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County Information and Data Service

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DATES TO REMEMBER

NOVEMBER 20, 2007	CCAO PERSONNEL AND LABOR RELATIONS COMMITTEE, CCAO OFFICES, FRANKLIN COUNTY (COLUMBUS)
DECEMBER 2-5, 2007	CCAO/CEAO WINTER CONFERENCE, HYATT REGENCY, FRANKLIN COUNTY (COLUMBUS)
DECEMBER 12, 2007	9-1-1 GOES TO COLUMBUS DAY
MARCH 1-5, 2008	NACo LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE, HILTON WASHINGTON & TOWERS, WASHINGTON, D.C.
MARCH 5, 2008	OHIO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION BREAKFAST, RAYBURN BUILDING - ROOM B369, WASHINGTON, D.C.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

CLARK COUNTY VOTES TO JOIN THE CEBCO PROGRAM

The staff at CCAO is pleased to announce that on Tuesday, October 30, 2007 the Clark County Commissioners voted to join CEBCO, the County Employee Benefit Consortium of Ohio, effective January 1, 2008. With the addition of the of over 1,300 employee lives, CEBCO will have nearly 8,300 county employees in the program. Clark County is the sixteenth county to join the plan. In addition to the counties, the CCAO staff is also part of the CEBCO program. The consortium was created by CCAO to help stabilize the health care costs for the counties. Clark County will join the existing members to help shape and mold the growth and development of this program. Other member counties include: Allen,

Ashtabula, Athens, Butler, Champaign, Darke, Delaware, Geauga, Hardin, Hocking, Logan, Madison, Putnam, Union and Williams. The existing counties in the program have experienced strong network discounts, broad network access, quick turn-around time on claims processing, dedicated customer service, effective plan advocates and consistently low renewals. Counties also maintain autonomy in their choice of plan schedule of benefits, yet keep the plan designs that promote wellness and savings to the pool. Join us in welcoming Clark County to the CEBCO Program!

As with all of the existing CEBCO products, your county can choose any of the stand alone programs separately or in conjunction with any of the other CEBCO offerings include: Medical, Drug, Dental, Life, Employee Assistance Program and Vision Coverage. Harnessing group buying power is a key

benefit of CEBCO. For more information on the CEBCO Program please contact Maggie Neely, Managing Director, Health and Wellness Programs, at (614) 221-5627 x146 or Melissa Bodey, CEBCO Benefits Specialist, x150 or at (888) 757-1904.

HEABERLIN APPOINTED LAWRENCE COUNTY COMMISSIONER

CCAO welcomes Tanner Heaberlin who was recently appointed as Lawrence County Commissioner to fill the unexpired term of the late George Patterson who died on July 30. Heaberlin, a Rock Hill High School history teacher, was sworn into office at the school cafeteria surrounded by freshman students from his World History class. Other students watched from seats a few feet away and the balcony overhead. Heaberlin and his wife, Becky, have two children.

CCAO/CEAO ANNUAL WINTER CONFERENCE AND TRADE SHOW - DECEMBER 2-5

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the 127th CCAO/CEAO Annual Winter Conference and Trade Show to be held December 2-5, 2007 at the Hyatt Regency, 350 North High Street, in Columbus. Register for the conference by November 14 to get the pre-registration discount. Registration materials were mailed in September. Everyone attending the conference must register, even if you are attending meetings only. Government employees may sign up to attend meetings by the day (i.e., Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday). No meals are included with the meetings only registration.

PRELIMINARY AGENDA-For a copy of the most recent agenda go to the article on the front page of our website at www.ccao.org and click on the "read more" button at the end of the article.

SPOUSE/GUEST LUNCHEON AND TOUR-Join the Ohio Herb Education Center (www.ohioherbcenter.org) for "Thyme for Fun in the Kitchen" - an experiential learning activity! Herbs – the source of great culinary delight and confusion. Fresh or dried? How much? How to store? How long do they keep? Discover fun facts about herbs and how to enhance everyday recipes. The luncheon

and program will be held at the Creekside Conference & Event Center located in downtown Gahanna. Following lunch the bus will take spouse/guests to Easton Town Center for an afternoon of shopping.

REGISTRATION-Government employees attending a meeting during the conference are required to register. County officials or employees registering for meetings only packets must register for each day they are attending. The nominal registration fee defrays conference expenses incurred by CCAO/CEAO to hold the conference. No meals are included with the meetings only registration.

ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTION OF 2008 OFFICERS

The CCAO Annual Meeting and election of 2008 officers will be held on Tuesday afternoon, December 4 at 2:15 p.m. The banquet and installation of officers will be held on Tuesday evening.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS-Please make your reservations (\$135 single/double) directly with the Hyatt Regency, 350 North High Street, Columbus, OH 43215, (888) 421-1442 or <http://columbusregency.hyatt.com>. Cut off date: **November 14, 2007.**

STATE ACTIVITIES

PURCHASE OF ELECTED OFFICIAL SERVICE CREDIT

County elected officials recently received a memo from the Ohio Public Employee Retirement System (OPERS) concerning the cost to purchase "elected official" service credit that is scheduled to increase January 1, 2008. To preserve the lower rate for elected official service earned through 2007, members must make a partial payment or submit a payroll deduction authorization form to OPERS prior to December 31, 2007 or within 30 days from the date a cost statement from OPERS is mailed, whichever is later. Call OPERS at (800) 222-7377 to request a cost statement.

If you have already commenced a service purchase for elective service earned prior to 2007, regardless of

the method of payment, the cost to purchase that credit was locked in at the contribution rate at the time you commenced the purchase. Future purchases of elective service credit will be billed at the contribution rate in effect at the time the service was rendered. Cost statements will be provided on request.

Please call OPERS at (800) 222-7377 to request a cost statement and to discuss payment options for this optional purchase. If you have specific questions, or need additional information, please call Tom Sherman, Government Relations Officer, at (614) 222-2924 or Chris Lowe, Legal/Legislative Research Analyst, at (614) 225-1153.

COUNTY ACTIVITIES

LORAIN COUNTY STUDY SAYS JUSTICE SYSTEM COSTS WILL DEplete COUNTY FUNDS

According to a study conducted by the Lorain County Community College - Public Services Institute, criminal justice costs currently take about 60 percent of Lorain County's revenues. Within 20 years criminal justice could cost \$57 million, which is what the county's income is now.

Spending for the sheriff, prosecutor, courts and other justice-related expenses rose by \$11 million in 2000 to more than \$29 million in 2006, while revenues only rose by \$9 million. The study confirmed what County Commissioners Betty Blair, Lori Kokoski and Ted Kalo's had been claiming that state mandates, such as sex offender registration and notification, requirements for holding people in jail to an increase in the stipend for poll workers, cost the county money. Pension and insurance benefits also drain the county's budget, rising from \$3.1 million in 2000 to \$7 million in 2006.

According to the Lorain County Commissioners office, "The state has taken a lot of money out of the county, but they haven't been so generous giving money back." On November 6, county residents will vote on a 0.25 percent sales tax increase, to raise \$7 million in additional revenue for the county.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OPINIONS

No. 2007-035
SYLLABUS:

Summit County, as a charter county under Ohio Const. art. X, § 3, is required to provide for the exercise of all powers vested in, and the performance of all duties imposed upon, counties and county officers by law, including powers and duties set forth in R.C. 319.20 and R.C. 319.201 with regard to the transfer of title and apportionment of taxes upon a change in ownership of real property. A county ordinance empowering Summit County officials to require that, when the State of Ohio (acting through the Ohio Department of Transportation) takes a portion of a landowner's parcel of real property for road purposes, the current owed and estimated property taxes on the landowner's remainder parcel must in all cases be paid before the lot split is approved, would conflict with R.C. 319.20 and R.C. 319.201 and thus exceed the powers given to a charter county.

No. 2007-036
SYLLABUS:

1. Under R.C. 9.03(C), the board of health of a general health district is prohibited from using public funds to publish, distribute, or otherwise communicate information that supports or opposes the passage of a levy or bond issue or to compensate any employee for time spent on any activity to influence the outcome of an election for the passage of a levy or bond issue, but is permitted to use public funds to compensate an employee for attending a public meeting to present information about the health district's finances, activities, and governmental actions in a manner that is not designed to influence the passage of a levy or bond issue, even though the levy or bond issue is discussed or debated at the meeting. Therefore, the board of health of a general health district is not permitted to conduct a campaign to support the passage of a tax levy, but may conduct a program to provide information about the health district's finances, activities, and governmental actions in a manner that is not designed to influence the passage of the levy.

2. The board of health of a general health district may accept donations to support its programs, including programs to provide information about the health district's finances, activities, and governmental actions in a manner that is not designed to influence the passage of a levy.

3. A township may donate public money to the board of health of a general health district only if the township has statutory authority, either express or necessarily implied, to make such a donation. Existing statutes do not provide authority for a township to donate to the board of health of a general health district money to support a program to provide information about the health district's finances, activities, and governmental actions in a manner that is not designed to influence the passage of a levy. Therefore, the board of health of a general health district may not solicit from a township donation for this purpose.

FEDERAL ACTIVITIES

HOUSE MOVES ON NEW SCHIP BILL

On October 25, the House voted 265-142 to pass a new version of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). Democratic leaders made changes to the bill after failing to attract enough Republican votes last week to override President Bush's veto. They added provisions designed to limit enrollment to children from families earning below 300% of the federal poverty level, to prevent enrolling illegal immigrant children, to create incentives for states to enroll children in Medicaid, and to discourage families from dropping private insurance in favor of SCHIP.

However, the changes were not enough to win over any additional Republican votes. The Senate is expected to take up the measure soon, but the White House again has promised a veto. With the short term continuing resolution that extended SCHIP expiring in mid-November, some observers are speculating that a longer term extension may be on the horizon, putting political pressure on Republicans closer to the upcoming elections.

If you have any questions, contact CCAO Policy Analyst Beth Tsvetkoff at (614) 220-7996, (888) 757-1904 or btsvetkoff@ccao.org, or NACo staff member Paul Beddoe at (202) 942-4234 or pbeddoe@naco.org.

SENATE PASSES LABOR-HHS BILL

On October 23, the Senate passed the largest domestic spending bill, the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill (H.R. 3043) by a vote of 75-19. The \$606 billion bill faces a veto because it is well above the President's discretionary spending request. The bill now goes to conference with the House, whose version is almost \$2 billion higher than the Senate bill.

The Senate bill does not include the \$335 million rescission from FY 2007 Workforce Investment Act funds. Opposition to the rescission will be one of NACo's main issues in conference. Ohio's workforce programs would be severely hampered if a rescission to occur. Both bills provide current funding for workforce development programs: \$864 million for Adult Training, \$940 million for Youth Training, and \$1.47 billion for Dislocated Workers. The President had proposed significant cuts in all these programs: \$712 million for Adult Training, \$840.5 million for Youth Training, and \$1.1 billion for Dislocated Workers.

Additionally, the Senate once again included language that would prohibit the Department of Labor from making substantial changes to the local governance structure of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) through the regulatory process. The Department has tried to circumvent current law in the past and take away authority from local WIA boards through administrative action, which NACo has strongly opposed.

One of the amendments adopted on the floor to the bill was an increase of \$10 million to several programs under the Older Americans Act. The breakdown is as follows: National Caregiver Support Program: \$159 million Senate, \$156 million House and FY 2007, \$154 million President's request. Senior Nutrition Programs: \$775 million Senate, \$758 million

House, \$735 million FY 2007, \$711 million President's request. Supportive Services and Senior Centers: \$355 million Senate, \$357 House, \$350 million FY 2007 and President's request. One of the most contentious health issues in conference could be AIDS funding. The Senate struck a provision in the House bill which changes the distribution formulas to provide additional funding to the 10 communities with the most AIDS cases, including a considerable increase for San Francisco – the home district of the Speaker, Nancy Pelosi. Both bills have different funding levels for the programs: over \$2.23 billion in the House, over \$2.17 billion in the Senate, with current funding at \$2.13 billion and the President's request at \$2.15 billion.

Other health program funding differences include: Community Health Centers: \$2.1 billion in the House, \$2.2 billion in the Senate, just under \$2 billion in current funding and the President's request; Mental Health Grants: \$905 million in the House, \$923 million in the Senate, \$883 million in FY 2007, and \$807 million the President's request; Substance Abuse Treatment Grants: \$2.19 billion in the House, \$2.18 in the Senate, \$2.15 billion in FY 2007 and \$2.11 in the President's request.

In human services and education, Low-Income Home Energy Assistance funding is \$2.6 billion in the House nearly \$2.2 billion in the Senate and FY 2007, and \$1.8 billion in the President's request. The House has higher levels than the Senate for Title I Elementary and Secondary Education (\$14.3 billion and \$13.9 billion respectively) and the Senate has higher levels than the House for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (11.2 billion and \$10.9 billion respectively). Both bills once again rejected the elimination of the Community Services Block Grant, with the House providing over \$660 million and the Senate over \$670 million, an increase of \$30 million and \$40 million from FY 2007. (Contacts: Paul Beddoe, NACo Legislative Associate, (health) (202) 942-4234 or pbeddoe@naco.org; Daria Daniel, NACo Legislative Associate, (workforce) (202) 942-4212 or ddaniel@naco.org; and Marilina Sanz, NACo Legislative Associate, (human services and education) (202) 942-4260 or msanz@naco.org).

FARM BILL PASSES SENATE PANEL

Last Thursday, after months of negotiations, the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee passed by an overwhelming majority the 2007 Farm Bill; the Food and Energy Security Act. The five year, \$288 billion piece of legislation is expected to reach the Senate floor sometime next week.

One of NACo's priorities in this bill is the Rural Development title. This title provides \$400 million in budget authority for several initiatives that will enhance life in rural communities. Mandatory funding was included for community facilities such as day care centers, rural hospitals, libraries, etc. The title enhances rural broadband initiatives and creates two new programs to assist rural communities with planning grants and provide technical assistance for entrepreneurs. Mandatory funding is also provided to help alleviate the current waste water backlog.

The nutrition title expands the food stamp program in several ways. It increases the standard to \$140 per family and indexes it for inflation. The dependent and child care deduction would increase to \$175 a month for dependent care and \$200 a month for children under age two. The current asset limit, which is \$2,000 or \$3,000 households with elderly or disabled members, would be indexed for inflation at \$100 increments. IRAs and education savings accounts would be exempt from the asset limit; 401(k) accounts are already exempt. The minimum monthly benefit would increase from \$10 to \$12 and would be indexed for inflation. The time-limit for single unemployed adults would change from three months of eligibility out of every 36 months to six months of eligibility out of every 36 months, but states would have the option to keep the three month eligibility.

In addition to these and other food stamp changes, the nutrition title increases the National School Lunch Act's Food and Vegetable Program so that each state and the District of Columbia is entitled to a minimum grant of one percent of the total funds. (Contacts: Ed Rosado, NACo Legislative Associate, (202) 942-4271 or erosado@naco.org and Marilina Sanz, (202) 942-4260 or msanz@naco.org)

BIDEN CRIME PACKAGE SEEKS TO LOWER RECIDIVISM AND CREATES NATIONAL COMMISSION TO DIVERT THE MENTALLY ILL

On October 24, Senator Joseph R. Biden, Jr. (D-Del.), chairman of the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime and Drugs included in his crime package a \$1.08 billion title dedicated to reducing recidivism in county jails and state prisons. The title also creates a National Commission to design intergovernmental strategies for diverting the non-violent mentally ill from jail.

The recidivism subtitle, the Enhanced Second Chance Act of 2007 seeks to break the cycle of recidivism by ensuring that offenders leaving county jails and state prisons have the skills (education and vocational training), treatment (mental health and substance abuse), resources (housing and job placement), and community support (counseling services) to reenter their communities as productive members of society, and authorizes \$391.5 million for FY 2008-2009 and an additional \$60 million for substance abuse treatment programs for FY 2010-2012, for a total of \$1.083 billion.

Subtitle B creates A Commission to study Alternatives to Incarceration of Non-violent Mentally Ill Offenders Act of 2007;

- Establishes a commission including representatives from general purpose government to design and develop intergovernmental strategies for diverting the non-violent mentally ill from county jails and state prisons.
- Authorizes \$3 million for FY 2008-2009, for a total of \$6 million.

(Contact: Donald Murray, NACo Associate Legislative Director, at (202) 942-4239 or dmurray@naco.org)

NACo ACTIVITIES

NACo PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION PROJECT

NACo's 2008 Presidential Election Project is off to a great start. But we must continue to raise the profile of county officials and the importance of restoring the county-federal partnership and we can't do it without help from your county. Here's how you can participate:

- 1) **Attend events.** Sign up with the campaigns to receive email alerts when they're coming to your area. As we get closer to the Primaries and the calendar is more compressed, the campaigns begin to set their events only 48-72 hours in advance. By being on the email list, you'll be the first to know when they're in your county. You can also find a daily listing of presidential events at www.nacoblog.blogspot.com.
- 2) **Join the Restore the Partnership Campaign.** NACo has brochures and buttons for any of your interactions with the presidential candidates or their staff. To request materials, please contact Kim Rogers at krogers@naco.org.
- 3) **Endorse.** And let NACo know! Fill out the NACo Survey at www.naco.org/presidential. **County officials who fill out this survey and support a specific candidate need to be aware that their name will be published on the blog as supporting their preferred candidate.**
- 4) **Run for Delegate.** If you are already supporting a candidate, talk to their staff about being on the slate. If not, you can still work with your local party. For details on delegate selection, contact Kim Rogers at (202) 942-4237.
- 5) **Blog.** You can contribute to NACo's Blog and post on blogs around the internet community. This is a great way to educate the public about county issues and increase awareness. The blog is located at www.nacoblog.blogspot.com.
- 6) **Serve as a County Expert for the campaigns.** Several campaigns have asked NACo to connect them to county officials who can comment on policy

matters ranging from rural development to health care to urban infrastructure. Let Kim Rogers know if you are willing to serve on NACo's "Experts Committee" and what issue you would like to be contacted about.

For more information on the project, you can contact Kim Rogers at (202) 942-4237 or email krogers@naco.org.

CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS

PORT AND VESSEL SECURITY FOR PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICIALS

The University of Findlay - Center for Terrorism Preparedness will present a one-day course on "Port and Vessel Security for Public Safety Officials" at two locations:

- November 13, 2007 - 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. - Emergency Response Training Center, 5000 Fostoria Road, Findlay, OH
- December 13, 2007 - 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. - Marshall Community and Technical College, Inland Waterways Academy, 4200 Ohio River, Huntington, WV

This course has been developed to introduce rural and small agency first responders to the maritime security requirements of the high-risk, regulated facilities in their jurisdictions on Lake Erie and the Ohio River. In emergency situations, regulated facilities have federally-mandated security and reporting procedures that must be followed. Management of an incident will be more efficient when emergency responders have a good working knowledge of maritime security principles and procedures. This is a pilot course in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) approval process so students will have a large participatory role assisting in course refinement.

Topics covered in this course include:

- Characteristics of the U.S. Maritime Transportation System - focusing on the rural component
- Threats to the U.S. Maritime Transportation System
- Maritime regulations

- Security levels
- Maritime environment safety issues
- Sensitive security information - responder considerations
- Transportation Worker Identity Credential (TWIC) response issues for local law enforcement
- Homeport and the Area Maritime Security Committee - liaison areas

There is no charge to attend. For more information about the course please contact: Laurie Thomas, The Center for Terrorism Preparedness, The University of Findlay, 1000 North Main Street, Findlay, OH 45840, (419) 732-2520, (800) 521-1292 or lthomas@findlay.edu.

POWER OF PLACE: HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES ON OHIO AS A POLITICAL BATTLEGROUND

Ohio next year will once again be the center of the political universe during the presidential contest. Has Ohio always been an important political state? What is it about Ohio that makes it politically competitive? Is Ohio's political future more likely red, blue or some other color?

Join the Ohio Historical Society (OHS), Ohio Humanities Council and Buckeye Council for History Education on November 15, 2007 at 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. for "Power of Place: Historical Perspectives on Ohio as a Political Battleground." Panelists Herb Asher of The Ohio State University, Miami University History Professor Andrew Cayton, State Senator Ray Miller (Dist. 15-Columbus) and former Democratic National Committee Chairman David Wilhelm will participate in a discussion of Ohio's historic place as a political battleground. Gail Hogan, producer and host of *Showcase Columbus*, will moderate the discussion. Explore Ohio's "Red State/Blue State" history and a discussion of Ohio's political future. A brief reception will follow the panel discussion.

Event admission: \$5-students, \$10-OHS member, \$15-non-members. Reservation deadline: November 12. Payments will be accepted at the door. There is no charge for parking. For more information and to RSVP please contact the Ohio Historical Society at

(614) 297-2355 or (800) 686-1541
govrelations@ohiohistory.org. For more information
about the Ohio Historical Society go to
www.ohiohistory.org.

CLASSIFIED

NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATOR

The Belmont County Commissioners are seeking a Licensed Nursing Home Administrator for the County Home - Park Health Center. This is a 100 bed skilled and intermediate care facility (99 bed certified Medicaid/Medicare and 1 County Home bed).

The position, under the general direction of the Board of Belmont County Commissioners, is responsible for the complete control of the nursing home. This includes planning, implementation, management and evaluation of all services; financial budgeting and expenditures.

This position requires a Licensed Nursing Home Administrator in the State of Ohio; minimum a bachelor's degree in Health Care Administration or similar. Must have strong written and verbal skills. Experience preferred.

Applicants interested in the above named position must submit a resume and cover letter to the Board of Belmont County Commissioners, 101 Main St., St. Clairsville, OH 43950 or fax to (740) 699-2156 no later than **November 9, 2007**. EOE

CHILD SUPPORT STAFF ATTORNEY

The Fairfield County Job and Family Services, Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA) seeks a self-starter to fill an entry-level position as a full-time Staff Attorney/Special Assistant Prosecutor. Responsibilities will include representing the CSEA in civil and criminal prosecutions, administrative and civil establishment of paternity, establishment of support orders and modifications, and preparation of motions, briefs and other legal documents. Readiness for a substantial caseload and excellent people skills are a must. The position involves a degree of professional autonomy in handling cases. Experience in child

support issues and/or litigation is a plus. Applicants must be admitted to the Ohio Bar and be in good standing. Minimum annual salary is \$38,792. Applicants should submit a resume, cover letter, civil service application, and a writing sample to Human Resource Director, 239 West Main Street, Lancaster, OH 43130 by **November 16, 2007**. Applications can be found on-line at <http://www.state.oh.us/das/dhr/jobapp.html>.