DATES TO REMEMBER

MARCH 9, 2016
A NEW WAY TO WORK: AN UPDATE ON THE COMPREHENSIVE CASE MANAGEMENT & EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM, - CCAO 2nd WEDNESDAY WEBINAR

MARCH 11, 2016
CEBCO BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, CCAO OFFICES, COLUMBUS

MARCH 16, 2015
CORSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, CCAO OFFICES, COLUMBUS

MARCH 17, 2016
CCAO GENERAL GOVERNMENT AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE, CONFERENCE CALL

MARCH 18, 2016
JOINT MEETING – CCAO TAXATION & FINANCE AND AGRICULTURE & RURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEES, CCAO OFFICES, COLUMBUS

MARCH 21, 2016
NW DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS AND ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION QUARTERLY MEETING, TRI-RIVERS CAREER CENTER, MARION (MARION), COUNTY

MARCH 23, 2016
CORSA RENEWAL MEETING, EMBASSY SUITES AIRPORT HOTEL, COLUMBUS

MARCH 24, 2016
SCRAP TIRE MANAGEMENT SUMMIT, GRANGE AUDUBON CENTER, COLUMBUS (Sponsored by OSWDO/CCAO/OEPA)

APRIL 8, 2016
CEBCO ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, COLUMBUS AIRPORT MARRIOTT HOTEL, COLUMBUS

APRIL 13, 2016
RECORDS RETENTION POLICIES: HOW LONG DO WE KEEP THIS RECORD? – CCAO 2nd WEDNESDAY WEBINAR

APRIL 13, 2016
CCAO BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, CCAO OFFICES, COLUMBUS (Note: Date had been changed from April 6 to 13)
ASSOCIATION NEWS

Summit County appoints new council members

Join CCAO in welcoming Elizabeth Walters and Jeff Wilhite, who were both appointed to fill unexpired terms on the Summit County Council.

Elizabeth (Liz) Walters was appointed on Feb. 3 to the unexpired term of At Large Council Member Sandra Kurt. Kurt resigned for an appointment to fill the unexpired term of Summit County Clerk of Courts Daniel Horrigan who was elected Mayor of Akron.

Jeff Wilhite was sworn in on Feb. 17 to fill the unexpired term of District 4 Council Member Frank Comunale. Comunale, who had been on the county council for almost a decade, gave up his seat to work with the Summit County Department Job and Family Services in an outreach position working with senior citizens.

Born and raised in Northeast Ohio, Liz Walters has been a resident of Summit County for most of her life. For the last ten years, Liz has worked for organizations that seek to improve the lives of middle-class families in Summit County. She has worked for local non-profits and organizations and served as a senior aide to former Congresswoman Betty Sutton (Dist. 13) for several years. Liz is a lifetime Girl Scout and has been active with the organization as a member, employee or volunteer since the age of five. Liz is a graduate of Cuyahoga Falls High School and earned a B.A. in History from Saint Vincent College in Latrobe, Pennsylvania and her Master’s in Public Administration from Cleveland State University.

A third generation Summit County resident, Jeff Wilhite is the executive director of the Family Promise of Summit County, a program serving homeless children and their families, keeping them together and successfully back into housing. Wilhite has a background in public service as the Deputy Mayor for Administration, Deputy Director of Planning and Urban Development and Founding Director of the Summit Akron Solid Waste Management Authority (Now ReWorks). He has also served as a board member of the Board of Zoning Appeals, Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority, and AGMC Visiting Nurse Service in addition to many other community boards and organizations.
Congratulations to Liz Walters and Jeff Wilhite on your appointments to County Council and best wishes to Sandra Kurt and Frank Comunal as you embark on new ventures in your public service careers.

Comprehensive Case Management and Employment Program webinar – Mar. 9

Ohio’s new state operating budget establishes a statewide framework that is designed to transform the network of human service and workforce programs to find a “New Way to Work for Ohioans” in poverty, focusing on 16- to 24-year-olds, where early intervention can have the greatest impact. This is to be accomplished by aligning Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act monies, with the goal of ensuring that the strengths of local workforce and human services systems are leveraged in a way that focuses on people, not programs.

CCAO is pleased to offer a webinar on “A New Way to Work: An Update on the Comprehensive Case Management and Employment Program (CCMEP)” on March 9 at 9:30 a.m. Our featured speaker is Douglas Lumpkin who is the deputy director of the Office of Human Services Innovation which is housed in the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. Lumpkin will provide an update on the Comprehensive Case Management and Employment Program and specifically address: implementation timeline, designation of lead agency, county plan preparation and training update.

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services has provided the following handouts that may be referenced during the webinar:

- CCMEP Allocation Estimates by County (11/24/15)
- CCMEP Allocation Estimates by Workforce Area (11/24/15)
- CCMEP Funding Flow by Lead Agency (2/12/16)
- All Fiscal FAQ’s (updated as of 2/25/16)

Click here to register. If you experience difficulty in registering, please contact Curt Pratt, CCAO Administrative Assistant, and provide him with your name, title, employer and email address. For additional information regarding the topic for this webinar, please contact Brad Cole, CCAO Managing Director of Research. Read more...

National County Government Month

April is National County Government Month (NCGM), an annual celebration of county government. This year’s theme is Safe and Secure Counties, and the National Association of Counties (NACo) has assembled a toolkit, including a sample press release, proclamation and ideas for activities, to help you celebrate your successful county programs and provide information on how your local government serves and contributes to your community and residents you serve.
A few ways you can get involved include

- Send fact sheets to the media, post them on the county website and distribute via social media. Fact sheets can highlight county services and programs provided by your county.
- Hold an open house and feature county departments showcasing the services provided. Schedule tours through the building and arrange for county employees to be available to discuss the services.
- Offer public tours at county facilities such as health facilities, parks, libraries, courts, recycling/waste transfer stations and public safety buildings. Reach out to community groups, such as service clubs, 4-H and scouts and encourage them to come as a group to see how county facilities operate.
- Present in schools and discuss how county government is structured and define its roles and responsibilities. For those of you who have activities planned, please send information and pictures to CCAO Communications Coordinator Andrew Johnson to promote on social media sites and in publications.

**OCCO Legislative Reception – Date Changed to April 13**

Mark your calendar and plan to attend the Ohio Council of County Officials (OCCO) Legislative Reception to be held on April 13 from 5-7 p.m. in the Statehouse Atrium in Columbus. The reception has been rescheduled from April 6 to April 13 due to Governor Kasich delivering the State of the State Address that evening in Marietta.

Registration information will be emailed to all county officials and members of the Ohio General Assembly next week.

Personally invite your members of the Ohio General Assembly to the reception and make an appointment to discuss issues of importance to your county.

**Scrap Tire Management Summit – Mar. 24**

The Organization of Solid Waste Districts of Ohio (OSWDO), in partnership with the County Commissioners Association of Ohio and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, is holding a one-day workshop to gather ideas for combatting the persistent problem of illegal tire dumping and to develop sustainable solutions for scrap tire management in Ohio. The Scrap Tire Management Summit will be held on Thursday, Mar. 24 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Grange Audubon Center, 505 West Whittier Street, in Columbus. There is no charge to attend, but pre-registration is necessary.

We look forward to working with a dedicated group of thoughtful leaders who are committed to identifying and implementing solutions. To ensure all interests and viewpoints are heard, a
diverse group of stakeholders including county commissioners, county executives and county council members, solid waste districts, environmental law enforcement, health departments, Ohio EPA, and tire recyclers, retailers and manufacturers are invited.

To facilitate a productive meeting, participation is limited to 100 people. A professional facilitator will guide the discussion about problems and solutions.

OSWDO/CCAO/OEPA invite you to register if you have specific ideas about ways to improve scrap tire management in Ohio and if you desire to actively work on developing legislative, regulatory, programmatic or infrastructure-based solutions. The work will continue after the Summit and we will be asking participants to commit to follow-up work on the ideas that are generated.

For more information about the Summit, please contact Paul Braasch, Director, Clermont County Office of Environmental Quality, at (513) 732-7745. Register here...

STATE ACTIVITIES

Community-Police Grants – apply by Mar.31

The Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) is accepting applications from state and local government, faith-based or nonprofit organizations for the Ohio Community-Police Relations Grant Program. Grant recipients can receive up to $30,000 to fund initiatives designed to improve relationships between communities and law enforcement agencies serving them. Recipients must match at least 25 percent of the total project cost.

Applications must be submitted online through the OCJS Grants Management System by 5 p.m. on Mar. 31. OCJS will prioritize programs and practices that are deemed to be evidence-based. Examples include community policing initiatives, training, juvenile mentoring programs, education and awareness tools, and evidence-based policing strategies.

In order to be eligible for funding, law enforcement agencies must be working toward Ohio Collaborative Law Enforcement Agency Certification through the Ohio Collaborative Community-Police Advisory Board. Read more...

Abandoned Gas Station Cleanup Grants - due April 1

Ohio Development Services Agency (ODAS), in partnership with Ohio EPA and the Department of Commerce, Bureau of Underground Storage Tank Regulations (BUSTR), has a resource to help clean up abandoned gas and service stations throughout Ohio.

The ODAS is now accepting applications for the Abandoned Gas Station Cleanup Grant Program. The program provides 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.

Fast Track and Competitive Grant Applications will now be accepted. Fast Track applications will be accepted on an on-going basis, and the first round of Competitive applications will be accepted through April 1, 2016. A total of $3.5 million will be available in this round of funding for competitive grants.

For more information, please contact April Kasun, Environmental Specialist 2, Office of Community Assistance, Ohio Development Services Agency, at (614) 466-4007.

**Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant funding available to local government**

The Ohio Emergency Management Agency (OEMA) has announced that applications for the Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grant Program are available to local governments. Most projects deal with flooding or wind. Entities considering an application for the Flood Mitigation Assistance program or the Pre-Disaster Mitigation program should send an email to the Ohio EMA by Mar. 18 and submit an application by April 29.

**Healthier buckeye grant application is now live**

The Healthier Buckeye Grant Pilot Program is now available on the JFS and DAS websites. Counties must create a local healthier buckeye council to compete for grants. To form a local council, county commissioners and county councils need to adopt a resolution and send a copy to:

- Susan Ackerman  
  Executive Director, Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee  
  77 South High Street, Concourse Level  
  Columbus, OH 43215

- Cynthia Dungey  
  Director, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services  
  30 East Broad Street, 32nd Floor  
  Columbus, OH 43215

[Click here](#) for more information on the makeup of the council. If you have questions on this grant program please contact Kate Neithammer, CCAO policy analyst, at (614) 220-7996.
Lead agency training packet for comprehensive case management available

A new tool has been posted to the Comprehensive Case Management and Employment Program (CCMEP) implementation webpage. A lead agency training packet is now available to provide assistance to county officials as they make decisions regarding the lead agency and implementation of CCMEP. It provides information about the roles and responsibilities of lead agencies, key dates and deadlines, and how to access technical assistance through the state. Click here to view the lead agency training packet.

CCAO is hosting a “Comprehensive Case Management and Employment Program” webinar next Wednesday, March 9th. ODJFS Deputy Director Doug Lumpkin is the speaker. Register here...

Nepotism: bad idea, illegal practice

The Ohio Ethics Commission has submitted a very important and timely article dealing with the practice of nepotism for this issue of Counties Current. What is nepotism? Under the Ohio Ethics Law, nepotism is when a public official or employee authorizes a family member’s employment or uses his/her position in any way to obtain a public job for a family member.

In the article linked here, the following questions about nepotism have been discussed:

- Voting for a family member’s hire or finalizing the employment documentation
- Is nepotism really a problem in Ohio?
- Is nepotism a criminal matter or just bad public policy?
- Why does this issue matter so much?
- If I am a public official or employee, can my family member even apply for a public job?
- What if I can’t recuse myself from the hiring process?
- Who is my “family?”
- What about indirect benefits my family member could receive from my actions?
- Does it matter if my child is a minor?

Where can you receive additional information or details about nepotism? The Ohio Ethics Commission’s web site has fact sheets, advisory opinions, and even an e-course regarding nepotism. Feel free to contact the Ohio Ethics Commission at (614) 466-7090 for assistance in understanding and complying with nepotism restrictions and the entire Ohio Ethics Law.

OAG announces extension of naloxone rebate agreement

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine announced that a rebate agreement that has saved agencies thousands of dollars on the cost of the opioid reversal medication naloxone is being extended for one year. The renewed agreement with Amphastar Pharmaceuticals, Inc. will allow non-federal public entities in Ohio to continue receiving a $6 rebate for each Amphastar
naloxone syringe purchased until Mar. 2, 2017. The current average price is $28.50 per dose, but prices may vary depending upon where naloxone is purchased.

So far, nearly 60 Ohio agencies have applied for more than $151,000 in rebates to offset the cost of the life-saving drug. When given to a person overdosing on heroin or a prescription opioid, naloxone can limit or stop the overdose by reversing the effects of the opioid on the brain. According to the Ohio Department of Public Safety, Division of EMS, current data available shows naloxone was administered more than 16,000 times in Ohio in 2015.

The agreement initially went into effect in March 2015 after Attorney General DeWine approached the company following a dramatic increase in the price of Amphastar naloxone. If Amphastar raises its wholesale price of naloxone during the term of the agreement, the company has also agreed to increase the rebate amount.

Non-federal, Ohio government agencies are eligible to receive rebate payments. This includes, but is not limited to, state agencies, law enforcement agencies, fire departments, emergency medical services, county health departments, Project DAWN community programs and county or local government agencies. Read more...

FEDERAL ACTIVITIES

OPERs supports WEP reform bill

Most public employees in Ohio are not covered by Social Security; rather, they are covered by one of five statewide public retirement systems. When Ohio’s public employees retire or become disabled prior to retirement, they may receive a pension benefit based on earnings from their public employment. Yet, if they worked for a period of time in the private sector, they may also be entitled to a Social Security benefit. The Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) dictates that state pension benefits may affect the amount of Social Security benefits a retiree receives.

Under the WEP, a Social Security retirement or disability benefit will be reduced using a modified formula if a recipient is also entitled to a pension from a job where he did not pay into Social Security. As a result, the person will receive a lower Social Security benefit than if he were not receiving a public pension. In some cases, the Social Security benefit reduction can be as much as one-half the amount of the person’s pension benefit.

This issue causes concern with the vast majority of Ohio Public Employee Retirement System (OPERS) members who have sufficient time in Social Security to receive a benefit from that program. In many cases, retirees do not realize the extent to which their Social Security benefit would be reduced by the WEP.

Recently, Representative Kevin Brady (R-TX) introduced HR 711 - Equal Treatment of Public Servants Act of 2015, a bill that would replace the current WEP with a fairer formula for public employees that have paid into both Social Security and a public pension plan.

The changes proposed in HR 711 include:
• Allowing future retirees with non-covered employment to receive Social Security benefits that consider their full career employment.

• Modifying the WEP formula for those who are currently receiving Social Security benefits, and who are already subject to the WEP, by recalculating their benefit to most retirees’ advantage.

• Implementing a system that would allow for recovery of Social Security benefits incorrectly paid to non-reporting individuals.

OPERS fully supports Representative Brady’s legislation. The following members of the Ohio Congressional Delegation are co-sponsors of HR 711: Joyce Beatty (Dist. 3-Columbus), Steve Chabot (Dist. 1-Cincinnati), Bill Johnson (Dist. 6-Marietta), David Joyce (Dist. 14-Painesville), Jim Renacci (Dist. 16-Wadsworth), Tim Ryan (Dist. 13-Warren), Steve Stivers (Dist. 15-Hilliard) and Pat Tiberi (Dist. 12-Columbus). If your Representative is not listed above, please reach out to them and ask for their support of HR 711.

NACo ACTIVITIES

NACo examines county efforts to foster economic opportunities while reducing crime

The National Association of Counties (NACo) released Second Chances, Safer Counties: Workforce Development and Reentry, a new research report that examines county efforts to foster economic opportunities while reducing crime. Reentry programs offer a way for counties to reintegrate formerly incarcerated residents into the labor market, which is instrumental to keeping them in communities safely and out of jail.

The study finds that the federal government, through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), largely supports these local programs. Two-thirds (66 percent) of reentry programs operated by local workforce development boards (local WDBs) receive the majority of their funding from the federal government. In 2015, WIOA enabled federal investments of more than $3.2 billion in states and local areas for education, training and employment services, including reentry programs. Counties are involved in 90 percent of the country’s 557 local WDBs.

Counties have a key responsibility in maintaining safe, secure and economically resilient communities. For example, nationally counties:

• Invest $93 billion annually in justice and public safety
• Support local economies, including investing $122 billion in infrastructure and public works and $25 billion in economic development and workforce training, and
• Own 91 percent of all local jails, which admitted 11.4 million individuals in 2014.

NACo supports increased resources for the Second Chance Act, which assists states, counties and non-profit organizations in developing and implementing reentry programs. Under WIOA, local WDBs are encouraged to partner with Second Chance Act grantees. Read more…
Achievement Award Program – nominate your award winning county program!

The National Association of Counties (NACo) is accepting applications for the 2016 Achievement Awards program. 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.

Last year, the following Ohio counties won a total of six awards: Franklin (1), Hamilton (3), Montgomery (1) and Summit (1). Click here for more information about 2015 winners.

Applications and payments are due by the April 1 deadline. Click on the link above for more information or email awards@naco.org if you have any questions.

EDUCATION

Ohio RCAP to offer sustainable infrastructure training

The Ohio Rural Community Assistance Program (RCAP) has released the spring 2016 sustainable infrastructure training schedule. During Mar. and April, training will be held for local officials in several locations. RCAP is providing the workshops through funding from the Ohio EPA.

Utility Management Series

Sustainable Infrastructure Series
Courses: What Are You Missing and What Does It Cost You? and Tools to Save Money
Sewer Systems: Capacity Management Operations Maintenance (CMOM)
Topics: Extend the Useful Life of Your Sewer System and Best Practices for Wastewater Collection

There is no cost to attend the training. Lunch is on your own. Click on training links for the date, time, location and OEPA contact hours for each course. The pre-registration deadline is the Friday before each training. Register online or contact Nadine Thompson, Program Assistant - WSOS CAC/Great Lakes RCAP, at (800) 775-9767.
RCAP, part of the WSOS Community Action, provides technical assistance to small, rural communities to help solve water and wastewater problems. The majority of these services are at no cost.

**Workshop on public construction projects and competitive bidding – May 5**

Join Bricker and Eckler LLP for the 8th annual Selecting Project Delivery Methods & Bidding Public Construction Contracts workshop to be held on Thursday, May 5 from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at OCLC (Online Computer Library Center) Conference Center, 6600 Kilgour Place, in Dublin. CCAO is co-sponsoring the workshop.

This full-day workshop, specifically designed for Ohio public owners, covers the project delivery methods available for public construction projects and when competitive bidding is required for these projects. The morning session is a traditional presentation, featuring instruction from several Bricker & Eckler attorneys whose practices focus on construction and bidding. In the afternoon, attendees will work through fact patterns together and will interactively explore alternative delivery methods and review bidding issues, while receiving feedback from fellow participants and the presenters.

Registration fees: $199 early bird by April 5 or $239 after April 5. Register here...

For more information, please contact Jeanna Packard, Marketing/Business Development Specialist, Bricker & Eckler LLP, at (614) 227-8890.

**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