



OACAA News

Winter Legislative Conference a Success

This year's Winter Legislative Conference, held January 29–31 at the Sheraton on Capitol Square in downtown Columbus, proved to be another success!

The conference started with an opportunity for agencies to meet with their legislators and key staff. Several agencies participated in this first-ever endeavor and found the meetings fruitful. The first day of the conference was also highlighted by presentations from the Office of Community Assistance (OCA) giving updates on CSBG and OCEAN. There was also a wellness workshop presented by Wichert Insurance and a workshop on the changes in Medicaid and the Health Insurance Marketplace by Molina Healthcare.

During Wednesday's lunch Deborah Weinstein, executive director of the Coalition on Human Needs spoke about the importance of the work we do and the need to continue the fight. There was also an opportunity to acknowledge the work of seven Community Action Agencies during the Best Practice Awards (see related article for more information on the winners).



In addition to the morning's legislative visits, Wednesday provided another opportunity to meet with legislators during the evening's Legislative Reception. Thursday brought six tracks with informative workshops tailored towards specific Community Action Agency staff: Leadership, Family Development/Intake, Development, Head Start, Fiscal and Public Relations. There was also a plenary with renowned



President Lincoln impersonator Jim Getty on "Lincoln and His Leadership." It was almost like President Lincoln himself was there! The Women's Leadership Event was also held on Thursday featuring speaker Dr. Kay Potetz who humorously discussed the myth of time management.

During Thursday's lunch, Greg Moody, director of the Office of Health Transformation discussed all of the changes and reforms occurring in Ohio's healthcare system. OACAA also presented the Bulldog Award to Ohio Senator Charleta Tavares for her tireless devotion to the underprivileged and disenfranchised, her dedication to healthy communities, and her fearless and passionate commitment to doing the right thing.



This year, instead of a basket raffle, there was a tote raffle, with themed tote bags filled with exciting treasures. It raised \$995 for OACAA's PAC. The conference concluded with breakfast and a legislative update from David Bradley. Bradley shared with attendees the progress of gaining bi-partisan support for CSBG reauthorization and the challenges ahead.





Thank you to everyone who attended for making this a great conference and thank you to all of our vendors for your support (listed below)! We hope that you enjoyed the conference. If you would like to provide your feedback on the conference, please [click here](#) to complete the conference survey.

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