



CIDS

County Information and Data Service

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DATES TO REMEMBER

SEPTEMBER 14, 2009	UNDERSTANDING THE NEW FURLOUGH AUTHORITY REGIONAL SEMINAR, LOGAN HIGH SCHOOL - AUDITORIUM, HOCKING COUNTY (LOGAN)
SEPTEMBER 14, 2009	NW DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS & ENGINEERS QUARTERLY MEETING, GREEN HILLS GOLF COURSE, SANDUSKY COUNTY (CLYDE)
SEPTEMBER 28, 2009	CCAO REGIONAL BRIEFINGS, THE OLDE DUTCH RESTAURANT, HOCKING COUNTY (LOGAN)
SEPTEMBER 29, 2009	CCAO REGIONAL BRIEFINGS, MARY YODER'S AMISH KITCHEN, GEAUGA COUNTY (MIDDLEFIELD)
SEPTEMBER 30, 2009	CCAO REGIONAL BRIEFINGS, WOOD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING ROOM, WOOD COUNTY (BOWLING GREEN)
OCTOBER 5, 2009	CCAO REGIONAL BRIEFINGS, CLINTON COUNTY ANNEX, CLINTON COUNTY (WILMINGTON)
DECEMBER 6-9, 2009	CCAO/CEAO ANNUAL WINTER CONFERENCE, HYATT REGENCY, COLUMBUS

ASSOCIATION NEWS

UNDERSTANDING THE NEW FURLOUGH AUTHORITY REGIONAL SEMINAR – SEPT. 14

The Ohio Council of County Officials (OCCO) is sponsoring the last of five regional seminars on “Understanding the New Furlough Authority Granted in the State Budget Bill (HB 1) Seminars” on September 14, 2009. The seminar will be held at Logan High School – Auditorium, 14578 State Route 328, in Hocking County (Logan). Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. with the seminar starting at 9:30 a.m. and ending at 12:30 p.m.

Nearly 320 people attended the first four regional seminars sponsored by OCCO. Registration for this seminar is limited to county elected officials, staff, and related county agencies that fall under the umbrella of the office of the county commissioners.

County appointing authorities received the much sought furlough authority for non-collective bargaining employees. HB 1 permits each county appointed authority to establish a mandatory program that each non-collective bargaining employee must participate in for up to 80 hours in each of state fiscal years 2010 and 2011.

There is no charge to attend, but space is limited. There will be a \$10 charge for no-shows, but last minute substitutions are welcome. To download a copy go to www.ccao.org and click on the story on the front page. For more information, please contact Amanda Jones, CCAO Administrative Assistant, at (614) 220-7985, (888) 757-1904, or ajones@ccao.org.

REGIONAL CCAO SEMINARS!

To help county commissioners and key staff better understand provisions included in the recently enacted state budget (House Bill 1) and other legislation, CCAO staff has scheduled four regional briefings. Staff also will be available to answer questions commissioners may have on general county matters.

In addition, CCAO staff will highlight workers' comp programs available as the result of changes at the BWC and CCAO's involvement in developing options for counties. This will include a brief overview of workers' comp rating options – self insurance and retrospective rating; recent changes to group rating and deductibles; an explanation of the newly developed Group Retro option; and possible changes in BWC discount programs. The dates include:

- **September 28** – Hocking County (Logan)
The Olde Dutch Restaurant, 12791 State Route 664 South, Logan
- **September 29** – Geauga County (Middlefield)
Mary Yoder's Amish Kitchen, 14743 North State Street, P.O. Box 804, Middlefield
- **September 30** – Wood County (Bowling Green)
Wood County Commissioners Meeting Room, One Courthouse Square, Bowling Green
- **October 5** – Clinton County (Wilmington)
Clinton County Annex, 111 South Nelson, Wilmington

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. with the program starts at 9:00 a.m. Lunch will be provided. The program will wrap up by 3:00 p.m. Registration fees: FREE - county commissioners and their key staff, \$10 - no-shows, or \$20 - other attendees. For more information, please contact Amanda Jones, CCAO Administrative Assistant, at (614) 220-7985, (888) 757-1904, ajones@ccao.org, or www.ccao.org. Click on the story on the front page.

CCAOS SERVICE CORPORATION NEWS

ROLLOUT OF NEW CCAOS SERVICE CORPORATION ENERGY PROGRAM – ELECTRICITY SAVINGS

As you recall, the CCAOS initiated its natural gas procurement program in 2000 that has collectively saved 29 counties over \$7.4 million. Recent modifications in the natural gas program increased the participation to over 40 counties! With the recent modifications of the natural gas program, the one question that was repeatedly asked by the various county commissioners: "Can you do this with electricity?" Based upon recent Public Utilities Commissioner of Ohio (PUCO) rulings and relatively low wholesale electric costs, we can now answer "YES"!

The County Commissioners Association of Ohio Service Corporation (CCAOSC) is forming a new program to assist counties on securing lower cost electricity. The CCAOSC has partnered again with Palmer Energy to help manage this electric program. While we will initially focus on counties located in the FirstEnergy area of

the state, we fully expect to include counties served by Columbus & Southern and Duke-Ohio shortly thereafter.

To make this a successful program, we need to start collecting data from all counties. The independent energy professionals of Palmer Energy will collect, evaluate, and determine the most advantageous way to bid the members electricity requirement. Like natural gas, we anticipate that pooling the electricity needs of all participating counties will show greater savings to the entire group.

To get started, each county needs to complete and return a response form by **September 18, 2009** that will enable the CCAOSC to secure the necessary electric consumption, demand, cost, and other information, needed to attain quotations from the various potential suppliers. For more information go to www.ccao.org and click on the article on the front page. If you have questions or would like to schedule a consultation please contact either Kirkland Mizerek, Vice President of Palmer Energy at (419) 539-9180 or kmizerek@palmerenergy.com or Tom Strup, CCAO Deputy Director of Operations, at (614) 220-7078 or tstrup@ccao.org.

STATE ACTIVITIES

CERTIFYING COUNTY HOME BEDS

In the recently-passed biennial budget, the moratorium on nursing home beds enacted in 1993 was modified. The Department of Health may issue Certificate of Need (CON) licenses if, based on a bed need formula, beds shift within a county or between counties. However, the moratorium was extended for new nursing home beds. In order to preserve the opportunity for future certification and licensure of the beds, each county home and county nursing home must certify and document to the Director of Health the number of long-term care beds that were in operation in the home on July 1, 1993. Each home must document beds no later than November 1, 2009.

ORC PATHWAYS PROGRAM

The Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC) announced that the Pathways II Project, directed at services to Ohio citizens with developmental disabilities, will be accepting applications until 5:00 p.m. on September 15, 2009. Local cash match allows Ohio to access federal dollars at the 78.7 percent match ratio.

Expansion proposals/projects must be partnerships between RSC and state/local government entities. The partner will provide a minimum of \$200,000 for a local cash match which can NOT contain federal dollars nor can the dollars be used as match for any other program. RSC will use this local cash match to access federal dollars at the 78.7 percent match ratio. For example, a project which contributes \$200,000 local match will draw down a federal match of \$738,967, bringing the project total award to \$938,967. RSC retains 13% of all total awards to cover the cost of administering the programs. Individuals served through these programs must be RSC consumers.

Final review and award announcements will take place after September 15, 2009. Upon awarding contracts, RSC will need the local match to be turned in no later than September 21, 2009, allowing RSC the opportunity to secure federal match dollars. While the turn-a-round time is aggressive on this RFP, RSC plans to offer additional opportunities in the coming year.

To view the RFP please visit the 'What's New' section at www.rsc.ohio.gov. For more information about the Request for Proposal, contact Program Coordinator, Renee Kimbell, at (419) 866-5811 or renee.kimbell@rsc.state.oh.us.

FEDERAL ACTIVITY

COMMITTEE TO MODERNIZE VOTER REGISTRATION

Last week, two election law experts from opposing political parties, former McCain legal counsel Trevor Potter and former Kerry-Edwards legal counsel Marc Elias, announced the launch of a new organization: the Committee to Modernize Voter Registration (www.ModernizeRegistration.org). Joining them in this endeavor, as one of the two local election officials on the founding committee, is Franklin County Board of Elections Director Matt Damschroder. The goal of the committee is to modernize our voter registration system.

To become a registered voter under our current system, an eligible citizen must first complete a paper voter registration application and send it to the proper elections/registration authority. Elections officials then manually enter the data from the forms into a computer system to create the list of registered voters. While this may not seem a daunting task, imagine 300,000 cards during calendar year 2008 in Franklin County alone, which is just one of more than 5,000 elections administration offices in the country. The system is error-prone (manual data entry from difficult-to-decipher handwritten paper records) and relies too heavily on the voter or other groups to submit a complete and accurate application in a timely manner. (See the *Washington Times* article at <http://washingtontimes.com/news/2009/sep/01/rivals-registering-voters-is-too-hard/> for one take on the benefits of modernizing voter registration).

While our country has attempted to "modernize" the system through efforts such as the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA), our system is still paper-based and largely manual. In most cases, registration activity at Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) locations (the point-of-registration that NVRA primarily sought to streamline) still relies on methods from a bygone era: the information on the paper voter registration form is populated using data from the BMV's computer system and the paper record is then sent (usually by USPS) to the elections/ registration office where the information is manually entered into that office's computer system.

For more information about the committee go to www.ModernizeRegistration.org. More information on the problem of our current voter registration system authored by the Pew Center on the States can be accessed at www.pewcenteronthestates.org/report_detail.aspx?id=54842.

2010 CENSUS: COMPLETE COUNT COMMITTEE FORMATION

Every 10 years, as mandated by the U.S. Constitution, our nation conducts a census — an effort to count every person living in the United States. The key to this endeavor is having every household fill out and mail back a completed census form. Participation is critical, as the results determine how Congress is apportioned and how more than \$300 billion in federal funds are distributed annually to state, local and tribal areas.

One way to help ensure that everyone is counted is to form Complete Count Committees in communities, municipalities, cities, counties, states and tribal governments across the country. Complete Count Committees are volunteer teams consisting of community leaders, faith-based groups, schools, businesses, media outlets and others who are appointed by elected officials and work together to make sure entire communities are counted.

Creating a Complete County Committee in your community will increase your constituents understanding of the census and hopefully their willingness to return a questionnaire. Follow these seven simple steps to start a Complete County Committee in your county and contact your team leader to connect with other Committees:

Step 1) Complete the Partnership Form – Downloaded from the Ohio 2010 Census website www.census.ohio.gov/StartCompleteCountCommittee

Step 2) Contact one of Ohio three Team Leaders to identify your local Partnership Specialist:

- Northeast – Gerardo Colon, Census Bureau, 1350 Euclid Ave. – Suite 650, Cleveland OH 44115, (216) 377-4436 ext. 36, or gerardo.colon@census.gov
- Central & Northwest & Toledo – Rose Simmons, Census Bureau, 2192 Dividend Dr., Columbus, OH 43228, (614) 743-9640, or rose.simmons@census.gov
- Southern & Southeast – Theresa Brundage, Census Bureau, 801 Linn Street – Floor 4, Cincinnati, OH 45023, (513) 766-1120, or theresa.m.brundage@census.gov

Step 3) Return the Partnership Agreement Form to your Partnership Specialist by e-mail or fax.

Step 4) Download and read the Complete Count Committee Guide – Downloaded from the Ohio 2010 Census website www.census.ohio.gov/StartCompleteCountCommittee

Step 5) Work with your Partnership Specialist in establishing a Complete Count Committee

Step 6) Reaffirm your support by signing a resolution during your kick off meeting. Downloaded from the Ohio 2010 Census website www.census.ohio.gov/StartCompleteCountCommittee

Step 7) Register your Complete Count Committee on the Ohio 2010 Census website to get connected to other Committees. www.census.ohio.gov

The following 30 counties have established Complete County Committees: Adams, Athens, Auglaize, Belmont, Brown, Clermont, Cuyahoga, Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, Gallia, Hamilton, Harrison, Highland, Hocking, Jackson, Jefferson, Lawrence, Licking, Lorain, Lucas, Madison, Medina, Montgomery, Pickaway, Scioto, Lucas, Van Wert, Union, and Washington.

PUBLICATION

ECONOMIC FALLOUT CAN AFFECT MENTAL & PHYSICAL WELL-BEING

Economic stress can result in a whole host of negative health effects for individuals – both physical and mental. Several recent studies have identified Ohioans at particular risk for poor emotional health due to increased unemployment, foreclosures and other negative financial indicators. According to a Gallup-Healthways poll which seeks to measure how emotional well-being is shifting with economic changes, Ohio ranks at the bottom in emotional health with a score placing it 47th out of the 50 states. For more information, please read a copy of *Behavioral Health: Developing a Better Understanding* (Vol. Five, Issue VIII) published by the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities which is attached to this copy of CIDS.

WEBINARS

ESSENTIAL RECOVERY ACT REPORTING WEBINAR – SEPT. 17

With the opening of early registration for www.FederalReporting.gov on August 17 and the increase in outflow of Recovery Act funding, the October 10 reporting deadline for all recipients is looming ever closer on the horizon. On September 17, the National Association of Counties (NACo) will host the “Essentials of Recovery Act Reporting” webinar to provide updated information for recipient counties to help meet reporting requirements. Among the topics that will be discussed is the White House Office of Management and Budget’s anticipated deployment of the federal government liaison network. These experienced federal employees will

serve as field representatives to assist Recovery Act funding recipients through the reporting process. To register for the webinar, please go to <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/869565379>. For questions, contact Mike Belarmino, NACo Special Projects Coordinator – Recovery Act, at (202)661-8840, fax (202) 393-2630 or mbelarmino@naco.org.

ENERGY BLOCK GRANT IMPLEMENTATION & REPORTING WEBINAR – OCT. 8

More than 450 counties were eligible for direct formula grants from the U.S. Department of Energy under the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program (EECBG). In the early fall, counties will begin implementing their energy saving projects. The National Association of Counties (NACo) has scheduled a webinar on October 8, 2009 from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. to explore implementation and reporting requirements for counties receiving direct formula grants.

The EECBG program was funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and counties must therefore adhere to reporting requirements under both ARRA and the Department of Energy. A county case study will demonstrate project implementation. The Department of Energy will use the same case study to demonstrate accurate and complete reporting requirements. To register: <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/119392514>.

CONFERENCES

APA STATE PLANNING CONFERENCE – SEPT. 23-25

The American Planning Association (APA) OH 2009 State Planning Conference will be held at the Sheraton Suites, 1989 Second Street, in Cuyahoga Falls on September 23-25, 2009. This year's conference theme "To Sustainability and Beyond" intends to challenge attendees to look beyond accepted notions of sustainability as "being green", and focus on real world examples of sustainable efforts in areas such as smart growth and compact development patterns, historic preservation, watershed planning, economic development, transit innovations, and alternative energy resources.

Up to 17 hours of Certification Maintenance credits are available to certified planners and 11.25 hours of CLE credits are available to attorneys. For more information go to www.ohioplanning.org or www.regonline.com/2009APAOhioConference or contact Fred Guerra at GuerraFR@cityofcf.com or Patrice Theken ptheken@medinaco.org

THE SERB ACADEMY – OCT. 22-23 & MAR. 25-26

The State Employment Relations Board (SERB) will hold "The SERB Academy" on October 22 & 23, 2009 and March 25 & 26, 2010. The SERB Academy is for newcomers to public sector collective bargaining or for those who will be working in positions where they need to know how Ohio's law governs labor relations in the public sector. It is an intensive two-day review of representation, dispute settlement, and unfair labor practice matters covering the law, the administrative rules, and the day-to-day procedures of the agency.

Registration fee: \$275 (includes all sessions and course materials disk.) Registrations must be received by 5:00 p.m. on October 14, 2009 and March 17, 2010. Space is limited - register as soon as possible! The Academy will be held in the SERB offices located at 65 East State Street – Floor 15, Columbus OH 43215. A limited block of sleeping rooms is being held at the Hyatt on Capitol Square at a cost \$80/night. Please make reservations directly with the Hyatt (614) 228-1234.

Please go to our website at www.serb.state.oh.us and click on "The SERB Academy" for more information. If you have any questions, please contact SERB Academy 2009, State Employment Relations Board, 65 East State Street – Floor 12, Columbus, OH 43215-4213, (614) 466-2963 or tjohnson@serb.state.oh.us.

CLASSIFIEDS

DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Huron County seeks a director for their Emergency Management Agency. This full-time, unclassified, exempt position reports to the Board of Commissioners. Responsible for operation of EMA for Huron County, including preparedness for disaster response, hazardous materials releases, acts of war or terrorism, weather-related emergencies, and earthquakes. Coordinates the County 911 system. Must pass criminal background check and blood and alcohol screen. Must be or become certified as required by state and federal guidelines, possess valid Ohio driver's license with acceptable driving record as verified by the BMV. Must have a combination of education and significant experience in emergency management or related field. For a complete job description and application log on to www.hccommissioners.com. Submit resume, application, list of three references, and salary requirements by **September 14, 2009**, to Director of Human Resources, 12 East Main Street - Suite 102, Norwalk, OH 44857. Incomplete applications will not be considered. All resumes and applications are public records. EOE.

DIRECTOR OF SANITARY ENGINEERING

The Jefferson County Commissioners seek a Director of Sanitary Engineering. Unclassified salaried position for the Jefferson County Water & Sewer Department. Bachelor's Degree in Engineering is preferred. Applicant should have at least five years experience in water and wastewater treatment. Other duties include but not limited to, ability to monitor all phases of the Water and Sewer District's system operation. Supervise all District Personnel including union and non-union employees. Application deadline **4:00 p.m., on September 16, 2009**. Send resumes to Jefferson County Commissioners, Attn: Linda Porter, Clerk, 301 Market Street, Steubenville, OH 43952. EOE.

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

The Board of Commissioners of Gallia County is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Gallia County Economic and Community Development Director. The individual selected will work with the Gallia County Commissioners office in an unclassified position. The Director will be responsible for coordinating and facilitating activities and efforts of the area agencies, businesses and industries working toward the economic growth of Gallia County. A detailed position description can be obtained at www.gallianet.net under the Gallia County Commissioners site.

Bachelor's Degree in business administration, city planning, public administration, marketing or related field. Two years experience in economic development, planning, manufacturing or equivalent combination of education and experience. Salary negotiable based on experience and qualifications. Fulltime with benefits (i.e., vacation, sick leave, health insurance, retirement systems, etc.) Interested applicants can submit a resume to Terry Hemby, Clerk of the Board of Gallia County Commissioners, at 18 Locust Street, Room 1292, Gallipolis, OH 45631 or at www.ohiomeansjobs.com no later than **4:00 p.m. on September 24, 2009**. EOE.

Economic Fallout Can Affect Mental and Physical Well-Being

Economic stress can result in a whole host of negative health effects for individuals – both physical and mental. Several recent studies have identified Ohioans at particular risk for poor emotional health due to increased unemployment, foreclosures and other negative financial indicators. According to a Gallup-Healthways poll which seeks to measure how emotional well-being is shifting with economic changes, Ohio ranks at the bottom in emotional health with a score placing it 47th out of the 50 states. The top stressors documented by the American Psychological Association are: money (81%), the economy (80%), work (67%), and health problems affecting the family (67%). Recent reports have also linked job displacement and unemployment to lower rates of participation in social activities, lower levels of mental health, and heavy drinking. Individuals age 30 to 55 years old are particularly affected by bad economic news, as they are in their prime earning years.

In response to these concerns, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration has produced a guide to help get through tough economic times. The guide provides practical advice on how to deal with the effects that financial difficulties can have on physical and mental health.

KNOW THE WARNING SIGNS

Economic stress can substantially increase the risk for developing problems such as depression, anxiety, substance abuse, and compulsive behaviors such as over-eating, excessive gambling, etc. Knowing the warning signs to look for when financial problems are adversely affecting emotional or mental well-being of yourself or someone you care about can be very important. These signs include:

- Lack of sleep/constant fatigue
- Excessive anxiety
- Excessive irritability/anger
- Increased drinking
- Persistent sadness/crying
- Illicit drug use, including misuse of medications
- Difficulty paying attention or staying focused
- Apathy – not caring about things that are usually important
- Not being able to function as well at work, school, or home

TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF AND LOVED ONES

If you or someone you care about is experiencing warning signs of economic stress, then a good place to begin is to understand that these are common reactions to stress, and they are to be expected. There are coping techniques that one can use to help manage stress.

- Try to keep things in perspective. Take time to recognize the good aspects of life.
- Strengthen connections with family and friends who can provide important emotional support by planning a potluck party or other activity to stay connected and have fun.
- Engage in activities such as exercise, sports, or hobbies, start a workout routine, check out free community center and library activities/course lists, or volunteer your time.
- Develop new employment skills to directly address financial difficulties, by exploring educational opportunities and workforce training available through your local One Stop (County Job and Family Services) or educational institution.

LIFE-THREATENING WARNING SIGNS

Even with stress management techniques, sometimes the problems can seem overwhelming. Unfortunately, there have been too many headlines in Ohio where economic stress has been a leading factor with disastrous consequences. In 2008, an average of 3-4 Ohioans died every day as a result of suicide, 1,324 people overall. Since the beginning of this year, murder-suicide events have tripled in Ohio compared to those counted in 2007. It is important to keep in mind that unemployment and other kinds of financial distress do not “cause” suicide directly, but they can be factors that affect risk of suicide. Listed below are signs to be aware of that may indicate someone is at risk for attempting suicide:

- Threatening to hurt or kill oneself or talking about wanting to hurt or kill oneself
- Looking for ways to kill oneself
- Thinking or fantasizing about suicide
- Acting recklessly
- Seeing no reason for living or having no sense of purpose in life

If you or someone you know is having suicidal thoughts or showing these symptoms, seek immediate help by contacting your healthcare provider, mental health crisis center, hospital emergency room, or the suicide hotline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255).

RECOVERY OF MIND, BODY, AND FINANCES

As Ohio and the nation inch slowly toward economic recovery, it is important that individuals and families are also in a position to recover from the sometimes debilitating stressors caused by job loss and financial setbacks. Besides the public mental health and alcohol and other drug treatment services system, support systems can come in many shapes and forms – healthcare providers, friends and family, spiritual leaders, etc. There are also governmental and non-profit programs designed to help people during difficult economic times.

About 80% of Ohio’s population can now dial 2-1-1 and reach a trained professional 24 hours a day to help find services to meet basic human needs, find physical and mental healthcare, employment support services, senior and disability supports, and programs for children and families. Another resource is Ohio’s Benefit Bank, a web-based computer program that helps screen people for public benefit eligibility and tax credits. Ohioans can also check out potential eligibility for other benefits such as home energy assistance, child care subsidies, and food stamps. The Benefit Bank has physical locations that you can reach by calling 1-800-648-1176 or online assistance at <https://secure.thebenefitbank.com/ums?task=locator>. For those in danger of home foreclosures <http://savethedream.ohio.gov/>.

The process of recovery may be a long one for most Americans, but with the support and intervention of those who care, Ohioans can rise out of the recession with their health, their loved ones, and their homes intact.

What can policy makers, local officials, and community members do to help Ohioans affected by economic stress?

- ✓ Support community-based behavioral health services.
- ✓ Reach out to family and friends affected by the economic downturn.
- ✓ Seek help if you or someone you know is at risk for suicide.
- ✓ Advocate for behavioral health services and supports.
- ✓ Fight stigma associated with mental illness and addiction.

Sources: SAMHSA guide “Getting Through Tough Economic Times”
Social Work Today Vol. 9 No. 2 p. 12
American Psychological Association surveys reported on WebMD Health News, October 8, 2008

Ohio Department of Health
Gallup-Healthways Emotional Health Index Survey