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County Information and Data Service

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DATES TO REMEMBER

OCTOBER, 2007	NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH
OCTOBER 3, 2007	CCAOSC NATURAL GAS PROGRAM ANNUAL MEETING, CCAO OFFICES (COLUMBUS)
OCTOBER 26, 2007	CCC/ESAO REGIONAL MEETING, DEPARTMENT OF SANITARY ENGINEERING, GREENE COUNTY (XENIA)
OCTOBER 29, 2007	CCAO PERSONNEL AND LABOR RELATIONS COMMITTEE, CCAO OFFICES, FRANKLIN COUNTY (COLUMBUS)
DECEMBER 2-5, 2007	CCAO WINTER CONFERENCE, HYATT REGENCY, FRANKLIN COUNTY (COLUMBUS)

LEGISLATIVE ALERT

MODEL PUBLIC RECORDS POLICY

This week, each Board of County Commissioners, Summit County Executive and County Council received the CCAO Model Public Records Policy. As you are aware, many of the provisions of House Bill 9 (126th General Assembly, Oelslager R- North Canton) are effective September 29, 2007. The legislation requires local governments to adopt public records policies, update their record retention schedules, create public records posters, and also further establish public records training requirements of local elected officials or their designees.

This manual is CCAO's attempt to provide county officials with a public records policy that is user-friendly for potential practitioners as well as the public. It is, of course, a careful balance between an all-

inclusive guide to public records law, including all known exemptions and a workable guide utilizing layman's terms. As the guide mentions, local governments and agencies will want to work with their county prosecutor to familiarize themselves with exemptions and case law that are applicable to the records they maintain.

Of course, training requirements play an extremely large role in fulfilling the requirements of HB 9. All elected officials or their appropriate designees are required to attend public records training approved by the Attorney General. Elected officials may designate anyone to attend the training on their behalf. CCAO recommends doing so by resolution for audit purposes. The training must be for three hours every term of office for which the elected official was appointed or elected to the public office. The Attorney General's office has begun posting times and locations for such training seminars on their

website: <http://www.ag.state.oh.us>. Please note that on December 5, the AG's office will provide training at the CCAO/CEAO Winter Conference at 9:00 a.m. at the Hyatt Regency, 350 North High Street, in Columbus.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

REQUESTS TO CCAO NOMINATING COMMITTEE DUE NOVEMBER 1

Several weeks ago, Lenny Eliason, Athens County Commissioner and CCAO Nominating Committee Chair, sent each county commissioner a memo detailing CCAO nominating procedures for 2007.

The Committee will nominate individuals for the offices of president, first vice president, second vice president, secretary and treasurer. It will also recommend eight members to serve two-year terms on the CCAO Board in 2008 and 2009.

The eight members whose terms to the Board expire this year include: Sam Bassitt (Allen), Terry Haworth (Darke), Edward Kuenzli (Wyandot), Kerry Metzger (Tuscarawas), Otto Nicely (Defiance), Ben Nutter (Seneca), Gary Starner (Hocking), and Roger Tackett (Clark).

The nine members appointed by President Jackson whose one year terms to the Board expire at the end of this year include: Mike Adelman (Huron), Mike Crabtree (Scioto), Martin Harmon (Paulding), Nick Kostandaras (Summit), Debbie Lieberman (Montgomery), Cheryl Noah (Wayne), Bob Peterson (Fayette), Daniel Polivka (Trumbull), and Bill Young (Geauga).

Submit the CCAO Nominating Committee Request Form and Candidate Questionnaire must be submitted by November 1, 2007 to:

1. Lenny Eliason, Athens County Commissioner, 15 South Court Street, Athens, OH 45701 or email at leliason@athenscountygovernment.com
2. A copy should also be sent to: CCAO, 37 West Broad Street, Suite 650, Columbus, OH 43215,

ATTN: Kathy Dillon - Nominating Committee or email at kathydillon@ccao.org. Additional forms may be obtained by contacting Kathy Dillon at (614) 221/5627 or on the CCAO Web Page at www.ccao.org.

CCAO SERVICE CORPORATION PROGRAM UPDATE

FIRST COMMUNICATIONS ASSIGNS DeVINCENT TO CCAOSC LONG DISTANCE PROGRAM

David T. DeVincent has been assigned by First Communications to be the account executive for the CCAO Service Corporation (CCAOSC) Long Distance Phone Program. The CCAOSC endorsed program offers deep discounts for regular long distance calling. First Communications administers the program for the CCAO Service Corporation. DeVincent will be calling on counties about the long distance program.

Many counties have found that they can save 30-40 percent on long distance calls through this program. In addition to the savings, counties also benefit from services such as six second incremental billings, accounting codes, fiber optic technology, conference calling, calling cards and 1-800 service. At the present time, a majority of Ohio counties participate in this cost saving program.

For more information about this exclusive long distance plan please contact: David T. DeVincent, Account Executive, First Communications, 3340 West Market Street, Akron, OH 44333, (330) 835-2602 or (866) 261-0259 or fax (888) 261-4329 or Tom Strup, CCAO Deputy Director of Operations, at (614) 220-7978 or (888) 757-1904.

IN MEMORIAM

ROGER W. TRACY

Roger Wahlquist Tracy, a member of the State Personnel Board of Review and a former member of the Ohio House of Representatives, State Tax Commissioner, Franklin County Commissioner, Franklin County Auditor, and State Superintendent of Savings & Loan Association died on Wednesday,

September 27 after a long battle with cancer. It was his 69th birthday.

Tracy, a Miami University graduate who earned a law degree from the Ohio State University College of Law in 1963, had been a member of the State Personnel Board of Review since 1999. He served as State Superintendent of Savings & Loan Associations from 1975-1978; Franklin County Auditor from 1979-1985; and a Franklin County Commissioner from 1985-1989. He served as State Tax Commissioner from 1991-1999 during the administration of former Gov. George Voinovich. CCAO extends sympathy to the Tracy family.

FEDERAL ACTIVITIES

FHA MODERNIZATION BILL APPROVED

The U.S. House of Representatives approved H.R. 1852, the Expanding American Homeownership Act last week on a 348-72 vote. The purpose of the Act is to provide flexibility to the FHA to modernize its operations and functions. Specifically, the Act is designed to expand mortgage insurance opportunities for low and moderate income homebuyers and to adjust the loan limits for the single family mortgage insurance program as a result of rising home prices.

Late last month, the Administration called upon Congress to pass FHA modernization legislation as a response to the growing mortgage finance problem. The bill adopted last week allows the FHA to insure mortgages up to 125 per cent of the median area home price. The bill also includes language creating an affordable housing trust fund program, contingent upon passage of legislation creating the fund that is expected to be considered by the House next month.

The Administration opposes provisions in H.R. 1852 that create the affordable housing trust fund program, and also supports lower loan limits for mortgages FHA would insure. Companion legislation was passed by the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs this week but has yet to be scheduled for floor consideration. (Contact: Cassandra Duhaney, NACo Associate Legislative Director, (202) 942-4204 or cduhaney@naco.org)

HOMELESS ASSISTANCE REAUTHORIZATION BILL APPROVED

The Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee marked up and passed S. 1518, the Community Partnership to End Homelessness Act, last week. The bill reauthorizes and amends HUD's homeless assistance programs by seeking to make the programs more flexible, performance based and accountable. The bill consolidates HUD's three main homeless assistance programs – the Supportive Housing Program, the Shelter Plus Care Program, and the Moderate Rehabilitation/Single Room Occupancy Program – into one competitive grant program, the Community Homeless Assistance Program. Language in the legislation significantly expands the definition of homeless to serve more families, and also establishes an Emergency Solutions Grant Program to help prevent homelessness and stabilize families with precarious housing situations. The program authorizes up to \$2.2 billion for FY 2008, including \$24 million to research how to end family homelessness. (Contact: Cassandra Duhaney, NACo Associate Legislative Director, (202) 942-4204 or cduhaney@naco.org)

MENTAL HEALTH PARITY BILL ADVANCES

On Wednesday, September 26, The House Ways and Means Committee voted 27-13 to approve HR 1424 - The Paul Wellston Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act that would require most health insurers to provide equal levels of coverage for physical and mental illnesses. The Act named for the late senator who advocated for the issue, would take effect on January 1, 2008.

Before the vote, committee Republicans proposed and withdrew several amendments that would have made the legislation more similar to a companion bill (S 558) passed last month by the Senate. The House bill includes provisions not included in the Senate legislation, such as a broader definition of medical conditions that insurers would have to cover. In addition, the Senate bill would take effect one year after the legislation becomes law, rather than on January 1.

The Senate bill has the support of health insurers, but

the House version would provide more protection for individuals with mental illnesses. The House bill, which will move to the House Energy and Commerce Committee for consideration before a floor vote, likely will pass, but the final legislation likely will include the language of the Senate bill.

NACo and the National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors (NACBHD) support mental health parity legislation. (Contact: Paul Beddoe, NACo Associate Legislative Director, (202) 942-4234 or pbeddoe@naco.org)

HOUSE PASSES FEDERAL SCHIP BILL; ON TO THE SENATE

On Tuesday, 17 members of Ohio's congressional delegation voted in favor legislation (H.R. 976) that would expand the state children's health insurance program ("SCHIP"). Among several other things, the bill would increase federal SCHIP funding by \$35 billion.

A majority of House GOP members from Ohio voted in favor of the bill: Reps. Dave Hobson (Dist. 7-Springfield), Steven LaTourette (Dist. 14-Painesville), Deborah Pryce (Dist. 15-Columbus), Ralph Regula (Dist. 16-Canton), Patrick Tiberi (Dist. 12-Galena), and Michael Turner (Dist. 3-Dayton). The only Ohio Democrat opposed to the legislation was Rep. Dennis Kucinich (Dist. 10-Cleveland), citing the bill's lack of coverage of legal immigrant children as his reasoning. The Ohio Republican congressional members opposed to the bill were Reps. John Boehner (Dist. 8-West Chester), Steve Chabot (Dist. 1-Cincinnati), Jim Jordan (Dist. 4-Urbana), and Jean Schmidt (Dist. 2-Loveland).

The Senate is likely to pass the legislation, seeing as though they passed very similar legislation earlier this year. However, Senator Voinovich has not yet committed to support the legislation.

President Bush still threatens to veto any bill that increases SCHIP funding by more than \$5 billion. The President explained that he does not believe funding above that level supports the intent of the

original children's health insurance program (to cover the neediest children).

While the earlier legislation passed the Senate by a veto-proof margin, H.R. 976 did not pass the House as safely. The bill passed the House 265 to 159, but to override the President's veto, the House needs 390 votes.

MONROE COUNTY RECEIVES COMMUNITY FACILITY GRANT

U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns announced the award of \$9.2 million in Community Facilities grants to improve public safety, health care and educational services in 30 states and the Western Pacific. Community Facilities grants help finance essential public services in rural areas, such as schools, libraries, child care, hospitals, fire and rescue stations, police stations and community centers. Part of the money is being awarded under the Economic Impact Initiative grants program, which is targeted to rural communities with extreme unemployment and severe economic depression.

Monroe County will receive \$39,000 towards the purchase of an emergency response system. In addition, three villages in Ohio will also receive funding towards projects. Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting their website at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

NO EXTENSION FOR THE 2002 FARM BILL

It appears that Congress will not be asking for an extension of the 2002 Farm Bill before it expires on September 30. There may be certain funding programs that need to be extended before the expiration date but a full extension is not necessary according to House Ag Chairman Peterson's staff. Senate Finance Chairman Baucus and Senate Ag Chairman Harkin may hold a mark-up before the Columbus Day recess in which some of these programs will be extended. The NACo led Campaign for a Renewed Rural Development coalition together with Senator Harkin is looking to acquire money for rural development programs from the House and

Senate Agriculture, Appropriations and Finance Committees, but it appears the Finance Committee seems to be more focused on providing monies for a disaster fund. Please contact your Senators and ask that at least \$2 billion be included for rural development funding in the 2007 Farm Bill. (Contact: Jennifer Wilson, NACo Associative Legislative Director, (202) 942-4230 or jwilson@naco.org)

NACo ACTIVITIES

COUNTY CLIMATE PROTECTION FORUM

Over 100 individuals participated in NACo's first-ever County Climate Protection Forum held last week in Washington, D.C. The two-day dialogue and peer-to-peer networking forum provided county officials and staff from across the country the opportunity to discuss and learn best practices, tools and resources to assist them in developing and implementing successful climate change programs at home.

To help continue and broaden the county dialogue on climate protection, an online discussion forum has been established for counties to ask questions, discuss progress, and suggest ideas to others. Begin interacting with counties across the country today at www.naco.org/climatediscussion.

Additional information on NACo's County Climate Protection Program and PowerPoint presentations from the County Climate Protection Forum are available at www.naco.org/climateprotection.

For more information about the program, please contact Kelly Zonderwyck, Senior Community Services Associate and Affiliate Services Coordinator, National Association of Counties, 25 Massachusetts Avenue NW - Floor 5, Washington, DC 20001, (202) 942-4224 or fax (202) 737-0480 or kzonderwyck@naco.org.

CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS/SEMINARS

ALGA REGIONAL TRAINING

The Association of Local Government Auditors (ALGA) will conduct a Regional Training on October 22-24, 2007 at the Sheraton Four Points, 3180 West

Market Street, in Summit County (Akron). The Summit County Internal Audit Department is a co-sponsor of the event.

Topics: Performance Auditing, Fraud Investigation for Government Auditors, IT Auditing Workshop, and Assessing the Reliability and Relevance of Performance Information.

Registration options: Day One - \$150 ALGA members or \$175 non-members; Day Two - \$150 ALGA members or \$175 non-members; or Days One and Two - \$255 ALGA members or \$325 non-members. Day Three is open to those attending either day one or two. There is no registration fee associated with day three, but you must be registered and attend one of the first two days in order to attend day three. Space is limited. Each day eight hours of CPE credit is available each day for a total of 24 hours credit if you attend all three days.

For more information please contact Teri Fretz, Business Manager, Summit County Internal Audit Department, 175 South Main Street, Akron, OH 44308, (330) 643-2504, fax (330) 643-8751 or tfretz@summitoh.net. You may register online at www.governmentauditors.org/images/stories/training/Akron_Flyer.doc.

OHIO HAZ MAT TEAMS CONFERENCE

The 8th Annual Haz Mat Technician /Specialist Refresher Training Conference will be held on Saturday, November 3, 2007 at the Solon Community Center, 35000 Portz Parkway (off State Route 91, one mile south of U.S. 422), in Cuyahoga County (Solon).

Conference agenda topics include:

- Highway Cargo Tank Emergency Response
- Break-out sessions:
 - The National Nuclear Security Agency
 - Intermodal Container Emergencies
 - Rapid Risk Assessment Techniques
 - Basic Chemistry for Emergency Response
 - Hazardous Material Case Studies
 - U.S. Coast Guard Strike Team Workshop
 - PUCO Has Mat Enforcement Workshop

The conference is sponsored by the Chagrin/SE

Hazardous Materials Response Team with the support of the Cuyahoga County LEPC and HMEP Grant Funding. There is no cost to attend, but pre-registration is necessary. Register online at: www.ohiohazmatconference.com.

CLASSIFIEDS

DIRECTOR OF JOBS AND FAMILY SERVICES

Under the control and direction of the Board of Mahoning County Commissioners, the Director shall have full charge of the Mahoning County Department of Job and Family Services. The Director is responsible for the planning, implementation, management and evaluation of all services; preparation of the annual department budget, and monitor all expenditures throughout the year. This is an unclassified position.

This position requires at minimum a bachelor's degree in human services, public administration, business administration, or a related field. An ideal candidate will have an advanced degree from an accredited program. Seven to ten years of experience as a department head or assistant of a human services agency is preferred. Must have strong written and verbal skills.

Applicants interested in the above named position must submit a resume and cover letter to the Mahoning County Human Resources Office, 21 West Boardman Street, Youngstown, OH 44503 no later than 4:30 p.m. on Friday, October 26, 2008. For more info go to: www.mahoningcounty.oh.gov/mahoningWeb. EOE

CHIEF BUILDING OFFICIAL

Trumbull County is soliciting resumes for the position of Chief Building Official in the County's Building Inspection Department. The successful candidate will possess the following qualifications: Class 1 License as defined by State of Ohio Building Standards, minimum of five years supervisory experience in a unionized environment, and proven ability to motivate others towards both short and long range goals

This exempt position is considered as senior management and is under the jurisdiction of the Board of Commissioners. Excellent salary with a full array of benefits. Preference will be given to applicants who are certified as a Plans Examiner.

Interested candidates should forward a current resume, with references, no later than **October 31, 2007**, to: Trumbull Co. Human Resources Dept., 160 High Street, N.W., Warren, OH 44481-1090, Attn: Director. EOE