



2019 CCAO/CEAO Winter Conference

CCAO Program Sessions (11/1/19)

Wednesday, December 4

10-11:30 a.m.

CCAO Board of Directors Meeting

Speaker: Julie Ehemann, Shelby County Commissioner, & President, County Commissioners Association of Ohio

10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Registration

1-2 p.m.

Cyber Threats: What You Need to Know

Cyber threats are becoming more common place than an exception for Ohio counties in our information-driven age. Phishing and ransomware are among the top cyber security threats and trends in 2019. Learn from our panel who have first-hand experience in dealing with cyber-attacks.

Moderators:

Beth Miller, Esq., Claim and Litigation Manger, County Risk Sharing Authority

Jeff Knapp, Claims Supervisor, County Risk Sharing Authority

Speakers:

Glen Miller, Henry County Commissioner

Theresa Garcia, Administrator, Sandusky County

Atul Chopra, IT Supervisor, Sandusky County

1-2 p.m.

CCAO/CEAO/Affiliate Joint Session – The Possible Paths Forward in Balancing the Funding Challenges at OPERS and Future Pension and Health Care Benefits

OPERS Executive Director Karen Carraher will provide an update on OPERS' current pension and health care funding and the Board of Trustees' recent decisions on how to address challenges to maintaining adequate funding levels. The presentation will focus largely on OPERS' pursuit of legislative changes to alter the cost-of-living-adjustment (COLA), future health care changes, and a potential new tier benefit structure for future new hires.

Moderator: Dick Gould, Greene County Commissioner

Speaker: Karen Carraher, Executive Director, Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

1-2 p.m.

Fundamentals of County Sales Tax

The state budget contained important updates to county sales tax authority and a major change to the collection of taxes by out-of-state vendors. This session will describe the changes and provide an overview of the basic procedures that counties must use to implement or modify a sales tax. Experts from the Ohio Department of Taxation will describe how a sales tax resolution should be structured, and the timelines that counties must follow in order to complete the sales tax adoption process. Presenters will also discuss recent trends in sales tax collection.

Moderator: Marilyn John, Richland County Commissioner, & Vice Chair, CCAO Taxation and Finance Committee

Speakers:

Steve Russell, Administrator of the Business Tax Division, Ohio Department of Taxation

Jennifer McFarland, Executive Administrator of the Business Tax and Excise Divisions, Ohio Department of Taxation

Laura Stanley, Esq., Legal Counsel for Sales and Use Tax, Ohio Department of Taxation

Caroline Steigerwald Jones, Tax Analyst, Ohio Department of Taxation

1-4 p.m.

Coffee Break

2:10-3:10 p.m.

Continuing Operations During Disaster Recovery

Disasters come in all shapes and sizes. It's not just catastrophic events such as hurricanes, earthquakes and tornadoes, but also incidents such as cyber-attacks, shootings and even equipment failures can be classified as disasters. Disaster recovery plans can detail a process to resume critical functions without a major loss in revenue or business operations.

Moderator: Jim Hale, Risk Control Consultant, County Risk Sharing Authority

Speakers:

Rob Slane, Administrator, Madison County

Frank Hatfield, Esq., Risk Manager, County Risk Sharing Authority

2:10-3:10 p.m.

Telling Your County's Story

The media landscape has changed over the years with the rise of internet communication causing many counties to rethink their media strategies. In this session, counties will discuss the tools they use to control their message and communicate their story to their communities, including social media, news releases, newsletters and relationships with local media.

Moderator: Andrew Johnson, Communications Coordinator, County Commissioners Association of Ohio

Speakers:

Shayne Thomas, Seneca County Commissioner

Joe Sciarretti, Tuscarawas County Commissioner

Marc Kovac, Reporter, The Columbus Dispatch

2:10-3:10 p.m.

Ideas for Managing Your Healthcare Costs

CEBCO manages health insurance coverage for approximately 25,000 Ohioans in county government. Hear about tools, plan designs and ways to use data to help mitigate future healthcare cost increases.

Moderator: Jay Begg, Allen County Commissioner, and President, County Employee Benefits Consortium of Ohio

Speakers:

Douglas Foust, Managing Director of Health and Wellness, County Employee Benefits Consortium of Ohio

Michael Kindell, Senior Benefit Specialist, County Employee Benefits Consortium of Ohio

3:20-4:20 p.m.

Expanding Broadband Service in Ohio: Current Challenges and the Pathway Forward

Access to broadband service is increasingly a prerequisite for counties looking to grow their economies, expand telemedicine services and enhance educational opportunities. But for too many Ohio counties, broadband service remains unreliable or entirely unavailable. Come to this session to learn about broadband development efforts and the steps forward as Ohio looks to expand this critical service.

Moderator: Chris Abbuhl, Tuscarawas County Commissioner, and Chair, CCAO Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee

Speakers:

Jeannette Wierznicki, Executive Director, Ohio Mid-Eastern Governments Association

Peter Voderberg, Assistant Policy Director for State Assets, Office of Governor Mike DeWine

3:20-4:20 p.m.

Innovations in Workforce Development

This session will focus on ground-breaking strategies that counties are using to equip their workforce with the skills and education to succeed in a changing workplace. Presenters will focus on ways to build partnerships with employers and training providers, and how to leverage public and private resources in a sustainable manner. Presenters will describe outreach efforts to make youth and low-income populations aware of training opportunities.

Moderator: Judy Dodge, Montgomery County Commissioner, and Vice Chair, CCAO Jobs, Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee

Speakers:

Paul Bounds, Deputy Administrator, Cuyahoga County Office of JFS

Nate Strum, Executive Director, Grow Licking County

3:20-4:20 p.m.

Transitioning from the Use of Adult Parole Authority Staff to Provide Probation Services to Common Pleas Courts

The state budget bill (HB 166) provided funding to allow the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC) to remove their Adult Parole Authority (APA) staff support to county common pleas court probation departments and offer the county grant funding to replace the services being provided by APA staff. DRC has been providing APA staff to assist with the supervision of county common pleas court probation cases. In twenty-three counties the APA staff augments the probation department's staff, however, nineteen counties do not have a probation department and the APA staff is providing all probation services. The panel will discuss the current status of the transition planning and elements of the grant funding being provided and the future for common pleas probation departments operating without APA assistance.

Moderator: Barb Lewis, Delaware County Commissioner, and Chair, CCAO Justice and Public Safety Committee

Speakers:

Cynthia Mausser, Deputy Director, Division of Parole and Community Services, Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections

Katrina Ransom, Field Services Superintendent, Division of Parole and Community Services, Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction

The Honorable Randall Kneze, Judge, Pickaway County Common Pleas Court

Marta Mudri, Esq., Legislative Counsel, Ohio Judicial Conference

4:30-5 p.m.

CCAO/CEAO District Meetings

NW District Commissioners & Engineers Association

Speaker: John Musteric, P.E., P.S., Wood County Engineer, & President, NW Ohio Commissioners & Engineers Association

NE District Commissioners Association

Speaker: Sabrina Christian-Bennett, Portage County Commissioner, & President, NE Ohio Commissioners Association

SW District Commissioners & Engineers Association

Speaker: R. Kyle Cross, P.E., P.S., Preble County Engineer, & President, SW Ohio Commissioners & Engineers Association

SE District Commissioners & Engineers Association

Speaker: Patrick Leighty, P.E., P.S., Lawrence County Engineer, & President, SE Ohio Commissioners & Engineers Association

5-7 p.m.

Trade Show Reception

Thursday, December 5

7:30-9 a.m.

Breakfast in the Trade Show

7:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Registration

7:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Trade Show

Visit the trade show! The products and services featured in our trade show provide you with the high level of technology and keen degree of knowledge necessary to serve your constituents.

8:30-9:45 a.m.

CCAO Legislative Update

The Policy Staff's annual update will include a look back at 2019 & advocating for a stronger state-county

partnership in the 133rd General Assembly.

Moderator: John O’Grady, Franklin County Commissioner, & Chair, CCAO General Government & Operations Committee

8:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Coffee Break in the Trade Show

10 a.m.-11:45 a.m.

CCAO Annual Meeting

Julie Ehemann, Shelby County Commissioner, & President, County Commissioners Association of Ohio

Election of 2020 Officers

CCAO Staff Service Awards

35 years and Retirement – Mary Jane Neiman, CCAO Public Relations Associate

6 years and Retirement – Douglas Foust, Managing Director of Health and Wellness

5 years – Mike Kindell, CEBCO Senior Benefits Manager

5 years – Andrew Johnson, CCAO Communications Coordinator

Executive Director’s Report

Speaker: Suzanne Dulaney, Executive Director, County Commissioners Association of Ohio

12-2 p.m.

CCAO Alumni Association Meeting & Luncheon

Speaker: Olen Jackson, former Morrow County Commissioner, & President, CCAO Alumni Association

Report on the Association

Speaker: Suzanne Dulaney, Executive Director, County Commissioners Association of Ohio

12-1:30 p.m.

CCAO/CEAO Luncheon

Luncheon Speakers:

The Honorable Larry Obhof, President, Ohio Senate

Cathann Kress, Ph.D., Vice President for Agricultural Administration, & Dean, College of Food, Agricultural & Environmental Sciences, The Ohio State University (invited)

Recognition of 2019 CCAO & CEAO Presidents

1:30-1:45 p.m.

Area 7 Consortium

Speakers:

Deborah Lieberman, Montgomery County Commissioner, & Chair, Consortium of Chief Elected Officials of Area 7

John Trott, Executive Director, Area 7 Workforce Investment Board, & President, Ohio Workforce Association

1:30-2:30 p.m.

Ice Cream Social in the Trade Show

2:30-3:30 p.m.

CCAO/CEAO/Affiliate Joint Session - Retirement Readiness

Thinking about retirement in the near or distant future? This session will help county elected officials and employees understand retirement under the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) and the CCAO Deferred Compensation Program/Empower Retirement.

Moderator: Keith Blosser, Managing Director of Operations, County Commissioners Association of Ohio

Speakers:

Rachel Willoughby, Retirement Plan Advisor, CCAO Deferred Compensation Plan/Empower Retirement
TBA, Educator, Ohio Public Employee Retirement System (invited)

2:30-3:30 p.m.

CCAO/CEAO/Affiliate Joint Session – Transportation Funding

Moderator: Dean Ringle, P.E., P.S., Executive Director, County Engineers Association of Ohio

Speaker: Jack Marchbanks, Ph.D., Director, Ohio Department of Transportation

2:30-3:30 p.m.

Census 2020: #BeCountedOH2020

The Census is easy, it's safe, it's important. Find out why it matters to you, and how you can ensure your county is counted accurately.

Moderator: Julie Ehemann, Shelby County Commissioner, President, County Commissioners Association of Ohio and Member, Ohio Census 2020 Complete Count Commission

Speakers:

To-be-announced, Ohio Development Services Agency (invited)
Rose Simmons, Partnership Coordinator, U.S. Census Bureau - Philadelphia Region

2:30-3:30 p.m.

Leading Employees Effectively: Building Good Performance While Avoiding the Land Mines

Managing the county workforce is essential to success in county government but is often one of the most challenging areas. A public-sector labor lawyer with 24 years of experience in county human resources management will explore key "do's and don'ts" in this area, giving you tips on how to succeed while avoiding the pitfalls that can result in litigation.

Moderator: Brian Stewart, Pickaway County Commissioner, & Vice Chair, CCAO General Government & Operations Committee

Speaker: Douglas Duckett, Esq., Owner & Principle, Duckett Law Firm, LLC

3:45-5 p.m.

Express Idea Exchange

Bring your questions for peer networking opportunities with expert facilitators.

Directions: Choose two topics and change tables after 35 minutes.

Moderator: Adam Schwiebert, Policy Analyst, County Commissioners Association of Ohio

Successful Defense of Employment Lawsuits

Public employers frequently have to defend against claims of discrimination, harassment, retaliation and a host of other employment related lawsuits. Our speaker frequently represents and counsels political subdivisions. Melanie will provide insight and strategies used to successfully defend against employment lawsuits. Equally important, she will share proactive recommendations that reduce the likelihood of having to face an employment lawsuit.

Speaker: Melanie Williamson, Esq., Partner, Fishel, Downey, Albrecht and Riepenhoff, LLP

Small County Challenges

Bring your issues and concerns and join other small counties for a roundtable discussion to share ideas for solutions!

Speaker: Steve Seitz, Wyandot County Commissioner, & Chair, CCAO Small County Affairs Committee

Investing Upstream to Improve Outcomes & Save Taxpayer Dollars

Infants and toddlers who receive high-quality, evidence-based early interventions are more likely to be ready for kindergarten, graduate high school, and have higher earnings and better health as adults. They are also less likely to be reliant on costly public assistance and engage in criminal behavior, much of which is paid for by county government through expanded jails and expensive safety net services. Come learn about the proven prevention policies that build resilient kids, strong families and communities, and a prepared workforce -- all while providing the taxpayer's with up to a 13% return on investment.

Speaker: Lynanne Gutierrez, Esq., Policy Director & Legal Counsel, Groundwork Ohio

Employee Wellness Programs: Dos & Don'ts

Get information on the most effective ways to implement an employee wellness program to drive the best engagement and outcomes possible. When implemented properly, employee wellness programs will eliminate health conditions among the engaged population, creating future claims cost avoidance and lesser insurance rate increases. Offering wellness to your employees and their families can be very beneficial from both a personal and financial perspective.

Speakers:

Tori Sinclair, Wellness Coordinator, County Employee Benefits Consortium of Ohio

Hannah Whiston, Wellness/Benefits Administrator, County Employee Benefits Consortium of Ohio

Landbanks

County land banks play an essential role in strengthening neighborhoods and improving property values by returning vacant, abandoned, and tax-delinquent properties to productive use. Representatives of successful land banks will discuss ways that land banks can improve outcomes by partnering with key stakeholders and improving communication with the neighborhoods they serve.

Speakers:

Chris Chmiel, Athens County Commissioner
Tony Vero, Richland County Commissioner

Water and Sewer Infrastructure Projects

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development will lead a discussion on water and sewer infrastructure funding. Director Hall is a former Holmes County Commissioner and State Representative in the Ohio House of Representatives.

Speakers:

Dave Hall, State Director, U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development
David Douglas, Community Program Director, U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development

How Wraparound Can Benefit Your County

The wraparound process is a team-based planning process used to develop plans of care that are individualized based on the strengths and culture of the children and their family. Counties and communities use wraparound in different ways: prevention to keep youth/families together, helping step youth down from residential treatment & support youth in their homes, and supporting other county agencies.

Speaker: Rachel Sorg, Wraparound Coordinator, Clermont County Family & Children First

Public Defender Issues

Some counties have county run public defender offices, some contract directly with the State Public Defenders office, while some counties have a non-profit model, etc. While CCAO was successful in the latest budget bill getting increased funding for public defender expenses, this continues to be an issue for counties as public defender offices are wanting to increased staff due to increased funding.

Speaker: John Leutz, Esq., Legislative Counsel, County Commissioners Association of Ohio

5-6 p.m.

Reception

6-8 p.m.

Banquet

Installation of 2020 CCAO Officers

The Honorable Jack Cera, State Representative-Dist. 96, Ohio House of Representatives

Installation of 2020 CEAO Officers

Steve Stolte, Union County Commissioner and former Union County Engineer

8:30-11:30 p.m.

Entertainment: Dueling Pianos

Back by popular demand – enjoy an evening with Dueling Pianos International - a high energy, all request, sing along, clap along rock n’ roll comedy show.

Friday, December 6

7:30-9 a.m.

Breakfast Buffet

7:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

Registration

9-10:30 a.m.

Coffee Break

9-10:15 a.m.

Directors' Roundtable on Ohio Water Quality: An Overview of H2Ohio and other Water Quality Efforts

Water quality has been a topic of intense discussion within the General Assembly this year. The H2Ohio Fund was established in this year's state budget to make historic investments into water quality improvement across the state. How will this new program benefit Ohio? This session will feature three key state agency directors who are leading the charge in improving water quality across the state. Come hear how their agencies plan to tackle Ohio's water quality challenges.

Moderator: Doug Spencer, Auglaize County Commissioner, and Co-chair, CCAO Water Quality Task Force

Speakers:

Dorothy Pelanda, Director, Ohio Department of Agriculture

Mary Mertz, Director, Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Laurie Stevenson, Director, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

9-10:15 a.m.

The Future of Children and Family Services

Description: Governor DeWine's first biennial budget made significant investments in children and families, including children services, multi-system youth, and child care. Our panel of statewide directors will discuss the ways their offices are using these investments to support children and families across Ohio.

Moderator: Paula Prentice, Summit County Councilmember

Speakers:

Kimberly Hall, Director, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

LeeAnne Cornyn, Director of Children's Initiatives, Office of Ohio Governor Mike DeWine

Lois Hochstetler, Assistant Director for Community Treatment Services, Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services

10:30-11:30 a.m.

Drug Addiction: Strategies that Work

This session is a presentation of Ashtabula County's efforts to combat the drug epidemic. The Crime Enforcement Agency of Ashtabula County (CEAAC), a local drug and major crime enforcement agency, will describe their mission and their efforts. With the collaboration of federal, state and local agencies, CEAAC has made remarkable strides on a limited budget in the war against drugs.

Moderator: Suzanne Dulaney, Executive Director, County Commissioners Association of Ohio

Speakers:

Kathryn Whittington, Ashtabula County Commissioner

Greg Leonhard, Detective, Ashtabula County Sheriff's Office and Commander, Crime Enforcement Agency of Ashtabula County

Chris Cahill, Detective, Geneva Police Department, and Member, Crime Enforcement Agency of Ashtabula County

10:30-11:30 a.m.

Budgeting: Best Practices & Discussions

In this session we will discuss the various aspects of the county budget process and procedures. We will also have discussions on best practices and problem solving and learn various ways to approach everyday budget problems.

Moderator: Carl Davis, Monroe County Commissioner, & First Vice President, County Commissioners Association of Ohio

Speakers:

Patrick Herron, County Administrator, Wayne County

Mary Beck, County Administrator, Coshocton County

12-3:15 p.m.

Certified Public Records/Sunshine Law Training for Elected Officials

Ohio elected officials, or their appropriate designees, are required to receive approved training regarding their obligations under Ohio Public Records Act during their term of office. This approved training course will discuss the obligations & liabilities of public offices under the Act. The course will include information on records exempted from the Act & how to negotiate, document & properly respond to public records requests. The training includes discussion of the Ohio Records Retention Laws & an overview of Ohio's Open Meeting Act.

Moderator: Keith Blosser, Esq., Managing Director of Operations, County Commissioners Association of Ohio

Speaker: To-be-announced