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# STATEHOUSE REPORT

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209 East State Street • Columbus, Ohio 43215-4309  
Phone: 614-221-5627 • Fax: 614-221-6986 • [www.ccao.org](http://www.ccao.org)

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## **Process for e-poll book procurement is being developed**

The new state budget includes funding to reimburse counties for 85 percent of their costs in obtaining and bringing online an electronic poll book system. Each county will be allocated a fixed amount available for reimbursement based upon the county's ratio of registered voters to the statewide number of registered voters as of July 1, 2015. The Secretary of State's office is currently in the process of determining each county's allocation and this information should be available by the end of this month.

Both the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) and the Secretary of State's office (SOS) are working diligently to put the substantial amount of details for procuring e-poll books together. It is DAS's goal to have the procurement in place in time for counties who wish to proceed this November to do so.

DAS will be handling the procurement aspect of the purchase. Counties will not need to conduct their own bidding process. DAS plans to prepare a "menu" of products and services from each of the certified vendors. Counties can then choose their preferred vendor and all the equipment and services they want from that menu. DAS will also negotiate standard terms and conditions on behalf of the counties.

In order to participate in this program, your county **MUST BE ENROLLED** in the state's cooperative purchasing program. Please review the [Program Description](#) which outlines the program and how to join if your county is not already one of the [Current Members](#).

The Ohio Association of Elections Officials, on behalf of DAS, has sent a memo to all of the county boards of elections asking when the county plans to first deploy e-poll books and whether they anticipate deploying county-wide at that election, or only within certain precincts and locations within the county. Please consult with your BOEs and encourage them to respond to this request.

## Process for \$11.5M Grant Award Process Discussed by ODJFS, Healthier Buckeye Council

The Ohio Healthier Buckeye Advisory Council convened Monday to discuss budget provisions that modify the duties of local healthier buckeye councils which may be designated by boards of county commissioners, as well as provide \$11.5M over the course of the biennium through the newly created Healthier Buckeye Grant Pilot Program.

Per [HB 64](#) (biennial budget), the Healthier Buckeye Grant Pilot Program will award grants to local healthier buckeye councils, individuals and organizations through the biennium who submit proposals demonstrating how the applicant will test and evaluate effective models of intensive case management in order to promote financial self-sufficiency and reduced reliance on public assistance through a community environment that maximizes opportunities for individuals and families in achieving optimal health in all aspects.



**Cynthia Dungey**  
**ODJFS Director**

The advisory council discussed Monday the creation of a subcommittee to make recommendations regarding the grant application process, which per HB 64 is required to issue an RFP for the process. The Council has until Dec. 31, 2015, to set guidelines for the RFP. While members have yet to be named, discussion included opening up the subcommittee to other stakeholder groups not represented on the council.



**Rep. Ron Amstutz**

ODJFS Director Cynthia Dungey shared with the advisory council that she envisions the group making recommendations to her on which grant requests should receive funding as well.

Permissive authority existed in law for boards of commissioners to designate local healthier buckeye councils prior to the state budget bill, but the program was greatly enhanced in HB 64 under the leadership of House Speaker Pro Tempore Ron Amstutz (R-Wooster), who advocated for the Healthier Buckeye Grant Program and an enhanced role for local councils.

Additional information on local healthier buckeye councils and the grant program will be coming in CCAO's Budget Overview, which is currently being developed. In addition, stay tuned for future editions of *Statehouse Report* and *CIDS* as information on the grant program development and award process becomes available.

Contact CCAO Policy Analyst Laura Abu-Absi at [labu-absi@ccao.org](mailto:labu-absi@ccao.org) or (614) 220-7996 for more information.

## **JMOC receives update on behavioral health integration: HPIO report on health value**

At its Thursday meeting, the Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee (JMOC), heard from Department of Medicaid Director John McCarthy on the integration of behavioral health into Medicaid managed care, as the panel is charged with overseeing the behavioral health changes. Director McCarthy shared that Ohio is moving forward with a State Plan Amendment and looking at a complete redesign of billable services that would take effect in July 2016. Following the implementation of those changes, the state will have more than a year to prepare for a January 2018 date for moving behavioral health into care coordination.



***John McCarthy  
Dept. of Medicaid  
Director***

Health Policy Institute of Ohio (HPIO) officials also briefed the joint legislative panel on efforts Ohio could undertake to maximize the value it receives from health care spending. Pointing to their Health Value Dashboard, which gave the state low marks for population health outcomes, health value and health care costs, HPIO leaders told the JMOC that Ohio has the potential to become a high value state if it adopts certain strategies.

HPIO President Amy Rohling McGee told panel members that the dashboard, which was developed to help lawmakers track Ohio's performance, said while the state spends a lot on health care, "we are not seeing this spending translate into good population health outcomes for Ohioans." Ohio joins Indiana and West Virginia as low value states with poor population health outcomes and high health care costs. Health challenges facing the Buckeye State include: infant mortality, tobacco use, access to illicit drug use treatment, diabetes and food insecurity.

Ms. McGee added. "While the amount we're spending is a concern, how we're investing those dollars is more disconcerting. If we could invest existing dollars more wisely to address factors outside of the health care system that are impacting our health, it is likely that Ohio would have better health outcomes." Addressing costs is necessary for sustainability, but making sure that we're investing in a balanced portfolio of strategies both inside and outside the health care system is critical to achieving better health value for Ohioans."

HPIO identified strategies to increase the effectiveness of community health planning processes in Ohio. They include: encouraging alignment across state and local level health plans; supporting collaboration, partnership and meaningful community engagement; increasing transparency around hospital and local health district community planning activities; and encouraging investment in evidence-based population health strategies to address prioritized health needs. Local level health plans that can be aligned include local health department, ADAMH board, hospital, and family and children first plans.

## **Indigent defense reimbursement to start at 48%**

Earlier this week CCAO sent an email to all of our members forwarding a [memo](#) from State Public Defender Tim Young informing the counties that, due to newly developing trends, the State Public Defender will initially be reimbursing counties at 48 percent instead of 50 percent and hopes that as the fiscal year progresses, the projections will improve and reimbursement will be able to be adjusted up to 50 percent.

In recent months, there has been a significant increase in the amount counties have submitted for state reimbursement. At the time the State Public Defender Commission filed its fiscal year 2016-2017 biennial budget request, statewide costs were \$117.3 million and growing at about three percent per year. Actual statewide costs in fiscal year 2015 were \$127.7 million, and based on the recent submission trend from the counties, system costs are now projected to be around \$133 million in fiscal year 2016 and \$138 million in fiscal year 2017. On the funding side, revenues flowing into the Indigent Defense Support Fund (IDSF) are declining and are trending below the original projections. In fiscal year 2015, IDSF revenues were \$41.8 million. This compares to \$43.1 million collected in fiscal year 2014, a decrease of about \$1.3 million or three percent. At the time the fiscal year 2016-2017 budget request was filed, monthly revenues were averaging about \$3.7 million per month or \$44 million per year. The current trailing 12-month average is about \$3.5 million per month or \$42 million per year, and on a declining trend. In addition, HB 64 contained temporary language, to which both the Public Defender's Office and CCAO objected, that reduced the percentage of the IDSF dedicated to county reimbursement from 88 to 87 percent.

CCAO appreciates the steady climb in reimbursement rate over the last three biennia and the additional GRF funding in the new state budget bill, and certainly hopes that 50 percent reimbursement will be able to be achieved.

## **Airport funding receiving administration's attention**

While the state budget bill ([HB 64](#)) provided a 950 percent increase for a program that funds local airport improvements, the governor vetoed the provision to earmark tax revenue from aircraft fuel sales for airport construction and maintenance, sought by the aviation industry. The vetoed budget provision would have required the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) to work with the aviation industry to draft legislation to dedicate tax revenue from the sale of aircraft fuel for maintenance, capital improvements and safety upgrades at the state's airports. The administration, however, in spite of the veto, will be working to devise a dedicated funding stream for airports.

In his veto message, Gov. John Kasich said ODOT was not the appropriate agency to draft tax law. "This responsibility is most appropriately handled by the General Assembly and/or other agencies," he said.

Ohio Department of Taxation (ODT) noted that the agency is aware that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has asked states to dedicate funding for maintaining airports and ODT is working on the issue. ODT is collaborating with the ODOT in an effort to come up with a plan that would outline the steps necessary to create a system that would dedicate tax revenue to support air transportation facilities.

During deliberations on the transportation budget ([HB 53](#)) earlier this year, the aviation industry lobbied lawmakers for a plan to shift aircraft fuel from the state sales tax to the gas tax and earmark the revenue for airport infrastructure development. Despite vetoing a related provision, the governor signed off on a \$6 million a year appropriation for ODOT's Ohio Airport Grant Program that helps fund upgrades at the state's smaller aviation facilities. The previous budget funded the program at about \$885,000 in fiscal year 2014 and \$570,000 in FY 2015.

Rep. Rick Perales (R-Beavercreek) applauded the fact that Gov. Kasich and legislative leaders agreed to significantly increase funding for local airports and called the industry a "huge driver of economic development" for the state.

However, the increase for the Airport Grant Program is limited because the money isn't available to the state's major commercial and cargo airports, the funds can only be used for paving and maintenance of existing infrastructure, and the funding increase still doesn't allow Ohio to take advantage of a nine-to-one match in federal funding for airport facilities.

Obtaining federal matching funds for aviation would help correct the imbalance Ohio receives in road funding paid for by the federal gas tax, Rep. Perales said. "Here's an opportunity to try to get some of our hard-earned money back from the federal government to put in to big and small airports."

Rep. Perales said he planned to continue working on the issue through standalone legislation he introduced earlier this year ([HB 32](#)) that would apply the gas tax to aviation fuel and earmark revenue for airports. However, he said he planned to revise the proposal substantially. Sales tax receipts on aircraft fuel amount to about \$14 million a year for the GRF, but the Ohio's airports have received less than \$1 million annually from the state in recent years, he said. Unlike revenues from the state motor fuel tax, which are earmarked for road and bridge construction, taxes on aviation fuel are deposited in the state's general revenue fund. "My intent was to have ODOT figure out how we can do the same thing we do with the automobile gas tax and make it an excise tax. Therefore, it's not a budget-to-budget-type scenario. The airports can plan on money being put aside for operation and maintenance and capital improvements," he said.

## Statehouse Etc.

**The Senate schedules 17 session days for the remainder of the year** – The Senate will be back in session on September 15, which would kick off three consecutive weeks of session. The chamber is set to meet on Oct. 7, followed by sessions on Oct. 14, 20 and 21. Senators have committee hearing dates set for Oct. 6, 13, 27 and 28. November, sessions are planned for the 10th, 17th and 18th, with an additional day of committee hearings on the 4th. December calls for session dates on the 1st, 2nd, 8th and 9th, with if-needed dates on the 15th and 16th.

**Reminder: CCAO Budget Overviews.** Check out the CCAO home page ([www.ccao.org](http://www.ccao.org)) or this week's edition of *CIDS* for registration information about the five regional budget briefings the CCAO Policy Team will conduct in August. In addition, OSU Extension will provide an update. These are free to CCAO members and key staff

## Bills Introduced



- HB 287** **SUMMER JOBS** ([Barnes, J.](#)) To require the Director of Development Services to establish a youth summer jobs pledging initiative to increase access to summer employment opportunities for high school and college youth. Am. 122.043
- HB 288** **ANSWERING POINTS** ([Henne, M.](#), [Rezabek, J.](#)) To require the statewide emergency services internet protocol network steering committee to update the operational standards for public safety answering points En. 128.021
- HB 289** **DEATH PENALTY** ([Antonio, N.](#), [Antani, N.](#)) To abolish the death penalty. (multiple sections)