



CIDS

County Information and Data Service

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DATES TO REMEMBER

AUGUST 1, 2007	CCAO ANNUAL GOLF OUTING, OAKHAVEN GOLF CLUB, DELAWARE COUNTY (DELAWARE)
AUGUST 3, 2007	CCAO FINANCE AND TAXATION COMMITTEE, CCAO OFFICES, FRANKLIN COUNTY (COLUMBUS)
AUGUST 3, 2007	CORSA REGIONAL SEMINAR, MUSKINGUM COUNTY WELCOME CENTER, MUSKINGUM COUNTY (ZANESVILLE)
AUGUST 14-15, 2007	COUNTY COMMISSIONERS DAYS, VAN WERT COUNTY (VAN WERT)
AUGUST 22, 2007	CCAO REGIONAL POLICY BRIEFING, WARREN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, WARREN COUNTY (LEBANON)
AUGUST 27, 2007	CCAO REGIONAL POLICY BRIEFING, OLDE DUTCH RESTAURANT, HOCKING COUNTY (LOGAN)
AUGUST 28, 2007	CCAO REGIONAL POLICY BRIEFING, MARY YODER'S RESTAURANT, GEAUGA COUNTY (MIDDLEFIELD)
AUGUST 29, 2007	CCAO REGIONAL POLICY BRIEFING, WOOD COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, WOOD COUNTY (BOWLING GREEN)
AUGUST 24, 2007	CORSA's 20th ANNUAL MEETING, ALADDIN SHRINE CENTER, FRANKLIN COUNTY (COLUMBUS)
SEPTEMBER 2007	NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH (www.ready.gov)
SEPTEMBER 24, 2007	NW DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS AND ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION QUARTERLY MEETING, MARION COUNTY
DECEMBER 2-5, 2007	CCAO WINTER CONFERENCE, HYATT REGENCY, FRANKLIN COUNTY (COLUMBUS)

ASSOCIATION NEWS

CCAO TO HOST REGIONAL POLICY BRIEFINGS

Mark your calendars and plan to attend one of the four CCAO Regional Policy Briefings to be held in August. Each seminar will start at 9:00 a.m. and end at 3:00 p.m. Lunch will be served. There will be no charge to attend. More information and registration materials will be mailed next week.

The CCAO policy staff will review provisions of the recently passed FY 2008/2009 state budget [HB 119] and provide updates on current issues including the ethics law, HB 694, indigent defense and county law libraries.

Plan to attend one of the following briefings:

- August 22, 2007 - Warren County Administration Building, 406 Justice Drive, Warren County (Lebanon)
- August 27, 2007 - Olde Dutch Restaurant, State Route 664, Hocking County (Logan)
- August 28, 2007 - Mary Yoder's Restaurant, 14743 North State Street, Geauga County (Middlefield)
- August 29, 2007 - Wood County Administration Building, One Courthouse Square, Wood County (Bowling Green)

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

OHIO PLANNING CONFERENCE AWARDS-NOMINATIONS DEADLINE AUGUST 3

Nominations for the 2007 Ohio Planning Awards are being accepted until Friday, August 3, 2007. Awards will be presented during the Ohio Planning Conference Statewide Conference on Friday, September 21, 2007. Nominations may be made and awards may be given in the following categories:

- Comprehensive Planning-Large Jurisdiction
- Comprehensive Planning-Small Jurisdiction
- Focused Planning Project
- Focused Built Project

- Outstanding Planner
- The Allor Award
- Outstanding Community Planning
- Planning Student

For more information on submission requirements and to download forms go to www.ohioplanning.org

COUNTY ACTIVITIES

AMERICAN CITY & COUNTY MAGAZINE HONORS CUYAHOGA COUNTY TREASURER AS COUNTY LEADER OF THE YEAR

Cuyahoga County Treasurer Jim Rokakis received the County Leader of the Year Award from American City & County magazine at the NACo Annual Conference held July 13-18 in Richmond, Virginia. Congratulations, Jim!

Throughout his political career, Cuyahoga County Treasurer Jim Rokakis has been involved in his community by saving neighborhoods. Rokakis' political career began in 1977 when he was elected to the Cleveland City Council during his senior year at Oberlin College. He served on City Council for 20 years until 1997 when he was elected Cuyahoga County Treasurer.

Cuyahoga County has one of the highest foreclosure rates in the state and nationwide. Over the past two years, Cuyahoga County has had nearly 30,000 foreclosures. Rokakis started various programs to create awareness and help home owners such as the Foreclosure Prevention Program, Housing Enhancement Loan Program (HELP) and Expedited Vacant and Neglected Property Foreclosure Program. In Cuyahoga County Rokakis started a new county financing program that would pay the city a higher bond rate than it could get from a private lender. The city would get more money to help fight foreclosures and neglected housing.

Last year, the Ohio General Assembly passed a new law (H.B. 293) which was spearheaded by Rokakis and former State Representative Sally Conway. This innovative legislation provides much needed tax relief to senior citizens who were having difficulty paying their taxes and helps them avoid foreclosure with low-

interest loan programs. Once implemented, the new program will help seniors avoid late payment penalties, delinquent tax interest rates and ultimately foreclosures.

Rokakis has chaired a committee to review the Ohio Housing Finance Agency and has been appointed by Governor Ted Strickland to Ohio's Foreclosure Prevention Task Force to find solutions to the problem of predatory lenders in the state.

CORONERS' CASE CERTIFIED TO OHIO SUPREME COURT; CCAO AND CORSA FILE AMICUS BRIEF

On May 8, 2006 *Albrecht v. Treon* (U.S. District Court Southern District of Ohio, 1:06-cv-00274) was filed by the parents of a deceased child, upon whom an autopsy was ordered to be performed by the Clermont County Coroner. The plaintiff claimed that the county coroner took their property without notice when the coroner, as part of the normal course of an autopsy, removed and retained the brain of the deceased for complete examination. Although *Albrecht v. Treon* was filed against the Clermont County Coroner and Commissioners, the plaintiff also issued a subpoena to **every Ohio county coroner**. The subpoena demanded that the coroners produce every autopsy report since 1991 in which any whole organ was retained during an autopsy without notice to the deceased's next of kin. The issuance of subpoenas marked the first step toward filing a class action suit that would include every Ohio county coroner (except Hamilton) seeking recovery of damages for each retained whole organ since 1991.

To assist Coroners in providing a timely response to the subpoenas, the Ohio State Coroners' Association (OSCA), the County Commissioners' Association of Ohio (CCAO) and the County Risk Sharing Authority (CORSAs) retained legal counsel to advise and assist Coroners in complying with the subpoenas while protecting the interests of the coroner and the county.

To that end, a motion was filed with the federal trial court requesting that this state law question be certified to the Ohio Supreme Court. This motion was granted on March 12, 2007.

On June 6, 2007 the Ohio Supreme Court **accepted the certified question** as follows: "Whether the next

of kin of a decedent, upon whom an autopsy has been performed, have a protected right under Ohio law in the decedent's tissues, organs, blood or other body parts that have been removed by the coroner for forensic examination and testing."

On July 20, 2007 **CCAO and CORSA** joined with 65 counties, the Buckeye State Sheriffs Association, the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police, the Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association and the Ohio Society of Pathologists in **filing an amicus brief** urging the Court to answer the certified question with a resounding **NO**. In addition to legal arguments, our brief argues that finding a protected right in every forensic specimen removed during an autopsy would have illogical and far reaching consequences which would be financially disastrous for counties while providing no societal benefit.

The case will be fully briefed and submitted to the Court for oral argument in mid September. For more information, or to receive a copy of our amicus brief which was researched and written by attorneys Jennifer George, David Jennings and Mark Landes of Isaac, Brant, Ledman & Teetor. CCAO contact: Beth Miller, CORSA Claim and Litigation Manager (614) 220-7989, (888) 757-1904, or emiller@ccao.org.

STATE ACTIVITIES

BRIDGING THE GAP OF SERVICES TO OHIO'S DRUG ENDANGERED KIDS

In June, the Drug Endangered Children Subcommittee of Ohio's Workgroup to Address Current and Emerging Drug Trends published a Protocol Tool Kit to assist local communities in protecting and helping children who have been endangered by drugs, particularly methamphetamine.

The workgroup created the Tool Kit in response to the rapid growth of meth laboratories in Ohio over the past several years.

According to the Bureau of Criminal Investigation Clandestine Laboratory Unit, 124 documented children were found at meth lab sites in 2005. However, both law enforcement and social services experts agree that many children present in meth labs are significantly underreported. A child's presence at a meth lab results in severe health problems to the

child from exposure to toxic substances as well as deplorable living conditions.

While Ohio's law enforcement effort to combat these labs has been great, the Workgroup created the Tool Kit to further aid in serving these drug endangered children. Among many suggestions, the Workgroup proposes that each local community foster collaboration and partnership between local law enforcement, public safety, child welfare, health care, courts, schools, and social services. Please check out the Tool Kit at <http://www.pcsao.org>. For questions or more information, please contact Beth Dominic, Policy Analyst, at (614) 220-7996 or bdominic@ccao.org, or John Leutz, Senior Policy Analyst, at (614) 220-7994 or jleutz@ccao.org.

FEDERAL ACTIVITIES

PUSH TO REAUTHORIZE CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM

Both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives are considering bills to reauthorize the State Children's Health Insurance Program, or SCHIP. On September 30, 2007, SCHIP will expire, leaving millions of low-income children uninsured. However, Congressional houses are moving forward on proposals to not only reauthorize SCHIP, but also to expand the coverage of the program.

The Senate Finance Committee reported its bill to reauthorize SCHIP with strong bi-partisan support. The Senate version of the bill would give \$35 billion in additional funding over five years, allowing the program to cover more children. The House Ways and Means Committee and the Energy and Commerce Committee both are considering the House version of the bill. The House version would provide an additional \$50 billion in funding over the next five years, for which many health safety net advocates have been pushing, including NACo.

However, both bills face substantial opposition from the White House. Previously, the President had threatened to veto the Senate's version, making it almost certain that the President also would veto the House version.

Please contact your Senators and Representative to

urge them to vote in favor of the widely-supported SCHIP reauthorization measures.

For additional information or questions, please contact Beth Dominic, CCAO Policy Analyst, at (614) 220-7996 or bdominic@ccao.org.

FY 2007 HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM: OHIO RECEIVES \$46,320,809

The 2007 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) will award more than \$1.6 billion to enhance the ability of states, territories and urban areas to prepare for, prevent and respond to terrorist attacks and other major disasters. HSGP funds can be used for preparedness planning, equipment acquisition, training, exercises, management and administration, in order to obtain resources that are critical to building and sustaining capabilities that are aligned with the Interim National Preparedness Goal and respective State and Urban Area Homeland Security Strategies.

Ohio received notification of its fiscal year 2007 allocations on July 18. It was an overall 12 percent increase from 2006. Total: \$46,320,809 State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSP): \$16,830,000 - 33 percent increase; Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program (LETPP): \$12,020,000 - 30.9 percent increase; Urban Area Security Initiative Allocations (UASI) - 12.9 percent increase: Cincinnati: \$5,240,000, Cleveland: \$5,520,000, Columbus: \$4,720,000. Other Grants Programs: \$1,990,809 (Metropolitan Medical Response System [MMRS]- \$1,548,871); (Citizen Corps Grant Program [CCP] - \$441,938). For the complete report, visit www.ojp.usdoj.gov

OVERHALL PLAN FOR VOTE SYSTEM WILL BE DELAYED

Democratic leaders in the U.S. House and Senate are slowing their drive to revamp the nation's voting systems. Under pressure from state and local officials, as well as from lobbyists for the disabled, House leaders now advocate putting off the most sweeping changes until 2012, four years later than planned. Overhauling voting systems before next year's presidential election had once been a top Democratic priority, primarily to allow greater accountability and be certain that all votes registered

on computerized touch-screen systems were counted. But state and local elections officials told Congress they could not make the changes in time for the balloting in November 2008, particularly in light of the extra workload involved in preparing for next year's much-earlier presidential primary season.

Confronted by similar concerns, Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), chair of the Senate Rules Committee and sponsor of the Ballot Integrity Act (S. 1487), decided against seeking any major changes in voting equipment before 2010. Senate Democrats say that stretching out the timetable could increase their chances to win enough Republican support to put the changes into law.

House Democratic officials say they are now working on compromise legislation that could allow hundreds of counties in 20 states to simply add tiny, cash-register-style printers to their touch-screen machines for the 2008 and 2010 elections, while waiting for manufacturers to develop better technology by 2012. House officials said the compromise would ensure that all voting machines nationwide would have some kind of paper trail in 2008 through which voters could verify that their ballots were properly recorded and that could be used in recounts. The House leadership is negotiating with Representative Rush D. Holt (D-NJ), the bill's original sponsor, over the details of the compromise. If a deal is reached soon, the House could vote on the bill within two weeks.

The proposed legislation is the second effort by Congress to fix the nation's voting system since the bitter fights over hanging punch-card chads in Florida. Under the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), passed in 2002, the federal government has spent more than \$3 billion to help states and counties modernize their voting systems, installing thousands of touch-screen and other machines. But since then, growing concerns about the reliability and the security of some of the machines had led to widespread calls for another overhaul.

State and local election officials have argued that it is already too late to make such significant changes without creating chaos next year. Advocates for the blind and the disabled also threatened to oppose the bill if it went too far in discouraging the use of touch-screen machines before the optical scanners were

made easier for them to use. House officials want to avoid another buying spree if better equipment might be available later.

To guard against computer bugs, both bills also would require manufacturers to make the software code that runs their machines available to government authorities, though neither bill would require that it be released publicly, as some computer experts have advocated. In addition, the House bill would authorize \$1 billion in additional spending to help pay for the equipment upgrades, while the Senate version calls for \$600 million.

Votes can also be lost on the optical-scan systems, and election officials say it can be cumbersome to use them in large cities where ballots have to be printed in many languages. But if scanners can be made easier for the disabled to use, many computer experts believe they could eventually dominate the voting landscape. Source: *New York Times*, July 20, 2007

OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

ATTORNEY GENERAL OFFERS OPINIONS ON COUNTY COMMISSIONER/OUTSIDE OFFICE COMPATIBILITY; HOMESTEAD TAX EXEMPTION

The Office of Attorney General Marc Dann has offered two opinions this week advising on 1) Calculation and notification procedures regarding the homestead exemption for persons holding a "life estate" in property (2007-021), and 2) the compatibility issues of a County Commissioner holding a position as a member of a board of trustees of a community college district (2007-020).

Regarding the first opinion, generally a person who owns a life estate in a homestead is an owner of a homestead for purposes of R.C. 323.152 and further the county auditor is not required to notify anyone other than the life estate owner who applies for the homestead reduction should the auditor deny the owners reduction request.

As to the second request, the positions of county commissioner and member of the board of trustees of a community college district composed of nine members are incompatible as a public officer is

disqualified from serving on a board or commission to which one makes appointments unless otherwise provided by statute. Questions regarding the compatibility of numerous public offices has garnered numerous opinions throughout the years; for further information as to the compatibility of public offices, please follow the following link on attorney general's website which contains an index of opinions regarding public office compatibilities: www.ag.state.oh.us

NACo ACTIVITIES

INDOOR AIR QUALITY RESOURCES WANTED

The National Association of Counties (NACo) is in the process of compiling a CD of indoor air quality (IAQ) resources in the following five issue areas: asthma, mold, radon, secondhand smoke (ETS), and Tools for Schools (may include info about asthma, mold, etc.). The CDs will be made available to county governments later this year.

NACo would like to highlight the work being done and give other counties access to your valuable experiences and tools. Resource types include research/publications, best practices/case studies, ordinances, and media/public outreach. Examples of documents include: county ordinances, educational materials, PSAs (digital video or audio), images, case studies, children's materials, Spanish language materials, useful websites, etc. **Deadline: July 31, 2007.**

If you have any questions about the types of acceptable materials, please contact: Alison Abbors, Environmental Intern, National Association of Counties, County Services Department, 25 Massachusetts Avenue NW - Floor 5, Washington, DC 20001, (202) 942-4274, fax (202) 737-0480 or aabbors@naco.org.

CLASSIFIEDS

SENIOR POLICY ANALYST

The Ohio CSEA Directors Association is seeking applications for the newly created position of Sr. Policy Analyst. Primary responsibilities: developing and monitoring policy initiatives at the State and

Federal Levels; participating in and monitoring the progress of assigned work groups of OCDA and joint work groups with ODJFS Offices and other organizations; developing, implementing and coordinating training efforts for County, State and Partners in child support; performing research and developing position papers on child support related issues; maintaining and participating in an ongoing educational and information sharing network for local agencies with a special focus on directors, administrators, supervisors, case managers and other CSEA Staff. Persons filling this position must possess excellent written and verbal communication skills, analytical skills, be energetic and willing to work with others.

The preferred minimum requirements of a Bachelor's Degree and at least five years of experience in child support or a demonstrated combination of education and experience that would meet the primary responsibilities of the position. The position is full time and would be stationed at the office in Columbus. Salary would be commensurate with experience. Other benefits are also offered.

The posting will remain in effect until filled. To apply, please send a cover letter, resume and writing sample to the attention of Kim Newsom Bridges, Director By mail to Ohio CSEA Directors Association, 37 W. Broad Street, Suite 840, Columbus, Ohio 43215, or e-mail to Christy@ocda.us, fax to 614-228-5554. EOE

SCATS TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

The Stark County Regional Planning Commission/Stark County Area Transportation Study is accepting applications for a SCATS Technical Director. This is an advanced professional position in transportation planning and engineering.

Responsible for the design and supervision of all technical elements of the transportation planning program. Ability to prepare and/or supervise the preparation of transportation planning documents, planning goals, policies and objectives is required. Strong computer, communication, problem-solving skills, and familiarity with ODOT and FHWA transportation planning programs are required.

Qualifications: Bachelor's or Master's degree in civil engineering, planning or a related field. A minimum of five to seven years work-related experience, or equivalent combination of education and experience.

Salary range \$55,000-\$85,000. 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. Deadline 12:00 noon- **Wednesday, August 22, 2007.**

EMA/911 DEPUTY DIRECTOR

The Stark County Emergency Management Agency is seeking a full-time EMA/911 Deputy Director.

Basic Qualifications: Knowledge of the county's Emergency Management Agency, Homeland Security Program, 9-1-1 System, Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), Hazardous Materials (Hazmat), Emergency Response Team and familiarity with the urban, suburban and rural areas of the county, ability to interact with city and local officials that are involved with public safety and emergency planning of their prospective districts.

Preferred completion of post secondary education in emergency management or other related area, at least two years experience working with public safety dispatching personnel and completion of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Professional Development Course (PDS). Must be competent in the operation of office machines and computer software programs such as word processing, database and program specific software, good communications/public relations skills.

Job Responsibilities: Assists the Director in coordinating the county's Emergency Management Agency, Homeland Security Program, 9-1-1 Call Center, Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Team (Hazmat) and all other duties as required. Required to be on-call and available by pager at all times.

Application deadline: Resumes must be received by 3:00 p.m. by EMA on **August 3, 2007.** Mail to: Stark County EMA, Attn: Deputy Director, 4500 Atlantic Blvd

N.E., Canton, OH 44705. EOE

COUNTY JOB & FAMILY SERVICES DIRECTOR

The Board of Greene County Commissioners seeks a Director to serve Greene County, population 147,886. This is an unclassified, fiduciary position that directs and supervises a staff of 127 in an agency that has combined the Child Support Enforcement Agency, Workforce Development-WIA, Income Maintenance, Social Services and Business divisions. Position requires experience in overall operation of a comprehensive county job and family services agency in coordination with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and in compliance with federal and state guidelines, budget and fiscal management, staff development, and management and supervision of a large agency.

The minimum qualifications include a Bachelor's degree in social services, public administration, business administration or a related field with seven years of progressively responsible managerial experience, including two years of management, or an equivalent combination of education & experience, and a valid Ohio driver's license.

Salary commensurate with experience and qualifications. Applications will be accepted through **August 9, 2007**, at 4:00 PM at the Greene County Personnel Department, 105 East Market Street, Xenia, Ohio 45385. (937)562-5004. Applications can be printed from www.co.greene.oh.us. EOE/M/F/D

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES MANAGER

Green County seeks an environmental services manager to serve as District Director for Greene County's Solid Waste Management District. Responsible for managing the day to day operations of a variety of functional areas or programs and supervises management staff within the division. The Manager sets priorities & assigns tasks accordingly; monitors performance and work quality of subordinates; interviews prospective employees; makes recommendations for hiring, disciplinary actions & termination; recommends employee requests for leave; assesses employee training needs & arranges necessary training sessions. The

incumbent will develop long-term operational strategies for consistent & effective operations of plants; prepare & monitor division budget, defining present & future needs; obtain bids from vendors & ensures that proposed purchases meet budgetary constraints. The Manager ensures that the division is operating in compliance with federal, state & local laws, rules & regulations; submits various reports to superiors within the Sanitary Engineering Department; and performs other similar duties as assigned by the Senior Manager and Sanitary Engineer.

Minimum qualifications: Bachelor's degree Environmental Sciences or a closely related field with five years of progressively responsible experience; or, an equivalent combination of education and experience sufficient to successfully perform the essential duties of the position. A valid Ohio driver's license required.

Applications will be accepted through **August 9, 2007**, at 4:00 p.m. at the Greene County Personnel Department, 105 East Market Street, Xenia, Ohio 45385. (937)562-5004. Applications can be printed from www.co.greene.oh.us. Salary: \$21.52-\$30.67/hr. EOE/M/F/D

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. Ads will also be published on the CCAO website at www.ccao.org. When submitting your ad to CCAO please provide a link to the job posting online and a deadline. Please provide a 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, by e-mail mjneiman@ccao.org.