



Second Wednesday's

June 13, 2012

Job & Family Services Collaboration & Merger Projects

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Cutbacks in state and federal funding and increased demand for human services in a weak economy are causing county job and family service departments to look at new approaches to achieve efficiencies through merger of departments and collaboration projects. Learn from a director of a three county pilot merger project the genesis, challenges, and anticipated benefits of this joint effort. You will also receive information from JFS executives on the advantages of sharing resources for training and supervision, and potential savings and flexibility flowing from a "one-call center," a pooled workforce, and collaborative technological processes and purchases.

PRESENTERS

Brad Cole, Managing Director of Research, CCAO

Jody Walker, Director, Vinton County JFS

Roxane Somerlot, Director, Marion County JFS

Joel Potts, Executive Director, Ohio Job & Family Services Directors Association

AGENDA—9:30-12:30

- 9:30 a.m. Welcome and Introductions
- 9:45 a.m. Ross-Hocking-Vinton Pilot Merger Project
- 10:30 a.m. Collabor8 (Delaware, Hancock, Knox, Marion, Morrow, Sandusky, Wood)
- 11:15 a.m. Collaboration of SW Ohio JFS Directors Association
- 12:00 p.m. Questions & Answers
- 12:30 p.m. Adjourn

County Commissioners Association of Ohio

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Speakers

BRAD COLE

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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.

ROXANE GUZMAN SOMERLOT

Director, Marion County Department of Job & Family Services

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Roxane Somerlot has served as Director of Marion County's Department of Job & Family Services since 1999. The department, in partnership with the community provides a wide range of services to Marion County families, job-seekers and employers. She leads an agency of 76 staff and is responsible for the administration of public assistance programs, workforce development, and child support enforcement. She serves on several local boards including United Way of Marion County, and the Marion County Workforce Policy Board. Additionally, Roxane has served as a trustee on the board of the Ohio Job & Family Service Directors Association since 2001, most recently as President of the Association in 2011.

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She also serves as an officer on the board of the National Association of Human Services Administrators (NACHSA) which is an affiliate of NACO.

Roxane is an alumnus of the Executive Leadership Program sponsored by the Voinovich Center for Leadership & Public Affairs, Ohio University. She is also a member of the Society of Human Resource Management and earned her professional certification in 1998. Roxane earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from The Ohio State University. After being awarded a presidential fellowship from the OSU Fisher College of Business, she went on to earn a master's degree in Labor & Human Resource Management.

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.

JODY WALKER

Director, Vinton County Department of Job & Family Services

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Jody Walker has been the Director of the Vinton County Department of Job & Family Services since August 1999. In addition, he directs the Child Support Enforcement Agency and the Public Children Services Agency. Jody holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science, Master of Science in Family Studies, Master of Public Administration, and Master of Business Administration from Ohio University.