



# Second Wednesday's

May 11, 2011

**Human Services Workshop: Job & Family Services,  
Child Support Enforcement, Children Services & Workforce Investment**

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Learn from experts the financial and other challenges facing County Job and Family Service Directors, Child Support Enforcement Agencies, Children Service Agencies, and Workforce Investment Boards as they attempt to deliver critical human service programs at a time of limited resources. Association leaders will provide a broad overview of their program in the human services world and the important services provided to constituencies. Each association director will discuss their responsibility to the county, structure, functions, funding, and challenges of their agencies.

## PRESENTERS

**Brad Cole**, Managing Director of Research, County Commissioners Association of Ohio  
**Joel Potts**, Executive Director, Ohio Job & Family Service Directors Association  
**Kim Newsom Bridges**, Executive Director, Ohio Child Support Enforcement Agency  
Directors Association  
**Crystal Ward Allen**, Executive Director, Public Children Services Association of Ohio  
**John Trott**, Executive Director, Area 7 Workforce Investment Board  
**Bert Cene**, Executive Director, Mahoning & Columbiana Training Association

## AGENDA—9:30-12:30

9:30 a.m. Welcome and Introductions  
9:35 a.m. Overview of Job & Family Services Department  
10:00 a.m. Providing Needed Services of Child Support Enforcement  
10:20 a.m. Services to Children—the Youngest Constituents  
10:40 a.m. Area 7 Consortium  
11:00 a.m. Panel Discussion  
12:30 p.m. Adjourn

**County Commissioners Association of Ohio**

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## **Speakers**

### **BRAD COLE**

Managing Director of Research  
County Commissioners Association of Ohio  
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Columbus, OH 43215  
614/220-7981 • 888/757-1904 • Fax 614/221-6986 • bcole@ccao.org

Brad Cole is the Managing Director of Research for the County Commissioners Association of Ohio. In this capacity Brad coordinates and manages the research, data, and technical publications prepared and distributed by the association; maintains research data bases, develops survey instruments; and promotes the CCAO Educational and Research Foundation. In addition, Brad provides legislative advocacy and member's services in taxation and finance, permissive taxes, auditing and accounting, county budget procedures, county debt, purchasing, investment policy, and general government legislation that impacts counties including transportation and infrastructure, tax abatement, and solid waste management. He is the liaison to the CCAO Taxation and Finance Committee. Cole holds a Bachelor of Arts cum laude and Master of Arts degrees in American History from Bowling Green State University.

### **CRYSTAL WARD ALLEN**

Executive Director  
Public Children Services Association of Ohio  
510 East Mound Street—Suite 200  
Columbus, OH 43215  
614/224-5802 • Fax 614/228-5150 • crystal@pcsao.org

Crystal Ward Allen is a Licensed Social Worker, and holds a Master's degree in Social Work from The Ohio State University, and an undergraduate degree from Virginia Tech. She is also a graduate of the Senior Executives in State and Local Government program at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government and of the Executive Leadership Institute at the Voinovich Center for Leadership and Public Affairs at Ohio University. She has been involved in extensive legislative advocacy and public policy development for PCSAO in the areas of child welfare, child welfare finance reform, kinship care, and welfare reform. She has worked in the fields of juvenile justice and child protection in

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Virginia and Minnesota as a direct service professional, and with the private child placing sector in Pittsburgh. Crystal also has considerable knowledge and experience in the areas of the rule making process, strategic plan development, research and analysis, media and public relations. Crystal is active in a variety of community service activities and occasionally teaches as an adjunct professor at the College of Social Work at The Ohio State University. Crystal created and was project manager for the first four Public Children Services Association of Ohio (PCSAO) Factbooks. She started at PCSAO in 1991 as a student intern and never left. Crystal has been the Executive Director since 2001.

### **KIM NEWSOM BRIDGES, ESQ.**

Executive Director

Ohio CSEA Directors' Association

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Kim Newsom Bridges has been a child support professional for over 20 years. Currently she serves as President for the National Child Support Enforcement Agency (NCSEA) and has previously served as the Policy & Government Relations Chair for NCSEA. Daily, she serves as the Executive Director for the Ohio CSEA Directors' Association (OCDA). In her role for OCDA she provides leadership in policy and legislation development, training for other child support professionals, judges and private attorneys, collaborates with a variety of organizations and other professionals to promote and strengthen the Ohio Child Support Program. She has served on four child support guidelines councils and many other broad based groups. Kim received a BS and a JD from The Ohio State University.

### **BERT R. CENE**

Executive Director

Mahoning & Columbiana Training Association

2 West Front Street

Youngstown, OH 44503

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Bert Cene is the Executive Director of the Mahoning and Columbiana Training Association (MCTA). He has more than 20 years of progressive business/management experience spanning both the manufacturing and service sectors while holding numerous positions of authority in the areas of Purchasing, Fiscal Management, Human Resources, and Management Information Systems. Throughout his career, he has also gained substantial experience in the area of Workforce Development. Prior to joining MCTA, he directed a joint LTV Steel/USWA statewide dislocated worker program in Ohio under the guidelines of the Job Training Partnership Act. More recently, he served as Program Manager for a dislocated worker program covering Mahoning, Trumbull, Columbiana, and Jefferson counties that was funded under the Workforce Investment Act.

Bert has also held numerous leadership positions. He was selected to participate in the Leadership Youngstown program as a recognized leader from the business community and served on various boards in Mahoning County. He was appointed by the Mayor of Struthers to serve on the city Zoning Commission and also served three consecutive terms as Struthers City Councilman. Bert received his education

in Business Administration from Youngstown State University and also gained additional education through the University of Pittsburgh and the University of Findlay.

## **JOEL POTTS**

Executive Director

Ohio Job & Family Services Directors Association

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Joel Potts is the Executive Director of the Ohio Job and Family Service Directors' Association (OJFSDA.) The association represents Ohio's 88 counties on public assistance matters including welfare reform, child support, child welfare, food assistance, workforce and health care programs. OJFSDA also provides legislative support to the membership and assists counties in the operations of social service programs. Prior to his work with the county association, he worked for 15 years with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS). He was responsible for working with Ohio's congressional delegation, federal employment and human service agencies and national associations regarding issues relevant to ODJFS. Joel was also responsible on behalf of the department for managing the development and implementation of Ohio's welfare reform program and advising the Governor and state director on subjects such as welfare reform, food stamp activities, child support and county departmental issues, as well as state and federal legislative matters. In addition, Joel has also been instrumental in the oversight of the 36 month time limit program for welfare recipients, as well as the creation of the state Prevention, Retention and Contingency Program which has provided over \$1.5 billion to needy families in Ohio to prevent dependency and stabilize families.

## **JOHN TROTT**

Executive Director

Area 7 Workforce Investment Board

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John Trott began his career in the Ohio House of Representatives in 1990 as a Legislative Services Commission Intern following his graduation from The Ohio State University. He has a Business Degree in International Business as well as Economics and a minor in Russian Language and Literature. After leaving the House of Representatives to work for the Ohio Bureau of Employment Services, John held several positions between 1992 and 1999. In 1995, John was promoted to Director of Training and Development until his appointment to Deputy Administrator, followed by Deputy Director of Local Operations for the newly-formed Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. As head of Local Operations John oversaw the complete restructuring of delivery of unemployment benefit delivery in Ohio, by closing the state's unemployment offices and shifting services exclusively to Call Centers and Internet application. John Trott is happy to serve as the Executive Director of the Area 7 Workforce Investment Board located on the Clark State Community College Campus supporting its 43 member counties.