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County Information and Data Service

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APRIL 14, 2006

DATES TO REMEMBER

APRIL 21, 2006	CCAO URBAN COUNTIES COMMITTEE, CCAO OFFICES, COLUMBUS
APRIL 21, 2006	CCAO HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE, CCAO OFFICES, COLUMBUS
APRIL 28, 2006	CCC/ESAO REGIONAL BRIEFING, 365 th FIGHTER GROUP, SUMMIT COUNTY (NORTH CANTON)
APRIL 28, 2006	CCAO AGRICULTURE & RURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, CCAO OFFICES, COLUMBUS
APRIL 23-29, 2006	NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT WEEK
MAY 5, 2006	CCC/ESAO REGIONAL BRIEFING, WELCOME CENTER, MUSKINGUM COUNTY (ZANESVILLE)
JUNE 2, 2006	CCAO WORKERS' COMP PROGRAM ANNUAL MEETING, FOUR SEASONS CONFERENCE CENTER, HILLARD
JUNE 11-13, 2006	CCAO/CEAO ANNUAL SUMMER CONFERENCE, JOHN S. KNIGHT CENTER, SUMMIT COUNTY (AKRON)
AUGUST 4-8, 2006	NACo ANNUAL CONFERENCE, COOK COUNTY (CHICAGO), IL

ASSOCIATION NEWS

WORKERS' COMP - MCO OPEN ENROLLMENT STARTS MAY 1

Starting May 1, Ohio employers will have the opportunity to change the Managed Care Organization (MCO) responsible for the medical management of their workers' compensation claims.

Counties can expect a marketing blitz as companies compete for their business. **If you are satisfied with your current MCO, you do not need to do anything to continue with that company.**

Choosing a qualified MCO is essential to providing effective medical care for injured employees, as well as claim management and cost control for the county.

CCAO's endorsed MCO is CompManagement Health Systems.

Some questions to ask in evaluating an MCO:

- What is the MCO's return-to-work rate?
- Does the MCO surpass the statewide average as scored by the BWC?

- Is the MCO experienced in servicing public employers – counties in particular?
- What are the MCO's programs and strategies for controlling medical costs and improving return-to-work?
- Does the MCO offer the county online access to its claims system? Are medical documents imaged and available online? Can the MCO provide online notification to the county for new claims and/or claim status?

For additional information, contact CCAO staff member Beth Miller emiller@ccao.org.

NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT WEEK - APRIL 23-29

“Protecting Our Communities” is the theme for National County Government Week (NCGW) held April 23-29, 2006. Counties provide a wide variety of services to the public. Among the most important are those services which protect our communities. Counties prepare for and protect communities from natural disasters, terrorist attacks, crime and drug abuse. Counties also work to protect families, children and youth. NCGW is an ideal opportunity to explain how the county works and the services provided to citizens.

To print a copy of this year's planning materials go to www.naco.org and click on the story about National County Government Week on the front page.

SUBLER ELECTED TO OHIO LOBBYING ASSOCIATION BOARD

CCAO Senior Policy Analyst Cheryl Subler has been elected by fellow lobbyists to serve on the Ohio Lobbying Association Board of Directors. The Ohio Lobbying Association is a non-profit organization that supports & promotes Ohio's lobbying community through the dissemination of information, organizing of events, and effective education programs designed to promote both the public interest and the interest of the Association. CCAO would like to recognize her for this accomplishment and congratulate her for the respect she has earned among her peers.

STATE ACTIVITIES

ADDITIONAL TANF SPENDING AUTHORITY LIKELY

Even though the General Assembly is on recess for spring break, substantive conversations are taking place in Columbus around additional authority to spend TANF surplus dollars. These changes may be made as early as May or June through an Executive Order rather than going through the legislative process in the limited amount of session time scheduled.

Recent ODJFS estimates have identified about \$200 million that is likely available for reallocation via Executive Order. Some of these funds will be needed to help respond to increased TANF requirements placed upon states by the federal Deficit Reduction Act, such as the increased work participation requirements for two parent families and additional reporting requirements. ODJFS is working on identifying exactly what it will take to fund the additional federal requirements, with discussions currently leaning toward a \$100 million estimate, leaving another \$100 million available for planning.

CCAO will be working through our CCAO Health and Human Services Standing Committee and in conjunction with OJFSDA to identify priorities to recommend for this process in a short timeframe. The CCAO Health & Human Services Committee meeting will take place April 21 at 1:00 in the CCAO offices.

CCAO will be sure to share additional information as it becomes available.

CENSUS REPORT CALLS OHIO TAX BURDEN HIGH FOR LOCAL TAXES, AVERAGE FOR STATE TAXES

A report recently released by the U.S. Census Bureau shows that Ohioans paid less state income, sales, and license taxes per capita than the national average in fiscal year 2005, but more than the average in local property, income and sales taxes.

The 2005 Annual Survey of State Government Tax Collections ranked Ohio 27th among the states in per capita payments for state taxes only. But when local taxes are added to the mix, Ohio rises to 13th.

That bump up is due to the enhanced ability that Ohio's local governments enjoy to levy taxes, particularly the municipal income tax, and, to a lesser extent, the county piggy-back sales tax. Another factor increasing local taxes is that fact that nearly 70% of local real property taxes are levied to support schools.

The report indicated that each Ohioan paid an average of \$972 in state and local sales tax each year. The effects of the newly enacted commercial activity tax (CAT) were not calculated for the report, which covers collections through June 30, 2005.

The states with the highest per capita tax payments are Vermont, Hawaii, Wyoming, Connecticut and Delaware.

HOME FORECLOSURES ON THE RISE IN OHIO; ONE OF EVERY 71 HOUSEHOLDS FILED IN 2005

A sobering report recently issued by a Cleveland-based think tank shows that the number of Ohioans who lost their homes due to foreclosures or sheriff's sales continued to rise in 2005. Policy Matters Ohio reports that foreclosure filings increased 8.5% in 2005 and that the 63,996 filings represented one out of every 71 households in the state.

The data in the report was culled from foreclosure filings submitted to the Ohio Supreme Court. It indicates that sheriff sales increased 6% from 2004 through the end of 2005 and 23% from 2003 through the end of 2005. Predatory lending is listed as the prime cause of foreclosures and sheriff sales, followed by job losses and the weak economy.

Copies of the report are available from Policy Matters Ohio, 3631 Perkins Avenue, Suite 4C – East, Cleveland, OH 44114. Phone: (216) 361-9801. Fax: (216) 361-9810 or at : http://www.policymattersohio.org/Foreclosure_Growth_2006.htm

FARM BUREAU AND ODOT ARE SQUARING OFF OVER PROPOSED CHANGES TO EMINENT DOMAIN LAW

Farmers and state highway officials are disagreeing over proposed changes to the state's eminent domain laws, especially the concept of "super compensation" that would allow landowners to recover much more from the state for their seized land that is currently allowed.

The Ohio Farm Bureau Federation is embracing super compensation, which would require state agencies acquiring land to pay fair market value, attorney fees, appraiser fees, and relocation costs, as well as lost profits for businesses that are forced to relocate. ODOT, which acquires more private property than any other state agency, is staunchly opposed to super compensation.

The Farm Bureau has submitted its proposed revisions to the 24-member Task Force to Study Eminent Domain, which is preparing to submit recommendations for legislative changes to the General Assembly by August 1st. The bureau reports that 72 state agencies, many of them non-elected boards, currently have the power to seize property. They do not want non-elected boards to have eminent domain power.

ODOT cites a Florida law similar to the Ohio super compensation proposal that has had the effect of diverting some \$500 million from the state's highway fund into the hands of landowners and their attorneys. The agency also is opposed to ending eminent domain authority for non-elected boards and to allowing the recovery of lost profits. It says lost profits are too speculative to be effectively calculated and have no bearing on the underlying value of the land being taken.

ODOT reports that during state fiscal years 2003, 2004 and 2005, it acquired 4,975 parcels of land in the state. Only 630 of those 4,975 parcels were involved in landowner court filings, and only 26 of those 630 claims were resolved by a jury trial.

HIGH COURT SAYS CITIES CAN FORCE WATER AND SEWER CUSTOMERS TO SUBMIT TO ANNEXATION IN ORDER TO RECEIVE CONTINUED SERVICE

In a decision handed down on March 29, a unanimous Ohio Supreme Court has ruled that a municipality has the authority to cut off water and sewer service to customers located outside its boundaries if those customers do not allow their property to be annexed into the municipality.

The decision upheld lower court rulings in a longstanding controversy involving Perry Township in Wood County. In 1988, the city of Perrysburg mandated that all current non-city water and service customers had to sign agreements to allow their property to be annexed.

Fourteen years later, in 2002, the city asked 260 property owners to sign a petition for annexation in accordance with the 1988 policy or face termination of service. Three township residents refused to sign the petition and sued to block the city from terminating service. They claimed that a city could impose conditions on non-city customers but could not totally terminate service

The Wood County Common Pleas Court upheld the termination of service, calling the city's action valid and enforceable. The 6th Ohio District Court of Appeals agreed.

Justice Terrence O'Donnell wrote the opinion for the high court. He called the city's action a "valid, constitutional exercise of municipal police powers.....Perrysburg demonstrated that annexation would create a larger tax base, which would increase its general revenue and reduce the strain on city services caused by adjacent urbanized areas of Perrysburg Township."

Citation: Bakies v. Perrysburg, 108 Ohio St. 3d 361, 2006 - Ohio -1190. Number 2004-1923. Submitted October 25, 2005. Decided March 29, 2006.

INDIGENT DEFENSE APPLICATION FEE UPDATE

HB 66, the state's FY 06/07 biennial budget contained language requiring persons seeking indigent defense representation to pay an up-front application fee of \$25.00 per person. The imposition of the fee became effective October 1, 2005. \$20.00 of this fee is retained by the county, placed in the county general fund, and earmarked to subsidize its indigent defense program. The remaining \$5.00 is forwarded to the Office of the Ohio Public Defender.

Reviewing six months of program experience it appears that we can be cautiously optimistic that the application fee is "working." Revenue received by the Ohio Public Defender's Office, which constitutes 20% of the fee money collected, has increased each month to over 14,000 in March. Based upon the money forwarded by county auditors to and reports filed by the clerks of court with the Ohio Public Defender's Office it appears that counties, collectively, will take in about \$160,000 during the first year of the fee's existence. While this is a relatively small amount of money, it is a start, and a step in the right direction toward supporting the mammoth expenditures by counties on indigent defense representation.

What is the most encouraging is that slightly more than 33% of the indigent defendants are paying the fee while the initial estimates were that about only 20% of them would pay. Of course, this is tempered with the state's discouragingly abysmal rate for indigent defense reimbursement to the counties - the lowest rate ever - at approximately 25%.

NEW PRE-EMPLOYMENT & CONTRACTING REQUIREMENT EFFECTIVE - APRIL 14

State and other governmental entities are now mandated to provide future employees and certain vendors with a checklist for declaration as to whether they have provided material assistance, or not, to an organization listed on the Department of State Terrorist Exclusion List. This new requirement was included in Senate Bill 9 and becomes **effective April 14, 2006**. CCAO sent Information and materials to counties last week.

This new requirement deals with the Declaration Regarding Material Assistance/Nonassistance to a Terrorist Organization (DMA).

What is the DMA? The DMA is a questionnaire that must be completed by certain applicants to certify that they have not provided "material assistance" to a terrorist organization (ORC 2909.32, 2909.33 and 2909.34.)

Who must complete and submit the DMA? The DMA form applies to applicants for:

- Certain state issued licenses
- All candidates under final consideration for public employment
- Business contracts with, and funding from, any state, county or local government entity in an annual aggregate amount greater than \$100,000
- Private entities that wish to do business with any state, county or local government entity that adopts procedures requiring pre-certification

How are the forms distributed? The DMA forms, review request forms and reference documents are available online at <http://www.homelandsecurity.ohio.gov>.

How do we get trained? Training is available online at <http://www.homelandsecurity.ohio.gov>.

Please review the DMA materials and contact Ohio Homeland Security at (614) 644-3892, fax (614) 752-2419 or igross@dps.state.oh.us for further clarification.

FEDERAL ACTIVITIES

RETAIL GROUPS PUSHING TO WEAKEN COMBAT METH EPIDEMIC ACT

Several retail groups, including the Consumer Health Products Association and Wyeth Labs, are quietly lobbying members of the House and Senate to weaken the recently passed Combat Meth Epidemic Act. Particularly, they would like to change the effective date of the legislation -- September 30,

2006 -- and stall implementation of several key provisions of the bill. The Combat Meth Epidemic Act was incorporated into the recently passed Patriot Act reauthorization bill, which was signed by President Bush on March 9. The legislation restricts sales of pseudoephedrine products to 3.6 grams per transactions and requires products to be sold behind a counter after purchasers to show a photo-ID and sign a logbook. The retailers have faced stiff opposition in the House from sponsors of the meth legislation and the House Meth Caucus. Key Senate staffers believe that any attempt to weaken the bill is a non-starter in that chamber as well. NACo sent a letter to House Speaker Dennis Hastert urging him to oppose any legislative efforts to weaken the Combat Meth Epidemic Act.

NACo ACTIVITIES

NACo LEGISLATIVE ACTION NETWORK

The NACo Legislative Action Network (LAN) needs your help! Given the power and influence that grassroots efforts can have on our political process, it is imperative that NACo strengthen its grassroots advocacy on Capitol Hill. Join with county officials from across the nation by responding to Legislative Action Alerts, calling and e-mailing your Members of Congress and their staff. As a member of LAN you will receive e-mail alerts about important issues facing counties, have opportunities to lobby Congress personally and make a real difference for your county's citizens and for counties across America.

To sign up please contact Brad Banks, Legislative Research Associate, NACo, 440 First Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20001, (202) 942-4205, fax (202) 942-4281 or bbanks@naco.org.

CONFERENCES

METH LAB CHILDREN - TRAINING CONFERENCE

ODJFS, ODADAS, Ohio's Attorney General, and other Ohio associations have partnered to offer the "Drug Endangered Children Training Conference" on June 14-15, 2006 at the Midwest Hotel and

Conference Center, 4900 Sinclair Road (I-71 and Morse Road), in Columbus. Experts from across the nation who use a coordinated approach to enhance information gathering, evidence integrity, interventions, and comprehensive treatment services for children found in methamphetamine (meth) labs and other drug environments are scheduled to present at this informative conference. This will be a great opportunity for professionals from multiple disciplines (child protection, law enforcement, prosecution, treatment professionals, etc) in Ohio to come together to work on the growing problem of children being exposed to the dangers of meth labs in this state. You can learn more about the conference and register on line at www.oncac.org/DECOhio.htm.

If you have questions about registration, please contact Kha Huynh, Executive Assistant, at (614) 722-0500 Ext-1, fax (614) 722-0512 or khahuynh@oncac.org.

OHIO HOMELAND SECURITY SYMPOSIUM AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE

Mark your calendars for May 10-11, 2006 for the Ohio Homeland Security Symposium (OHSS) and the Intergovernmental Technology Conference (ITC) that will be held at the Columbus Convention Center, 400 North High Street in Columbus. Your registration allows you admittance to all OHSS and ITC educational sessions of your choice and both exhibit halls.

The opening session features an international panel from Israel, Britain, Turkey, Spain and the U.S. The panel will discuss actual terrorist catastrophic events in term of preparedness, response and recovery challenges, lessons learned and the politics that changed as a result of these experiences and lessons. Workshop offerings are subject to change. Registration fees: \$52 in advance or \$75 on-site. For registration information, the most current dates, times, sessions and updates visit <http://govresources.com/ohssitcedutrack1.html>.

CLASSIFIEDS

DIRECTOR

The Pickaway County Commissioners are accepting applications for the position of Director of Pickaway County Job and Family Services. This position is responsible for the overall operation of the agency which includes children services, workforce development, child support and public assistance programs. The Director assures agency compliance with statutory requirements and implements program and operational policies and procedures.

Candidates must possess strong management skills, be competent in setting goals and objectives and have experience in establishing working relationships with other community agencies and supports. This position also requires the candidate to have strong leadership skills; a sincere desire to assist individuals, families and children; excellent verbal and written communication; and knowledge or experience in collective bargaining.

Qualifications: Bachelor's degree (advanced degree preferred) in social work, business administration, public administration, human resources, psychology, sociology, education or finance. Also five years of administrative/managerial experience with at least two of the five years having supervisory responsibility is a must.

More information regarding this position is available on the Pickaway County website at www.pickawayboc.org. Applications can also be downloaded from this site. Please send resume and/or completed application to Pickaway County Commissioners Office, Attn: County Administrator, 139 West Franklin Street, Circleville, OH 43113 by close of business on **April 21, 2006**.

BUDGET ANALYST

Hamilton County, Ohio accepting applications for the position of Budget Analyst in the Office of Budget and Strategic Initiatives. This position is responsible for analyzing agency budget requests, preparing budget recommendations for review, and preparing

monthly and annual financial summary reports. The analyst serves as liaison between the Office of the County Administrator and agency officials in dealing with fiscal matters, as requested. This position also requires the candidate to analyze, compile and post large amounts of fiscal data in a meaningful form; prepare complex financial reports and position papers; and demonstrate strategic perspective on policies and industry trends of assigned agencies.

Qualifications: Bachelor's degree with course work in public finance, public policy, economics, financial management or accounting. More information regarding this position is available on the Hamilton County website at <http://www.hamiltoncountyohio.gov/Personnel/JobPostings.asp>. Please send resume/application to Hamilton County Personnel Department, County Administration Building, 138 East Court Street, Room 707, Cincinnati, OH 45202; or fax to (513) 946-4720. Position is open until filled.

ASSISTANT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY DIRECTOR

The Huron County Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland Security is accepting applications for an Assistant Director.

Individual must possess excellent verbal and written communication skills; superior organizational and time management skills; and be able to perform in extremely critical situations. Individual must have a comprehensive knowledge of emergency management, emergency response, public administration and public relations as evidenced by a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration or Public Safety, or five or more years of EMA and/or emergency services related work experience. Individual shall have PDS Completion Certificate in Emergency Management or the ability to complete the certificate within three years of employment combined with demonstrated capability in a supervisory/leadership role.

The responsibilities of this position include, but are not limited to: Developing disaster mitigation efforts with an all-hazards approach, coordinating response

efforts and organizing a rapid recovery to ensure local government and business continuity for a successful resolution to any disaster; report, budget and grant writing capabilities; development of training and exercise initiatives that meet all federal Homeland Security, Emergency Management Agency and Local Emergency Planning Committee requirements; direct a logistical and resources program that collects, maintains and secures resources and facilities capabilities and vulnerabilities; and assume the role of the Director in the event the Director is absent.

Valid Ohio Driver's License with acceptable driving record is required. Applicants interested in the above named position are to submit a hardcopy employment application and resume to the Huron County Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland Security, 255-B Shady Lane Drive, Norwalk, OH, 44857. Phone: 419-663-5772. Application deadline is 4:30 p.m., **May 8, 2006**. EOE.

DESIGN ENGINEER

Perform a variety of engineering assignments in connection with the planning, designing and construction of sanitary sewer and water systems. Supervise and coordinate work of technical staff engaged in computerized drafting of plans and other engineering documents; performs related duties as required. Bachelors Degree in Civil Engineering from accredited university and Engineer Intern Certificate issued by the State of Ohio and a minimum of 2 years experience that provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities for the job. Position requires a valid drivers license and acceptable driving record. Full-time benefits package. \$18.32 per hour during probation, \$19.29 upon completion. Details at www.co.geauga.oh.us. Submit an Application for Employment and resume to Geauga County Commissioners, Attn: Human Resources #2305, 470 Center Bldg. #4, Chardon OH 44024. EOE/ADA.

PLANS EXAMINER

Montgomery County has a position available in our Building Regulations Division for a Master Plans

Examiner. We are a leader in high quality code enforcement, and offer a friendly, professional, stable working environment with competitive wages and benefits.

This is a management-level position which requires thorough knowledge of management principles, architectural and engineering construction methods, building codes and associated regulatory requirements and standards. Duties include examining and reviewing plans for new construction and alteration/renovation compliance with building codes and requirements, informing owners of violations and necessary corrections for final approval and performing field reviews as necessary.

Requirements include possession of Interim Masters Plans Examiner certificate AND certification as Ohio registered Architect or Professional Engineer PLUS 5 years related experience in building design and construction or building inspection with a certified building department. Must attain full Master Plans Examiner certification within 1 year of hire date and maintain certification, registration and licensure thereafter. Valid Ohio driver's license with acceptable driving record also needed.

Salary: \$48,422-\$72,634/year plus a comprehensive benefits package. Apply online at www.mcoho.org ("Find a Job" link) or fax a detailed resume to 937-225-6496. Emails are also accepted at recruiter@mcoho.org. Mailing address is Montgomery County HR, 451 W. Third Street, Dayton, OH 45422. An EOE M/F/V/H.

ASSOCIATE PLANNER

The Stark County Regional Planning Commission is accepting applications for an Associate Planner. The successful candidate will prepare technical components of major work elements of the comprehensive and environmental planning program, including the following: land use inventory and analysis, natural resource conservation, water quality planning, and community assistance planning. Candidate must be able to conduct surveys, prepare reports, present statistical data and prepare maps and graphic representations. Plan and organize

presentations and public involvement concerning environmental issues. Attend meetings and conferences, as requested. A working knowledge of GIS and computer applications in a planning context is preferred.

QUALIFICATIONS: Bachelor's or Master's degree in urban/regional planning or related field from an accredited college or university. A minimum of one (1) to two (2) years professional planning experience required, or equivalent combination of education and experience. Salary Range: \$25,000 - \$35,000. Send resume and cover letter stating qualifications, experience and salary history to Stark County Regional Planning Commission, 201 3rd Street NE, Suite 201, Canton, OH 44702-1211, Attn: Bob Nau, Executive Director, or FAX to 330-451-7990, by noon, **Friday, May 5, 2006**. EOE.

PLANS EXAMINER

The Wood County Building Inspection Department is accepting applications for a full time Plans Examiner to review construction blueprints and sites to ensure compliance with the Ohio Building Code and Wood County Residential Building Code. Pay Grade 12: \$48,841.16 to \$54,701.81 depending on experience

Minimum Qualifications: Ohio Registered Professional Engineer or Architect with five years Ohio Building Code experience. Requires a valid Ohio Driver's License. Classification specifications and applications are available on the County's website, www.co.wood.oh.us, or visit the Wood County Building Inspection Department, Third Floor, County Office Building, One Courthouse Square, Bowling Green, OH 43402, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Application Deadline: **June 16, 2006** at 4:30 p.m. EOE

BUILDING INSPECTOR

The Wood County Building Inspection Department is accepting applications for a full time Building Inspector (Plumbing) to inspect assigned aspect to ensure compliance with the Ohio Building Code and Wood County Residential Building Code. Pay Grade 7: \$16.04 to \$17.96 per hour depending on

experience

Minimum Qualifications: Journeyman plumber or equivalent with seven years Ohio Plumbing Code experience. Requires Board of Building Standards certification and a valid Ohio Driver's License. Classification specifications and applications are available on the County's website, www.co.wood.oh.us, or visit the Wood County Building Inspection Department, Third Floor, County Office Building, One Courthouse Square, Bowling Green, OH 43402, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Application Deadline: **May 9, 2006** at 4:30 p.m. EOE.