



CIDS

County Information and Data Service

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MARCH 2, 2007

DATES TO REMEMBER

MARCH 7, 2007	OHIO CONGRESSIONAL BREAKFAST, RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING - ROOM B-369, WASHINGTON, D.C.
MARCH 9, 2007	CCAO REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE BRIEFINGS, HOLIDAY INN, MUSKINGUM COUNTY (ZANESVILLE)
MARCH 9, 2007	CCAO REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE BRIEFINGS, THE CLUB AT KEY CENTER, CUYAHOGA COUNTY (CLEVELAND)
MARCH 9, 2007	SW OH COMMISSIONERS & ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION, ROBERTS CENTER, CLINTON COUNTY (WILMINGTON)
MARCH 12, 2007	CCAO REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE BRIEFINGS, OLD WAYSIDE INN, ADAMS COUNTY (WEST UNION)
MARCH 19, 2007	CCAO REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE BRIEFINGS, HOLIDAY INN FRENCH QUARTER, WOOD COUNTY (PERRYSBURG)
MARCH 19, 2007	CCAO REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE BRIEFINGS, HILTON INN WEST, SUMMIT COUNTY (AKRON)
MARCH 23, 2007	CCAO REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE BRIEFINGS, HOLIDAY INN -DAYTON AIRPORT, MONTGOMERY COUNTY (ENGLEWOOD)
MARCH 23, 2007	CORSA RENEWAL MEETING, ALADDIN SHRINE CENTER, FRANKLIN COUNTY (COLUMBUS)
MARCH 30, 2007	CCC/ESAO REGIONAL MEETING, THE UPSTAIRS RESTAURANT, MAHONING COUNTY (YOUNGSTOWN)
APRIL 13, 2007	CCAO REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE BRIEFINGS, BLUEBIRD FARM, CARROLL COUNTY (CARROLLTON)
APRIL 22-28, 2007	NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT WEEK

APRIL 23, 2007

NW DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS & ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION, TREE LINKS GOLF COURSE, LOGAN COUNTY (BELLEFONTAINE)

APRIL 27, 2007

CCC/ESAO REGIONAL MEETING, SALLIES, ASHLAND COUNTY (ASHLAND)

JUNE 10-12, 2007

CCAO/CEAO ANNUAL CONFERENCE, PARK INN TOLEDO (FORMERLY RADISSON HOTEL), LUCAS COUNTY (TOLEDO)

ASSOCIATION NEWS

SW OH COMMISSIONERS & ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION TO MEET ON MARCH 9

The Southwest Ohio Commissioners and Engineers Association will meet on Friday, March 9 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the Roberts Center, 123 Gano Road (I-71 and SR 68 North), in Clinton County (Wilmington). During the last SW District meeting, held in December 2006 during the CCAO/CEAO Annual Winter Conference, members expressed an interest in making the district become more active during the year. The 2007 SW District Commissioners and Engineers Association officers are: President - David Dhume, Madison County Commissioner; Vice President - David Brand, Madison County Engineer; Secretary - Jane Marshall, Preble County Commissioner; and Treasurer - Neil Tunison, Warren County Engineer.

CCAO/CEAO has divided the state into four districts: northwest, southwest, northeast and southeast. CCAO/CEAO meet together in the northwest, southwest and southeast districts, but each association has their own regional association in the northeast that meets separately. County administrators, clerks, deputy engineers and administrative assistants/secretaries are invited to attend district meetings.

Please join the Southwest District in Clinton County on March 9 to discuss organizational issues (i.e., review the by-laws, discuss future meeting objectives and ideas, and give the officers feedback about the association). Other issues to be discussed include the OEPA's designation of county maintained and other ditches, and the Governor's Executive Order #1 - Gifts to Elected Officials, and other topics of interest.

Pre-registration is necessary. Registration fee: \$5.00. Complete the attached form and return it by March 2, 2007 to: David Dhume, Madison County Commissioner, SW District President, 1 West Main, P.O. Box 618, London, OH 43140-0618, (740) 852-2972, fax (740) 845-1660, or commissioners@co.madison.oh.us.

CCAO REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE BRIEFINGS

Mark your calendar and plan to attend one of the Regional Legislative Briefings to be held in March and April! The purpose of the meetings are to provide legislators and county commissioners with an opportunity to discuss legislative issues affecting county government on a regional basis. Registration information was sent to county commissioners several weeks ago.

For more information please contact John Leutz, CCAO Senior Policy Analyst, at (614) 220-7994, (888) 757-1904 or jleutz@ccao.org.

NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT WEEK - APRIL 22-28

April 22-28 is National County Government Week (NCGW). Sponsored by the National Association of Counties (NACo), NCGW was first celebrated in 1991 to raise public awareness and understanding about the roles and responsibilities of the nation's counties. The theme for this year's celebration is "Protecting the Environment".

America's counties take seriously their responsibility to protect and enhance the health, welfare and safety of its citizens in sensible and cost-effective ways. Environmental protection plays a critical role in this great responsibility. NCGW offers an ideal opportunity for counties to showcase their innovative and successful environmental initiatives.

A booklet offering ideas and suggestions for planning local activities during the week will be mailed to every county in early February. Information is now available on the NACo website at www.naco.org.

CCAO STAFF UPDATE

JOSHUA HAHN JOINS THE CCAO FAMILY

CCAO and the Policy Team welcomed Joshua Hahn to the staff on March 1. Josh fills the position of policy analyst. Prior to joining the CCAO family, Josh served as a regional director and assistant to the chief of staff for U.S. Senator Mike DeWine. In addition, he worked for Governor Bob Taft and the Ohio Department of Public Safety.

Josh was born and raised in Champaign County (Urbana). He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Miami University and a Juris Doctor degree from Capital University. You can reach Josh at (614) 220-7982 (direct), (888) 757-1904 or jhahn@ccao.org.

In the coming weeks, we will share with you more information on the types of issues Josh will be addressing. Please join the staff and welcome Josh to the CCAO family!

STATE ACTIVITIES

ADMINISTRATION PUTS BRAKES ON MR/DD MEDICAID WAIVER TRANSITION TO ASSESS COMPLEXITIES, SEEK ALTERNATIVES

Citing unforeseen complications and the potential to overload state and local bureaucracies, Gov. Ted Strickland's administration has called a time-out of sorts for Ohio's plan to restructure how Medicaid money is spent on the disabled. The move, thus far endorsed by major stakeholders albeit for different reasons, impacts a system that funnels some \$700 million in Medicaid each year to cover services for nearly 15,000 mentally retarded and disabled citizens in the state. The "pause," as described by Department of MR/DD Director John Martin, is an attempt to bring more simplicity to an initiative aimed at improving and adding uniformity to the massive entitlement infrastructure.

Under a redesign of the MR/DD Medicaid waiver system initiated five years ago (HB94 & HB405, 124th General Assembly), the state added local levy funds to its Medicaid match - a move that leveraged more federal money but also came with strings attached in the form of Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services guidelines for the entitlement. Those requirements include statewide uniformity in terms of access to and reimbursements for services to disabled citizens under Individual Options and Level I Medicaid waivers. Following several months of negotiations and meetings of the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review, the state began to implement a new statewide Medicaid reimbursement system based on quarter-hour rates for services rendered and other parameters. What seemed like a good idea on paper has proven to be a bureaucratic nightmare. So with the transition at only 40% complete and getting to the more difficult cases, Director Martin called for a halt in the process so the state could work with CMS on additional changes.

"We suggest that county boards and providers stop any transition work currently underway and continue to use the 'old system,'" Director Martin said in an announcement to stakeholders delivered through the agency's "Pipeline" newsletter. "The reason we are suggesting to stop the transition is that some of the changes that we may be proposing, if approved by CMS, will cause the same work to be done twice." The Administration is discussing the situation with interested parties and is seeking alternatives.

MEDINA COUNTY PLACES COUNTY SALES TAX FOR SCHOOLS ON MAY BALLOT

The Medina Board of County Commissioners voted to submit to the voters of Medina County the question of levying a county sales tax at the rate of one-half of one percent for thirty years to provide additional revenue for permanent improvements to be distributed by a community improvements board for school districts within the county. Two of the three commissioners voted to place the sales tax before the voters.

Two of the three commissioners took final action in adopting three resolutions on February 22, the last day that commissioners could act in order to place the

sales tax issue before the voters on May 8th. One of the resolutions adopted on February 22nd rescinded an earlier resolution of the Board in order to comply with an attorney general's opinion delivered to the Medina County Prosecutor on February 20th.

Because questions had been raised as to the authority of the county commissioners to submit to the voters the question of levying a county sales tax for schools under the additional half percent community improvement board option (ORC 5739.026 (A)(4)), the Medina County prosecutor had requested an attorney general's opinion. In the opinion request, the county prosecutor asked whether commissioners could propose a sales tax levy to the voters limiting permanent improvements under the community improvements board option to school districts only. The attorney general concluded in AG Opinion 2007-002 that the commissioners could indeed limit the permanent improvements to school districts only.

In response to a second question, the attorney general concluded "that a board of county commissioners proposing such a sales tax levy may not, in the resolution creating the community improvements board to administer the funds generated by the sale tax, restrict the authority of the community improvements board by defining what shall be considered a school district, how much shall go to each district, or what shall be considered a permanent improvement that must be approved if within the monetary limits established."

In response to the attorney general opinion, the commissioners rescinded an earlier resolution and adopted a resolution with replacement language to clarify that the commissioners were setting forth "recommended guidelines" for the community improvements board rather than "intended procedures and guidelines" for the community improvements board to follow.

If the voters approve the sales tax on May 8, the tax will become effective October 1, 2007.

McCRACKEN TO DIRECT STATE OF OHIO OFFICE IN D.C.

Drew McCracken, Governor Strickland's former Congressional aide and office director in Congress, had been appointed to lead the Governor's State of Ohio office in Washington, D.C. The mission of the office is to represent Ohio's interests and Governor Strickland with the Executive branch, Congressional delegation, and federal agencies.

McCracken can be contacted at the State of Ohio's office at 444 North Capitol Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20001, (202) 624-5844 or drew.mccracken@governor.ohio.gov.

AWARDS

OHS EDWARD J. TIFFIN AWARD

The Ohio Historical Society is seeking nominations for the third annual Edward J. Tiffin Award in recognition of a person or family who has made extraordinary contributions to the field of history in Ohio.

The Tiffin Award, named in honor of Ohio's first Governor Edward J. Tiffin, is the Ohio Historical Society's highest honor for extraordinary contributions to Ohio history, national history, or history in general. Recipients may be individuals or families, living or deceased. Contributions to history will be defined broadly and could include any of the disciplines comprising the field of history and other related fields of endeavor. Please note: the selection committee is looking for people who have contributed to the field of history, as opposed to being famous. Deadline for nominations: March 23, 2007. For more information please visit: www.ohiohistory.org/sn/0222307.html.

CONFERENCES/SEMINARS

SERB ACADEMY

The State Employment Relations Board (SERB) will hold the SERB Academy twice this year on the following dates:

- **March 28-29, 2007** - Midwest Hotel and Conference Center, 4900 Sinclair Road, Columbus
- **October 18-19, 2007** - Holiday Inn, 6001 Rockside Road, Independence

The SERB Academy is for newcomers to public-sector collective bargaining, such as elected officials, administrators, public employer representatives, public employees, officials, and members of employee organizations. The SERB Academy, an intensive two-day review of representation, dispute settlement, and unfair labor practice matters, covering the law, the administrative rules and the day-to-day procedures of the agency.

Registration fee: \$280 per person (includes sessions, course materials, continental breakfasts, breaks, luncheons). Space is limited. Reservation deadline: March 20, 2007 or October 10, 2007.

For more information please contact: SERB Academy, State Employment Relations Board, 65 East State Street - FI 12, Columbus, OH 43215-4213, (614) 466-2963, (614) 466-3074 or <http://www.serb.state.oh.us/registrations/Acad%202007%20announcement.pdf>.

HUMAN RESOURCE INSTITUTE

The 13th Annual Ohio University Human Resource Institute, "Crucial HR Strategies for Survival," will be held on May 11, 2007 at the Ohio University-Zanesville Campus. Recertification credits (6.5) through HRCT are pending. For more information please call (740) 588-1201.

BWC SAFETY TRAINING COURSES

Dozens of training courses are available through BWC's Division of Hygiene and Safety. These courses are offered at our training center in Pickerington at the Ohio Center for Occupational Safety and Health and at branch sites and BWC services offices across the state. Employers may enroll any number of employees at no additional cost. **Additionally, web-based learning solutions are**

also available to meet the unique needs of employees. To enroll or learn more about the classroom or web-based learning courses available, visit the BWC Learning Center at bwclearningcenter.com.

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

SYLLABUS

2007-02

1. A board of county commissioners may propose to the electors of the county a sales tax levy under R.C. 5739.026(A)(4) limited to permanent improvements for school districts only.
2. A board of county commissioners proposing to the electors a sales tax levy under R.C. 5739.026(A)(4) limited to permanent improvements for school districts only may not, in the resolution creating the community improvements board to administer the funds generated by the sales tax, restrict the authority of the community improvements board by defining what shall be considered a school district, how much shall go to each district, or what shall be considered a permanent improvement that must be approved if within the monetary limits established.

CLASSIFIEDS

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

A qualified professional is sought to assist the agency Director in managing the agency on a daily basis and in areas as needed. The successful candidate will have a strong administrative background coupled with a sensitivity for employee relations in keeping with the existing collective bargaining agreement. The candidate for this position will be asked to assist in the formulation of policies, procedures and the development of new and innovative programs related to activities in the Child Support Enforcement Agency.

Responsibilities also include review and evaluation of pending legislation as it relates to the provision of service to our clients and insures agency operations are in accordance with existing rules and regulations. This position may be asked to speak to various groups or to the general public to promote the agency mission. Participate in budget preparation and make recommendations regarding staffing or needed services. In the director's absence, is responsible for making decisions in the best interest of the agency and assumes the duties of the Director.

QUALIFICATIONS: Bachelors Degree in a Human Services discipline, Public Administration or Business Administration. Masters degree preferred. Prior supervision or management experience of at least five years with a history of progressive, responsible and successful performance of duties in the public or private sector. Proven ability to manage and supervise both line and supervisory personnel. Excellent verbal and written skills. Excellent work record and history.

Competitive salary plus a comprehensive county benefits package. Send resume to the Franklin County Human Resources Dept., 373 S. High St., 25th Fl., Columbus, OH 43215. This position is an unclassified position and serves at the pleasure of the Franklin County Board of Commissioners. A person in this position will be required to complete an annual Financial Disclosure Statement.

DIRECTOR OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES

Population 550,000. Requires BS/BA in related field to Job and Family Services. Related MS/MA in Social Work, Public Administration, Healthcare Administration, related field preferred. Minimum eight to ten years professional employment in social services administration/supervision preferred. Minimum five years executive-level experience working with complex programs/service delivery/successful track record of collaboration with local, state, federal agencies desired. Starting salary

market competitive, DOQ/E and salaried history of selected individual. Expected range \$89,311 to \$133,967; benefits. Brochure at www.mercergroupinc.com. Resumes by COB March 23, 2007, to James Mercer, The Mercer Group, Inc., 551 West Cordova Road, #726, Santa Fe, NM 87505. Voice: 505-466-9500; Fax:505-466-1274. E-Mail: mercerc@mindspring.com; Website: www.mercergroupinc.com. EOE. Minority and Female candidates are encouraged to apply.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

The Board of Preble County Commissioners is accepting applications for the full time, unclassified, exempt position of County Administrator. This position assists in the administration, enforcement, and execution of policies of the Board of County Commissioners. This position is also considered a non-covered employee under FLSA.

Interested applicants must possess the ability to communicate with many variables and determine specific action, analyze and interpret data, draw valid conclusions using judgment and analytical skills and to recommend constructive changes in processes, policies and programs.

Applicants must have completed post secondary education in public or business administration or related field and/or five (5) years administrative experience in a department under a political subdivision of a county or local government.

A competitive salary (commensurate with experience) and a full range of benefits are offered.

Applications and a job description can be obtained at the Office of the Board of Preble County Commissioners, 101 East Main Street, Eaton, Ohio 45320. Deadline to submit an application and resume for the County Administrator's position is **March 30, 2007**.

CLASSIFIED ADS

CCAO publishes the County Information and Data Service (CIDS) weekly. Classified ads will be published free of charge as a service to counties. Ads will run for two weeks if space is available. Please provide faxed or e-mailed copy of the classified ad by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday of each week. Transmit the copy to Mary Jane Neiman, CCAO Public Relations Associate, via fax at (614) 221-6986 or e-mail mjneiman@ccao.org.