



CIDS

County Information and Data Service

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DATES TO REMEMBER

MARCH 6-10, 2010

NACo LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE, MARRIOTT WARDMAN PARK HOTEL,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

MARCH 10, 2009

OHIO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION BREAKFAST, WASHINGTON, D.C.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

CIDS TO RETURN ON JANUARY 8

To permit the CCAO staff time to take vacation during the holidays, County Information and Data Service (CIDS) will not be published on December 25 and January 1. Happy Holidays from our CCAO family to yours. Best wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous new year!

CCAO STAFF NEWS

WEDDING BELLS FOR KIM TORKAR

Please join the CCAO staff in congratulating Kim Torkar, CORSA Senior Claims Representative, and John Link on their recent marriage on December 6! Kim joined the CCAO staff in May, 2009. John is a technical architect for The Ohio State University. Best wishes to Kim and John and their three children as they begin their life together.

COLE PROMOTED TO RESEARCH DIRECTOR

Brad Cole, currently a Senior Policy Analyst with CCAO, has been promoted to the position of Managing Director, Research. Cole has been with CCAO for 23 years. The promotion becomes effective January 1, 2010. In his new role Cole will provide leadership and manage the research and data needs of CCAO and will be working on technical written manuals and bulletins, including the County Commissioners Handbook and County Advisory Bulletins to better serve the needs of member counties. Cole will also be working on research data bases and surveys for the association and will retain responsibility for certain policy areas such as taxation and finance, roads and bridges, solid waste, and purchasing. Cole will also be working on developing opportunities for the CCAO Research and Educational Foundation. Congratulations and good luck to Brad as he accepts these new challenges!!

NEW FROM OHIO ASSOCIATIONS

JOHN FISHER NAMED ASSOCIATION DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR

During the Ohio Job and Family Service Directors Association (OJFSDA) Annual Recognition Banquet, Licking County Director John D. Fisher was recognized as the Association Director of the Year. Each year, the association recognizes a CDJFS Director who, through dedicated efforts throughout the span of their career, exemplifies the professional qualities and achievements of an outstanding Director. Fisher has worked for Licking County for the past 21 years, including 13 years as assistant director, and began his tenure as county job and family service director in 2001. As a former President of OJFSDA, John had the foresight to appoint a special committee to study job and family services structures in other states and begin developing alternatives for modernizing and streamlining Ohio's job and family services system.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SURVEY

Over the next couple of weeks, the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities (OACBHA) will be conducting both a phone and an electronic survey as a prelude to the kick off of the Of-1-MIND campaign to gather opinions about mental illness and substance abuse. The goal of the Of-1-MIND campaign is to empower individuals and professionals to become active in the fight against stigma, and promote access and funding for alcohol, drug addiction and/or mental health services and supports.

OACBHA's plan is to mobilize Ohioans to become advocates active in the fight to reduce the stigma associated with mental illness and addiction. In addition, the campaign will educate Ohio's citizens, decision makers and local leaders on addiction and mental illness, and the fact that treatment works and people recover.

The results from the brief survey will be used to help guide the Of-1-MIND campaign that will be launched on January 26, 2010. Over the next three weeks, click on this link <http://Survey.of-1-mind.org> to take the electronic version of the survey. For additional information, the Of-1-MIND website is live at www.of-1-mind.org. This website will provide more information about the campaign and in the future will have ongoing updates about campaign activities. For more information, please contact Cheri Walter, CEO, Ohio Association of Behavioral Health Authorities, at (614) 224-1111.

FEDERAL ACTIVITIES

OHIO ONE OF SEVEN STATES TO SEE DROP IN WELFARE SPENDING IN 2008, CENSUS REPORT SHOWS

Ohio saw a slight increase in total expenditures from 2007 to 2008, but less spending was directed to welfare programs, according to a recent report from the U.S. Census Bureau. Compiled with data from the bureau's *2008 Survey of State Government Finances*, the welfare findings listed Ohio as among only seven states that saw spending on such programs dip compared to the year before. Ohio's \$16.1 billion in welfare spending in 2008 comprised 23.8% of the total \$67.79 billion in state expenditures for the year, down from \$16.35 billion (24.5%) in 2007, according to the Census data. The percent change in welfare spending in Ohio was minus-1.5%.

Other states with drops in welfare outlays compared to total spending were: New York (4%), Alabama (3.9%), Nevada (3.7%), Pennsylvania (0.6%), Georgia (0.4%), and Alaska (0.1%). The bureau said 11 states spent more than 25% of total expenditures on public welfare. The top states in that category were: Tennessee (32.8%), Maine (30.5%) and Rhode Island (29.8%).

The welfare-spending category includes, according to the federal agency, old-age assistance, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, and "commodities and services provided under welfare programs, including medical care or burial services."

Ohio's percentage of welfare spending will likely take another considerable drop in future census reports because the state, after spending down a years-in-the-making surplus of TANF, allocated less money under the program to counties in the current biennium.

While spending by all states increased by 6.2% to slightly more than \$1.7 trillion in 2008, revenues took a significant hit, dropping by nearly 16% to slightly less than \$1.7 trillion, the Census Bureau reported.

The decline was attributed to a drop in insurance trust revenue related to public employee retirement systems, the unemployment compensation system, state government workers' compensation programs and other state social insurance trusts.

NATIONAL PROGRAM

PARTNERSHIP FOR PRESCRIPTION ASSISTANCE: ONE-STOP-SHOP FOR FREE OR NEARLY FREE MEDICINE

The Partnership for Prescription Assistance (PPA) helps qualifying patients without prescription drug coverage get the medicines they need for free or nearly free. Their mission is to increase awareness of patient assistance programs and boost enrollment of those who are eligible. It is free, confidential and makes it easy for patients to find programs for which they may be eligible to apply.

The program offers a single point of access to information on 475 public and private patient assistance programs, including nearly 200 programs offered by pharmaceutical companies. PPA member programs offer more than 2,500 brand-name medicines, including a wide range of generics and helps patients contact government programs such as Medicaid and Medicare. More than 40 of the assistance programs focus on the medication and health care needs of children. The program informs patients about free health care clinics in their communities. In addition, it assists patients with chronic disease in learning about the types of new medicines in development that may help them. Millions of Americans have been helped to get free or reduced-cost prescription medicines. PPA is free and available all the time online by visiting www.pparx.org, or calling (888) 4PPA-NOW.

NACo ACTIVITIES

2010 NACo LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The National Association of Counties (NACo) has released its key legislative priorities for 2010. The seven priorities were adopted by the association's Board of Directors December 4-5. They reflect NACo's continuing efforts to "Restore the Partnership," with the purpose of strengthening the relationships among local, state and national governments.

The 2010 legislative priorities are:

- Support the surface transportation and aviation program reauthorizations;
- Support for county priorities in any jobs creation package and promote county fiscal relief;
- Support county priorities in health care reform efforts;
- Repeal the Three Percent Tax Withholding requirement;
- Obtain cosponsors for HR. 3332, The Restore the Partnership Act, and seek introduction of a similar bill in the Senate;

- Promote broadband deployment and adoption to provide, and support, county services to the citizens; and
- Oppose and reduce unfunded mandates, support preservation of county revenues and pursue new funding opportunities.

For more information go to www.naco.org and click on the article about the 2010 NACo Legislative Priorities in the center pane.

NACo LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE REGISTRATION OPENED DECEMBER 1

NACo's Legislative Conference will be held March 6 - 10 at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in Washington, D.C. The conference's theme and focus, "Finding Solutions for Tough Times" will provide you with tangible solutions to take home and apply in moving your county forward in these very difficult economic times.

In addition, the Opening Session keynote speaker is Joe Klein, columnist for *TIME* magazine. A veteran of eight presidential campaigns, *The New York Times* wrote that "Klein possesses one of the more musical ears in American politics, a gift for hearing what others miss." Registration opened on December 1. Register online and save \$25.

2010 ACHIEVEMENT AWARD PROGRAM

Begun in 1970, the annual Achievement Award Program is a non-competitive awards program that recognizes innovative county government programs. Awards are given in a number of program categories such as arts and historic preservation, children and youth, community and economic development, jails-corrections, county administration, emergency management, environmental protection, health, human services, libraries, parks and recreation, transportation and volunteers.

This year, NACo is introducing a new application process this year that requires that part of the application information be completed online. Please see the Achievement Award Application instructions for detailed information. This updated process requires submitting contact information and the title and category of the program in an online application. Payment by credit card can also be made online, but checks and purchase orders may still be mailed. The program narrative and any supplemental materials must still be mailed along with an e-mailed confirmation page.

All applications and materials must be postmarked by February 12, 2010. When ready to apply, please complete the online application form. For more information, contact Kathryn Murphy, Research Associate, NACo Research Division, (202) 661-8806 or kmurphy@naco.org.

OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

SYLLABUS

2009-050

1. A county prosecuting attorney has no authority to act as legal counsel for an organization or person seeking guardianship of an adult with developmental disabilities, and a county board of developmental disabilities has no authority under R.C. 5126.31(C) or elsewhere to request or require the county prosecuting attorney to do so.
2. A county prosecuting attorney has no authority to provide legal services to an adult served by the county board of developmental disabilities, and a county board of developmental disabilities has no authority under R.C. 5126.31(C) or elsewhere to request or require the county prosecuting attorney to do so.