



Second Wednesday's

September 14, 2011

Voices for Ohio's Children: Raising the Voice for Ohio's Children

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION — Ohio's tomorrows depend on today's children being our top priority. Every child should be afforded the basic building blocks of a good life - quality health care, an excellent education, a safe environment, and a stable system of loving care. Sadly, data for Ohio's nearly 3 million children, in the recently released KIDS COUNT data book, showed steady increases in both unemployment and child poverty rates, with Appalachian counties having the highest rate of child poverty. Eight Appalachian counties have child poverty rates over 30%, and rural Non-Appalachian counties have been hardest hit by the recession and had the highest rate of increase in child poverty in years.

As a result, far too many of Ohio's children lack good health care, safe environments, and access to quality education. This is especially true in a difficult economy, with financial security out of reach for so many parents. The staff and partners of Voices will provide information on key indicators of child well-being, provide summaries of participant feedback and reports from regional children's briefings, and also recommend some policy improvements needed for early childhood, juvenile justice, youth development and child health.

PRESENTERS

Brad Cole, Managing Director of Research, County Commissioners Association of Ohio

Amy Swanson, Chief Executive Officer, Voices for Ohio's Children

Yvonne C. Hunnicutt, Youth Development Policy Associate, Voices for Ohio's Children

Gabriella Celeste, Director of Child Policy/Instructor, Child Policy, CASE

Andrew Garner, M.D., Pediatrician, University Hospitals Medical Practices

Tom Scheid, Health Policy Consultant, Voices for Ohio's Children

Renuka Mayadev, Executive Director, Children's Defense Fund-Ohio

Sandy Oxley, State Field Director, Voices for Ohio's Children

AGENDA—9:30-12:30

- 9:30 a.m. Welcome & Introductions
Overview of Voices for Ohio's Children
- 10:00 a.m. Journey to Justice Through Quality Afterschool Programs, Positive Mentoring & Fewer Incarcerated Youth
- 10:45 a.m. Journey to Great Beginnings with Positive Early Education, Comprehensive Children's Physical & Mental Health
- 11:30 a.m. Children's Needs, Input from Community Stakeholders & Policy Recommendations
- 12:30 p.m. Adjourn

County Commissioners Association of Ohio

209 East State Street • Columbus, Ohio 43215 • 614/221-5627 • www.ccao.org



Second Wednesday's

October 12, 2011

Voices for Ohio's Children: Raising the Voice for Ohio's Children

Speakers

BRAD COLE

Managing Director of Research

County Commissioners Association of Ohio

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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.

GABRIELLA CELESTE, J.D.

Director, Child Policy & Instructor, Child Policy

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Gabriella Celeste, J.D., is the Director of Child Policy at Case Western Reserve University's Schubert Center for Child Studies. In this capacity she works with Schubert staff and faculty associates to identify and implement strategies to bridge child-related research, education, policy and practice, and to enhance community partnerships, in order to promote effective public policy and practice for the well-being of children. She also teaches an undergraduate child

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policy curriculum and supervises Schubert's child policy community externship program. Gabriella's early experiences include working with families in crisis in Chicago, volunteering with severely malnourished children in India, coordinating a community-based mediation program for court-involved youth in Oakland and conducting applied research and evaluation for foundations, nonprofit and government agencies, with a focus on vulnerable children and young people. She was selected as a Coro Foundation Public Policy Fellow in 1991 where she worked with various California-based public and private organizations serving children and families. After completing her Juris Doctorate at the University of Michigan Law School in 1996, Gabriella co-founded the Juvenile Justice Project of Louisiana, a nonprofit law practice that became a premier state-wide advocacy and legal reform organization successfully pushing for effective and sustainable alternatives to institutionalization for youth. She has served as Director of the Cuyahoga County-based Alliance of Child Caring Service Providers and briefly as Cuyahoga County's Office of Early Childhood Director. In both roles, Gabriella worked with partners at all levels of government to improve policy and practice, and increase resources, within various children's services.

ANDREW GARNER, M.D., PH.D., F.A.A.P.

University Hospitals Medical Practices, and
Associate Clinical Professor of Pediatrics
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Dr. Andrew Garner graduated from Swarthmore College with Distinction in 1989 (Psychobiology major) and enrolled in the School of Medicine at Case Western Reserve University (CWRU). The following year he was accepted into the Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP) at CWRU. In 1991, he was selected to participate in the Brain Development course at Cold Spring Harbor. His subsequent doctoral work focused on the molecular mechanisms of neuronal development, and he completed his Ph.D. in Neuroscience in 1996. The following year he finished his medical degree at CWRU and began his pediatric residency training at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. In addition to his academic training, Dr. Garner has volunteered for a month in a medical clinic in rural Zimbabwe.

Dr. Garner is currently a primary care pediatrician with University Hospitals Medical Practices in Westlake, OH. He is an Associate Clinical Professor of Pediatrics at the CWRU School of Medicine, and serves on the faculty of the Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital's Center on Child Health and Policy. He is currently the Treasurer for the Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). At the national level, Dr. Garner sits on the AAP's Committee on Psychosocial Aspects of Child and Family Health as well as the Early Brain and Child Development Leadership Workgroup. He lectures frequently on translating advances in developmental science into building healthier lives.

YVONNE C. HUNNICUTT

Youth Development Policy Advisor

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Yvonne C. Hunnicutt is the Youth Development Policy Associate for Voices for Ohio's Children. In this capacity, Yvonne works with partners in the areas of juvenile justice and youth development to raise awareness and expand services on behalf of young people. She has worked intimately with other juvenile justice partners on HB 235, a bill designed to provide more discretion to juvenile court judges and most recently, the passage of HB 86. She is also an active participant of the local and statewide Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) committees to examine policies and practices to reduce the overrepresentation of kids of color in the juvenile justice system and Yvonne continues to serve on a number of taskforces investing in eliminating racial disparities and inequities of underserved populations.

Yvonne enjoys the Second Vice-President position as a Board member for the Ohio Justice Alliance Community Corrections (OJACC). She is a member and coalition facilitator for the Ohio Juvenile Justice Alliance (OJJA), member of the Juvenile Justice Coalition (JJC), and is serving her second term as a member of the Governor's Council on Juvenile Justice.

Yvonne's advocacy priorities have afforded her a significant role as trainer and policy facilitator for the MyCom youth development initiative, Ohio Afterschool Network (OAN) and a hosts of groups regarding transitional youth and aging out of foster care. She is an experienced, passionate facilitator and regarded in the community as a respected disseminator of information and true advocate for children and youth. Yvonne is a graduate the Bridge Builders leadership programs class of 2009, proud member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., a graduate of Wilberforce University.

RENUKA MAYADEV, J.D.

Executive Director

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Renuka is a seasoned professional, with a strong mix of policy experience, understanding of the importance of smart collaboration, and passion for making a difference in the lives of Ohio's children. Renuka is a graduate of Northwestern University, where she majored in Economics with a concentration in Spanish. She analyzed financial transactions for Coopers & Lybrand and worked at the U.S. Department of Justice before earning her J.D. from the Georgetown University Law Center. After working at the law firm of O'Melveny & Myers, Renuka returned to her native Columbus five years ago to assume leadership roles in the public arena. She served as Deputy Director for Constituent Affairs and Policy at the Ohio

Department of Developmental Disabilities. And for the past three years, Renuka worked with former Governor Ted Strickland as his Chief Policy Advisor for juvenile justice, public safety, rehabilitation and corrections, and workers' compensation.

SANDY OXLEY

State Field Director

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Sandy Oxley has many years of experience as an advocate and has held leadership positions both at the local and state levels. She brings a diverse background of public health, child welfare and policy experience while maintaining a strong connection to her Appalachian roots. Sandy's role as an advocate began with her work in the area of tobacco control policy. She previously served as Regional Policy Coordinator with Tobacco Free Ohio and remains involved in the movement as a volunteer. She is an advocate at heart and was named the Tobacco Policy Advocate of the Year in 2003. Sandy believes public policy is a critical intersection where creating sustainable change around social issues is achieved.

She moved to the Central Ohio area in October of 2003 to pursue a position with Nationwide Children's Hospital and Prevent Child Abuse Ohio. In her role with PCAO, she worked to educate and advocate for the prevention of child abuse and neglect in a variety of settings from local education systems to state elected officials. After her work at PCAO, Sandy moved on to become Health Policy Advocate with Children's Defense Fund Ohio. In her new role, she was responsible for monitoring state and federal legislation; identifying health trends and emerging issues; enhancing relationships with community partners, opinion leaders and state and federal elected officials; and making recommendations for CDF-Ohio's response to critical child health issues.

Sandy's role with Voices for Ohio's Children as State Field Director leads her to all areas of the state. She works to build the grassroots and grasstops network of local advocates who care about children. She also works with local, state and federal elected officials with regards to public policy impacting Ohio's children. She specializes in the policy areas of health and early care and education. Sandy holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Ohio Valley College.

THOMAS SCHEID

Health Policy Consultant

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Thomas Scheid brings extensive experience in public policy development and program implementation at state and county levels. His responsibilities with Voices for Ohio's Children are primarily in working with home visiting programs and implementing the Voices for Ohio's Children health care policy agenda. Tom has held administrative and program development positions in several departments of state government, as well as in county government. He has worked with a focus on Medicaid, early care and education and developmental disabilities. As a former director within a large Job and Family Services agency, and actively involved with the Ohio Job and Family Services Directors' Association, he has an in-depth understanding of what it takes to implement human services programs. He formerly chaired the administrative committee for the Family and Children First Council in Franklin County, and provided leadership and direction to development of the Help Me Grow program in that county. He has served in a variety of leadership capacities for programs affecting children with disabilities, including serving as Director of the Office for Exceptional Children, Ohio Department of Education.

Tom serves on several boards and advisory groups, including the Help Me Grow Rule Revision Leadership Team and Early Childhood Finance Workgroup, and as treasurer for Early Care and Learning. He is a founding member and board member for the Clintonville Rotary and serves as coordinator for the Small Business Network on Health Care.

AMY N. SWANSON

Chief Executive Officer

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Amy Nicholls Swanson is Voices' CEO, chief advocate and voice to the community. In addition to overseeing the administration and finances of the organization, Amy works closely with the Board and Voices members - more than 100 across Ohio - to assure consistent, progressive organizational growth.

Amy works closely with child advocates throughout Ohio to advance Voices' legislative and budget agendas with the Ohio General Assembly, state-appointed officials, Ohio's delegation to the U.S. Congress and local elected and appointed officials. She works with Voices members to organize and prepare testimony, legislative briefings and updates for legislators and aides. As Voices' Chief Advocate, Amy serves in leadership positions on many local and statewide committees dedicated to children's well-being.

Prior to Amy's work at Voices, she served as Vice President for Burges & Burges: Strategists, where she worked on candidate and issue campaigns, public sector marketing programs, research projects, community networking and grassroots organizing. Beginning in 1996, Amy worked as a consultant for the National Center for Tobacco Free Kids and the Coalition for a Healthier Ohio where she helped to build effective, statewide coalitions to prevent youth

tobacco use. She worked with more than 120 partners from across Ohio to help secure \$1.2 billion for Ohio's Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation Foundation.

As a consultant, Amy also worked with the Trust for America's Health, a national program funded by the Pew Charitable Trust. Her team assembled a coalition of nearly 45 partners across Ohio to promote the need for a nationwide disease tracking system. Under Amy's leadership, they held several media events and public meetings, placed several public service advertisements, and placed dozens of letters to the editor.

Before joining Burges & Burges, Amy worked for the Summit County Executive and Department of Development, where she helped develop and implement comprehensive community housing and economic development plans. Amy has worked at the state level in the Ohio House of Representatives and for a Pennsylvania State Senator, and at the federal level for a member of U.S. Congress. Amy holds a bachelor of arts in Political Science from the University of Akron with a certificate of Applied Politics from the Ray C. Bliss Institute of Applied Politics, and a master's in public administration, also from the University of Akron.