other funding sources."

The project will repave several miles of roadway that are often used by heavy duty vehicles, and the county government is happy to have taken steps to ensure the road is properly taken care of and maintained following the completion of the repairs and the paving that will take place starting in the next few weeks.

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## DATES TO REMEMBER

*Please view the CCAO Calendar for a comprehensive list of events to note.*

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**JULY 4**
**Independent Day - Legal Holiday**

**JULY 12 - 16**
**NACo Annual Conference**

**JULY 19**
**County Classic Golf Outing**

**JULY 26**
**CEBCO Board of Directors Meeting**

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