DATES TO REMEMBER

NOVEMBER 6, 2017  CCAO TAXATION AND FINANCE COMMITTEE, CONFERENCE CALL

NOVEMBER 11, 2017  VETERANS DAY

NOVEMBER 15, 2017  FACTORS IMPACTING CHILD WELFARE PLACEMENT COSTS, A CCAO 2ND WEDNESDAY WEBINAR

NOVEMBER 15, 2017  CEBCO BOARD OF DIRECTORS, CCAO OFFICES, COLUMBUS

NOVEMBER 16, 2017  CCAO DEFERRED COMPENSATION COMMITTEE, CCAO OFFICES, COLUMBUS

NOVEMBER 17, 2017  CORSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS, CCAO OFFICES, COLUMBUS

DECEMBER 10-12, 2017  CCAO/CEAO ANNUAL WINTER CONFERENCE, GREATER COLUMBUS CONVENTION CENTER/HYATT REGENCY, COLUMBUS

DECEMBER 12, 2017  PUBLIC RECORDS/SUNSHINE LAW TRAINING, HYATT REGENCY, COLUMBUS
ASSOCIATION NEWS

Join your peers and register to attend the County Commissioners and Engineers Associations of Ohio (CCAO/CEAO) Annual Winter Conference and Trade Show to be held Dec. 10-12, 2017 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, 350 North High Street, in Columbus. Join your colleagues to discuss innovative ways to enhance local government to better serve Ohio's counties. Register here...

Don't miss these networking and educational events...

CCAO, CEAO and affiliate educational programs – The CCAO and CEAO programs will be posted on our website when finalized. Click here for the affiliate programs.

Music and dancing with your colleagues at the opening conference trade show reception! - Join your friends. Dance to the music at the opening reception at the trade show. After the reception, you still have time to explore the Arena District and Short North for dinner with friends!

Monday Afternoon Ice Cream Social - Stop by the trade show after the luncheon and top off lunch with ice cream and toppings and a chance to say "thank you" to the exhibitors for participating in the conference.

Monday Reception and Banquet - You've had a busy day. Join your colleagues and enjoy a reception and dinner with a beautiful view of the Columbus skyline!

Monday Night Game Night - Don't miss an evening of Family Feud with your county family! Are you up for the challenge? Organize a team with your favorite co-workers for a memorable game at the conference! Contact Mary Jane Neiman, CCAO public relations associate, with the names of your team members.

CCAO Taxation and Finance Committee – Nov. 6

The CCAO Taxation and Finance Committee Chair – Dan Dean, Fayette County commissioner, and Vice Chair – Marilyn John, Richland County commissioner, have called a conference call meeting for Monday, Nov. 6 at 2 p.m. Call instructions have been emailed to committee members.

In order to facilitate discussion at the meeting, copies of an analysis, sponsor testimony and a bill text for each bill with the exception of HB 342 (where the bill text is too long) were emailed to committee members. Due to the fact that legislation establishing the Local Government Road Improvement Fund has not yet been introduced, only the text of this draft bill is available.
The list of bills for consideration by the committee include the following:

- **HB 343 Property Values** (Merrin) - to require local governments that contest property values to formally pass an authorizing resolution for each contest and to notify property owners
- **HB 371 Property Tax Exemption** (Merrin) – to exempt from property taxation the increased value of land subdivided for residential development until construction commences or the land is sold
- **HB 342 Timing of Certain Tax Issues and Property Tax Election Notices and Ballot Issues** (Merrin) - disallows local tax issues and certain other local tax implicated issues from being submitted to voters at August special elections and requires property tax election notices to convey a property tax levy’s rate in dollars for each $100,000 of taxable value instead of each $100 of taxable value
- **Drafted legislation to create a new Local Government Road Improvement Fund** (Greenspan) – allocates one half of unobligated, unencumbered general fund revenues to a new Local Government Road Improvement Fund, from which money will be distributed directly to local governments to fund road improvements.

Please RSVP your attendance to [Tanya McComas](mailto:tanya.mccomas@ccao.org), CCAO administrative assistant, and let her know if you will participate in the conference call meeting. If you have any questions regarding this committee meeting, please contact [Brad Cole](mailto:brad.cole@ccao.org), CCAO managing director of research, at (614) 220-7981 or (888) 757-1904.

**Opioid litigation update**

As you may have read in our newsletters over the past months, several counties are joining litigation in pursuit of relief related to the opioid crisis. Some counties are seeking claims to recover losses attributable to the opioid crisis from distributors, others from the drug manufacturers, and in some instances, both. We are aware of about 20 counties that have joined such litigation. The cases are being handled on a contingency basis, so counties that have joined will not incur legal expenses unless and until a settlement or verdict is reached.

It has come to CCAO’s attention that a panel of federal judges will hear arguments on Nov. 30 regarding where to consolidate these cases and others across the country. If your county is considering the possibility of joining such litigation, you should strongly consider filing by Nov. 20 in order to ensure that your lawyers are present for the initial conference with the court after consolidation. Although you may file after that date, an earlier filing would ensure that your counsel is at the initial planning conferences.

CCAO has not taken a position on this litigation, as the CCAO Executive Committee is aware that members have differing opinions around this strategy. However, they very much want CCAO to share information as it becomes available. Thus, please continue notifying [Mary Jane Neiman](mailto:mary.neiman@ccao.org), CCAO public relations associate, on our staff if your county decides to join in opiate litigation so that we may keep a running list and share information in our newsletter.
CCAO to host webinar on factors impacting child welfare placement costs – Nov. 15

CCAO is pleased to offer a one-hour webinar on Nov. 15 at 9:30 a.m. titled “Factors Impacting Child Welfare Placement Costs: What Drives Foster Care Placements, Strategies to Control Costs, and Future Challenges.”

As the opioid crisis has spread throughout Ohio, more children have come to the attention of County Public Children Services Agencies (PCSA). In fact, there has been over a 20 percent increase in the number of children in foster care since 2010. With such a significant increase, local costs have been soaring. Learn how PCSAs have been trying to control cost, address the increase and plan for future impacts. Webinar topics include:

- Overview of how the opioid epidemic has impacted children services
- The responsibilities of county PCSAS to administer child welfare and thus burden the cost of foster care
- How the level of care impacts placement costs
- Strategies counties are taking to control placement costs
- Preparing for future impacts

Participating on our panel of speakers are Angela Sausser, executive director, Public Children Services Association of Ohio; John Fisher, director, Licking County Job and Family Services; Jody Walker, executive director, South Central Job and Family Services; and Dan Downes, business manager, Marion County Children Services. Click here to register. Read more...

Seeking your County Board of Elections office space costs survey

Thanks to the 70 of our 88 counties for responding to our CCAO Board of Elections Survey. If you were unable to respond by the deadline, please complete the survey to identify the costs associated with the space provided by your county to support your county’s board of elections operations. Please access the BOE OFFICE SPACE SURVEY, and return it as soon as possible.

CCAO recognizes that we are asking for specific, detailed information, which may take time for you to collect and report to us. We sincerely appreciate your efforts invested in providing this detailed information and, even though our initial deadline for your response has passed, your information is important to us and we ask that you return your survey information.

Information from all counties is important in order to provide accurate and valid data to document the costs for counties state-wide to provide the space necessary to conduct board of elections activities.

If you have questions or need assistance from us, please contact John Leutz, CCAO legislative counsel, at (614) 220-7994 or (888) 757-1904.
Voting procedures for annual business meeting

The CCAO Bylaws requires that each member county designate an official representative and alternate when voting at the Annual Meeting or any special meeting of the Association. The designation of the official representative and alternate for a county organized under the statutory form of county government is by resolution of the board of county commissioners. In the case of a county organized as a charter county, the elected executive designates, by a letter signed by the county executive, the official representative and an alternate. Please note in designating the official representative and alternate, a member county may only name a county commissioner, elected executive or a member of county council. A sample Designation of Official Representative and Alternate Resolution for county commissioners and county executives can be found on the front page of the CCAO website.

If you have not already done so, please send a copy of your resolution or letter designating your official representative and alternate to Kathy Dillon, CCAO, 209 East State Street, Columbus, OH 43215 so that we may maintain a record of the names in our files for voting purposes. Should you have any questions or would like to confirm that we have received a copy of your resolution or letter, please contact Kathy Dillon at (888) 757-1904.

2018 county holiday schedule

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STATE ACTIVITIES

ODOT seeks CCAO support on stream and wetland regulations

CCAO received a letter from ODOT Director Jerry Wray seeking our assistance with respect to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Stream and Wetlands Valuation Metric (SWVM) regulations that ODOT believes will affect the ability of counties to obtain Clean Water Permits.

Briefly, ODOT claims that the Stream and Wetlands Valuation Metric (SWVM) is a departure from the simple linear foot impact to mitigation model currently being used in Ohio for streams. In short, SWVM would:

- Need to be calculated at each impacted stream reach on a project to determine the magnitude of the proposed impact.
- Require extensive water quality sampling in the field and even lab work for species identification work.
- Be used to establish the mitigation debit (in non-linear foot units) owed.
- Be used to determine the number of credits that could be obtained from a mitigation proposal, and
- Be used a tool to monitor the performance of the mitigation once it has been implemented.

ODOT believes that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has disregarded the stream characterization methods developed and used by EPA for decades. ODOT claims that the new regulations will cost the state and local governments additional time and money to mitigate stream impacts for highway projects. ODOT is asking county officials to reach out to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, ask the USACE to provide copies of the proposed regulations, and above all ask USACE to provide an opportunity for affected state and local governments to comment on the proposed regulations, and delay the implementation of these regulations until such time as a public comment period has been provided.

County officials are encouraged to contact the following individuals:

1. Brigadier General Mark Toy, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Great Lakes and Ohio River Division, 550 Main Street, Room 10524, Cincinnati, OH 45202-3222
2. Misty Wyen, Brigadier General Toy’s Executive Assistant, Executive Administrative Assistant, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Great Lakes and Ohio River Division, 550 Main Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202-3222, (513) 684-6228
3. Huntington District, Colonel Philip M. Secrist, District Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 502 Eighth Street, Huntington, WV 25701-2070, Huntington Office: 304-399-5211

Statewide imagery provided to all counties at no charge

The Ohio Geographically Referenced Information Program (OGRIP) has contracted with Woolpert, Inc. for the third iteration of the Ohio Statewide Imagery Program (OSIP). Woolpert, an Ohio based engineering and aerial imagery firm, will serve as the prime contractor for OSIP.
III. OSIP will acquire high-resolution imagery for the State of Ohio to support the geospatial needs of state and local government service providers, Geographic Information System users and decision makers at all levels of government.

The statewide imagery will be provided to all 88 counties and be made available for download or through web map services to all government entities and the public at no cost. The imagery will be collected in four phases beginning in 2017 and continuing through 2020. Government entities with an active Cooperative Purchase Agreement (CPA) on file with the State of Ohio can purchase optional products and services directly off the OSIP contract.

For additional information regarding OSIP Program, please contact Jeff Smith, OGRIP Office, at (614) 466-8862 or Brian Stevens, Woolpert, at (614) 827-6155.

**Four county programs receive anti-trafficking funding**

The Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) was recently awarded a total of $208,080 for fiscal year 2017 by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Look Beneath the Surface Regional Anti-Trafficking Program grant to build capacity of Ohio’s communities to identify and respond to human trafficking.

The Look Beneath the Surface Regional Anti-Trafficking Program is a three-year project (2017-2020) contingent on annual program reviews to build capacity of local anti-trafficking networks, organize public awareness efforts, and identify victims of trafficking. Funding is for the formal partnerships between OCJS and the following four Core Regional Coalition Partners (CRCPs): The Salvation Army of Greater Cincinnati, representing End Slavery Cincinnati; The Salvation Army of Central Ohio, representing the Central Ohio Rescue and Restore Coalition; Lutheran Social Services, representing the Lucas County Human Trafficking Coalition; and Harmony House, representing the Belmont County Human Trafficking Coalition. [Read more…](#)

**FEDERAL NEWS**

**GOP unveils tax reform plan**

As promised this week, the House republicans unveiled [H.R. 1 - Tax Cuts and Jobs Act](#) - the GOP tax reform plan promising to lower taxes, simplify the tax code, preserve 401K retirement accounts, lower rates for many individual households but trims deductions for [State and Local Taxes (SALT)](#). Ohio Congressmen Patrick Tiberi (Dist. 12) and James Renacci (Dist. 16) are co-sponsors of the bill.

Here’s a summary of the major components of H.R. 1:

- Reducing income tax brackets from seven to four with rates ranging from 12 percent to 39.6 percent
• Increasing the standard deduction from $6,350 to $12,000 for individuals and $12,700 to $24,000 for married couples
• Creating a new family tax credit and expands the Child Tax Credit from $1,000 to $1,600
• Lowering corporate tax rate to 20% from 35%
• Repealing the Alternative Minimum Tax and phasing out the Estate Tax

As of press time, NACo was preparing an analysis of the legislation.

**CMS announces strategies to address the opiate epidemic**

In a [letter to state Medicaid directors](#), the [Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)](#) announced a new policy to allow states to design demonstration projects that increase access to treatment for opioid use disorder (OUD) and other substance use disorders (SUD). CMS’s new demonstration policy responds to the president’s directive and provides states with greater flexibility to design programs that improve access to high quality, clinically appropriate treatment. Through this updated policy, states will be able to pay for a fuller continuum of care to treat SUD, including critical treatment in residential treatment facilities that Medicaid is unable to pay for without a waiver.

Previously, states had been required to build out their entire delivery system for SUD treatment while also meeting rigid CMS standards before Medicaid demonstration approvals could be granted. The new policy will allow states to provide greater treatment options while improving their continuum of care over time. [Read more…](#)

**USDOT to create drone guidelines**

President Trump has signed a Presidential Memorandum directing the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) to create guidelines for a pilot program allowing local governments to participate in unmanned aircraft systems (“UAS” or “Drone”) integration. The memorandum directs a framework to be developed and participants in place within the next 12 months.

The memorandum outlines three main objectives:

1. To allow DOT and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to enter into agreements with state, local and tribal governments to create “innovation zones” for testing new UAS operations.
2. To encourage the private sector and local governments to collaboratively operate drones in ways currently permitted by FAA regulations but not widely used, such as operations beyond visual line of sight (BVLOS), night time operations and flights over people.
3. To compile data from the various pilot programs to assess results across the country.

However, the directive makes no mention of zoning, privacy and property rights. Individual communities will have the ability to incorporate privacy concerns through their participation in the pilot program. [Read more…](#)
NACo ACTIVITIES

Rural Impact County Challenge deadline extended to Nov. 16

The Rural Impact County Challenge (RICC) seeks to recognize and support counties making real differences in the lives of children in rural communities. NACo has partnered with County Health Rankings & Roadmaps to offer tailored assistance from a Community Coach to selected RICC counties. The selected county teams will also be able to connect with each other and form a close network of rural counties who are carrying out similar work.

Applications are now due Thursday, Nov. 16. The RICC Community Coaching program will run for the 2018 calendar year. Click here to apply and learn more about RICC Community Coaching.

Input needed for county disaster toolkit

The NACo Resilient Counties Initiative is creating a Disaster Toolkit for Counties to aid county leaders as they work to prevent both natural and man-made disasters within their communities. The Disaster Toolkit will contain information on strategies, timelines, financial management, funding opportunities and best practice case study examples for each phase of the emergency management cycle, for all major hazards. The toolkit will be an ongoing project, and NACo asks for your emergency management tips and examples as the initial version will be released next summer. For more information, contact Jenna Moran, NACo program manager, at (202) 942-4224. Read more…

EDUCATION

Stepping Up: addressing housing needs webinar and conference call – Nov. 9 and 16

Join the Stepping Up partners on Thursday, Nov. 9 at 2 p.m. for a webinar to discuss evidence-based strategies for addressing housing needs for people with mental illnesses who have had contact with the justice system. Stepping Up counties that are asking the Six Questions locally may be running into a common issue: the prevalence of homelessness among people with mental illnesses in jails and a lack of housing options for this most vulnerable population in their communities. Register here…

Join the Stepping Up partners on Thursday, Nov. 16, at 2 p.m. for a Network Call on housing strategies. Counties are encouraged to join the conversation with national experts and county practitioners to learn about strategies for addressing housing needs for people with mental illnesses who have had contact with the justice system. Please be sure to participate in or review the Nov. 9 webinar on “Addressing Housing Needs of People with Mental Illnesses in Jails” prior to joining the call. Register here for the conference call.

Public records/sunshine law training – Dec. 12

The Sunshine Laws Certification Training, provided by the Ohio Auditor of State's Office, is a three-hour certification training session provided to all elected officials, and/or their appropriate
designees, as well as members of the general public. Each session includes an in-depth analysis of Ohio's Public Records Act, with a brief discussion of Ohio's Open Meetings Act.

CCAO/CEAO have scheduled a session during the Winter Conference on Tuesday, Dec. 12 from 12 noon to 3:15 p.m. You do not need to register for the conference if you are ONLY attending the public records training. There is no charge to attend this training. Approval of Continuing Legal Education for 3.00 total hours of instruction is pending. Register here on the Auditor of State's website to reserve your place for this special training. By registering for the public records training, you are not automatically registered for the conference.

Grant management workshop – Dec. 18-19

The Toledo-Lucas County Health Department and Grant Writing USA will present a two-day grant workshop on Dec. 18-19 at the Health Department, 2127 Jefferson Avenue, EMS Training Center, in Toledo. In this workshop, presenters will cover how to write grant proposals from start to finish and how to locate and track relevant grant opportunities. This training is applicable to grant seekers across all disciplines. Attendees do not need to work in the same profession as the host agency.

There is a cost to participants. For more information, please contact Tammy Pitts, Grant Writing USA, at (888) 435-7281 or Brandon Palinski, MPH-VPH, Toledo Lucas County Health Department, at (419) 213-4136. Read more...

SAMHSA GAINS Center offering sequential intercept mapping workshops

The SAMHSA GAINS Center for Behavioral Health and Justice Transformation is currently accepting applications from communities interested in developing strategies to better identify and respond to the needs of adults with co-occurring mental illnesses and substance use disorders in contact with the criminal justice system. Workshops will be provided free of charge to selected counties between January and August 2018. Application deadline: Nov. 10. More information...

CLASSIFIEDS

Classified ads will be published on our website free of charge as a service to counties. Ads will be posted 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 or a copy of the ad and a deadline date. Email your classified ad to Mary Jane Neiman, CCAO Public Relations Associate. Please note: Ads will only be published for county government related positions. We are not accepting other governmental subdivision or corporate ads for publication.