



# IN COMMON

## *Information for the Common Good*

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*The Ohio Department of Education, Division of Career, Technical, and Adult Education*

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*The Ohio Department of Development*

*The Ohio Board of Regents*

*The Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services*

*The Ohio State University Extension*

*and*

*Ohio Department of Natural Resources*

*Common goals...*

*Common customers...*

*Common needs...*

*Common challenges...*

### **Portage Common Good Linkage Team— The Second Time Around**

Portage County was among the first group of Common Good Local Linkage Teams formed in April 1990. The goal for the original team was to improve transportation for Portage County adults. The team achieved this goal by working with its local representative to the Ohio House of Representatives to pass a law allowing adults over age 18 to ride on public school buses. After achieving this goal, the team disbanded.

In May 1995, the current Portage Common Good Linkage team was formed. The team is committed to improving services and delivery performance to the community through the development of collaborative interagency linkages. It meets monthly under the leadership of its chair, Harry Carpenter, manager of the OBES One-Stop Employment and Training Center. The following agencies and programs are represented on the team:

- Even Start
- Coleman Professional Services
- Maplewood Career Center
- Portage Area Regional Transportation Authority
- Portage Careers
- Portage County Educational Service Center
- Portage Industries, Inc.
- Portage Metropolitan Housing Authority
- Portage Private Industry Council
- Townhall II East
- United Way's FIRST CALL FOR HELP

One of the objectives of the team is to improve linkages and increase the involvement of other agencies, thereby expanding and enhancing the effectiveness of the Common Good Team to provide better services to Portage County residents. The team achieves this objective by sponsoring breakfast meetings held monthly on the last Friday during the school year. Speakers at the meetings represent a variety of community agencies and organizations and provide valuable information about their programs to those present. Often, speakers represent groups that are not currently on the Portage Common Good Linkage Team, and meetings are open to (continued on p. 2)

#### **ODADAS Representative Joins Common Good State Team**

Sanford Starr, State and Community Planning Administrator, Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ODADAS), is the newest member of the Common Good State Team. The addition of Mr. Starr will further increase the team's ability to promote interagency collaboration at the state and local level. An article in the **Need to Know** section on page 3 features information about ODADAS. A complete list of CG State Team members is also included in the **Need to Know** section.

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any interested community member. (The meeting announcement is mailed to over 80 individuals.) Because of their informal nature, the breakfast meetings have proven to be a good way to enhance interagency linkages and cooperation.

Another objective of the current team was for all agency staff—not just those on the linkage team—to become better informed about the work of all the agencies represented on the team. This objective was achieved through interagency orientation sessions held at Maplewood Career Center. A series of 3-hour meetings was held in which staff members from agencies represented on the team provided brief overviews about their work. To avoid closing the offices of the agencies involved, staff members were sent on a rotating basis to these sessions. Participants were encouraged to sit with someone from another agency and a number of refreshment breaks were held during the meeting to allow time for informal interaction. This series proved so successful that it was replicated by the Portage-Geauga One-Stop when it was initiated in 1998.

The Portage Linkage Team has also sponsored Job Fairs in the past and is currently thinking of reviving this activity. Each Monday, the team also circulates by fax a list of full- and part-time jobs available in Portage and Geauga Counties. Included is information about location, experience required, whether or not the job offers benefits, and the hourly wage. The team began this service to its members in order to facilitate the placement of clients.

Like other Common Good Local Linkage Teams, the Portage Team has struggled with its role in relationship to the Portage-Geauga One-Stop. Prior to the implementation of the One-Stop in Portage and Geauga Counties, Carpenter thought that the Portage Common Good Linkage Team might be replaced by the One-Stop. Now, however, he is not so sure. He feels that a role for the Common Good Linkage Team will still exist after the One-Stop is fully implemented. Certainly, agencies that are not part of the One-Stop are represented on the Common Good Linkage Team. Also, the Common Good Linkage Team has facilitated communication about implementation of the One-Stop as well as the many changes taking place at the state level. The exchange of information among local partners will continue to be an integral part in facilitating communication.

## Partnership Results in Website

Families in Partnership (FIP), one of the programs of the Stark County Community Action Agency and a Common Good Linkage Team member, has entered into a unique partnership to launch its website. Click on [www.starkfip.org](http://www.starkfip.org) and the figure \$3,530, 845 flashes in front of your eyes. An explanation says that the amount represents the total projected annual starting salaries for FIP clients since the program became fully operational during 1997. FIP is a comprehensive training program designed to place low-income adults into entry-level positions that pay wages that allow them to live above the poverty level

and that provide benefits. It is funded by the Office of Community Services, Ohio Department of Development under the Community Services Block Grant Program. In addition to the estimated salary figure, another special feature of the website allows each of the FIP graduates to use a unique password and enter the site and update their resumes.

The FIP site is hosted by a local Internet provider (IP) as a contribution to the community. Tom Fries, the FIP computer instructor, designed the site. Because of an existing relationship with the IP, he also made the contact with the provider. According to Lee Bishop, Stark County Common Good Linkage Team member and FIP staff member, "I provided some of the page layouts and some editing assistance, but the real work was done by our instructor, Tom Fries." The Internet provider has granted FIP an unlimited number of web pages; the site is regularly updated by Tom. Bishop estimates the value of the IP's in-kind contribution to be \$18,000 per year.

When asked if he had any advice for other teams or organizations that might want to enter into a similar partnership, Bishop responded as follows: "Truly knowledgeable computer people network tightly with one another. Seek an entry into their community, state your problems and goals, defer to their expertise, and never hold back in expressing your appreciation for the unique work that they do." He also warned to "be careful of folks who claim expertise that they do not have."

## Keeping Up-to-Date on the ODHS-OBES Merger

In July 2000, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) is scheduled to begin operating. ODJFS will represent a merger of the Ohio Department of Human Services and the Ohio Bureau of Employment Services. Since January 1999, when Governor Bob Taft announced the merger, state officials have been working to resolve many significant issues before July 2000. The JFS Project Office was formed to oversee the process of resolving these issues. Common Good State Team member, Linda O'Connor, is assigned to the JFS Project Office.

Because many of the local agencies currently represented on Common Good Linkage Teams will be affected by this merger, keeping up-to-date on information about the merger is a priority. In addition to attending briefings and meetings scheduled in many areas around the state, an excellent source of information about the merger is the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services web page at <http://www.ohio.gov/odjfs/>. In addition to providing weekly updates about aspects of the merger, this site also has a direct e-mail link to send comments to the Merger Project Office.

**The Common Good Website**  
[http://literacy.Kent.edu/  
 CommonGood/](http://literacy.Kent.edu/CommonGood/)

## Need to Know

### Partnerships Bring Value- Added Benefits for ODADAS

The Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ODADAS) counts on collaborative relationships with many state agencies to achieve the greatest impact on Ohio citizens. As one of the smallest state departments, partnerships work effectively to enhance and expand the services available to men, women, adolescents and criminal offenders.

During this time of dramatic welfare reform, ODADAS has worked closely with Ohio's Department of Human Services (ODHS) to develop a workable plan that augments existing county efforts to move families from welfare to employment. Law now requires that families with alcohol and other drug problems involved in the Ohio Works First and Child Protection Services systems be made a priority in receiving treatment services.

"Never has it been more imperative that individuals get the help that they need to fight the disease of addiction," says Luceille Fleming, ODADAS director. "In Ohio, we know that any job obtained for an Ohio Works First client will probably be temporary if an alcohol/drug addiction problem exists."

With the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections (ODRC), ODADAS developed the Ohio Plan in 1996 to address the needs of drug and alcohol addicted offenders in the state's prison system. Some of the treatment options brought into being include therapeutic communities in prisons, drug courts that link treatment to sentencing for substance-abusing offenders and Treatment Alternatives to Street Crime programs that provide intensive case-management services.

Other specialized programs have been created in conjunction with the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation, Ohio Department of Mental Health, The Supreme Court of Ohio, Ohio Department of Youth Services and the Office of Criminal Justice Services, among others.

These are a few of the examples that underscore the value of partnerships among governmental agencies. Common Good Local Linkage Teams can also benefit from collaborative partnerships with local agencies that provide services related to alcohol and drug addiction. Because alcohol and other drug addiction is one of the most pervasive threats to society, a challenge to the structure of family life and to the juvenile and adult justice systems, strong partnerships can promote health, safety and self-sufficiency for all. (Stacey Frohnappel, Public Information Officer, ODADAS, contributed this article.)

### Common Good State Team Members

The following individuals are members of the Common Good State Team. Complete contact information for all team members can be found on the Common Good web site at <http://literacy.kent.edu/CommonGood/>

- Connie Spencer Ackerman**, Family & School Partnership Initiative, Ohio Department of Education
- Mike Behr**, Montgomery County Common Good Linkage Team
- Emma Lee Brewer**, POWER Ohio, Ohio Bureau of Employment Services
- Carol Brigham**, Employment Service Division, Ohio Bureau of Employment Services
- Paul C. Brown**, Manager, Tecumseh Consortium, Green County Common Good Linkage Team
- Kristen Cox**, Job Training Partnership Service, Ohio Department of Education
- Jeffrey Gove**, Adult Basic and Literacy Education, Ohio Department of Education (State Team Facilitator)
- Robert Haas**, Bureau of Self-Sufficiency Management, Ohio Department of Human Services
- Catherine Hill**, Workforce Development, Ohio Board of Regents
- Susan Imel**, Center on Education and Training for Employment, Ohio State University (Project Director)
- Gwen Ivory**, Bureau of County Support, Ohio Department of Human Services
- Karen Jesko**, Tech Prep, Ohio Department of Education
- Mary King**, Program Support Section, Ohio Department of Human Services
- Jamie H. Klinger**, Ohio Industrial Training Program, Ohio Department of Development
- Jeanne Lance**, Ohio Family Statewide Initiative, Ohio Department of Education
- Tony McManus**, State GED Administrator, Ohio Department of Education
- Barbara Nicol**, Adult Workforce Education Agency Linkages, Ohio Department of Education
- Linda O'Connor**, Job and Family Service Project Office
- Sally T. Prouty**, Division of Civilian Conservation, Ohio Department of Natural Resources
- Christopher J. Reis**, Office of Community Services, Ohio Department of Development
- Ellen Seusy**, Ohio State University Extension
- Chris Sherman**, Participation Rate Management Section, Ohio Department of Human Services
- Jean Sickles**, Ohio Apprenticeship Council, Ohio Bureau of Employment Services
- Robert Smedley**, Mental Health and Recovery Board, Wayne County Common Good Linkage Team
- Sanford Starr**, State and Community Planning, Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services

## Apprenticeship Conference

Common Good Team members may be interested in attending and participating in the 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Apprenticeship Conference scheduled for October 5 and 6, 1999 at the Radisson North Hotel, Columbus. Sponsored by the Ohio State Apprenticeship Council, the conference is open to anyone interested in networking with apprenticeship sponsors and learning more about apprenticeship programs in Ohio. The conference theme of "Creating Solid Training for a World-Class Workforce" will be carried out through workshops on such topics as the tactics of recruitment, keeping up with technology, women in nontraditional careers, closing the gender gap, appreciating and celebrating cultural differences, stress, and safety. One of the conference featured speakers, Phil Sorentino of Humor Consultants, is known to many Common Good Linkage Team members because of his appearance at two Common Good Institutes.

The conference registration fee of \$80.00 covers all meals and breaks. Complete information about the conference and a conference registration form can be found on the OBES website at < [www.obes.org](http://www.obes.org) >. Scroll down to Apprenticeship Conference and click.

## Resource Corner

The Interstate Conference of Employment Security Agencies/ Center for Employment Security Education and Research (ICESA/CESER) website is an excellent source of information related to workforce development. Training materials can be accessed by entering the website at <[www.icesa.org/](http://www.icesa.org/)> and clicking on "Workforce Development Staff Training." Among the resources available on this page are three curricula developed to assist-front line staff in the one-stop system. The curricula include:

- Expanding Business Partnerships at the Local Level
- Promoting One-Stop Center Services: Marketing at the Local Level
- Linking Employment and Training Resources: Partnerships at the Local Level

Each curriculum contains an instructors's manual, a participant manual, and a PowerPoint Presentation. All are available for downloading in PDF format.

### Common Good Case Studies Underway

During June, July, and August, 1999, Common Good project staff have been traveling around the state to visit selected Common Good Linkage Teams for the purpose of analyzing what factors contribute to successful collaboration. In conjunction with the State Team, the following five teams were selected for analysis: Montgomery County, Portage County, Scioto County, Washington County, and Wayne County. Susan Imel, Common Good project director, requested funds to conduct the study because the Common Good project is entering its 10th year and many of the teams formed through the project have been very successful.

According to Imel it would be helpful if factors that contribute to collaboration could be identified and perhaps used by others interested in fostering interagency collaboration.

"When the project started in 1990, I never dreamed it would still be going strong nearly 10 years later," commented Imel. "When I have discussed the project with professionals outside Ohio, they have been impressed with its success, and one individual encouraged me to study the teams. That was the real stimulus for the case studies, and it has been a fun and rewarding experience so far. I don't know why I waited nearly 10 years to attend a local team meeting. Seeing what the teams are doing at the local level has been a rejuvenating experience." Cynthia Zengler who is collaborating with Susan on the study also agrees that the experience has been interesting and inspirational. A report of the findings will be available on the Common Good web site after September 15, 1999. Report findings will also be used to develop Fact Sheets next year.

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