



Ohio Summit on Children

ACTION UPDATE ■ SEPT 2009



2009 SUMMIT WILL HOST 200+

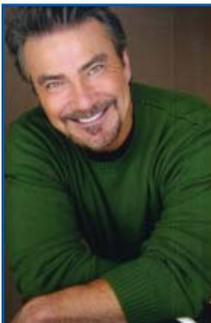
It's not too late to register for the 2009 Ohio Summit on Children. **If you missed the original Sept. 15 registration deadline, please contact summitonchildren@sc.ohio.gov** to assure your hotel room costs are covered.

Teams from 65 counties have already answered the call to collaborate and further facilitate the implementation of local and state action plans for enhancing the safety, wellbeing and permanent home environments of Ohio children.

FOR MORE ON SUMMIT ATTENDANCE, SEE PAGE 2.

2009 AGENDA INCLUDES ADVOCATE, EXPERT

The 2009 Ohio Summit on Children will open Nov. 12 with a reception, followed by a dinner featuring **Victor Rivas Rivers**, who credits his success as an actor and NFL draft pick to the care he received in foster homes.



VICTOR RIVERS

Born in Cuba, Rivers came to the United States with his family when he was 2. After suffering years of abuse at his father's hands, and witnessing other domestic violence the man dispensed, Rivers took legal action against him and entered the foster-care system.

With the help he found there, Rivers went from hard-core gang member to senior-class president, lettering in four sports. As a result, he won a four-year football scholarship to Florida State University and was later picked up by the Miami Dolphins. A star of more than two dozen films, Rivers also has enjoyed a successful career in movies and television.

FAMILY AND CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL HELPS MOVE PLANS FORWARD

Since the 2008 Ohio Summit on Children, many county teams have enhanced their collaborative planning efforts by bringing new partners to the table. Expanding a planning group brings fresh ideas and perspectives to the challenge of ensuring the safety, well being and permanent home environments for children, while reducing the burden on individual justice partners.

The county team Report-Back Forms submitted in September indicate that 60 percent of county teams combined their Summit planning team with another local planning group. Of those who teamed with an existing group, 70 percent combined forces with their local Family and Children First Council—a natural fit for many, as councils are required in all Ohio counties.

With the myriad challenges facing Ohio counties—from managing workloads and budgets to achieving buy-in from stakeholders—it is important that Summit planning efforts not lose momentum gained through Summit

SEE AGENDA PAGE 2

SEE FCFC PAGE 2

STATE OF JUDICIARY SPEECH ADDRESSES SUMMIT ATTENDANCE

The following is an excerpt from Chief Justice Thomas J. Moyer's annual State of the Judiciary Address:

"...Some counties have expressed reservations about conducting a conference while state and local budgets are being reduced. I share their concern, but I offer two mitigating arguments: no local or state tax revenue will be spent on the Summit on Children. Funding is provided by foundations and a federal grant.

"And a second point ... a main objective of the Summit process has been to coordinate and streamline local systems to improve the delivery of services to children. Improved coordination and communication helps ensure that limited resources are focused in a manner that accomplishes the most. And in many circumstances, improved coordination reduces the amount of time children spend in foster care and leads to reductions in spending..."

— Hon. Thomas J. Moyer, Sept. 17, 2009

AGENDA CONTINUED

Today, Rivers is in his 10th year as national spokesman for the National Network to End Domestic Violence. In 2006, he released the memoir, *A Private Family Matter*, and in 2007, he became a Community Champion for Verizon, the company's first celebrity advocate to spearhead a violence-prevention campaign. He believes his most important roles, however, are those of devoted husband and father.

The activities for Friday, Nov. 13, include breakout sessions, a state report on actions taken to implement county requests and county reports to state leaders.

Lunch will feature **Mark Carey**, president of a national consulting firm that provides training and technical assistance for justice and correctional professional and community groups. Carey has more than 20 years of experience in corrections, having served as counselor, probation/parole officer, planner, administrator and consultant.



MARK CAREY

Carey's background includes the coordination of a three-year project demonstrating a recidivism reduction in Illinois and Maine through the implementation of social learning, risk reduction, change management and collaboration. The project, managed under the National Institute of Corrections/Crime and Justice Institute Evidence-Based Practices Initiative, has been expanded to two additional jurisdictions.



FCFC CONTINUED

participation. Family and Children First Councils offer communities an opportunity to align their vision for children and streamline local processes to their benefit.

The strategy of combining planning efforts with your Family and Children First Council will be explored further during roundtable discussions at the 2009 Summit. Look for the breakout session titled, "Building and Sustaining Local Planning Teams," where you can interact with successful local program administrators and share ideas for developing a high-functioning Family and Children First Council, engaging local partners, integrating Summit and HB 289 plans and developing local leadership. 

WHAT ELSE THE REPORT-BACK FORMS SAY

One goal of the 2008 Summit was to build on existing plans rather than duplicate or replace them. With regard to at least one county team function, this goal is as good as met.

More than 96 percent of Report-Back Forms indicate that county teams plan to continue their regular meetings to address child and family issues after the November 2009 Summit. This is an indication that the important work of the Summit will serve as the cornerstone for continued good work in the years to come.