Senate lobbying needed on indigent defense & APS

This week and last the Ohio Senate became fully engrossed in the state budget bill (HB 64) and will remain so through May and early June. Thus, CCAO is asking its members to reach out to their senator(s) to advocate for indigent defense funding and unfunded mandate protection in the realm of providing adult protective services (APS).

Listed below is a snapshot of some of the many budget bill provisions impacting county government that CCAO would like retained in HB 64 as the Senate considers the bill. Again, though, CCAO two priority issues are: (1) increasing indigent defense reimbursement to counties from 40 percent to 50 percent, which the House achieved and currently is included in HB 64; and (2) retaining current law relative to the state/county partnership in providing or arranging for adult protective services in ORC Section 5101.63.

The Senate is taking a different approach to tackling the budget. According to Senate Finance Chair Scott Oelslager (R-North Canton), the Senate will focus on FY 2015 numbers and law as a baseline for its budget proposals and will ask stakeholders offering testimony on the two-year spending bill to justify any proposed appropriation increases.

"We just want to start with a clean slate," he said. "We admire the work that was done by the House and the governor's office, but we just feel we want to have a clean slate to start from." The chairman added that committee members will still look at the House and governor's proposals, and facets of both may end up in the Senate's version of the budget.

The House Finance Committee made quite a few changes to the executive proposal's tax,
education and health care provisions before moving the legislation last week.

**LSC vs. OBM:** For the second budget cycle in a row, the House adopted the more generous Legislative Service Commission (LSC) estimates for revenues and Medicaid caseload over the biennium. The chamber proceeded to appropriate some of the extra money, but also left some cushion for the Senate to work with as deliberations progress. By adopting the rosier estimates, the House added another $534 million to the pot of funds it had to work with, according to the majority Republican caucus. The difference amounts to 1.15 percent of the $46.6 billion in state-only money in the original two-year plan. Subtracting the usual one-half of one percent year-end cash flow balance, the House version leaves about $329 million on the table for the Senate in the way of a projected ending balance for FY 2017, according to the House GOP.

While the House tapped into the Medicaid Reserve Fund and reduced it by more than two-thirds, it still has a $103 million balance that could also be diverted to other uses should the Senate so choose. In addition, the Senate also has some more funding flexibility given the House did not exercise the customary "rotary raids" from available fund balances or divert any unclaimed funds to the General Revenue Fund for appropriation purposes. All told, the Senate could have in the neighborhood of $600 million to work with in processing its version of the bill.

However, some senators have said that any additional funds available will be directed largely to tax reductions.

The Administration’s Budget Director Tim Keen questioned the House approach, which used “more optimistic assumptions.” The Administration is expected to work with the Senate in hopes of getting back some of its proposals that the House removed, as noted by the *Cleveland Plain Dealer.*

**CCAO Lobbying:** Given that the Senate is taking a different budget approach this year, county commissioners, county executives and county council members along with key staff are strongly urged to contact their senator(s) in the coming weeks to urge support for CCAO’s priorities: (1) appropriate adequate funding to provide indigent defense reimbursement at the 50% level to counties, thereby restoring the partnership; and (2) retain current law relative to the state/county partnership in providing or arranging for adult protective services.

-----

**CCAO’s critical budget provisions in HB 64**

**Indigent Defense Funding.** Provide The House an additional $12 million each year which, based upon assumed system costs, increases the county reimbursement rate for providing indigent defense from 40 percent to 50 percent.

**Adult Protective Services.** Keeps current law relative to the state/county partnership in providing or arranging for adult protective services in ORC Sec 5101.62.
Other issues of interest to county government are outlined below:

**CCAO supports the following provisions contained in HB 64 as passed by the House**

**Repeal Mandate to Partially Reimburse Vendors for Adjusting Registers.** Removes mandate on counties to reimburse vendors, upon request, $50 per cash register for making adjustments when the local sales and use tax is increased. A similar requirement does not exist on the State of Ohio. CCAO is seeking parity with the State, and believes this mandate is outdated, given today's technology.

**Repeal Mandate to Compensate Livestock Owners for Dog Kills.** Remove the mandate on counties to reimburse livestock owners for animal kills caused by dogs; also removes requirement that animal control officers investigate animal kills caused by coyotes and black vultures, since the State of Ohio stopped reimbursing for animal kills caused by such creatures years ago. CCAO is seeking parity with the State, and believes this mandate is outdated.

**Sale and Lease Back Authority.** Enables a political subdivision and school to enter into an agreement to sell property and lease it back. Such agreement can include provisions relating to improvements to the property.

**Remove Population Threshold and Enable All Counties to Establish a Land Bank.** Removes the population threshold of 60,000 or more from the statute so that any county may establish a Land Bank.

**Local Government Safety Capital Grant Program.** Establishes the Local Government Safety Capital Grant Program under the Local Government Innovation Council to award grants to political subdivisions to be used for the purchase of vehicles, equipment, facilities, or systems needed to enhance public safety and provides that the maximum grant award to an individual political subdivision is $100,000.

**Medicaid for Jail Inmates Pilot Program** - Requires ODM to operate a two-year pilot program under which the suspension of a person's Medicaid eligibility ends when the person is to be confined only for 30 more days in a local correctional facility owned and operated by Montgomery or Jackson County.

**Issues CCAO would ask the Senate to consider including in HB 64**

**Re-establishment of the Water and Sewer Commission.** Would re-establish the popular Water and Sewer Commission, which was eliminated when the Department of Development was morphed into JOBSOHIO and Development Services Agency (DSA). This would particularly help counties that are confronted with EPA orders.

**Soil and Water Conservation District Match Funding.** Increases soil and water districts
funding by $2 million per year to bring the State/Local Match program up to 50/50 funding.

**Electronic Poll Books.** To provide $15 million to counties to purchase (or to reimburse for obtaining) electronic poll books.

**County Courthouse Needs Assessment.** To provide $150,000 each fiscal year to the Ohio History Connection to conduct a statewide assessment of needed repairs of county courthouses listed on the National Register of Historic Places by December 31, 2016.

**TPP Reimbursement** – CCAO prefers that the phase out not continue – this significantly impacts our levy funded agencies in many counties – our proposed options:

Option 1 – Suspend the accelerated phase down for two more years similar to what has been done the past two years in the current biennium.

Option 2 – Modify how fast the decline occurs so that instead of it being 2% of total resources per year the rate of decline in total resources is set at .5% per year or 1% per year.

**Severance Tax** – CCAO along with OTA and OML have a proposal that would increase the state rate and provide a portion of the increased revenue be returned to the impacted areas.

**Issues which may be considered which concern CCAO**

**Source separated recycling.** Exempts source separated recycling materials from provisions of state law that permit solid waste districts to determine which recycling facilities source separated materials will be delivered. Instead would permit such materials to be taken to any “legitimate recycling facility” as defined under state law and as determined by the hauler. CCAO believes that this complex issue which has been raised by the private solid waste industry should be addressed in separate legislation where the issue could receive the attention it deserves and therefore would oppose its inclusion in the budget bill.

**CCAO testifies in support of HB 82 - jail privatization bill**

CCAO Legislative Counsel John Leutz offered testimony before the House State Government Committee this week to support Rep. Steve Hambley’s legislation that would allow counties to contract for the operation and management of the county jail facility. Leutz noted that current law provides for entering into a contract for the private operation and management of a correctional facility only if that facility houses misdemeanant inmates. However, this restriction effectively prohibits the ability of a county to contract for the operation or management of its jail because jail facilities primarily hold individuals who are not misdemeanants.

Leutz told committee members that the legislation is entirely permissive and, if pursued by counties, there are a number of regulations the contract must meet, including the contractor "convincingly" demonstrates to the county it can operate the facility and realize at least 5
percent savings over the projected operating costs for the county; no out-of-state prisoners may be housed in the facility; the contractor must obtain and maintain American Correctional Association accreditation; the contractor stays in full compliance with the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction rules on operation and management, including the Ohio Minimum Standards for Jails and county-approved staffing patterns; and authority of the county to impose a fine on the contractor based upon a schedule of fines is included in the contract, among others.

Noting this would be another tool in the counties’ tool boxes for fiscal management, Leutz said the bill simply provides another option for contracted jail services as counties continue to seek non-traditional and unique ways to allocate resources in a most cost-effective manner. He noted that Texas and Pennsylvania have already given their counties such flexibility.

**Healthier Buckeye Advisory Council holds inaugural meeting; reviews JFS case management proposal**

The state Healthier Buckeye Advisory Council held its inaugural meeting this week, led by ODJFS Director Cynthia Dungey. The meeting was of particular interest, given it was held shortly after the Ohio House passed its version of the budget which would greatly expand the authority of the legislatively-created entity.

The discussion revolved around the Administration’s proposed Comprehensive Case Management and Employment program, under which boards of commissioners would designate a lead agency between the CDJFS and one-stop to administer TANF and WIA funds designated for the program. ODJFS and Office of Human Services Innovation staff presented on the program’s concept and policy decisions that are being formulated based on the as-introduced version of the budget, such as performance measures that would measure the success of the program.

The department estimates that approximately 23,000 16-24 year olds will be participating in the program when it launches in December 2015. Out of those, 1100 youth aging out of foster care will be given priority. Then, come July 2016, the department envisions enrollment will about double when the population is expanded to TANF/OWF work eligible individuals and WIOA participants with barriers. Finally, in July 2017, the department intends to begin to serve food assistance work required individuals through the program.

Director Dungey shared that counties will be held accountable for outcomes, but the department does not intend to take a punitive approach. As performance measures, both employment-based and intermediate, are monitored, the state intends to offer technical assistance to assist counties in improving outcomes. If such efforts are unsuccessful, then the state would consider identifying a new lead agency to provide services within the county.
While the House took the program out of the budget bill, Rep. Ron Amstutz (R-Wooster), Speaker Pro Tempore and member of the Healthier Buckeye Council, provided some context for the House action. He reported that work is continuing on that and other related concepts, which will be included in a separate bill the chamber will vet in the House Community and Family Advancement Committee - prior to the budget's conference committee process in June.

Created in HB 483 of the 130th General Assembly, the Healthier Buckeye Council is an entity with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS), chaired by the ODJFS director, and is designed to make recommendations to the director on the Healthier Buckeye grant program (not yet in operation) as well as make recommendations by the end of the year items such as "coordinating services across all public assistance programs to help individuals find employment, succeed at work, and stay out of poverty."

Under the House-passed version of the budget, the council has more authority and autonomy. It is charged to administer the grant program, and the bill also would require each board of county commissioners to designate a local healthier buckeye council or multi-county council.

Representative Amstutz shared that ultimately, he envisions the Healthier Buckeye local and state councils running alongside the public assistance system - a voluntary piece to compliment the entitlement system, which would bring in other (non-JFS) community partners.

**Senator Beagle introduces new vicious dog legislation**

On Monday, State Sen. Bill Beagle (R–Tipp City) held a press conference in Dayton to announce his new legislation to reform Ohio's vicious dog laws. He was joined by Montgomery County Commissioner Dan Foley and Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley. Senate Bill 151 is also known as The Klonda Richey Act, named for a Dayton woman who was tragically mauled to death by two dogs a little over a year ago.

Beagle crafted his legislation after months of working with many interested parties, including officials from the City of Dayton, Montgomery County, CCAO and the Ohio Dog Wardens Association. Under current law, some prosecutors have said the penalties do not match the offense, often describing this as “one free growl, one free bite, and one free kill.” The main goal of the legislation is to give local authorities the tools they need to address problem dogs and their owners without punishing those that are not a serious threat to the community.

“The system has failed Klonda Richey, and many others in our community,” Beagle said. “We all agree there are ways to improve the code and hold owners of dangerous dogs more
accountable by including penalties for offenders and tools for local officials who deal with problem pet owners."

The Klonda Richey Act will make changes to the following:

- Create a more comprehensive penalty structure for nuisance, dangerous, and vicious dogs
- Clarify penalties for seriously injuring or killing a person or a companion animal
- Extend the amount of time felons cannot own dogs from three years to five years
- Add child abusers to the list of restricted owners
- Require that every call to a dog warden will generate an investigation or follow-up
- Allow those seeing the crime to sign affidavits as witnesses
- Create penalties for not complying with the requirements of owning, transferring or registering a dangerous or vicious dog

For a fact sheet on the Klonda Richey act, please click here. For additional information on viscous dog laws or animal control issues, please contact CCAO staffer Brian Mead at bmead@ccao.org or 614-220-7982.

Statehouse Etc.

HB 47 establishing entertainment districts permitting open containers passes legislature and is signed by the governor - Ensuring that the proposal was enacted prior to Cincinnati hosting Major League Baseball’s All-Star Game the legislature finished and the governor signed HB 47 that allows municipalities to create entertainment districts where people can openly drink alcoholic beverages in public spaces. Cities with more than 50,000 residents would be able to create two "outdoor refreshment areas," while those with populations between 35,001 to 50,000 could establish one such district authorized by the bill. In two years, many smaller municipalities will be able to follow suit. An amendment the Senate added to the proposal authorizes Cuyahoga and Franklin counties to seek F-8 permits, which allow alcohol sales at special events held on public property. Hamilton County already has the permit in place at Fountain Square. Another Senate revision creates an open container exemption for people on pedal-powered "quadricycles."

Governor signs executive order creating the Ohio Collaborative Community-Police Advisory Board - The executive order charges the advisory board with implementing key areas addressed in a final report that the Task Force on Community and Police Relations delivered to the governor. The advisory board’s 12 members will be appointed by the governor and include an equal mix of law enforcement and community leaders, including task force co-chairs former Sen. Nina Turner and Department of Public Safety Director John Born.

The Task Force’s 600-page report will serve as a blueprint for the effort, which will also explore how to implement recommendations to improve data collection, transparency, the grand jury process and communication between citizens and law enforcement, he said. While the governor
is unsure as of yet how much funding will be necessary to increase training for law enforcement officers and to bring other recommendations to fruition, he acknowledged that there is no doubt funding will be required.

The governor met with House and Senate leadership to discuss legislative approaches to the recommendations. However, he announced plans to move forward with as many of the task force’s plans as possible through executive orders. Law enforcement agencies will likely be incentivized to follow the proposed standards through grants. Agencies will also be required to submit reports to ensure they’re meeting standards, which will encourage their efforts to improve. Ohio currently does not have standards for law enforcement departments, offices and agencies so collaboration will be required to work with the ODPS Office of Criminal Justice of Services to craft the standards for proper use of force and recruiting, hiring and screening potential law enforcement officers and other candidates. The advisory board is required to monitor compliance with the standards and publish a report on the implementation of the new practices by March 31, 2017 and every year after that.

**Companion bills introduced in House and Senate to prohibit local governments from establishing residency requirements on construction projects** – Rep. Ron Maag and Sen. Joe Uecker introduced identical bills to prohibit the state or any local “public authority” from establishing a prequalification process or a requirement for the construction of a particular public improvement or for the provision of professional design services that would require a certain number or percentage of laborers to reside within a certain geographic area or service area of the public authority.

[HB 180](#) and [SB 152](#) would also prohibit any public authority from providing a bid award bonus or preference to a contractor as an incentive to employ as laborers a certain number or percentage of individuals who reside within the defined geographic area or service area of the public authority. Uncodified language in the bill also states that this legislation is intended to trump the authority of municipal corporations under Section 3 of Article 18 of the Ohio Constitution to exercise such powers of local self government in the furtherance of residency requirements as are not in conflict with the general laws of Ohio.

The legislation makes good on a commitment that was made during debate on the state transportation budget that legislation addressing residency requirements would be introduced for independent consideration. For additional information on this legislation please contact CCAO staffer Brad Cole at [bcole@ccao.org](mailto:bcole@ccao.org).

**DataOhio legislation receives first hearing this session** - Legislation that would require the state auditor to develop a uniform accounting system for many public entities, which counties could permissively use, received a first hearing this week in the House State Government Committee. HB 130 also contains several additional provisions, including establishing the Local Government Information Exchange Grant Program and specifying requirements for posting public records online. The bill, sponsored by Representatives Christina Hagan (R-Alliance) and Mike Duffey (R-Worthington), is a compilation of several bills they introduced last session to increase government transparency by making information easily available to the public. If you have questions or comments about HB 130, please contact CCAO Staffer Cheryl Subler at 614-
220-7980 or at csbler@ccao.org. Last session CCAO was an "interested party" on many of the concepts and supported the provision that would provide grant money to local governments that submit statistical data about their jurisdictions to a new state board.

**Foster care/adoption assistance extension legislation moving through House** - Legislation that would extend foster care services and adoption assistance payments, with state funds, is continuing to journey through the Ohio House. The House Community and Family Advancement Committee adopted a substitute version of the bill (HB 50, sponsored by Representatives Pelanda and Grossman) which they approved this week. Next week, the bill is marked for a first hearing and possible vote in the House Finance Committee. For additional information, contact CCAO's Laura Abu-Absi at 614-220-7996 or labu-absi@ccao.org.

**Bills Introduced**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HB 173</td>
<td><strong>VETERAN IDENTIFICATION</strong> <em>(Anielski, M., Terhar, L.)</em> To authorize county recorders to issue Ohio veterans identification cards. En. 317.241 and 5902.05.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 176</td>
<td><strong>GASEOUS FUEL VEHICLES</strong> <em>(Hall, D., O'Brien, S.)</em> To create the Gaseous Fuel Vehicle Conversion Program, to allow a credit against the income or commercial activity tax for the purchase or conversion of an alternative fuel vehicle, to reduce the amount of sales tax due on the purchase or lease of a qualifying electric vehicle by up to $500, to apply the motor fuel tax to the distribution or sale of compressed natural gas, to authorize a temporary, partial motor fuel tax exemption for sales of compressed natural gas used as motor fuel, and to make an appropriation. Am. 5735.01, 5735.012, 5739.025, 5747.98, and 5751.98 and to enact sections 122.079, 5735.015, 5735.016, 5747.78, and 5751.55.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 177</td>
<td><strong>ANIMAL CRUELTY</strong> <em>(Celebrezze, N.)</em> To require violators of specified statutes in the Animal Cruelty Law to register with the Attorney General, to require the Attorney General to establish a registry of those violators, and to prohibit an animal shelter from placing for adoption a companion animal in the shelter's care with such a violator. Am. 959.99 and to enact sections 959.30, 959.31, 959.32, 959.33, and 959.34.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 180</td>
<td><strong>CONTRACTOR LABOR</strong> <em>(Maag, R.)</em> To prohibit a public authority from requiring a contractor to employ a certain percentage of individuals from the geographic area of the public authority for the construction or professional design of a public improvement. Am. 9.49 and to repeal sections 153.013 and 5525.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 181</td>
<td><strong>VOTER REGISTRATION</strong> <em>(Clyde, K.)</em> To require that eligible persons in certain government and school databases be automatically registered to vote or have their registrations updated automatically unless those persons decline to do so and to create an online voter registration. Am. 3501.05, 3503.09, 3503.10, 3503.12, 3503.13, 3503.14, 3503.15, 3503.16, 3503.19, 3503.21, 3503.28, 3503.30, 3503.33, 3505.18, 3505.181, 3505.183, 3509.03, 3509.05, 3511.02, 3511.09, 3599.11, and 3599.18 and to enact new section 3503.11 and section 3503.20, and to repeal sections 3503.11, 3503.29, and 3505.22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SB 151  DOGS LAW (Beagle, B.) To revise provisions of the Dogs Law governing nuisance, dangerous, and vicious dogs, to revise enforcement of that Law, and to establish a notification process regarding complaints of certain violations of that Law. Am. 109.73, 955.11, 955.12, 955.22, 955.222, 955.44, 955.54, and 955.99 and to enact sections 955.13, 955.223, 955.224, 955.225, 955.226, and 955.60.

SB 152  CONTRACTOR LABOR (Uecker, J.) To prohibit a public authority from requiring a contractor to employ a certain percentage of individuals from the geographic area of the public authority for the construction or professional design of a public improvement. Am. .49 and to repeal sections 153.013 and 5525.26

Hearing Schedule

Tuesday, May 5

House Insurance (Committee Record), (Chr. Hackett, B., 466-1470), Rm. 121, 9:00 am 2015

HB 157  HEALTH INSURANCE (Butler, J., Johnson, T.) To revise the laws governing health insurance coverage, medical malpractice claims, the Medicaid program, health care provider discipline, and required and permitted health care provider disclosures; and to create the Nonstandard Multiple Employer Welfare Arrangement Program and to terminate that program after five years. --2nd Hearing-Continued sponsor testimony

House Financial Institutions, Housing & Urban Development (Committee Record), (Chr. Terhar, L., 466-8258), Rm. 122, 10:00 am

HB 134  BLIGHTED PROPERTY FORECLOSURES (Grossman, C., Curtin, M.) To establish summary actions to foreclose mortgages on vacant and abandoned residential properties, to expedite the foreclosure and transfer of unoccupied, blighted parcels, to make other changes relative to residential foreclosure actions, and to terminate certain provisions of this act on December 31, 2019, by repealing sections 3767.51, 3767.52, 3767.53, 3767.54, 3767.55, and 3767.56 of the Revised Code on that date. --2nd Hearing-Proponent

Senate Finance: Workforce Sub. (Committee Record), (Chr. Beagle, B., 466-6247), North Hearing Rm., 10:00 am

- Invited budget testimony from Ohio Housing Finance Agency, Department of Commerce, Department of Insurance, Casino Control Commission, Office of Consumers’ Counsel

Senate Medicaid (Committee Record), (Chr. Burke, D., 466-8049), Finance Hearing Rm., 1:30 pm

- Budget presentation from Department of Medicaid

House Ways & Means (Committee Record), (Chr. McClain, J., 644-6265), Rm. 121, 1:30 pm

HB 9  TAX EXPENDITURES (Boose, T.) To create a Tax Expenditure Review Committee for the purpose of periodically reviewing existing and proposed tax expenditures. --3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute

HB 166  TAX LAWS (Green, D.) To extend the deadline for filing an application for the homestead exemption or 2 1/2% property tax rollback to the end of the tax year, to require that auditors certify Local Government Fund allocations to subdivisions by regular or electronic, rather than certified mail, and to repeal laws requiring county auditors to issue permits for traveling shows, issue licenses for new merchandise public auctions, certify the annual state tax interest rate to local courts, and provide certain certifications related to the repealed personal property tax. --1st Hearing-Sponsor

House Finance & Appropriations (Committee Record), (Chr. Smith, R., 466-1366), Rm. 313, 2:00 pm (Updated: 4:38 p.m., April 30, 2015)
HB 50  ADOPTION ASSISTANCE (Pelanda, D., Grossman, C.) To extend the age for which a person is eligible for federal foster care and adoption assistance payments under Title IV-E to age twenty-one, to provide a ward's bill of rights, to require that a guardian receive the Ohio Guardianship Guide, and to make an appropriation. --1st Hearing-Sponsor-Possible vote

House Judiciary (Committee Record), (Chr. Butler, J., 644-6008), Rm. 116, 3:30 pm 2015

HB 164  RECORD SEALING (Pelanda, D., Rogers, J.) To allow a person who is convicted of an offense that may not be sealed to apply to have the conviction sealed if, before the person makes that application, the offense is changed so that it may be sealed. --1st Hearing-Sponsor

HB 6  SEX OFFENSES (LaTourette, S., Kunze, S.) To extend the period of limitations for commencing a rape or sexual battery prosecution against a person who is implicated in the offense by DNA analysis. --4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute & vote

Wednesday, May 6

Senate Session, (Chr. Faber, K., 466-4900), Senate Chamber, 1:30 pm
House Session, (Chr. Rosenberger, C., 466-3357), House Chamber, 1:30 pm

Thursday, May 7

Energy Mandates Study Committee, (Chr. Balderson, T., 466-8076), Senate Finance Hearing Rm., 8:45 am
  • Presentations by Charles Goldman, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and Gary Swanson, Energy Management Solutions

Senate Medicaid (Committee Record), (Chr. Burke, D., 466-8049), Finance Hearing Rm., 1:30 pm
  • Budget presentation from Commission on Minority Health
  • Public testimony on budgets of the Department of Medicaid