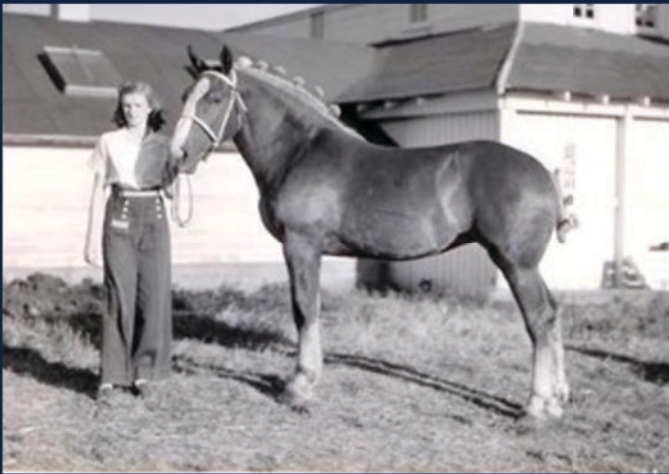


The Iowa County

Iowa State Association of Counties



Spencer Daily Reporter, See page 11

July 2013

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140M2	Cat C9.3 ACERT	193–243	41,128 lb	241 in
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The Iowa County

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5500 Westown Parkway, Suite 190
West Des Moines, IA 50266
515.244.7181 FAX 515.244.6397
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Rachel Bennett, EDITOR

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ISAC's Mission:

To promote effective and responsible county government for the people of Iowa.

ISAC's Vision:

To be the principal, authoritative source of representation, information and services for and about county government in Iowa.

28E Agreements for Mental Health Regions

By: *Kristi Harshbarger*

ISAC Legal Counsel



Now that the legislative session is complete, counties are ramping up their work on the documentation to form their mental health regions. Regions are at various stages in this process, but because this can be a time-consuming process, it is a good idea to begin addressing the matter. The deadline for telling the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) which counties will be forming into regions passed on April 1 and before we know it additional benchmark deadlines will be here. I've been assisting counties with the process of developing 28E agreements for the regions and I wanted to take the time here to address a few of the questions that seem to come up most frequently.

1) Help! How do we go about this process? What resources are available to assist us?

There are a lot of ways to go about preparing, drafting, reviewing/revising and finalizing your 28E. No one strategy is correct, and your process will likely vary depending on factors particular to your counties and region. My suggestion is to start by talking to the various county officials and employees that might like to be involved in the process and find out how much input they'd like to have and at what point in the process. People at the county level that will likely have relevant knowledge include supervisors, CPCs, auditors, county attorneys and HR/office administration staff. Once the large group of interested parties has worked through the general principles guiding the region's formation, selecting a smaller committee to put together a draft of the 28E seems to make the process move more quickly. Once a draft has been formed, the larger group can again come together to review and revise the 28E agreement. When the counties have come to a consensus on the 28E agreement, the region should obtain approval from DHS prior to filing the 28E agreement with the Iowa Secretary of State. (Filing the 28E agreement is the final trigger to becoming a legally formed entity).

Resources include:

a) ISAC – Linda Hinton and I are available for questions and assistance. I can attend meetings to discuss and to assist in drafting the 28E agreement.

b) DHS – Keeping DHS staff involved and giving them the opportunity to weigh in as you go through the process will hopefully shorten the approval time when you are ready to finalize your 28E agreement.

c) Other technical assistants – DHS has funds set aside for providing technical assistance to the counties when forming the regions. Several regions have retained Jeff Schott with the Institute of Public Affairs to facilitate planning sessions.

2) Will the regions be subject to open meetings and public records laws?

Yes. Iowa Code §28E.6(2) makes 28E entities subject to Chapter 21 of the Iowa Code (open meetings) and Chapter 22 of the Iowa Code (public records). The requirements for publication of agendas and meetings, however, are slightly different than what you are used for meetings of the board of supervisors. This is because the publication rules related to supervisor meetings are found in Iowa Code Chapter 349 related to official newspapers and not in Chapter 21. The regions will only have to comply with the requirements of the open meeting and public records rules and Chapter 28E, which means agendas must be given by reasonable notice at least 24 hours prior to the meeting. Reasonable notice is defined in Iowa Code §21.4 as “advising the news media who have filed a request for notice with the governmental body and posting the notice on a bulletin board or other prominent place which is easily accessible to the public and clearly designated for that purpose at the principle office of the body holding the meeting, or if no such office exists, at the building in which the meeting is to be held.” Iowa Code §28E.6(3)(b) requires 28E entities to publish summaries of meeting proceedings “in one newspaper of general circulation within the geographic area served” by the 28E within 20 days after the adjournment of the meeting.

3) Who provides legal representation to the region?

It depends. Your county attorney represents the county. So if you are a supervisor on your region's Governing Board and you have a question about how a Governing Board vote will affect your county, then that legal advice falls within the purview of your county attorney's statutory duties. But if it's a broader region issue – for example, the region needs assistance drafting a contract or if the region gets sued – then because the region is a separate legal entity, that goes beyond your county attorney's statutory responsibility. This means they can still provide legal assistance, but they aren't obligated to do so. And from a practical standpoint, it makes sense for the region

Continues on page 6.

ISAC Priorities Summary

By: ISAC Government Relations Team

Mental health disability services (MH/DS) funding was an issue from the first day of session until the last. When the session ended, it appeared that counties had done pretty well in terms of funding for MH/DS services for FY 2014, with a total of \$42 million in state funding allocated to those counties below \$47.28 per capita through equalization payments and to those above that figure through the Risk Pool. Unfortunately, Governor Branstad vetoed the Risk Pool funding along with two other key pieces of legislation that would have benefitted the counties MH/DS services.

The Department of Human Services (DHS) submitted a report to the legislature that included its evaluation of the applications for funds received from 32 counties. Based on the DHS recommendation, the legislature provided \$11.6 million for the current fiscal year. This funding went to 26 counties identified by DHS as meeting the requirements to receive the funds. The funding source was the federal Children's Health Insurance Program, which prohibited the counties from using the funds to pay any unpaid Medicaid bills since federal funds cannot be used to match federal funds.

Funding for FY 2014 was not settled until the very end of session. The legislature funded \$29.8 million for the "equalization" payment to the counties whose levy translated into less than \$47.28 per capita, as outlined in legislation last year. The legislature also appropriated \$13 million to be deposited into the Risk Pool, but this was vetoed by the Governor based on his analysis that these funds are not needed. The priority for this funding was to be counties whose levy rates are being reduced to \$47.28 with financial issues in FY 2014 and secondarily, for those counties who experience increased costs from the shift to residency that they cannot support in FY 2014. The Governor points to equalization funding, which is not available to the counties with levies above \$47.28 per capita, the transition funds, which were for FY 2013, and Healthy and Well Iowa savings, a program that does not start until January 1, 2014, as support for his position that there is no need.

The Legislature included language that requires the counties to pay outstanding state bills by July 15, 2013 or to develop a payment plan that will resolve those bills by June 30, 2014. The state payment program funding will continue to go to the counties that are currently receiving funds, and the Legislature made an accommodation if those designated funds are subject to cuts at the federal level. In that instance, the funds will be taken from the Medicaid appropriation. This provision was also vetoed by the Governor, which means that any federal cuts will be passed on to the counties.

As part of the final agreement to expand Medicaid under the federal Affordable Care Act, the legislature directs DHS to quantify the amount of "savings" experienced by each county. In FY 2015, each county is required to remit 80% of the savings to the Property Tax Relief Fund, the fund from which equalization funds are distributed. Counties that do not receive equalization funds or have more savings than they receive in equalization will have to translate the savings into a decrease in the county's mental health and development services levy. The legislature directed that a legislative interim committee review this proposal to determine the impact on the regions ability to meet minimum core service requirements, address core plus services, and, ultimately, meet the needs of additional populations.

Property Tax Reform

Property tax reform was once again a top priority for the Legislature and Governor as the session began. As was the case in the past two legislative sessions, the House majority and Senate majority had very different ideas on how to go about it. The House majority began with the Governor's plan, which called for a 20% rollback of commercial, industrial, and railway property, a reduction of the permissible taxable valuation growth percentage from 4% to 2%, and the limitation of permissible valuation growth for all property classes being set at the same percentage as the class with the lowest percentage growth. Meanwhile, the Senate majority supported a commercial property tax credit aimed at small businesses and fully funded by the state.

After each plan got through its chamber of origin the Senate bill, SF 295, was taken up by the House with a strike-after amendment that inserted the language from the House bill as well as several other provisions including the creation of a new "multiresidential" property classification and the changing of the assessment methodology and taxable value of telecommunications property. The new classification would include apartments, assisted living facilities, and other similar property currently assessed as commercial property that upon full implementation would be tied to the residential rate. During floor debate several other amendments were adopted, including one that would repeal the sunset of the Property Assessment Appeal Board (PAAB) and one that would limit budget growth for local governments and drastically change the supplemental levy. With the passage of the bill as amended out of the House and the Senate's refusal to concur, a conference committee was established.

Continues on page 6.

legal briefs

Continued from page 4.

to have a single and consistent contact for legal advice. Thus, my recommendation has been for the Governing Board to appoint legal representation for the region via resolution or in its bylaws. Appointment of legal representation isn't required in the 28E agreement, so handling by resolution or in the bylaws allows more flexibility for changes as needed. But you should start thinking about if your region has a county attorney willing to take on this responsibility or if the region will need to retain outside legal counsel.

4) Does the region need its own insurance?

Yes. The region will be a separate legal entity, so while you should review your county insurance coverage to check applicability to the region, it's unlikely the region would be covered by the county insurance policies. It would be wise to start talking to your insurance carriers soon to determine what the current coverage is and how that might need to change and what new policies need to be obtained for the region.

5) How will the Governing Board of the region oversee the Regional Administrator if the person stays a county employee?

Many groups I've talked with have decided to have persons working on behalf of the region stay county staff in order to provide employees with consistent benefits. But new Iowa Code §331.438C(3)(a) requires the Regional Administrator to be under the control of the Governing Board of the region. I believe this concern can be addressed by looking at the appointment of the Regional Administrator as separate from employment with the county. So, the Governing Board can appoint and remove the Regional Administrator. If the Governing Board chooses to remove someone from the Regional Administrator position, it would be up to the employing county to decide whether it wanted to retain that person as an employee in another capacity.

capitol comments

Continued from page 4.

With little visible progress for several weeks it appeared that once again the House Republicans and Senate Democrats were too far apart with their proposals to reach a compromise. But in the final days of the extended session, a deal was reached that would include pieces of each plan as well as some additional provisions. The conference committee report included a property tax credit aimed at small businesses, a rollback of 90% for commercial, industrial, and railway property, a reduction of the permissible taxable valuation growth percentage from 4% to 3%, the creation of the multiresidential property class, and a property tax exemption for a specified amount of the assessed value of telecommunications property. There were also several provisions regarding property assessments. The bill extended PAAB to July 1, 2018, moved the deadline for completing assessments and mailing assessment rolls to April 1, moved the timeline for protests to the board of review to April 7 through May 5, and created a process for dissatisfied property owners

to request an informal review by the county assessor from April 1 through May 4. The final bill passed through both chambers with broad bipartisan support.

Road Funding

Before the legislative session began it looked like this could be the year for an increase in the gas tax. With the need for increased funding for road and bridge repairs becoming more and more evident, the idea had bipartisan support. The Governor said on several occasions that he would support an increase in the gas tax if his property tax reform plan was passed. The possibility of an increase alternated between gaining momentum and exiting the discussion as the session progressed. Several bills and amendments were introduced that would have increased the gas tax in one way or another, but none saw a vote in either chamber. Ultimately, rising fuel prices in the late spring and strong public opposition made legislators hesitant to take on the issue.

Embrace the Adventure

May 2, 2013 it snowed not just flurries, but measurable snow, interfering with your day, traffic accident causing snow. The morning of May 3, 2013, I woke up, looked out the window and saw a beautiful white back yard with snow covering the trees and my deck. My first split second thought was “Wow” how pretty (for February), and then it hit me, “This is MAY, are you kidding me?” Well, I got in the shower, got ready for work, brushed the snow off my car, fought my way through traffic, and arrived at work. What an “Adventure.” We are thrown many obstacles in our personal lives and in our business lives. What I have noticed throughout the years of working for the state, county, and now ISAC, is that we are consistently being exposed to changes, obstacles, and events beyond our control. I have also noticed throughout the years, that we adapt, cope, make the situation work, and continue on.

It is now July 2013 and with this month many changes are taking place. We’ve been talking about them for months. There have been discussion and venting in regard to what was coming, fear of the unknown and disruptions of routines ...well, we are here. We tend to embrace disruptions in our routines when they are planned; whether it’s a new job, move to a new home, a vacation, a baby, or a new pet. These things bring new adventures to your lives and you embrace them with an attitude of strength and excitement. Now, what about the disruptions that you are not as excited about. It could be many of the same things already mentioned. A move, different job, unplanned baby, a vacation where everything goes wrong, and “yes,” changes in the way we perform our jobs.

On a daily basis you are faced with obstacles in your professional lives and because you are smart, creative, strong and resilient you face these challenges with an adrenaline rush that leaves you excited and feeling good about how you handled that problem for the day. This next year doesn’t have to be any different. You take what you are given and face this new adventure with the strength and creativity you already possess.

There are several different definitions for the word “Adventure,” when I use this word I think of this one – “an exciting or remarkable experience.”

“Life is either a daring adventure or nothing.” - Helen Keller

“One way to get the most out of life is to look upon it as an adventure.” – William Feather

By: Cindy Chappelle

ISAC Case Management
Specialist



Viewing life/job experiences as an adventure may be an attitude shift for some. I hear from many frustrated, scared, and anxious people, and if you’re one of them, tell me, how would you rather spend your day? Angry and voicing negative comments, or taking on the new developments as an adventure? Something new is happening that needs a smart, strong, and creative individual to make the best out of a situation. We can always begin making better decisions and choices that could turn any situation into an adventure. Choosing to remain open-minded towards new experiences and opportunities can also be a great way for us to get the most out of our lives.

“Adventure isn’t hanging on a rope off the side of a mountain. Adventure is an attitude that we must apply to the day-to-day obstacles of life - facing new challenges, seizing new opportunities, testing our resources against the unknown and, in the process, discovering our own unique potential.” - John Amatt

Following are the nine keys of the “Adventure Attitude” philosophy: (John Amatt)

- A - Adaptability
- D - Desire and Determination
- V - Vision and Values
- E - Experience
- N - Natural Curiosity
- T - Teamwork and Trust
- U - Unlimited Optimism
- R - Risk-Ability
- E - Exceptional Performance

Looking at these basic principles, it becomes obvious that fulfillment in life is really quite simple. There are no magic pills that guarantee instant success. Achievement is just the constant process of striving to go one step beyond your previous experience, consistently applying a set of clearly defined principles, day by day over a long period of time.

You either change or you are stagnate. You either leap forward, or you fall backward. You cannot stay where you are today! Embrace the Adventure!!

ISAC brief

2013 ISAC Wellness Program

By: Jenna Kunstle

ISAC Financial/Member Services Administrator



The phrase “rising healthcare costs” can make anyone who employs staff shutter. Those who work with county budgets can attest that the annual increase in premiums is a significant factor in budgeting each year. And although the ISAC Group Health plan premium increases are generally below the Iowa average (approximately 4.24% vs 10.1% for 2011 and 6.76% vs 7% for 2012*), there is strong motivation by the ISAC Board of Directors and county members of the health pool to work to reduce these numbers while maintaining the pool’s viability.

For this reason, ISAC offers the counties that participate in the ISAC Group Health pool the opportunity to participate in a wellness program. As far as wellness programs go, ours is fairly intensive and uses incentives to motivate individuals into living healthier lifestyles. We also offer incentives to the county to motivate county leadership to encourage wellness locally and to help them understand the importance of wellness programs for not only the health of employees but also for the bottom line.

ISAC has offered the wellness incentive program since 2011, and each year incentives are earned for different activities depending on that year’s focus. For example, in 2011 we started the program by giving an incentive for employees who went to their physician for a routine physical and completed a wellness assessment. This was a great way to start the program so employees would have a better understanding of their personal health status and what areas might need work. We also used the assessment results to determine what health risks we needed to focus on in the wellness program.

For 2012, we expanded the program and offered incentives to employees and covered spouses who had a preventive exam completed, whether that be a mammogram, colonoscopy or

other preventive exam. We also started giving incentives for employees who participated in activity programs held by the county wellness committee. These activity programs focused on areas that were reported in the assessment as needing particular focus.

For 2013, we are working to take the knowledge employees have learned about their health in the past couple of years, and turning it into action. Details for the 2013 ISAC Wellness Program are as follows:

- Each county employee on the ISAC Group Health insurance has the opportunity to earn up to \$150 in gift card incentives by participating in 2 activity programs offered by the county (\$75/program)
- The county can earn between a 2% and 5% reduction in the cost of health insurance premiums if at least 50% of eligible employees complete at least one activity program, and the county completes a few other requirements

The reasons behind the rise in health care costs are varied and complex and many of them are out of the control of the ISAC board, staff or even county government, but there is at least one factor we can do something about and that is encouraging the healthy lifestyles of our members. This is the area the ISAC wellness program attempts to address.

**Percentages are approximate because ISAC premiums are calculated by fiscal year and the 2012 David P. Lind Iowa Employer Benefits Study, the source for the Iowa average, is calculated by calendar year.*



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Welcome Jake

My name is Jake Underwood, and I serve as an ISAC Data Integrity Analyst. I started here on May 28, a week after I graduated from Drake University with a degree in information systems and marketing. My interest in an IT career started during a software development internship at Sciengistics during the summer of 2012.

I chose to attend Drake University for two main reasons. First off, it has a great business school and the Dean of the business school, Randall Blum, is a man I wish everyone could meet. He helped me grow into a business professional and taught me numerous things I would've never known. Secondly, I played four years of collegiate D1aa football. We were back-to-back conference champions in 2011 and 2012. Also in 2012, I was voted as an All-Conference Defensive Back (Safety) in the Pioneer football league. Drake provided me a four year degree and an incredible athletic career I will never forget.

I come from a very large, athletic family, as I am the oldest of six kids (four boys and two girls). We were raised in Cary, Illinois, which is a Northwest suburb of Chicago. My oldest

By: Jake Underwood

ISAC Data Integrity Specialist



brother is going to be a senior at Drake and participates in football and is in the college of business as well. This year was a big year for my family because my youngest brother graduated from 8th grade, my middle brother graduated from high school and is going to wrestle at Rutgers University, and I graduated from Drake. My oldest sister is going to be a junior in high school and has been in the top three for all around in gymnastics the last two years. She should win state the next two years and have a full ride for gymnastics to her college or university of choice. The baby of the family, Leah, is 13 and entering 8th grade. She plays many sports as well, such as gymnastics, softball and volleyball. I can honestly say my house is never quiet, and there's always something to do. Family is forever, and I wouldn't be the person I am today without them.

I'm very pleased to join a wonderful ISAC team and grow my knowledge of county government issues. Please feel to contact me anytime at 515.369.7007 or junderwood@iowacounties.org.


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Legal Tender, Part I

It didn't take long for the Civil War to become enormously expensive. For one thing, the army went from a standing force of 16,000 in 1860 to over a million men by the end of the war. These soldiers needed to be clothed, fed, armed, housed, equipped, and doctored. All this and much more was required of a government that, due to the passionate opposition of Americans to taxation, received \$56.1 million of its \$64.6 million of revenue for FY 1860 from import duties.

Financing the war fell to Abraham Lincoln's Secretary of the Treasury, Salmon P. Chase. Chase was one of Doris Kearns Goodwin's "Team of Rivals" characters: A top-tier candidate for the Republican presidential nomination in 1860, he was beaten by the long-shot Lincoln, who then appointed Chase to his cabinet. This didn't keep Chase from scheming to supplant his boss in the next election, but he performed effectively as Treasury secretary. He immediately began to borrow money from the big banks, ballooning the federal debt. He introduced several new taxes, including the country's first income tax. Also, he was convinced, against his prior hard-money inclinations, to issue irredeemable securities, which were also called legal tender notes. At that time banks all across the country issued their own notes, the value of which fluctuated wildly. Unlike those banknotes, Congress made the U.S. notes legal tender, or just as good as specie. You couldn't go to the bank and demand gold and silver coin in return for them. In other words, for the first time, the government started printing money.

The notes became known as greenbacks. (On account of their backs being green.) Congress authorized three greenback issuances of \$150 million each over a 13-month period. This helped to keep the government solvent during the war, but was it constitutional? A lot of people didn't think so. We come here to a classic disagreement between Constitutional strict constructionists and loose constructionists. Strict constructionists say that Congress is limited to the express powers granted in Article I of the Constitution. Loose constructionists say that the "Necessary and Proper" Clause gives Congress broad authority to fulfill its duties: After listing various specific powers, Article I Section 8 ends by saying

By: Grant Veeder

NACo Board of Directors
Iowa Representative,
Black Hawk County Auditor



Congress may "make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

An express power in Article I Section 8 says that Congress may *coin* money and regulate the value thereof. No mention of paper money. How, then, could the government justify the Legal Tender Law? A loose constructionist would point out that other express powers authorize Congress to raise and support armies, and provide and maintain a navy. If it is necessary to print greenbacks to support the army and navy, then the Necessary and Proper Clause permits legal tender, right? Based on this belief, Secretary Chase started the Treasury Department

printing greenbacks. Incidentally, he put his own face on the one dollar bill, and Lincoln's on the tenner, knowing that the smaller denomination would be in wider circulation. By the time of the 1864 presidential election, Chase would have the most familiar face in the country. Clever lad, that Salmon.

Not surprisingly, people still preferred gold. A case testing the law was tried in New York, whose constitution said that banks must redeem all their bills and notes in gold or silver upon demand. A man presented some bank notes at two banks and asked for specie. The banks insisted that he take greenbacks, because the federal law said that the greenbacks were legal tender for all debts public and private. The man protested to the state superintendent of banks, and the banks sued via the superintendent, a Mr. Van Dyck. The state supreme court found the legal tender law valid in *Metropolitan Bank v. Van Dyck*, which was promptly appealed to the New York Court of Appeals. (Everyone who watches *Law and Order* knows that in New York the Court of Appeals is superior to the Supreme Court.)

The Court of Appeals, hearing the case in June of 1863 in Albany, took note of the *Prize Cases* decision, rendered three months earlier, in determining that the Legal Tender Act was constitutional by a 6-2 majority. One of the New York justices

Continues on page 18.



WIR Conference Overview

The NACo Board of Directors met at the Western Interstate Region (WIR) Conference in Flagstaff, Coconino County, Arizona, from May 22 to 24, Mayor Jerome Selby of Kodiak Island Borough, Alaska presiding. Coconino County is home to some spectacular southwestern scenery, including the Sedona area (saw that) and the Grand Canyon (didn't see that).

We heard a number of interesting speakers, including U.S. Representative Ann Kirkpatrick (D-Arizona), Leslie Weldon, deputy chief, USDA Forest Service and Jim Ogsbury, executive director of the Western Governors' Association. There was also a last-minute-replacement inspirational speaker whose name wasn't in the program. He was the kind of guy who would encourage you to not worry about taking credit for everything, so I'll quote him anonymously. He recalled a manager who said he wouldn't assign anyone work that he couldn't do himself. What's wrong with that? Well, it doesn't promote creativity. You should be willing to delegate tasks that you CAN'T do yourself. As our unknown sage said, "It is the height of hypocrisy to think that your organization can only do things that you're able to do." Which is a great relief to me. Nothing would get done in my office if we had to wait until I knew how to do it.

The NACo Board of Directors held an eventful meeting at the conference. Staff brought a long-awaited proposal to add various medical services to the NACo prescription drug discount program. NACo has for several years had a relationship with CVS Caremark for Rx drug discounts, and recently started a dental discount program through Careington, Inc. The two companies made comparable bids on the new services, and an independent consulting firm recommended choosing CVS Caremark since the prescription program already exists in nearly 1,400 counties, making it easier for them to make the services available.

Unlike the prescription drug program, there will be a cost associated with these discounted services, but the potential savings are significant, and you should seriously consider making them available to your citizens:

By: Grant Veeder

NACo Board of Directors
Iowa Representative,
Black Hawk County Auditor



Proposed Costs

Single: \$6.95/month, \$69/year
Family: \$8.95/month, \$79/year

Proposed Discounts

Lab: 20-70%
Imaging: 40-75%
Hearing aids and exams: free exams; 35% off hearing aids
Vision: 35% off retail eyewear, 15% off contact lenses, 15% off retail or 5% off promotional for LASIK and PRK
Diabetic Supplies: 24% average savings, up to 75%

The NACo Board authorized staff to negotiate with CVS Caremark on the enhanced member benefits. We'll try to keep you posted on developments and details.

Another recent initiative is the Next Generation NACo Network. Youngish NACo President Chris Rodgers started this program in 2012 to get young county officials more involved with the organization. At its May 23 meeting, the NACo Board approved bylaws for the Next Generation NACo Network, after some discussion stressing the value of oldtimers to such a group. This led to my limerick at the end of the meeting:

*The loss of my youth makes me bitter
But please understand I'm no quitter.
This Next Generation
Is my new sensation
I'll try to explain it on Twitter.*

There are currently 82 officials participating in the group, which means there's room for YOU, junior.

The aggressive approach taken by Executive Director Matt Chase was evident in the report he gave about the NACo Advocacy Assessment, which was conducted by the Institute for Economic Advancement at the University of Arkansas-Little Rock. The assessment showed that NACo has the following key areas of strength in the eyes of federal government officials, the media and other national associations: Good conferences with a wealth of information, accurate and nonpartisan information on request, a neutral and informed voice, a forum for two-way dialogue, and a strong liaison between Washington and counties.

Continues on page 12.

NACo news

Continued from page 11.

Fortunately there were no weaknesses found, but the assessment did identify these “areas of opportunity”: gathering and analyzing county-related ideas and solutions and sharing them with the feds, the media and think tanks; hosting events with the White House and federal agency liaisons at the NACo office; conducting more timely updates, dialogues and actions with NACo committee and caucus members; expanding research capacity; and providing more leadership within coalitions that include NACo.

Director Chase also pledged follow-up on his “burning imperatives”: Improve relevancy in the federal policy arena, fix major cracks in our financial foundation, enhance member engagement and outreach, expand member services and benefits, and focus on collaboration with affiliates, state associations, funders and other key partners.

For more developments on this impressive list of initiatives, be sure to attend the NACo County Solutions and Marketplace Annual Conference, July 19-22 in Ft. Worth, Tarrant County, Texas, where Iowa’s own Linda Langston will be sworn in as NACo president!

NACo news

Cost-Saving Smart Justice Practices

NACo and Better Futures Enterprises, formerly known as The NetWork for Better Futures, have launched a strategic partnership to advance smart justice reforms that will promote better outcomes for individuals returning to communities from jail or prison, enhance public safety, and use public dollars more efficiently.

Each year more than nine million individuals cycle in and out of county and local jails and an additional 700,000 are released from state or federal prisons, according to the Federal Interagency Reentry Council. Without strong family ties or other support systems, many of these individuals are ill-prepared to return to their communities and end up back in the criminal justice system.

“NACo looks forward to our new partnership with Better Futures Enterprises to develop and share innovative ways for counties to assist individuals with a successful transition to their community following their release from jail or prison,” said NACo President Chris Rodgers, commissioner, Douglas County, Nebraska. Rodgers has made Smart Justice a 2013 NACo priority. “The goal is to help counties use their existing resources more efficiently to break the costly cycle of incarceration, release, incarceration, release.”

Better Futures Enterprises is a social enterprise that was established as a demonstration pilot in 2007 by a team of Minnesota’s leading health care, housing, workforce, community corrections, and human service practitioners.

The new strategic partnership is being funded in part by a grant by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. NACo will provide information, resources, and assistance on how this model might potentially address some of the issues NACo members face with a high-risk, reentering population.

In addition, an advisory board of county officials and other community leaders from across the country will be convened to provide feedback on the model.

“We are excited about collaborating with county leaders from across the country interested in re-engineering how essential services are organized, delivered, and financed in their communities,” said Steve Thomas, president and CEO of Better Futures.

For more information contact Maeghan Gilmore at 202.942.4261 or mgilmore@naco.org or Marcia Soto at 612.455.6133 ext.125 or msoto@naco.org.

Clay County Extension Marks 100 Years of Service

“People Advancing People” is how Cathann Kress, the new vice president of Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, often describes the work of the organization.

The phrase may be new, but the concept has been the working model in Clay County Extension since March of 1913. Iowa State University Extension and Outreach in Clay County is a vital part of the history of this community. Community leaders have partnered with Extension to provide greater knowledge, connection and educational resources in an attempt to improve the quality of life for residents in Clay County.

The program began when Iowa State University, then known as Iowa State College, started offering two-week short courses held on its campus in Ames. The courses were attended by prominent farm figures throughout the state and were designed to encourage the farmer to study how agriculture on their farm and within their own community could be improved.

The farmers in counties around rural Iowa noticed a need in their communities for local courses in agriculture, and sought assistance from Iowa State College and received it -- short courses began being offered in communities around the state. This is a great example of what Iowa State University Extension and Outreach is still doing today; striving to educate and fill the needs of Iowa residents.

The Iowa Agricultural Extension Act was the earliest legislation appropriating funds for agricultural extension education services. Extension was originally intended to be a separate department with centralized direction. It tended to work in conjunction with all departments of the Iowa State College and still continues this close relationship today.

March 2013 marked the 100-year anniversary of Iowa State University Extension and Outreach having a local presence in Clay County.

Many people associate Clay County Extension with 4-H and its role in the Clay County Fair. In 1913, Spencer merchants organized a Clay County Fair and Picnic. The intention of the Fair Association was to “conduct annually one of the largest stock shows in northern Iowa.”

Between 1913 and 1916, 29 4-H clubs were formed with an average yearly enrollment of about 300 boys and girls. In 1938 Clay County claimed the largest county beef show in Iowa with 170 4-H members showing 274 head. In 1938, 2,317 lambs from nine counties were exhibited in Clay County, the largest 4-H lamb show held in the United States to that date according to the annual report.

While Clay County 4-H continues to have strong roots in agriculture and animal science, the youth development program always played a role in career training for the youth of the county. As 4-H started to expand its project areas in the 1960s, many former members found themselves using skills on the job they learned in 4-H.

From its inception, countless local businesses, organizations, and private citizens have provided valuable support for 4-H in Clay County, in terms of money, services, and personal assistance to youth. A focal point of support is the Clay County Fair, where area businesses and individuals give each year to support trophies, awards, and prizes. To this day, the Clay County 4-H program is fortunate to have more than 400 dedicated volunteers who assist during fair programs, and the county hosts 800 youth from 35 counties and two states for exhibitions that range from livestock shows to communications events.

Clay County 4-H has received incredible support from many different organizations.

The service of Extension began in meeting the needs of farmers and farm families, by educating them in the science of agriculture, just as businessmen were educated in their trades. It has since evolved into a national land-grant college-based organization with a presence in every state and in every Iowa County. With programs in families, 4-H youth development, community and economic development, business and industry, and agriculture and natural resources - Extension now offers connection to research-based information and learning opportunities for everyone in every facet of life.

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member highlights

County Recorder Honored by White House

Kim Painter, Johnson County Recorder and ISAC Past President, was honored as a Harvey Milk Champion of Change by the White House in late May for being one of Iowa's pioneering LGBT elected officials. Painter is one of 10 openly



LGBT elected or appointed officials who received the prestigious honor. She was first elected in 1998, and at that time became the first openly gay person to win election to public office in Iowa.

“This award is a tremendous honor, and I’m deeply gratified,” said Painter.

“I’ve been very fortunate in my political endeavors.

Being elected to serve the people of Johnson County was a great moment in my life, and it occurred because people were willing to look beyond labels and ideology and get to know me as a human being. They felt

I could provide strong service to the county, and I’ve tried to do that. This award, having the name of Harvey Milk associated with it, is a bit daunting for me to grasp. But I’m thrilled, and will carry it close to my heart.”

The Champions of Change program was created as an opportunity for the White house to feature groups of Americans – individuals, businesses and organizations – who are doing extraordinary things to empower and inspire members of their communities and for their commitment to equality and public service.

“When President Obama posthumously awarded Harvey Milk the Medal of Freedom in 2009, he praised his leadership and courage in running for office. Today, we honor Harvey Milk’s legacy in these 10 outstanding public servants, who will surely inspire the next generation of public servants,” said Valerie Jarrett, Senior Advisor to the President.

To learn more about the White House Champions of Change program and nominate a Champion, visit www.whitehouse.gov/champions.

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Please contact Rachel Bennett at rbennett@iowacounties.org if you are interested in learning more about the ISAC Preferred Vendor Program.

Deputy Treasurer Celebrates 60 Years

Johnson County Deputy Treasurer Betty Sass has seen a lot during her 60 years working for the county. Johnson County recently celebrated Betty's service with an open house that marked her 80th birthday and 60 years of service to the county.

Betty was born in the heart of the Depression, and was raised in Iowa City with her four siblings. In 1953, Betty's dad knew someone in the Treasurer's office, who encouraged her to apply for a job. She started the day after she turned 20.

"They first asked about my penmanship," Betty said, "because in those days we wrote everything by hand."

"You also had to be kind of tall," she added. She started in the motor vehicle division, where records were stored in upper cabinets and the large books were often stacked on top of each other. Natural height made retrieving the books a little easier.

When younger people see "cc:" at the end of a letter, they don't realize it stands for "carbon copy," an important tool for making copies of documents well before the advent of photocopiers and desktop printers. Typewriters were also critical tools, Betty said, but added, "We had to utterly pound the typewriter to get it to go through all the carbons. You went home covered in carbon."

As technology advanced, Betty welcomed and evolved with those advancements. "Keeping track of everything is easier. Reports that might have taken a week to complete years ago take 30 minutes now," she explained. "It's just zoom, zoom, zoom."

Even with technology, though, Betty said basic accounting comes down to attention to detail. "If we're off by a penny somewhere, we have to find it." According to Johnson County Treasurer Tom Kriz, Betty is often the only one who can find that missing penny.

"After 60 years you should be good at something!" she laughed.

"Betty has always been a shining star for county government," Kriz explained. "Her 60 years of service to the residents of our

community is an example of what outstanding service is all about. Johnson County is a better place because of Betty Sass."

During her tenure, Betty has served with five County Treasurers. "Everyone I've worked for have been really good bosses," she said. As for her current coworkers, she said, "These young guys keep me on my toes. I have a good group of people. The morale in the office keeps me going."

Though it's been suggested to her, she never had an inclination to run for the Treasurer's office. "I'm not political," she said.

Although most people her age are well into their retirement years, Betty doesn't appear to have any such plans. "People say I don't look 80, and don't act it. I've never acted my age. Why should I start now?"



Learn More About Capitalization Funds

U.S. stock funds in the Plan are grouped by the size of the companies they invest in – large, medium, or small – as well as by style. By size, we mean that the number of shares multiplied by price per share equals market capitalization. This calculation is called its market capitalization, or cap size.

Large-Cap Funds

These funds generally invest in companies with market values of greater than \$8 billion. Large corporations tend to weather market storms more easily, but smaller companies can often offer more growth potential – if you're willing to ride out the volatility that is often associated with funds that invest in them.

Because of the trade-off between growth potential and long-term reliability, many investors often start their portfolio with large-cap funds and diversify from there.

Mid-Cap Stock Funds

Companies with capitalization between \$1 billion to \$5 billion are known as mid-caps. These companies are usually more established than start-ups; their products and services may be more accepted.

Mid-cap stocks often offer a bridge between the risk-versus-reward trade-offs of small-cap and large-cap funds. That is, the growth potential of mid-cap companies is usually greater than with large-caps but less than with small-caps. However, the risk of market volatility is usually less than with small-caps, but greater than with large-caps.

Small-Cap Stock Funds

As the name implies, small-cap stock funds invest in companies with capitalization between \$250 million and \$1 billion. These companies often are recent start-ups. They may have products and services that are just entering the marketplace. Therefore, these stocks have higher risks than larger, more established companies. They often experience ups-and-downs in market price. We call this short-term price volatility.

Investors often look to small-cap funds when they're looking for high-growth potential. But you should consider how well your

By: Burt Burrows

Nationwide Retirement Solutions

portfolio or your peace-of-mind can withstand sudden changes in market price in your portfolio before allocating any assets or contributions to small-cap funds. Also, funds investing in stocks of small or emerging companies may have less liquidity than those investing in larger companies.

Investing involves market risks, including possible loss of principal. Strategies such as asset allocation, dollar-cost averaging and diversification may help manage market risk, but they cannot guarantee profit nor assure you against loss.

There is no guarantee that any fund's investment objective(s) will be achieved. Also, some mutual funds may impose a short-term trade fee. Read the prospectus carefully for this information.

Fund prospectuses can be obtained by calling 1.877.677.3678. Before investing, carefully consider the fund's investment objectives, risks, and charges and expenses. The fund prospectus contains this and other important information about the investment company. Read the prospectuses carefully before investing.

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NRM-0308AO.4

Making Medicare Make Sense

By: Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services

Q: Can you explain the better health insurance choices coming this October 2013 that I've heard called the Health Insurance Marketplace? Is this a part of the Affordable Care Act or what has been called Health Care Reform?

A: When key parts of the health care law (the Affordable Care Act) take effect, there'll be a new way to buy health insurance for yourself, your family or your small business: the Health Insurance Marketplace. Whether you're uninsured or just want to see what's available, the Marketplace offers more choice, more transparency, and more control over your health insurance options.

To clarify, this health insurance is not for those who have Medicare, as Medicare beneficiaries already have health insurance. This is for those individuals, families and small businesses who do not have health insurance through an employer or as an employer, or they cannot get health insurance on their own that fits their budget, and offers a comprehensive set of health insurance benefits.

The Marketplace is designed to help you find health insurance that fits your budget, with less hassle. No matter where you live, you'll be able to buy insurance from qualified private health plans that cover a comprehensive set of benefits, including doctor visits, preventive care, hospital visits and prescriptions. New laws mean plans must treat you fairly and can't deny you coverage because of pre-existing or chronic conditions.

One application, one time, and you and your family can explore every qualified health insurance plan in your area. You'll be able to take control with better information to help you choose,

including details about benefits and price presented in clear language you can understand, so you know what your premium, deductibles, and other costs will be before you make a choice.


At the Marketplace, you'll also get information about Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and a new kind of advance tax credit you can use right away to lower your monthly health plan premiums. In fact, more people than ever before will be able to get a break on costs — you may even qualify for free or low cost plans. You'll see all the programs you're eligible for right after you apply.

When enrollment in the Marketplace starts in October 2013, you'll be able to find insurance that fits the way you live, at a price you can be comfortable with. You can enroll directly through our website at HealthCare.gov.

Enrollment starts October 2013. Sign up NOW at HealthCare.gov to get email or text alerts to keep you on track.

The Marketplace will let you compare health private plans and check eligibility for several low-cost and no-cost insurance affordability programs all in one place, with a single application.

The Marketplace at HealthCare.gov will be much more than any health insurance website you've used before. Insurance companies will compete for your business on a level and transparent playing field, with no hidden costs or misleading fine print. When open enrollment starts in October 2013, you'll have more choice, more control, and more clout when it comes to health insurance. And if you have difficulty finding a plan that meets your needs and budget, we're working to make sure there'll be people in local communities who can give you personal help with your choices.



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lincoln letters

quoted directly from the *Prize Cases* decision regarding the consequences of paralyzing the government during a civil war of unprecedented size, and then said, “We take notice of the fact that, to maintain armies and provide a navy for the prosecution of the war, more money is needed annually than all the specie within the United States....”

Therefore, even though the issuance of legal tender notes is not in the enumerated powers of Congress, the issuance being considered both necessary and proper, the New York Court of Appeals held that Congress and the Lincoln administration did not violate the Constitution. Other justices emphasized the danger to national survival that the war posed. One said he hesitated to “interpose hindrances or obstacles to the efforts of the government to suppress the great and wicked rebellion, which has brought so much misery upon us....” This is not a particularly constitutional argument. In fact, a lot of court decisions during the war were influenced by nationalism as much or more than by a close reading of the Constitution. Was it improper for the courts to consider the threat to the Union in their rulings? It was a hard thing to ignore. One of the lawyers arguing in *Metropolitan Bank v. Van Dyck* pointed out that while they were discussing legal interpretations, General Robert E. Lee was invading Pennsylvania, and had an army between Albany and Washington D.C. Could the North have won the titanic Battle of Gettysburg, or indeed have saved the Union, if it had adhered to a strict interpretation of the Constitution?

(Continued next month.)

employment

Supported Living Supervisor

Community based human service provider seeks a Supported Living Supervisor to facilitate rehabilitation services. Responsible for assisting people with psychiatric and/or intellectual disabilities to develop skills and access supports to live successfully in the community; strong communication skills required; must have ability to coach/teach; shared on-call responsibilities. Starting annual salary is \$37,767.98. Bachelor’s Degree in Human Services or related field required. Experience with mental health, Medicaid waiver services, substance abuse and/or criminal justice is preferred. Complete job announcement and application can be found at www.storycountyiowa.gov. Submit cover letter, resume and Story County Application to: Human Resources, Story County Administration, 900 Sixth Street, Nevada Iowa 50201; email to HumanResources@storycounty.com or fax to 515.382.7206 by 5:00 pm on Friday, July 5, 2013. Story County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

employment

GIS/E911 Communications

Buchanan County is currently hiring for the position of Geographic Information Systems (GIS)/E911 Communications. The position performs the administrative and technical activities of the GIS Department and E911 Communications Department Services, which may include: overseeing and managing the county-wide GIS databases; coordinating and maintaining the 911 service plan and managing the 911 communications system. A Bachelors Degree in GIS, geography, planning, landscape architecture, civil engineering, computer science, or a related field is required. This is a full-time exempt position, and the salary is based on experience and qualifications. Applications and a complete job description can be obtained through the Buchanan County Auditor’s Office or the County website at www.co.buchanan.ia.us. Applications will be accepted through 4:30 pm on July 15, 2013 or until an eligible candidate is located. Buchanan County is an Equal Opportunity Employer (EOE). It is the policy of Buchanan County to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

employment

County Engineer

Fayette County is seeking experienced applicants for the position of County Engineer. The position requires an Iowa Licensed Professional Engineer, and registration as a Land Surveyor in Iowa is preferred. The County Engineer is responsible for the overall planning, direction, coordination, and control of the Fayette County Road Department. This includes the effective, safe, and efficient construction, maintenance, and engineering of all county secondary roads and related services in a manner designed to achieve the best possible quality of workmanship at the most reasonable possible cost in meeting the needs of County residents and taxpayers. Salary and benefits commensurate with experience. Fayette County is an EOE. The job application is available at www.fayettecountyiowa.org/ENGINEER.html or in the Engineer’s Office at 114 North Vine Street, West Union. Applications and resumes must be submitted by July 12, 2013 to: Board of Supervisors, P.O. Box 269, West Union, IA 52175



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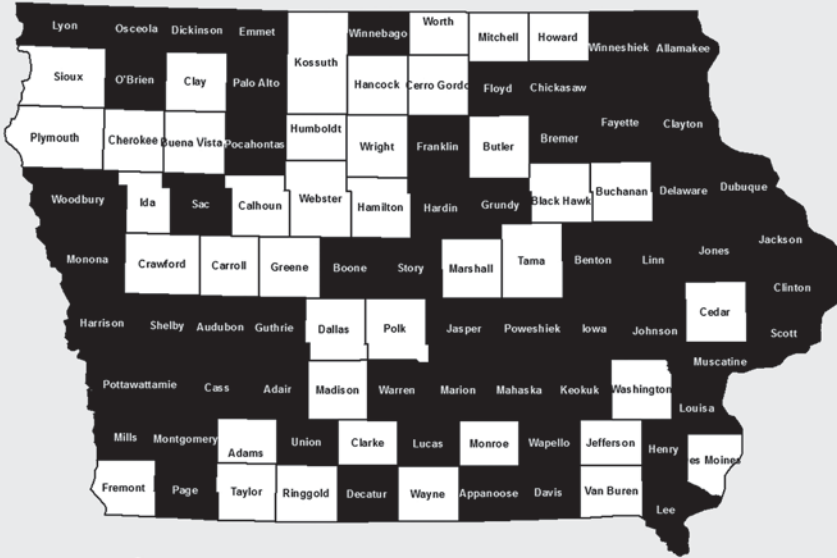
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2013 calendar

July 2013

- 9 CCMS Administrators Meeting
(Stoney Creek Inn, Johnston)
- 19-23 NACo Annual Conference
(Fort Worth, Texas)
- 31-2 CCMS Annual Conference
(Embassy Suites Des Moines Downtown)
- 31-2 ISACA Summer Conference
(Iowa City)

August 2013

- 1-2 Supervisors Executive Board Retreat (Ames)
- 14-16 Recorders Summer Conference (Cedar Rapids)
- 15-16 ISAC LPC Retreat
(Hilton Garden Inn, Johnston)
- 22 ISAC Scholarship Golf Fundraiser
(Otter Creek Golf Course, Ankeny)

September 2013

- 11-12 ISAC Board of Directors Retreat
(Plymouth County)
- 19-20 CCMS Strengths Based Training
(Stoney Creek Inn, Johnston)
- 26 ISAC LPC Meeting
(ISAC Office, West Des Moines)
- 29-1 Assessors Annual Conference
(Embassy Suites Downtown, Des Moines)

October 2013

- 8 CCMS Administrators Meeting
(Hilton Garden Inn, Johnston)
- 16-17 CCMS Fundamentals Training
(Courtyard by Marriott, Ankeny)
- 17-18 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting
(ISAC Office, West Des Moines)

November 2013

- 3-6 County Attorneys Fall Training Conference
(Coralville)
- 7 CCMS Advanced Case Management
Meeting
(Stoney Creek Inn, Johnston)
- 13-15 ISAC Fall School of Instruction
(Veteran's Memorial Community Choice
Credit Union Convention Center, Des Moines)

December 2013

- 4 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting
(ISAC Office, West Des Moines)
- 5-7 NACo Board of Directors Meeting
(Cedar Rapids)
- 10-12 ICEA Annual Conference
(Ames)

Please visit ISAC's online calendar of events at www.iowacounties.org and click on 'Upcoming Events.' A listing of all the meetings scheduled for 2013, agendas and meeting notices can be found on ISAC's website. A majority of ISAC's meetings offer online registration. If you have any questions about the meetings listed above or would like to add an affiliate meeting to the ISAC Calendar, please contact Stacy Horner at 515.244.7181 or shorner@iowacounties.org.



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jheil@northlandsecurities.com
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Michael Hart
mhart@northlandsecurities.com
515-657-4683



Dan Zomermaand
dzomermaand@northlandsecurities.com
712-251-0383



Paul Donna
pdonna@northlandsecurities.com
612-851-5905



6600 Westown Parkway, Suite 255
West Des Moines, IA 50266
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