



CIDS

County Information and Data Service

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OCTOBER 2, 2009

DATES TO REMEMBER

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| OCTOBER 5, 2009 | CCAO REGIONAL BRIEFINGS, CLINTON COUNTY ANNEX, CLINTON COUNTY (WILMINGTON) |
| OCTOBER 7, 2009 | CCAOSC NATURAL GAS PROGRAM BOARD OF PARTICIPANTS ORGANIZATION MEETING, CCAO OFFICES, COLUMBUS |
| OCTOBER 9, 2009 | CCC/EAPA REGIONAL MEETING, SOUTH CENTRAL EDUCATION SERVICE CENTER, SCIOTO COUNTY (PORTSMOUTH) |
| OCTOBER 15, 2009 | CCAO PUBLIC SAFETY & CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE, CCAO OFFICES, COLUMBUS |
| OCTOBER 15, 2009 | CCAO GENERAL GOVERNMENT & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE, CCAO OFFICES, COLUMBUS |
| OCTOBER 23, 2009 | CCAO HUMAN SERVICES & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, CCAO OFFICES, COLUMBUS |
| OCTOBER 23, 2009 | CCC/EAPA REGIONAL MEETING, CCAO OFFICES, COLUMBUS |
| OCTOBER 29, 2009 | CCAO COUNTY & LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM & COLLABORATION TASK FORCE |
| DECEMBER 6-9, 2009 | CCAO/CEAO ANNUAL WINTER CONFERENCE, HYATT REGENCY, COLUMBUS |

ASSOCIATION NEWS

129th CCAO/CEAO ANNUAL WINTER CONFERENCE

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the 129th CCAO/CEAO Annual Winter Conference and Trade Show to be held December 6-9, 2009 at the Hyatt Regency, 350 North High Street, in Columbus. Register for the conference by November 13 to get the pre-registration discount. Registration materials were mailed last week. Everyone attending the conference must register, even if you are attending meetings only. Registration materials will be on the CCAO website at www.ccao.org.

CCAO/CEAO General Session – Monday afternoon, December 7

- State General Fund & Transportation Budget Challenges: Where Do We Go From Here? *We all know that the economy has impacted both state and county budgets. But where do we go from here? Where are we for the rest of this biennium and what is the outlook for the next state budget? How has the federal stimulus money helped us and what happens when this money and other one time monies are not longer available? What are the state budget implications to counties?*

CCAO Sessions – Monday, December 7

- Workers' Compensation Options for Counties
- Transition to Law Library Resource Boards
- Counties Facing Financial Challenges: Understanding What Fiscal Emergency Means
- When Bad Things Happen to Good Counties
- Wellness on a Budget: Don't Lose Sight of Wellness Efforts
- Pension Reforms: Proposed Changes in PERS, Age & Service, and Vesting
- CCAO Legislative Update
- Area 7 Consortium Meeting

CCAO Sessions – Tuesday, December 8

- OSU Extension Restructuring Update: Dialog with the Director
- Local Impact of the State Budget on Human Services
- CCAO Deferred Comp Plan Updates and Enhancements
- Network of Care™
- Budget Seminar for Small Counties
- CCAO Annual Meeting and Election of Officers

CCAO/CEAO Session – Wednesday, December 9

- Public Records Training

The headquarters hotel is the Hyatt Regency, 350 North High Street, in Columbus. Rate: \$139 single/double. Reservation deadline: November 13. To reserve a room call (888) 421-1442, (402) 592-6464 or <http://columbusregency.hyatt.com/groupbooking/cmhrc2009ccas>.

FINAL CCAO REGIONAL SEMINAR - OCT 5

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 scheduled four regional briefings around the state. 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 final regional seminar will be held on **October 5** – Clinton County, 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.

CCAO SERVICE CORPORATION NEWS

ROLLOUT OF NEW CCAO SERVICE CORPORATION ENERGY PROGRAM – ELECTRICITY SAVINGS

As you recall, the CCAOSC 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 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. Forms were due on September 18, 2009. 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.

CCAO AFFILIATE NEWS

2009 CCC/EAPA REGIONAL MEETINGS

The County Commissioners’ Clerks and Engineer’s Administrative Professional Association of Ohio (CCC/EAPA) has scheduled regional meetings to share information and network with other clerks. CCC/EAPA is comprised of county commissioners and engineers’ office staff. All commissioners’ clerks and engineers’ administrative professionals are welcome to network with this most informative organization. The board works hard to provide educational workshops and training opportunities at summer and winter conferences.

Regional information and networking luncheon meetings are a priority with CCC/EAPA. Topics will vary at each meeting and are held on Friday’s beginning at 10:00 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. CCAO/CEAO sponsors the lunch. There is no charge to attend the following meetings:

- **October 9, 2009** - ► **NEW LOCATION** ◀ South Central Ohio Education Service Center, 411 Court Street – Conference Room C, Scioto County (Portsmouth)

- **October 23, 2009** - CCAO Offices, 209 East State Street, Franklin County (Columbus)

Meeting location addresses can be found at www.ccao.org > Calendar > Seminars, Workshops & Special Events. Please email suggestions for agenda items to Carolyn Hauenstein, Clerk, Erie County Commissioners at chauenstein@erie-county-ohio.net. Bring any forms to share that may be useful to other counties.

To obtain additional information on the CCC/EAPA, or if you are interested in serving on one of the committees, please contact JoAnn Sikorski, Clerk/Administrative Assistant, Athens County Commissioners, at (740) 592-3219, jsikorski@athenscountygovernment.com or www.ccc-esao.org. A Yahoo Group to post questions and answers that arise has been opened. You are encouraged to join this yahoo group at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CCC_EAPA.

COUNTY ACTIVITIES

SCIOTO COUNTY FISCAL EMERGENCY DECLARATION

Since State Auditor Mary Taylor declared Scioto County to be in a state of fiscal emergency on August 19, CCAO has received a number of requests for information about this situation. Her determination was made following the results of a fiscal analysis conducted by the State Auditor's Office that revealed a combined county fund deficit of more than \$3.5 million as of June 30, 2009. A copy of the Scioto County Fiscal Emergency Analysis can be found at http://www.auditor.state.oh.us/AuditSearch/Reports/2009/Scioto_County_FEA_Declaration.pdf. According to the State Auditor, the deficit is anticipated to increase unless county officials develop and implement a successful financial plan.

Scioto County is the first county in Ohio's history to receive a fiscal emergency designation, but according to the State Auditor its financial troubles are not new. The county first began experiencing a general fund deficit in 2006. Since that time, three additional funds have gone into the red. As of June 30, 2009, Scioto County had fund deficits totaling \$3,528,482.

The State Auditor's Office will assist Scioto County officials as they work through their financial plan. The Local Government Services section will also help county officials identify solutions to restore the county's financial well-being.

The original municipal fiscal emergency law was enacted in 1979 as a response to a financial crisis in the city of Cleveland. Since that time, financial planning and supervision commissions have been established in nearly 50 local governments that have been declared to be in a fiscal emergency. Currently there are 19 local governments that have been declared in a state of fiscal emergency.

In 1996 the fiscal emergency law was extended to counties and townships with the enactment of HB 462. This law modified the municipal fiscal emergency statute to also establish a "fiscal watch" status to provide early warning to political subdivisions whose finances are approaching emergency status.

ORC Chapter 118 governs the actions that the state may take when a local government is experiencing financial trouble. Depending on the severity of the problem, the State Auditor may declare the government to be in fiscal watch or fiscal emergency. If a government is placed in fiscal watch, the State Auditor's Office provides free assistance to help the government regain its financial footing. If a fiscal emergency is declared, a commission is appointed to oversee the financial activity of the government until the emergency is terminated.

The determination of whether a local government should be declared in fiscal emergency is based on an analysis performed by the State Auditor's Office. An analysis is begun either at the request of the Governor, the county budget commission, or the local government itself, or may be initiated directly by the State Auditor.

There are six conditions specified on ORC Section 118.03 that mandate the declaration of a fiscal emergency, including: (1) default on a debt obligation;(2) failure to make payment of all payroll; (3) an increase in the minimum levy of the county which results in the reduction in the minimum levy of another subdivision; (4) significant past due accounts payable; (5) substantial deficit balances in county funds; and (6) a sizeable deficiency when the county's treasury balance is compared to the positive cash balances of the county's funds.

The year-end conditions described under conditions four, five, and six do not constitute a fiscal emergency if the county clearly demonstrates to the satisfaction of the State Auditor prior to the time of the State Auditor's determination that the conditions no longer exist at the time of the determination.

The fiscal emergency declaration will result in the appointment of a seven-member state commission to help Scioto County regain financial stability. The commission will be responsible for approving a county financial plan that identifies solutions for eliminating deficits outlined in the State Auditor's fiscal analysis. The plan is intended to be a detailed, step-by-step guide agreed to and accepted by both the board of county commissioners and the commission. Once the plan is in place, the role of the commission is to insure that the plan is followed. The plan must be approved by the county and submitted to the commission within 120 days of the commission's first meeting.

The financial plan that must be approved by the Commissioners and approved by the Financial Planning and Supervision Commission includes the following elements:

(1) Actions that will be taken by the county to: (a) eliminate all fiscal emergency conditions determined to exist by the analysis conducted by the Auditor of State's Office; (b) satisfy any judgments, past due accounts payable, and all past due and payable payroll and fringe benefits; (c) eliminate the deficits in all deficit funds; (d) restore to construction funds and other special funds any moneys that were used for purposes not within the purposes of such funds, or borrowed from construction funds by the purchase of debt obligations of the local government with the moneys of such funds, or missing from the construction funds or special funds and not accounted for; (e) balance the budgets, avoid future deficits in any funds, and maintain current payments of payroll, fringe benefits, and all accounts; (f) avoid any fiscal emergency condition in the future; (g) restore the ability of the local government to market long-term general obligation bonds under provisions of applicable law;

(2) The legal authorities permitting the local government to take each of the above actions;

(3) The approximate dates of the commencement, progress upon, and completion of the above actions, and a reasonable period of time expected to be required to implement the plan. The county must also, in consultation with the commission, prepare a reasonable time schedule for progress toward and achievement of the requirements for the plan. The plan shall be consistent with that time schedule;

(4) The amount and purpose of any debt obligations that will be issued, together with assurances that any debt obligations will not exceed debt limits supported by appropriate certifications by the county auditor;

(5) Assurances that the county establish monthly levels of expenditures and encumbrances as required by ORC Chapter 118;

(6) Assurances that the county will conform to statutes with respect to tax budgets and appropriation measures; and

(7) The detail, the form, and supporting information that the commission requires.

The State Auditor's Office serves as financial supervisor to the commission, providing technical support and advice. The State Auditor's also reviews the county's existing system of accounting and reporting and issues a report identifying needed improvements.

The activity of the commission continues until the county has eliminated the fiscal emergency conditions that prompted the initial declaration and made the necessary improvements to its accounting system, or has a plan in place that ensures that these conditions will be satisfied within two years from the date of the termination. If the emergency is terminated prior to these conditions being met, the State Auditor is required to monitor the progress of the county to insure full implementation of an effective accounting system and the complete elimination of the emergency conditions.

The Financial Planning and Supervision Commission that is established are composed of seven voting members. Four members are ex-officio while three are appointed.

The State Treasurer and the Director of Budget and Management serve as ex-officio members representing the state. The remaining ex-officio members are the President of the Board of Commissioners and the County Auditor. In most cases, each ex-officio member may designate an individual to attend meetings on the member's behalf.

Three local members of the commission are nominated and appointed in the following manner. Within 10 days of a declaration of fiscal emergency, the board of county commissioners nominates five individuals whose names are submitted to the Governor. If the Governor is not satisfied that at least three of the nominees are well qualified, he requests that the commissioners submit the names of not more than three additional nominees within five days. Within 30 days after receiving the nominations, the Governor appoints three members to the commission from the nominations, or he may appoint any other individuals who are qualified. The appointments are made with the advice and consent of the Ohio Senate.

Immediately after appointing the three local members, the Governor calls the first meeting of the commission. The director of budget and management or his designee is the chairperson. The commission must elect a vice-chair and may appoint a secretary and other officers, as needed. For any action taken by a vote of the commission, five affirmative votes are required.

Other information on the state fiscal emergency law can be found at: <http://www.auditor.state.oh.us/LGS/Publications/GeneralPublications/IntroToFiscalEmergency.pdf> and <http://www.auditor.state.oh.us/LGS/FiscalWatchEmergency/LocalGovernmentFactSheet.htm>.

STATE ACTIVITIES

SALE & LEASE BACK OF FEDERALLY FUNDED BUILDINGS

Many counties are struggling with county buildings that house the county department job and family services and the potentially lesser amount of federal reimbursement the county receives to pay for the building. On September 25, Ohio Department of Job & Family Services issued County Monitoring Advisory Bulletin 2009-003: "Sale and Lease Back of Federally Funded Buildings" concerning some counties' interest in solving this problem by selling the county building to a third party and then having the County Department of Job & Family Services lease back the space from the third party. In short, the bulletin explains that counties would not be able to get a higher amount of federal dollars for the space using this method. A copy of the bulletin is attached to this issue of CIDS. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Beth Tsvetkoff, CCAO Policy Analyst, at (614) 220-7996, (888) 757-1904, or btsvetkoff@ccao.org.

OHIO MINIMUM WAGE TO STAY SAME IN 2010

The Ohio Department of Commerce said Thursday that Ohio's minimum wage -- which is tied to the Consumer Price Index -- will remain \$7.30 per hour in 2010 for non-tipped employees of employers grossing more than \$267,000/year.

GRANTS

HHS OFFERS PREVENTION, WELLNESS FUNDING FOR COMMUNITIES

Applications are due by December 1, 2009 for \$373 million for community prevention and wellness activities, recently announced by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The initiative, "Communities Putting Prevention to Work," will provide funding to local communities and tribes through competitive grants from CDC. This funding is part of the \$650 million for chronic disease prevention available through the Recovery Act. CDC plans to provide 30–40 two-year grants for evidence-based policies and programs that increase physical activity, improve nutrition, reduce obesity, and decrease tobacco use. For more information, contact: Anita Cardwell, NACo Senior Associate, Community Services, at (202) 942-4267, fax (202) 661-8171, acardwell@naco.org or access the full funding announcement on www.grants.gov.

2010 LITTER CLEANUP GRANT

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources - Division of Recycling & Litter Prevention announced the release of the 2010 Litter Cleanup Grant applications. This grant funding is targeted at Ohio counties, municipal corporations, townships, villages, Solid Waste Management Districts or Authorities, Soil & Water Conservation Districts, Keep Ohio Beautiful affiliates and any agencies of the state as defined in the Ohio Revised Code.

These grants have a maximum award level of \$2,000 and are competitive. All proposals must contain an actual litter collection component. No cash match is required, but financial or in-kind contributions are encouraged. Both the written and electronic applications must be U.S. postmarked or delivered to the division by no later than November 6, 2009. Questions regarding the 2010 Litter Cleanup Grant should be directed to Marti Kolb, Community Development Coordinator, at (614) 265-6376 or marti.kolb@dnr.state.oh.us. Grant applications may be found at information can be found at www.ohiodnr.com/recycling.

PUBLICATION

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ADDRESSING EMPLOYEE & RETIREE HEALTH COSTS: NATIONAL SURVEY SHOWS LOCAL OFFICIALS WORKING TO CONTROL HEALTH CARE COSTS & LIABILITIES

About 49 percent of the nations' cities, counties, and townships expect less revenue in 2010, and 21 percent expect fewer employees, according to a new survey. About 26 expect increased consolidation of local services. With shrinking budgets and fewer staff, local officials are taking several approaches to contain long-term costs associated with employee and retiree health care.

The *Health and OPEB Funding Strategies: 2009 National Survey of Local Governments* report is based on responses from more than 1,500 city, county, township and special district governments across the country randomly polled this year. The report examines local governments' awareness of and responses to growing health costs and liabilities. It also helps inform public employers about national OPEB accounting requirements and current practices used by local governments to control health care costs.

According to the study, approximately 78 percent of the survey respondents provide health care to their employees, with 30 percent also providing health care to retirees. Larger local governments are more likely to provide such benefits. The study found many local governments are considering one or more health care cost-containment strategies. Few respondents plan to eliminate benefits. The study was conducted by Cobalt Community Research (www.cobaltcommunityresearch.org), a leading nonprofit research organization based in Lansing, Michigan. The report is available for purchase at www.cobaltcommunityresearch.org/health.

SEMINARS/WEBINAR

ENERGY STAR OUTDOOR SOLID-STATE LIGHTING WEBCAST – OCTOBER 8

The Department of Energy (DOE) will host a webcast, “Hitting the Target: Energy Star Outdoor Area Lighting,” on solid-state outdoor area lighting (SSL), including light-emitting diodes (LED) on October 8, 2009 from 1:00–2:30 p.m. SSL products are increasingly available for outdoor lighting applications, and LED luminaires can now compete with high-intensity discharge sources (such as high-pressure sodium and metal halide lamps), according to DOE. However, not all LED luminaires are created equal.

To differentiate products that will save energy over existing technologies, DOE has developed ENERGY STAR criteria covering SSL-based outdoor area and roadway lighting, outdoor wall packs, parking garage and canopy luminaires.

Results of pilot projects in King County (Seattle), WA, Arlington County (Arlington), VA and Fairfax County (Fairfax), VA will be mentioned during the webinar. The webcast will provide an update on the new criteria, including a description of the “Fitted Target Efficacy” metric and how ENERGY STAR will use it to evaluate outdoor area and roadway luminaires. Finally, the 90-minute webcast will look at how currently available LED products compare to conventional lighting technologies for outdoor-area lighting applications. A one-hour presentation by the speakers will be followed by 30 minutes of Q&A. Details of the webcast and a link to register for it can be found at www1.eere.energy.gov/buildings/ssl/events_detail.html?event_id=3929.

UTILITY & FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT FOR LOCAL OFFICIALS SEMINARS

The Ohio Rural Community Assistance Program (RCAP) is offering two one-day seminars for local officials in water and wastewater capacity development at several locations throughout Ohio. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Training begins at 8:55 a.m. and ends at 4:00 p.m. These one-day courses cover technical, managerial, and financial aspects of utility operation and management, and several aspects of financial management including records, policies, accounts, billing and analysis, and implementation.

- Utility Management training dates: October 12 & 27, November 9, and December 2 & 15.
- Financial Management training dates: October 13 & 28, November 10, and December 3 & 16.

Seminar locations, directions, and additional information are available at www.glracap.org/ohio. These courses are provided at **NO COST** to participants by the Ohio EPA Division of Drinking and Ground Waters. Lunch is on your own. For more information, contact Nadine Thompson, Ohio RCAP at (419) 332-2056, (800) 775-9767 or www.glracap.org/ohio.

OHIO FARMLAND PRESERVATION SUMMIT – NOVEMBER 5

The Ohio State University and the Ohio Department of Agriculture will host the “10th Anniversary Farmland Preservation Summit: Planting the Seeds of Future Prosperity” on Thursday, November 5, 2009 at the Nationwide and Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center at The Ohio State University, 2201 Fred Taylor Drive, in

Columbus. An opening reception and registration begin at 8:15 a.m. with sessions starting at 9:00 a.m. and ending at 4:30 p.m.

General sessions will discuss the value of farmland, balancing growth and restoring prosperity, and Ohio Proud Farmer's Market. For more information on these topics, concurrent sessions, and speakers to <http://effpi.osu.edu/summit09.htm>.

Registration fee: \$40 (includes educational materials and lunch). Registration deadline: October 22, 2009. Walk-in registrations will not be accepted. For more information, contact Jody Fife, Ohio Farmland Summit, 8995 East Main Street, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068, (614) 728-6210 or farmlandpres@agri.ohio.gov.

SUMMIT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUSTAINABILITY – NOVEMBER 19

The Office of Auditor of State Mary Taylor will be conducting a "Summit on Local Government Sustainability: Strategies and Solutions in a Time of Fiscal Crisis" on November 19, 2009 at the Columbus Athenaeum, 42 North Fourth Street, in downtown Columbus. CCAO is one of the co-hosting organizations. Sessions begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. and end at 4:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided.

Session topics include: The Outlook: Optimism or Luck?; Transfers, Advances & Manuscript Debt; Fiscal Watch & Fiscal Emergency Survival Guide; Leading Practices = Sustainable Results; Forecasting; Putting Your Financial Statement to Work; Commission on Local Government Reform & Collaboration; The Fund for Our Economic Future; Indicators of Fiscal Distress; and How Others Have Made the Tough Decisions.

Registration fee: \$15 (includes conference materials, lunch and break refreshments). Registration deadline: November 14. Payment must be made by check – no cash or credit cards. Class sizes are limited. Registration will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, call (800-282-0370, e-mail SustainabilitySummit@auditor.state.oh.us or register www.auditor.state.oh.us/ConferenceInformation/FiscalDistress/Default.aspx. Participants earn 5.5 CPE hours.

TOP GUN CONSTRUCTION CLAIMS SEMINAR – NOVEMBER 19

Bricker & Eckler LLP will present the "7th Annual Top Gun Construction Claims Seminar" on Thursday, November 19, 2009 at the Conference Center at OCLC, 6600, Kilgour Place, in Dublin. Registration begins at 7:15 a.m. with sessions starting at 9:00 a.m. and ending at 4:45 p.m. Registrants will learn about important contract language, best practices for project documentation, the risks of differing site conditions, delay and lost productivity claims, the design professional's standard of care, understand damages and claims, and learn to analyze, prepare for, and defend against claims for additional compensation or damages.

2009 reduced tuition (includes educational materials, lunch and break): \$199 (early bird registration by November 1), \$239 regular registration, or call for special pricing for four or more from the same organization. CCAO is a co-sponsor of the seminar. For more information, contact Bricker & Eckler LLP, attn: Amy Abbey, 100 South Third Street, Columbus, OH 43215, (614) 227-4989, (800) 750-1525, aabbey@bricker.com, or www.bricker.com/seminars.

CLASSIFIEDS

CHILDREN SERVICES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Greene County Children Services (GCCS) is a progressive, accredited, child welfare agency, designated by law to provide for the care, protection, and placement of abused, neglected, and dependent children in Greene

County. GCCS is state supervised and county-administered agency with 108 (105 permanent and 3 temporary) employees. GCCS helps provide the support many families need to offer their children safe and loving homes. We offer a spectrum of services from family assessment and support to temporary and permanent child placement through foster care, adoption, group home and independent living programs.

The Executive Director will oversee all aspects of the agency, including: operations; development, implementation, and monitoring of agency programs; procedures; budget; assuring statutory compliance and administering board policies. The Executive Director will be responsible for ensuring the overall mission of the agency is met by working effectively and proactively with community partners, as well as local, state and federal entities.

Qualifications: advanced degree from an accredited college/university, LSW/LISW or licensure eligibility preferred, at least seven years of experiences in children services or other human services related field, at least three years of senior management experience, or an equivalent combination of education and/or work experience, demonstrated leadership in the field of social services, ability to strengthen and cultivate relationships and work collaboratively with other organizations, stakeholders and community partners, skilled in strategic planning, action planning and implementing change, and knowledge of the delivery of Child and Family Services, including evidence-based best practices, trends and issues in the field of child welfare.

Competitive wages and benefits package commensurate with experience. Position will remain open until candidate is chosen. Apply at Greene County Search Committee, c/o Organizational Resources Group, 506 Lambourne Ave., Worthington, OH 43085-2417. EOE.

CLASSIFIED ADS

CCAO publishes the County Information and Data Service (CIDS) weekly. Classified ads will be published free of charge as a service to counties. Ads will run for two weeks if space is available. Ads will also be published on the CCAO website at www.ccao.org. When submitting your ad to CCAO please provide a link to the job posting online and a deadline. Please provide a copy of the classified ad by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday of each week. Transmit the copy to Mary Jane Neiman, CCAO Public Relations Associate, by e-mail at mjneiman@ccao.org

Office of Fiscal and Monitoring Services

To: All CDJFS, CSEA, and PCSA Directors

From: Michelle Horn, Deputy Director
Office of Fiscal and Monitoring Services
Monitoring Services Division

Date: September 25, 2009

Subject: County Monitoring Advisory Bulletin 2009-003: Sale and Lease Back of Federally Funded Buildings

It has been brought to our attention that a number of boards of county commissioners are considering the sale and lease back of buildings occupied by county family services agencies which have been funded in part by federal programs. The purpose of this Bulletin is to provide guidance as to the possible consequences of such transactions.

Background

County Monitoring Advisory Bulletin 2008-001: Claiming Costs of Building Space Under “Less-Than-Arm’s-Length” Transactions provided guidance to county family services agencies in the determination of allowable costs to federal programs of building space used for these programs. It has become apparent that strict conformity to the requirements of 2 CFR 225 (OMB Circular A-87) is resulting in a potentially significant financial burden to some counties.

In some instances, boards of county commissioners are reportedly considering obtaining relief from this burden by means of a “sale and lease back” transaction, whereby the county would sell the building in question to a third party under an arrangement whereby the county family services agency would “lease back” the building. This would presumably allow retirement of the underlying debt on the building and allow the agency to claim current market rates for the office space in question. It is our understanding that such a transaction would not, in fact, allow for an increased claim to federal programs for the cost of the building space.

Limitation on Allowable Federal Claim

The treatment of costs under a “sale and lease back” transaction is specifically addressed in 2 CFR 225, Attachment B, Section 37 (B). This section states:

Rental costs under “sale and lease back” arrangements are allowable only up to the amount that would be allowed had the governmental unit continued to own the property. This amount would include expenses such as depreciation or use allowance, maintenance, taxes, and insurance.

The effect of this provision is to limit the allowable claim to federal programs to that allowable to the county if it had continued to own the building. **Thus, there is a risk that the actual rental cost to the agency for the building space would increase, but the allowable claim to federal programs would effectively be “capped” at the amount allowable prior to the sale and lease back.**

For this reason, we recommend that agency management and boards of county commissioners consult with their county prosecuting attorney, as their statutory legal advisor, prior to implementing a sale and lease back arrangement with a county-owned building. BMCS staff are available to provide specific advice as requested.

Consulting Services Requests:

The BMCS has established a GroupWise e-mail account for questions related to technical issues. Questions may be submitted through the GroupWise system to BMCS_INQUIRIES or through the Internet to BMCS_INQUIRIES@jfs.ohio.gov.

The e-mail account will be checked frequently for new inquiries. Within the limits of our resources, we will respond to you as quickly as possible. Any inquiries which are appropriate to another ODJFS Office or Bureau will be forwarded to that department.