



DATES TO REMEMBER

- FEBRUARY 10, 2016 **VENDOR COLLUSION IN PUBLIC CONTRACTING** – CCAO 2ND WEDNESDAY WEBINAR
- FEBRUARY 17, 2016 **CCAO SMALL COUNTY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE,**
CONFERENCE CALL
- CCAO HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE,**
CONFERENCE CALL
- CCAO METROPOLITAN AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS**
COMMITTEE, CONFERENCE CALL
- FEBRUARY 18, 2016 **JOINT MEETING - CCAO GENERAL GOVERNMENT &**
OPERATIONS AND JUSTICE & PUBLIC SAFETY
COMMITTEES, CCAO OFFICES, COLUMBUS
- FEBRUARY 19, 2016 **CCAO BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, CCAO OFFICES,**
COLUMBUS
- FEBRUARY 20-24, 2016 **NACo LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE**
MARRIOTT WARDMAN PARK HOTEL, WASHINGTON, D.C.
- FEBRUARY 26, 2016 **CORSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, CCAO OFFICES,**
COLUMBUS
- MARCH 9, 2016 **A NEW WAY TO WORK: AN UPDATE ON THE**
COMPREHENSIVE CASE MANAGEMENT & EMPLOYMENT
PROGRAM, CCAO 2ND WEDNESDAY WEBINAR
- MARCH 18, 2016 **JOINT MEETING – CCAO TAXATION & FINANCE AND**
AGRICULTURE & RURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEES, CCAO
OFFICES, COLUMBUS
- APRIL 6, 2016 **OHIO COUNCIL OF COUNTY OFFICIALS LEGISLATIVE**
RECEPTION, STATEHOUSE ATRIUM, COLUMBUS

ASSOCIATION NEWS

Leader sworn in as Morrow county commissioner

Dennis Leader was recently sworn in to fill the unexpired term of Morrow County Commissioner Tom Harden, who resigned on Dec. 31.* A graduate of the Max Fischer School of Business at The Ohio State University, Dennis has focused his business career on investments and insurance.



He was elected to the Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center Board of Governors where he serves as president. Dennis also chaired the Morrow County Hospital Board of Trustees. Additionally, Dennis has been appointed on the Tri-Rivers Career Center and Pioneer Career and Technology Center boards.

As Morrow County Commissioner, Dennis plans to promote economic development through a collaboration of educational and job training resources. Please join CCAO with a warm welcome for Dennis Leader.

*Tom Harden died on Jan. 31. See related story in Association news.

Vendor collusion in public contracting webinar – Feb. 10

Join CCAO for a one-hour webinar on Feb. 10 at 9:30 a.m. to hear about “Vendor Collusion in Public Contracting—Detection and Reporting.” Public purchasers and the taxpayers they serve benefit when vendors compete. Bid-rigging and other forms of vendor collusion are both costly and difficult to detect. This presentation will educate attendees on the basics of antitrust law and will identify some of the most common indicators that vendors may be working together instead of competing.

Attendees will hear real life examples of vendor misconduct impacting Ohio public purchasers and the litigation that the Ohio Attorney General's Office has brought in an effort to recover the overcharges suffered by local governments, state agencies and other governmental bodies. The presenters will also describe the Ohio Attorney General's Partnership for Competitive Purchasing, a voluntary program aimed at assisting public entities in detecting and remedying vendor misconduct.

Topics include:

- What are the warning signs or “red flags” of vendor collusion?
- How and when should you report irregularities in the bidding process?
- What techniques are available for detecting bid-rigging in electronic bids submitted online?

Our speakers are Jennifer L. Pratt, Esq., chief of the Antitrust Section, and Anthony Dillard, an investigator with the Antitrust Section of the Ohio Attorney General's Office. Webinar participants may pose questions during and after the presentation. [Register here...](#) [Click here](#) for more information.

Reminder: all members welcome to attend CCAO Board of Directors meeting

This is a reminder that all county commissioners, county executives and county council members are welcome and invited to attend the CCAO Board of Directors meetings. The next CCAO Board of Directors meeting will be held on Friday, Feb. 19 at the CCAO Offices, 209 E State Street, in Columbus. So that we may include everyone who plans on attending in the lunch count, please RSVP [Kathy Dillon](#), Office Manager & Boards' Liaison, on or before February 11. Also, please feel free to contact Kathy should you have any questions.

CCAO Health and Human Services Committee – Feb 17

The Health and Human Services Committee Chair Paula Prentice (Summit) and Vice Chair Otto Nicely (Defiance) have scheduled a conference call meeting on Feb. 17 at 2 p.m. At such time, the Committee will receive an update on the implementation of the Comprehensive Case Management and Employment Program (CCMEP). An agenda will be available as we get closer to the meeting date.

[Click here](#) for a complete list of the Health and Human Services Committee membership. Please notify CCAO Administrative Assistant [Curtis Pratt](#) on or before February 12 and let him know whether or not you will be able to participate on the call. If you have any questions about the committee or agenda, please contact [Kate Neithammer](#), Policy Analyst, at (614) 220-7996 or (888) 757-1904.

In memoriam

Edward O. Elliott II

Hardin County Commissioner Edward Elliott, died on Jan. 30. Born and raised in Hardin County, Ed was a partner in the Plaza Inn Restaurant, Hardin Motors and the family farm. He also was a licensed insurance agent for Dana L. Baker Insurance. Ed was a graduate of Ridgemoor High School and Bowling Green State University earning a Bachelor's Degree in business management. He also was a U.S. Army veteran. Ed served as a Hardin County Commissioner from 1996 to 1999 and from 2009 to present. He was a member of many organizations on the county, state and national levels and active in his church. Ed loved spending time with his family, fishing and was a generous and caring man. [Click here](#) to leave a note of sympathy for his widow, Rosalie, and his family.



Tom E. Harden

Recently retired Morrow County Commissioner Tom Harden passed away on Jan. 31 following a brief illness. A graduate of Mount Gilead High School, Tom followed his childhood dream of becoming a deputy sheriff with the Morrow County Sheriff's Department. He served as a deputy for over 20 years until 1972 when he was elected as sheriff. Tom continued his dedication to the Morrow County community serving as county commissioner for two terms from 2009 until his retirement last Dec. In total, Tom served his community for over 48 years. In addition, he served on the boards of numerous local, state and national organizations and his church. [Click here](#) to leave a note of sympathy for his widow, Pat, and his family.



STATE ACTIVITIES

Safety Capital Grant applications available Feb. 16

Applications for the FY 2016 Safety Capital Grant program will be available on Tuesday, Feb. 16. The grant program was created in Am. Sub. HB 64, the FY16/FY17 biennial budget bill, and provides funding for the purchase of needed items to enhance the public safety of a community's residents. The program received an appropriation of \$10,000,000 for FY16 and \$10,000,000 for FY17.

Safety Capital Grants – Time Line

- Application period opens: Feb. 16
- Applications due: Mar. 21
- Review period: Mar. thru May
- LGIC awards meeting: May 19

A county, township, municipal corporation, joint emergency medical services district, fire district, joint fire district, fire and ambulance district, joint police district or joint ambulance district are eligible to apply. A political subdivision is not restricted to the number of grant applications it may file, either individually or jointly with one or more political subdivisions, however, a political subdivision shall not be awarded more than \$100,000 in total grants attributed to them.

Consequently, an individual political subdivision can apply for a grant amount up to \$100,000. A group of political subdivisions may seek a level of funding, which does not exceed the total amount which may be collectively awarded to those political subdivisions individually, up to \$500,000. Applications from multiple political subdivision that seek to consolidate emergency services or enhance cooperation between or among the applying jurisdictions to more efficiently deliver emergency services are highly encouraged. The program is administered by the Local Government Innovation Council (LGIC). [Click here](#) for more information and to apply beginning Feb. 16.

BWC group retro changes under discussion for public employers

The Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation ("BWC") is proposing some changes to group retrospective rating programs (Group Retro). The changes would mean that public employer

taxing districts participating in group retrospective rating programs would see an estimated increase in the final premium of approximately 7% annually. A similar change was implemented for private employer groups in 2015. The proposed change is receiving its initial presentation to the BWC Board of Directors on Thursday, Feb. 25. CCAO and the CCAO Service Corporation's experts through our Worker's Comp programs will be tracking the process carefully and advocate for the best possible outcome for counties.

Your county's appointments to Regional Prevention Council/Children's Trust Fund

CCAO is reaching out to counties to assure that the board of county commissioners has selected its designees for the new regional prevention councils and forwarded the information to the Ohio Children's Trust Fund (OCTF) staff, as such communication was due the end of January.

As you may recall, the Ohio state budget bill (HB 64) changed the county-based delivery system for OCTF funded programs into a regional model, with eight child abuse and child neglect prevention councils. Each board of county commissioners within a region may appoint up to two county prevention specialists to represent the county on the council.



As you may recall, CCAO has written about the appointments in our [Counties Current](#) newsletter. In addition, we have linked a [confirmation/correspondence letter](#) for you to submit the names to the state.

Individuals you may consider appointing to these positions could be Family Children First Council staff/members as well as other prevention specialists, to name just a few of the many possibilities.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact CCAO staffer [Cheryl Subler](#) at (614) 220-7980 or (888) 757-1904.

Moving forward with Comprehensive Case Management

You're probably hearing more and more about the Comprehensive Case Management and Employment Program (CCMEP). With looming deadlines and a lack of information available, many counties are feeling uneasy about CCMEP and how to move forward. In layman's terms, CCMEP is a new program created in the state budget (HB64) that serves low income individuals ages 16-24. It integrates TANF and WIOA monies, essentially combining human service and workforce programs, to create a more comprehensive approach to these job seekers. The program is scheduled to launch on July 1, 2016. To learn more [click here](#).

You should soon receive communication from the state (if you haven't already) requesting that you designate a lead agency to oversee the program, either your CDJFS or OhioMeansJobs Center. Preliminary conversations indicate that even if you're a combined county, you'll need to consider this component because it could impact the flow of funding. The state is in the process of compiling a fiscal FAQ document that we hope will help.

CCAO has been collaborating with the Ohio Jobs and Family Services Directors Association (OJFSDA) and the Workforce Investment Board Directors Association to increase communication between ODJFS and the counties. At a meeting with ODJFS leadership this week, questions regarding performance measures, training and procurement were brought up. We didn't receive any definitive answers, but you can expect ongoing reports from us as we get more information. In the meantime, ODJFS encouraged us to continue to send them any questions we have on the implementation of CCMEP.

If you have questions please send them to CCAO staffer [Kate Neithammer](#) at (614) 220-7996 or (888) 757-1904.

Save the Date: CCAO is hosting a 2nd Wednesday webinar on "[A New Way to Work: An Update on the Comprehensive Case Management & Employment Program](#)" on Wednesday March 9 at 9:30 a.m. [Register here...](#)

Abandoned Gas Station Cleanup Grant website launched

The [Abandoned Gas Station Cleanup Grant Program](#) is now available on the Ohio Development Services Agency website. The site contains program guidelines and resources to determine a site's eligibility.



**Development
Services Agency**

The Abandoned Gas Station Cleanup Grant will provide funding to assess and clean up BUSTR Class C sites (underground storage tanks with documented petroleum releases). Eligible activities include up to \$100,000 for assessment and up to \$500,000 for cleanup. Other eligible activities include costs to empty or remove underground storage tanks, abatement of asbestos, lead or other contamination, demolition and site clearance.

The online application will be available in mid- to late February. If you have any questions about the grant, please contact [April Kasun](#) at (614) 466-4007.

FEDERAL ACTIVITIES

Best practices for addressing prescription opioid overdoses, misuse and addiction

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has issued a series of informational bulletins on effective practices to identify and treat mental health and substance use disorders covered under Medicaid. These bulletins highlight emerging Medicaid strategies and best practices for preventing opioid-related harms. The epidemic of opioid overdose, misuse and addiction is a critical public health issue that affects the lives of millions of Americans, including those who are enrolled in the Medicaid program.



The "[Best Practices for Addressing Prescription Opioid Overdoses, Misuse and Addiction](#)" informational bulletin provides background information on overdose deaths involving prescription opioids, describes several Medicaid pharmacy benefit management strategies for mitigating prescription drug abuse and discusses strategies to increase the provision of naloxone to reverse opioid overdose and reducing opioid-related overdose deaths.

FEMA considers "disaster deductible"

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is considering a "disaster deductible" concept that would require recipients of federal disaster assistance funds to meet a certain level of spending before receiving federal funds following a disaster – similar in concept to a personal health insurance deductible.



On Jan. 20, an [advanced notice of proposed rulemaking \(ANPRM\)](#) announced that FEMA is considering the establishment of a "disaster deductible," which would require recipients of FEMA Public Assistance (typically states; counties are sub-recipients) to meet a predetermined level of financial or other commitment before receiving federal disaster funds. Under a disaster deductible framework, states could meet the deductible requirement not just through their post-disaster spending, but also through adopting standardized and enhanced building codes or investing in mitigation projects.

If a deductible were implemented, counties would likely see delays in the receipt of funds originating from the federal government following a disaster, as states would likely have to document and present their spending and mitigation activities to FEMA before receiving and distributing federal funds.

At this point, FEMA is not formally proposing the implementation of a deductible, but the agency is soliciting comments on the deductible concept. These comments are due by Mar. 21. NACo is working with its members and partner organizations to assess the potential impact of a "disaster deductible" on counties prior to submitting comments to FEMA. For more information, please

contact [Hadi Sedigh](#), NACo Associate Legislative Director, Justice and Public Safety, at (202) 942-4213 or (317) 308-8024. [Read more...](#)

HUD will not fund local government Assessments of Fair Housing requirements

Last Dec., the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) published its final rule in the Federal Register on the [Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing \(AFFH\) Assessment Tool](#) for local governments preparing Assessments of Fair Housing (AFH). HUD is not providing any financial assistance for program participants to implement this new process, but has said it will provide “robust” technical assistance.

The Assessment Tool is a guide that program participants who currently receive formula funding from the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG), the Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) and the Emergency Solutions Grants Program (ESG) must use to conduct their fair housing assessments.

No AFH will be due before Oct. 4. The AFH for local governments that received less than \$500,000 in CDBG formula funding for FY15 would be due no earlier than Oct. 2017. [Click here](#) for the Assessment Tool and other materials. [Read more...](#)

NACo ACTIVITIES

Achievement Award Program – nominate your award winning program!

The National Association of Counties (NACo) announced that submissions for the [2016 Achievement Awards](#) will be accepted on Feb. 1. All applications must be submitted and paid for by the April 1 at 11:59 p.m. deadline.

For 46 years, NACo has recognized innovative programs in county government through the Achievement Awards Program. The awards provide an excellent opportunity for winners to promote their successes to a larger audience, as well as share best practices with their partners and peers.



As a non-competitive awards program, each application is judged on its own merits and not against other applications received. Awards are given in 21 categories culminating with an awards luncheon at the 2016 NACo Annual Conference and Exposition in Los Angeles County (Long Beach), CA. Click on the link above for more information or email awards@naco.org if you have any questions.

NACo Legislative Conference – schedule appointments on the hill!

The [NACo Legislative Conference](#) will be held on Feb. 20-24, 2016 at the Marriott Wardman

Park Hotel, 2660 Woodley Rd NW, in Washington, D.C. This annual meeting brings over 2,000 elected and appointed county officials from across the country to focus on legislative issues facing county government. NACo has recently published a more detailed program.



CCAO encourages all county officials attending the NACo Legislative Conference to schedule meetings with your Member of Congress. We will be preparing a one-page flyer with talking points to take along on your visits with your Member of Congress. If you need assistance planning visits or would like CCAO staff to join you, please contact [Mary Jane Neiman](#), Public Relations Associate, at (614) 220-7979.

EDUCATION and GRANTS

Innovations in American Government Awards

Applications are being accepted for the [Innovations in American Government Awards](#). Offered by Harvard Kennedy School's Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation, the Innovations Award is the nation's premier award for the public sector. It recognizes programs that demonstrate creative and effective government at its best. All units of government from all policy areas are eligible to apply for recognition.



This year, the Ash Center is also once again offering the [Roy and Lila Ash Innovations Award for Public Engagement in Government](#), a special Innovations Award that will recognize government-led programs that demonstrate novel and effective approaches to increasing public engagement and participation in the governance of towns, cities, states and the nation.

The winners of the Innovations in American Government Award and the Roy and Lila Ash Award will each receive a \$100,000 grant to support replication and dissemination activities in 2017. Top finalists will also receive monetary grants. Application deadline: April 15. [Click here](#) for applications and additional information.

Maximizing grant funding in urban counties

Urban counties already receive a good amount of funding to address a wide range of issues from economic and community development to public health and transportation. But for those counties that are committed to a proactive grantseeking strategy, there's a lot more available - for innovative projects, interagency coordination, community education, public safety, energy projects, and much more.



Join the Grants Office and NACo County Solutions and Innovation on Thursday, Feb. 11 at 2 p.m. as they survey the 2016 funding landscape for urban counties and discuss tips for developing and implementing a comprehensive grantseeking strategy that multiplies the grant

funding your county receives, while it inspires leaders across your county to develop innovative approaches to meeting the needs of citizens. [Register here...](#)

Cross sharing information in the juvenile justice system

Youth who become involved in the juvenile justice system often are in contact with other child-serving systems, like child welfare, health or human services agencies. When juveniles are involved in multiple systems, there are multiple points at which sharing information across the agencies or systems can improve outcomes for youth and families, protect public safety and more effectively use taxpayer dollars. Join NACo on Thursday, Feb. 18 at 2 p.m. and hear from experts from the [Robert F. Kennedy National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice](#) and several counties will share examples and lessons learned from successful information-sharing efforts across the country. [Register here...](#)

CLASSIFIEDS

CCAO publishes classified ads on our [website](#) free of charge as a service to counties. Ads will be published until the application deadline. When submitting your ad to CCAO, please provide a link to the online job posting and a deadline date. Email your classified ad to [Mary Jane Neiman](#), CCAO Public Relations Associate. <http://www.ccao.org/classified-ads>