



CIDS

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 3, 2007	CCAO BOARD OF TRUSTEES, HYATT REGENCY, 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 B-369, WASHINGTON, D.C.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

STRICKLAND, BRUNNER, CORDRAY, DANN & GENERAL ASSEMBLY LEADERS TO ADDRESS CCAO/CEAO ANNUAL WINTER CONFERENCE

CCAO/CEAO is pleased to announce that **Governor Ted Strickland** will address the Opening General Session on Monday, December 3 at 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. Also, speaking on a panel at the Opening General Session will be **Senate President Bill Harris**, **Senate Minority Leader Teresa Feder**, and **House Speaker Jon Husted**.

Ohio Attorney General Marc Dann will be speaking at a session on "Managing E-mail: Electronic Public Records Retention" on Monday, December 3 and **Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner** will be speaking at an "Elections Update" session on Tuesday, December 4. **State Treasurer Richard Cordray** will speak at the luncheon on Tuesday, December 4 on the "Statewide Parcel Program and Spatial Technology."

CCAO/CEAO and AFFILIATE AGENDAS - For a copy of the most recent CCAO, CEAO and affiliate agendas go to the conference article located on the front page of our website at www.ccao.org and click on the "read more" button.

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 on Monday, December 3. 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.

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.

CARROLL COUNTY JOINS THE CEBCO PROGRAM

The staff at CCAO is pleased to announce that on Thursday, November 8, 2007 the Carroll County Commissioners voted to join CEBCO, the County Employee Benefit Consortium of Ohio effective January 1, 2008. With the addition of the 288 employee lives, CEBCO will have nearly 8,600 county employees in the program. Carroll County is the 17th 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. Carroll 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, Clark, 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 Carroll 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 of Health and Wellness Programs, at (614) 221-5627 x146 or Melissa Bodey, CEBCO Benefits Specialist, x150 or (888) 757-1904.

CAB 2007-04: NEW OHIO MINIMUM WAGE AND POLLWORKER PAY

Enclosed with this issue of CIDS for county commissioners is the County Advisory Bulletin (CAB) 2007-04 explaining Ohio's new minimum wage law. Included in the bulletin is a section on wages boards of elections are permitted to pay poll workers. If you have any questions, please contact Beth Tsvetkoff, CCAO Policy Analyst, at (614) 220-7996, (888) 757-1904 or btsvetkoff@ccao.org. CAB 2007-04 is also published on our website: www.ccao.org. Click on Publications>County Advisory Bulletins.

CAB 2007-05: 2008 PAY TABLES FOR COUNTY OFFICIALS

State law provides an annual increase in salary to county elected officials in 2008, that equals a 2.8 percent raise. County Advisory Bulletin (CAB) 2007-05, *2008 Pay Tables for County Officials*, explains the cost increase contained in the law; highlights the various county elected officials' salary provisions; and provides salary tables for calendar year 2008. A copy of CAB 2007-05 was mailed to the county commissioners this week. CAB 2007-05 is also posted on the front page of our website (www.ccao.org) and listed under Publications>County Advisory Bulletins.

CIDS TO RETURN NOVEMBER 30

To permit the CCAO staff time to enjoy the

Thanksgiving with their families, CIDS will not be published on November 23. We will resume our regular publication schedule on November 30. Have a safe and Happy Thanksgiving!

STATE ACTIVITIES

OPINION SURVEY ON HIGHER EDUCATION; THE STATE OF OHIO WOULD LIKE YOUR FEEDBACK

The Ohio Board of Regents Chancellor Eric Fingerhut needs your input as he begins work on a 10-year plan to develop a world - class system of higher education in Ohio. The Legislature and Governor Ted Strickland have charged the Chancellor with building a system designed to prepare all Ohioans for the 21st century and rival the nation in accountability and innovation.

The survey takes less than five minutes and is posted at www.universitysystem.ohio.gov/survey for your convenience. It contains questions asking for your views on college affordability, research, funding, accessibility, student success, opportunities, barriers and more. Survey deadline: December 31, 2007.

The plan is due to the Ohio General Assembly by March 31, 2008. It will contain goals, benchmarks and strategies for building our world class system. Your thoughts and opinions on the needs and strengths of higher education in Ohio will certainly help the Chancellor formulate the plan and move it forward.

The first step is to get *your* feedback. Please complete the brief survey by December 31, 2007 so that your comments can be carefully considered.

PROPOSED OAC AMENDMENTS ADDRESSING WATER QUALITY STANDARDS

The Ohio EPA has announced proposed amendments addressing water quality standard rules in Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) Chapter 3745-1. Rules to be amended include the following river drainage basins: Hocking, Scioto, Grand, Rock River, Great Miami, Chagrin, Portage, Muskingum, Mahoning, and Black Rivers.

The Ohio EPA Division of Surface Water conducts water quality and biological surveys of Ohio's rivers and streams. One outcome of this work is an assessment of the beneficial uses assigned to specific water bodies in the State's water quality standards rules. The Clean Water Act (CWA) requires all states to conduct such assessments and to designate waters for beneficial uses that support the CWA "fishable and swimmable" goals wherever attainable. All waters are presumed to be capable of supporting goals uses unless the state provides a use attainability analysis (UAA) explaining the reasons why the goals of protecting aquatic life and recreation cannot be attained in the water.

A public hearing is scheduled at 2:00 p.m. on December 11, 2007 at the Ohio EPA Central Office, 50 West Town Street - Suite 700, Room C, in Columbus. The public comment period will run until 5:00 p.m. on December 14, 2007. For more information please contact Chris Skalski at (614) 644-2144 or chris.skalski@epa.state.oh.us. The proposed amended rules and fact sheet are also available on the Ohio EPA Division of Surface Water website at www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OPINION

No. 2007-038. SYLLABUS:

Requested by Morrow County Prosecuting Attorney Charles S. Howland.

A county zoning resolution may not be amended to prohibit the installation and operation of landfills that are licensed as construction and demolition debris facilities or solid waste facilities under R.C. 3714.06(A) or R.C. 3734.05(A), respectively, throughout the entire unincorporated territory of the county.

FEDERAL ACTIVITIES

PRESIDENT VETOES LABOR-HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES-EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS

The House and Senate had a quick conference on Labor/HHS and the House approved the conference agreement November 6, but it hit a bump when it got

to the Senate. Under a new procedural rule adopted by the Senate earlier this year, the conference report was subject to a point of order because it included the Military Construction/Veterans Appropriations bill, which had not been part of either chamber's Labor/HHS bills. The Senate failed 13 votes short of the 60 votes needed to overturn the point of order. As a result, the Senate sent a stand alone Labor/HHS back to the House. The House approved the new bill November 8. The President vetoed the measure on November 14 because its spending levels are above his budget requests.

The Labor-HHS Conference agreement includes a \$245 million rescission for Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funding from Fiscal Year (FY) 2005 and 2006, but gives the Secretary of Labor the authority to take the funds out of unspent FY 2007 funds at the Governor's request. The House had included a \$335 million rescission while the Senate did not include one at all. This \$245 million rescission will likely come from those states with an excess of 30 percent in workforce carryover funds first. A cut may be applied across the board if the funding from those states with carryover funds is not sufficient. The conference agreement also provides level funding for WIA programs for FY 2008. (Contact: Daria Daniel, NACo Associate Legislative Director, at (202) 942-4212 or ddaniel@naco.org; and Marilina Sanz, NACo Associate Legislative Director, at (202) 942-4260 or msanz@naco.org).

TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING APPROPRIATIONS READY FOR FINAL ACTION – VETO THREATENED

On Thursday, November 8, the House-Senate Conference Committee agreed to funding levels for the Department of Transportation and HUD for FY2008. This week, the conference report was accepted by the House and will move to the Senate.

The bill sets overall transportation and housing program spending above the Administration's budget request. As a result, a White House veto threat still hangs over the bill.

The conference report sets spending for the U.S.

Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) at \$38.66 billion, an amount \$3.1 billion over the Administration's budget request. The bill sets funding for CDBG at \$3.79 billion, a \$100 million dollar increase over FY 2007. The conferees firmly rejected the Administration's request to cut CDBG funding by \$1 billion. The report also includes \$10 million for brownfields redevelopment, level funding from last year; and approximately \$17 million for Rural Housing and Economic Development, also level funded from FY 2007. The bill includes \$200 million in funding for foreclosure mitigation assistance that will be distributed through the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation.

The bill includes full funding for the federal highway program at the \$40.2 billion level and an additional \$1 billion for the federal bridge program. Also increased was the transit program, funded at \$9.677 billion, which meets the guaranteed funding levels under SAFETEA-LU. The Airport Improvement Program (AIP) is funded at \$3.515 billion, which is the current level, and Essential Air Service receives \$110 million. Amtrak gets \$1.45 billion, \$156 million over 2007 and \$550 million over the President's request. (Contact: Cassandra Duhaney (housing), NACo Associate Legislative Director, at (202) 942-4204 or cduhaney@naco.org; and Bob Fogel, (transportation) NACo Senior Legislative Director, at (202) 942-4217 or bfogel@naco.org).

HOUSE COMMITTEE APPROVES MORTGAGE FINANCE BILL

The Financial Services Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives approved legislation last week to overhaul regulations governing the nation's mortgage finance system. The Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act (H.R. 3915), was approved by the committee on a 45-19 vote. Purposes of the Act include reforming consumer mortgage practices and providing accountability for such practices, establishing licensing and registration requirements for residential mortgage originators, and providing certain minimum standards for consumer mortgage loans. NACo and other local government groups signed onto a letter supporting provisions in the bill that would protect state and local authority to enact

their own anti-predatory lending laws. Such language is opposed by industry groups fearing a patchwork of lending regulations across the country. Language in the bill also includes “safe harbor” protections for subprime lenders who meet certain underwriting standards. As of press time, H.R. 3915 was on the floor. (Contact: Cassandra Duhaney, NACo Associate Legislative Director, at (202) 942-4204, cduhaney@naco.org).

HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE APPROVES THE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE MENTALLY ILL OFFENDER TREATMENT AND CRIME REDUCTION ACT

With strong bipartisan support, the House Judiciary Committee on November 7 approved the reauthorization of the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act (MIOTCRA), H.R. 3992. The legislation raises the authorization level of MIOTCRA from \$50 million per year to \$75 million and extends the authorization for the program through 2013. The bill offers grants to local governments and states to develop diversion programs, training programs and after-care services. The legislation also reauthorizes the Mental Health Courts grant program. The bill is expected to be placed on the House Suspension Calendar later this month. The Senate companion bill, S.2304 is expected to be considered in the Senate before the Thanksgiving recess. (Contact: Donald Murray, NACo Senior Legislative Director, at (202) 942-4239, dmurray@naco.org).

NACo ACTIVITIES

NACo RURAL HEALTH WORKS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS

The National Association of Counties (NACo) is now accepting applications for the Rural Health Works Technical Assistance Grant for rural counties. Rural Health Works is community assessment process that assists counties to evaluate their healthcare system and to generate county-specific data. The ultimate goal of the project is to strengthen rural economies by increasing the use and expansion of health services.

NACo will award a total of three grants on a competitive basis. The grant, valued at more than \$18,000 for each county, includes intensive technical assistance on the Rural Health Works model. Selected counties will work with Rural Health Works consultants to: Identify their health care needs Examine the social, economic, and political realities affecting the local delivery of health care Determine how the health care system can best meet the community’s needs Develop and mobilize an action plan based on their analysis and planning Funds are being provided by the Office of Rural Health Policy, Health Resources and Services Administration, DHHS. The application is now available from www.naco.org/ruralhealthworks. Application deadline: December 15, 2007.

For more information, please contact Christina Rowland, NACo Senior Associate, Community Services, at (202) 942-4267 or crowland@naco.org.

COUNTY LEADERSHIP IN CONSERVATION AWARD APPLICATION

The County Leadership in Conservation Award program recognizes leadership, innovation, and excellence in local land conservation and park creation by county leaders across America. NACo proudly sponsors this program in partnership with the Trust for Public Land, National Association of County Planners, and National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials. Information, application forms and descriptions of the 2007 award winning counties can be accessed on NACo's Web site at www.naco.org/conservationawards or by contacting Abby Friedman, NACo Program Director, Community Services, at (202) 942-4225 or afriedman@naco.org. The deadline has been extended to December 5, 2007.

CONFERENCES/SEMINARS

OHIO GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON AGING

Ohio is witnessing a dramatic growth in the number of citizens who are 55 or older - a trend that will continue well into the 21st century. By 2008, 40 percent of the labor force will be age 45 or older, and eight million

more Americans age 55 or older will be in the labor force than in 1998.

The "Ohio Governor's Conference on Aging" will bring together business leaders, human resources professionals and policy makers to discuss the challenges companies and communities face in placing and retaining qualified seniors in the workplace. The conference, sponsored by the Ohio Department of Aging, will be held on Wednesday, November 29, 2007 at the Aladdin Shrine Center, 3850 Stelzer Road, in Columbus.

The opening keynote is on "Ohio's Aging Workforce: Is Your Business Prepared?" Governor Strickland will be the luncheon key note speaker. Panel discussions will focus on "The Competitive Advantage of Experienced Workers", "Adapting Corporate Culture to the Aging Workforce" and "Experienced Workers: What We Offer."

Registration fee: \$85 with a discount for additional attendees from the same organization. Registration deadline: **November 21, 2007**. For more information or to register go to www.goldenbuckeye.com/conference.

CLASSIFIEDS

GIS COORDINATOR

Fulton County Commissioners are seeking a full-time GIS Coordinator. Job responsibilities under administrative direction of the county administrator, the coordinator will coordinate the design, implementation, maintenance, and advancement of the County's GIS program. The coordinator will serve as project leader on issues of day-to-day importance of the department, will assist with training end-users, and will integrate services with a variety of county departments. A full position description is available upon request.

Qualifications: the successful candidate is expected to be a self directed, organized, outcome-oriented, and innovative. This position is a "hands-on" technical job that will also require positive cooperation with several county offices and the ability to grow the

program. Computer experience will include advanced use of ArcView, ArcEdit, Spatial Analyst, geodatabases, and ArcInfo. The successful candidate is expected to have a bachelor's degree in Geography, GIS or a related field and have three years of demonstrated and qualified job related experience or equivalent combination of training and experience.

Salary depends on qualifications excellent benefits. All interested applicants must submit a resume or application to the Fulton County Board of Commissioners, 152 S. Fulton Street, Wauseon, OH 43567 between the hours of 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday-Friday. An application is also available at www.fultoncountyoh.com. Application deadline: Friday, **November 30, 2007**. EOE

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 30, 2007**. EOE