

Up to the Minute

OACBHA UPDATE

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RULING ON CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION'S PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

The Ohio Board of Tax Appeals has ruled that the Northeast Ohio Psychiatric Institute, a non-profit corporation that provides psychiatrist staffing services, is not a charitable organization and therefore not entitled to a real estate tax exemption for its building in Cuyahoga Falls. Although the Board did note that Portage Path, which provides behavioral health services and occupies the majority of the building, is a charitable organization, that organization's status cannot be used to benefit Northeast, who is the titleholder to the property. To read the opinion in its entirety please visit: <http://bta.ohio.gov/05m1683dec.pdf>

FEDERAL MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PERCENTAGES FOR FFY 2009

The Federal Medical Assistance Percentages (FMAPs) for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2009 were recently announced. The FMAPs are used in determining the amount of federal matching funds for state expenditures for assistance payments for certain social services and state medical and medical insurance expenditures. Enhanced FMAPs are used in the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). The FMAPs and enhanced FMAP's for Ohio for FFY 2009 and the past several years are included below. For more information, please visit: <http://aspe.hhs.gov/health/fmap.htm>

Federal Fiscal Year	FMAP	
	Standard	Enhanced
2006	59.88%	71.92%
2007	59.66%	71.76%
2008	60.79%	72.55%
2009	62.14%	73.50%

LONG-TERM EFFECTS OF BINGE DRINKING

New Year's Eve and Super Bowl Sunday tend to be two of the most popular occasions for binge drinking – a pattern of excessive alcohol use that raises a person's blood alcohol concentration to .08 or above. A recent *New York Times* article focused on the subtle yet significant long-term effects of binge drinking can have on the brain and cognition. Binge drinking is known to damage the forebrain of an adolescent more severely than that of an adult. This damage can lead to an inability to recognize consequences of certain actions and therefore possible poor decision making. Binge drinking is also associated with several other health problems including, high blood pressure, stroke, alcohol poisoning, intentional and unintentional injuries, and liver disease. For more information about binge drinking, please visit: http://www.cdc.gov/alcohol/quickstats/binge_drinking.htm.

RESEARCH CONDUCTED ON COCAINE VACCINATION

Two researchers at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston are working on a vaccination for cocaine addiction. The vaccine, which is still in clinical trials, causes the immune system to attack the cocaine when it is ingested, preventing the high that motivates most addicts. The researchers are currently waiting for a positive response from the Food and Drug Administration before proceeding with a multi-institutional trial. While this vaccine seems promising, it is not likely that it will work for everyone. To read this article in its entirety, please visit: http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2008-01-02-cocaine-vaccine_N.htm

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