

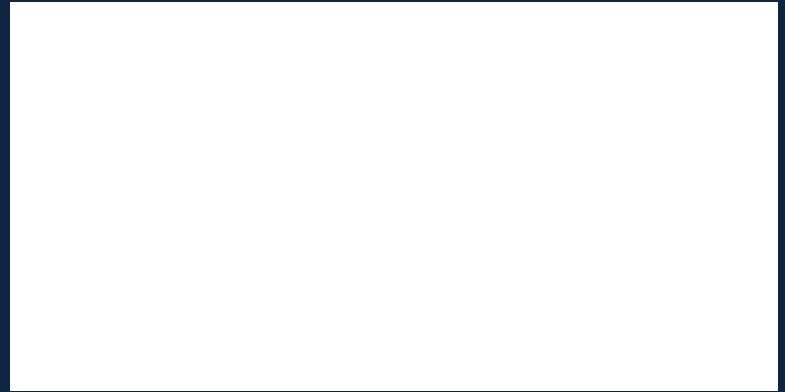
The Iowa County

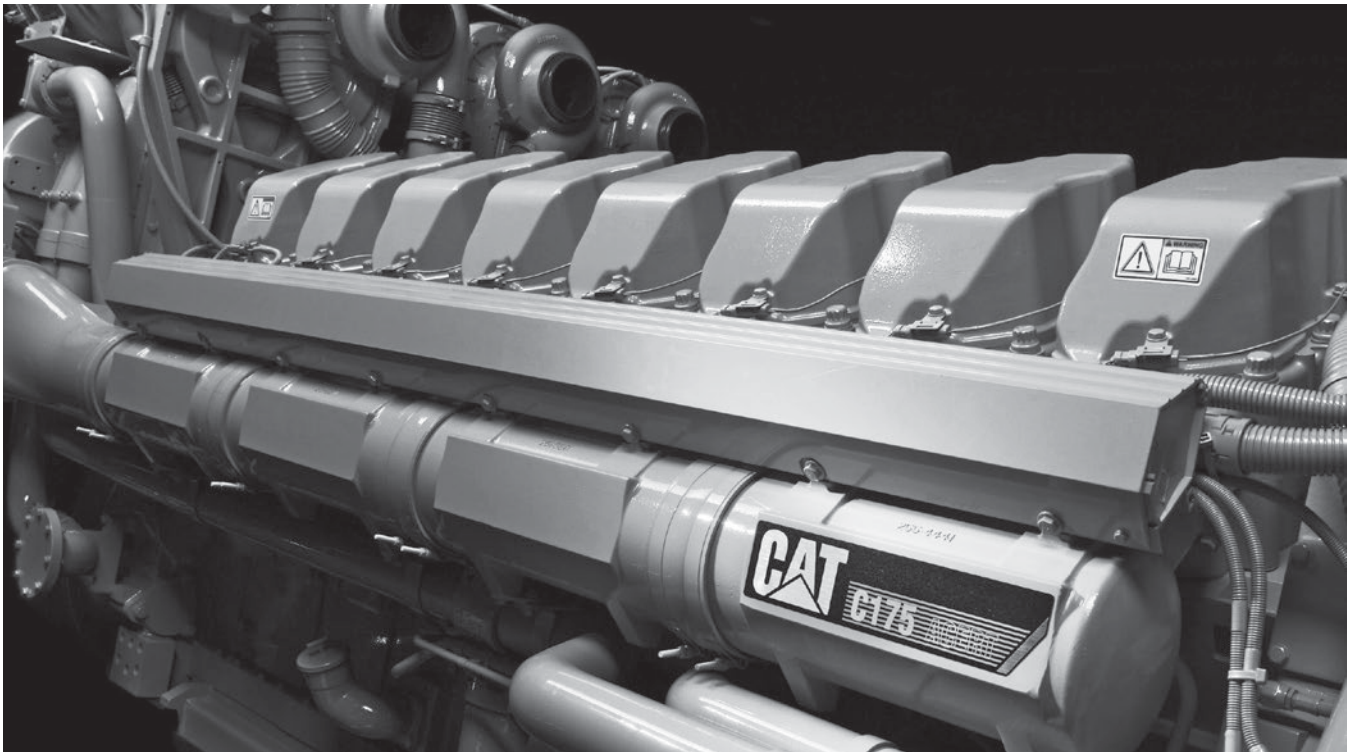
Iowa State Association of Counties



September 2013

Langston is NACo President
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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.

Ready and Resilient Counties - Prepare. Respond. Thrive.

By: *Linda Langston*

Linn County Supervisor,
NACo President



I am honored and proud to be stepping up to lead a great organization like NACo at this important crossroads. I look forward to working with all of our members to take NACo to great new heights. I want to work with all members and staff to make NACo sing. I believe I can be the leader of this beautiful and inspiring song.

NACo has the opportunity to be focused and mission-driven. We need to build our adaptive leadership in a fast-changing world. We must enhance our resiliency so that we can be an effective organization in a world that could easily pass counties by, without really understanding why counties matter. Partnerships and collaboration are new mandates in today's world. We must build more and work more with others to advance a solution-driven local government. We will demonstrate every day why counties matter.

A quick reflection – NACo looked outward last year for a new leader, and Matt Chase has more than lived up to our expectations as that leader. He has inspired change, inspired accountability and inspired action, and NACo is better for it. Chris Rogers, NACo Past President and Douglas County, Nebraska Commissioner, shared with the NACo board members a book, “Who Moved My Cheese,” as a helpful tool in understanding that change requires all of us to be a part of building the world we want to see. Change is hard, but it is also exhilarating and necessary.

NACo will need to continue to embrace and drive change as well. In order for NACo to be resilient and to operate in a fast-changing world, the committee and subcommittee structure will be reviewed to energize NACo so that it is poised for greatness. This will give staff the ability to work in the best possible way to advance the public policy agenda, an agenda that is focused on the immediacy of the world around us.

NACo will continue to build relationships with state associations, their directors and their members. NACo will be strengthening our traditional relationships with the Governors and state legislators through NGA and NCSL, as well as intensifying our collaboration with the cities through the National League of Cities and US Conference of Mayors. Others will be renewed partners – foundations like Robert Wood Johnson, Rockefeller, MacArthur, and Ford. We will also renew partnerships within the federal arena. And we will work to build new partnerships with groups like the Urban League, the United Way, the Chamber of Commerce and the Red Cross.

Ultimately, the goal is to enhance your ability at the local level to have more tools and resources to perform the best job you can and be positioned to make a difference and leave a legacy of true service in your community. NACo must be mission driven!



NACo's mission is to serve its members, and we hope that your mission involves serving your constituents and helping your county thrive. NACo is a team – as Matt discussed in his 100 day plan – ONE NACo – a team. Each and every NACo member is a valued member of our team. Together NACo members will continue to achieve incredible gains for the nation's counties and communities, and to achieve NACo's vision: healthy, safe, vibrant and resilient counties across the United States.

In the coming year NACo will maintain a focus on previous initiatives, outstanding legacies such as Healthy Counties, Cybersecurity, Smart Justice, Veterans, Immigration Reform and Next Gen. But in order to make the best use of staff time and to create the most impact, I will have only one presidential initiative.

Ready and Resilient Counties – Prepare. Respond. Thrive.

What, you may ask, are we going to be ready for? The inevitable disasters that come with many faces and that many of you across the nation have experienced. A disaster could be a natural calamity – a flood, fire, hurricane, earthquake, or tornado. Disaster could also be man-made – a housing bust, a dot com bust, a health care challenge like obesity or an epidemic. It is not a matter of *if*, but *when* your county will come face to face with disaster. Will you be ready?

How we respond in the face of disaster, and how we are prepared before a disaster are of critical importance to our counties – this is the make-or-break of the success and future of our counties.

Why focus on resilience? Resilient communities recover faster and better, and ultimately, even if you never experience a disaster, fostering resilience makes for a better community and a thriving county. It builds the capacity of a system – your county – to maintain its core purpose and integrity in the face of drastically changing circumstances.

Since the 1950s natural disasters have hit nearly all of our counties. In just the past three years, 25% of counties have experienced a presidentially-declared disaster. This is a startling statistic, and as I said, it is not a matter of *if* but *when*. It is becoming an all-too-common and expensive experience. We can learn from each other – in fact we must learn from each other if we are to best prepare our counties to survive and

thrive. We will enhance partnerships with a variety of federal agencies including FEMA, HUD, SBA, HHS and EPA. We will work with foundations and corporate partners to give you a range of tools and resources to assist you in assessing your county's ability to be ready and resilient and its ability to thrive in a post-disaster world.

While looking in the face of disaster is not the time to learn the lessons of readiness and resilience – it is before the disaster hits. And so my initiative will be to assist counties across the nation to build Ready and Resilient Counties.

Building counties that are prepared, ready to respond, and looking to thrive has, at its core, key principles: trust and interdependent partnerships and relationships. The partnerships and relationships that will help you must be built *before* the disaster.

In today's era of severe partisan gridlock and budget challenges at the federal level, it's clear that counties must take an even stronger leadership role. We can't wait for the White Knight to rescue us. We must be ready and resilient, prepared and responsive to the changed world and circumstances after a disaster. We must be ready to embrace change and be prepared to take on leadership challenges that will face us in disasters and in everyday life. We must be ready to lead our counties to thrive in the face of changed circumstances.

It's going to be a busy and exciting year, as NACo builds on its strengths – its members – who are problem solvers, networkers and amazing leaders. Each of you has a story to tell, an innovation to share, and most importantly, an ability to lead positive change in our individual counties and for our nation. This year's presidential initiative, Ready and Resilient Counties, is about grassroots leadership and elevating NACo and our nation's counties as key stewards to promoting healthy, safe, vibrant and resilient counties across America – counties that are prepared for anything, counties that are thriving and setting examples for other leaders across the nation.

Cover photos by David Hathcox/NACo



NACo Annual Conference Report

The National Association of Counties held its 2013 annual conference, or as it was officially titled, the 2013 County Solutions and Idea Marketplace, in Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas, from July 19 through July 22.

This was my final meeting as the Iowa representative to the NACo Board of Directors. My successor is Pottawattamie County Supervisor Melvyn Houser, a NACo veteran with broad knowledge, wide connections, good instincts, and tremendous potential as a limerick writer. I will, however, be a board member (and a limericker) for another year, having received the honor of one of the incoming president's ten at-large board appointments.

Oh, did I mention that the incoming president is Linn County Supervisor Linda Langston? After her two years on the executive committee as second and then first vice president, Linda is totally at home in the NACo structure and is well-equipped to navigate the sometimes perilous waters of the association's leadership. Plus, she has the experience and the temperament to effectively represent counties in Congress, in the White House, and in public. She chose as her presidential initiative Ready and Resilient Counties, a call for counties to be prepared for the inevitable disaster, like the floods that ravaged Iowa in 2008, nowhere worse than in Linn County. Linda was sworn into office by her cherished mentor, retired Story County Supervisor (and former NACo board member) Jane Halliburton, who renewed many old friendships at the conference.

Tarrant County is the home of a former NACo president, Judge Glen Whitley. (County judges in Texas are usually non-judicial elected officials who serve on the county court of commissioners, among other duties.) Glen and his purple-shirted volunteers saw to it that everyone's needs were accommodated, which helped soften the discomfort of the oven-like Texas heat (and the frigid Texas air conditioning). We found Fort Worth to be a gracious city with good food, graceful art, interesting culture and friendly inhabitants.

While Linda's election was a pro forma exercise with no opposition, there was an interesting four-way race for second vice president. The candidates were Commissioner Allen Angel of Kent County, Delaware; Commission Chair Stan Batemon of St. Clair County, Alabama; Commissioner Sallie Clark of El Paso County, Colorado; and Commissioner Tim Josi of Tillamook County, Oregon. My vast (actually it's semi-vast) experience as an observer of NACo elections led me to a couple

By: Grant Veeder

NACo Board of Directors
Black Hawk County Auditor



of expectations: (1) The election would be decided ahead of time by wheeling and dealing among the larger states. (2) One or more candidates would drop out of the race before the vote was held on the conference floor, with the hope (or the promise) that they would have a leg up in next year's election. This year there were surprises on both counts.

By the time the big herd got to Fort Worth, the word in the cantinas was that the race was between Batemon and Clark, with Josi as a possible spoiler and Angel as odd man out. Then a rumor started to spread that Josi would drop out and throw his support to Batemon. This is a time-honored tactic in delegate body elections great and small, but oftentimes, as various pundits in Fort Worth opined, the resigning candidate can't guarantee delivery of all of his/her supporters. On Sunday morning we held our Iowa Delegate Breakfast. These breakfasts are opportunities for candidates to give their well-rehearsed spiels, and that's what we heard from Angel and Clark. Josi didn't show, lending credence to the rumors. Batemon appeared, but he was reading from a new script. He said that he was very disappointed in the tactics being employed by one of the campaigns (we can reasonably assume he meant the Clark campaign) to get delegations to change their minds on whom to support. That afternoon, Batemon sent an email to all delegates saying he was dropping from the race, and he had been assured "that NACo will focus serious and meaningful effort on an evaluation of our unproductive and divisive election process."

When the hustings were opened at the business meeting the following day, only two candidates were nominated, Angel and Clark. The roll call of votes was thus anti-climactic, though the boredom was broken occasionally by murmurs over blocs of voters abstaining, and Clark rolled to an easy victory.

Were any rules broken? Not to my knowledge. Could the process benefit from reform, even after the flurry of bylaws changes addressing the infamous Richmond election of 2007? Probably, but it's hard to see how we can thwart common election dynamics without also thwarting voter rights. Indeed, sometimes the argument that wins the day is "It's time for a woman/man/minority/Democrat/Republican/smallcountyite/largecountyite/Midwesterner/Western/Easterner/Southerner/term-limited commissioner/supervisor, but we can't mandate "fairness" considerations like this into the rules without making a mockery of the democratic process.

Continues on page 14.

Class Action Settlement/ Iowa Public Information Board

Class Action Settlement

Counties in ISAC's health plan received over \$72,000 in a class action lawsuit settlement. The case related to claims that McKesson, a large drug wholesaler, wrongfully inflated the average wholesale price for prescription drugs. These average wholesale prices are used to determine the amount public employee benefit plans will reimburse pharmacies for dispensing drugs to their beneficiaries. Wrongfully inflating these average wholesale prices would have resulted in overpayment by benefit plans, such as ISAC's health plan. McKesson agreed to pay \$82 million to settle the claims in the class action lawsuit.

ISAC monitored this class action and because we administer ISAC's health plan, in February 2012 we were able to file a claim on behalf of the counties in ISAC's health plan for a portion of the settlement. In August 2013, we received settlement checks for all the counties which met the criteria to make a claim and for which ISAC could file on their behalf. These counties are: Adair, Audubon, Benton, Boone, Cass, Decatur, Dickinson, Fremont, Hamilton, Ida, Mills, Mitchell, Osceola, Page, Palo Alto, Plymouth, Pocahontas, Ringgold, Sioux, Story, Taylor, Webster, Worth and Wright.

The issue in this case related to an over-charge for what ISAC's health plan paid on behalf of participant counties and was not related to what individual employees paid for the prescription in the form of a co-pay. Thus, when we sent the counties their settlement checks, we recommend putting the check in the county's general fund account to offset future health plan costs. If you receive a notice that your county is eligible to file a claim in a class action lawsuit, take the time to analyze the situation. Often the amount of your county's potential settlement is not significant enough to make it worth the time to file a claim, but there are times like this case where it can pay off. If you ever have questions about whether or not you have a valid or significant potential claim in a class action lawsuit, please contact your county attorney and/or myself to discuss.

By: *Kristi Harshbarger*

ISAC Legal Counsel



Iowa Public Information Board

In 2012, legislation was passed that created the Iowa Public Information Board (IPIB).

While IPIB has been meeting for some time now, the legislation giving IPIB authority went into effect July 1, 2013. IPIB is still in the process of getting completely up and running, but has set up in office space in the Wallace Building and begun to receive inquiries. Keith Luchtel has been hired as IPIB's executive director and Margaret Johnson (previously the Fremont County Attorney) has been hired as IPIB's Deputy Director. IPIB has nine board members and they are a mix of representatives from the media, the public and political subdivisions. Current members are as follows:

- Bill Monroe, Board Chair, Johnston (Media)
- Robert Andeweg, Urbandale (Government)
- Anthony Gaughan, West Des Moines (Public)
- Jo Martin, Spirit Lake (Media)
- Andrew McKean, Anamosa (Public)
- Gary Mohr, Bettendorf (Government)
- Kathleen Richardson, Des Moines (Media)
- Suzan Stewart, Sioux City (Public)
- Peggy Weitzl, Carroll (Government)

IPIB currently meets monthly and agendas and minutes can be found here <https://governor.iowa.gov/news/iowa-public-information-board/> (although IPIB anticipates having its own website established in the near future). County officials should feel free to contact IPIB with their questions on open meetings and public records laws, although as always this should only be after and as a part of discussing the matter with your county attorney. You can reach IPIB by calling 515.725.1781 or emailing the Executive Director of IPIB at Keith.Luchtel@iowa.gov.

Courthouse Bonding Authority

By: *Linda Hinton*

ISAC Government Relations
Manager



Under current Iowa Code §331.441, bonds issued for public buildings are authorized as “essential county purpose” bonds if the cost of the building project does not exceed dollar amounts specified. The dollar amount limitations are indexed to county population and increase incrementally from \$600,000 for a county with a population of 25,000 or less to \$1,500,000 for a county with a population of 200,000 or more. Essential county purpose bonds issued within these parameters require 10-day notice to the public and are not subject to reverse referendum. If the cost of the project exceeds these amounts, the bond falls under the “general county purpose” definition.

Because of the low amounts allowed, most attempts by counties to address major maintenance or renovation of county courthouses fall under the “general county purpose” category and require a vote of the citizens with over 60% yes votes required for passage. In recent times, Johnson, Polk, Mitchell and Dallas have had bond issues fail.

Last session, ISAC work with a variety of stakeholders, including the courts and the Iowa Bar Association, to make changes to the Code to provide more flexibility to counties in making courthouse improvements. The counties have a mandate to provide the courts with space and to address ongoing safety and security issues present in many aging courthouses across the state. The legislation introduced in the Senate, SF 416, would have:

- 1) Set higher essential county purpose bond limitations for courthouse facilities, but restricted the total amount of outstanding courthouse debt principal;
- 2) Permitted a 30-day reverse referendum for essential county purpose bonds for courthouse facilities; and
- 3) Based bond amount limitations for public buildings on the amount of the bonds issued, rather than on the total cost of the project.

The bill was amended in light of concerns raised by the House and passed by the Senate, but never got any traction on the House side. The amendment added a graduated percentage of court usage of the courthouse for the increased essential county purpose bond limits to apply. In the final days of session, there was hope that language substituting the amount of the bond for the total amount of the project could be included in the standing appropriations bill. Unfortunately, this language was taken out as part of the final agreement to end the session.

In assessing the options for the 2014 session, the stakeholders are focusing on basing the referendum requirement on the amount of the bond sought rather than on the total cost of the project. This would provide some relief to counties and would conform with the processes applicable to the cities in Iowa Code §384.26.

Johnson County’s efforts to address their jail and courthouse issues illustrate the problems faced by counties in providing safe and adequate space for Iowa’s courts. Johnson County has had three bond referendums fail. The first in 2000 was only for a new jail. In November of 2012, Johnson County sought approval for a \$48.1 million justice center with a 243 bed jail, which garnered 56% support. In light of the significant support, a second referendum was held as soon allowed. The second proposal was pared down to \$46.2 million with 195 jail beds and four new courtrooms, plus space for other court functions and the ability to add more beds and courtrooms later. The proposal was voted down with 54% voting in the affirmative.

The lack of movement on a new Justice Center in Johnson County will force the county to continue to send overflow inmates to other counties because there is not enough room for them in the 92-bed Johnson County Jail at a cost to county taxpayers of more than \$1 million a year. In addition, the county jail, opened in 1981, needs more than \$3 million in repairs in order to remain in use. The repairs needed include \$1.6 million for new doors, locks and control mechanisms, which would require the jail to be empty for a couple of months and inmates sent to other county jails, again costing local county taxpayers.

While a change in the Code to allow the essential county purpose versus general county purpose distinction to be made on the amount of the bonds, versus the amount of the project, will not necessarily lead to success at the ballot box, it is one step toward improving the odds that courthouse bond issues will pass. Please take the time to explain to your legislators the importance of safe and secure courthouses for the general public, the courts and all of the personnel associated with the courts, as well as county office staff.

CSN - New Horizons for Warehouse Reporting

By: Andrea Jansen

ISAC Program Support
Coordinator



In the next few months, counties will be working hard to create and submit their annual warehouse reports to DHS. The warehouse reporting process for FY 2012 was successful and we expect the same for FY 2013. The good news is, the warehouse reporting process for counties continues to evolve!

Two years ago, ISAC introduced the CSN Warehouse Reports page. This addition gives counties using CSN the ability to generate and send their annual warehouse reports to DHS once a specified level of data compliance has been obtained. In addition, the CSN Warehouse Reports page has become a vital resource to the counties by allowing them to monitor the quality of their data stored in CSN year-round. If your county is not yet using CSN for annual reporting, please take some time to visit the CSN Warehouse Reports page or review the documentation on the CSN Project website to see what exciting new options will be available for your county! I will highlight the key features of the CSN Warehouse reports page below.

In CSN, when the Warehouse Reports page is loading, four main features are dynamically being created: 1) DHS warehouse compliance, 2) CSN Data Integrity (CDI) percentages are being calculated, 3) required issues are identified, and 4) compliance reports are generated. These four elements are used to validate the quality of data that will be submitted to DHS in your county's warehouse reports. The data collected and used to generate the warehouse reports is based solely around payments for the specified fiscal year.

Warehouse and Aggregate Reports cannot be generated in CSN until a specific level of compliance has been met. To be compliant with DHS, a county must have a DHS warehouse

compliance percentage of 90% or higher and all required issues must be resolved. The Warehouse Compliance report, which is dynamically generated when the Warehouse Report page is loading, can be used to identify specific data issues and their exact location in CSN. Once the data issues have been resolved and compliance levels have been met, the "Generate DHS Reports" button will be enabled. At the click of this button, counties will be able to generate their Warehouse and Aggregate reports. Counties will then have the option to view the Warehouse and Aggregate reports that were generated and click the "Send DHS Reports" button. With one more click of this button your county can submit its annual reports to DHS directly from CSN. It is that easy!

Another great feature of the Warehouse Reports page is the ability for counties to continuously monitor the quality of data being stored in CSN. A county can ensure that its data is valid year-round by visiting the Warehouse Reports page and checking their compliance levels and CDI percentages. The CDI percentage identifies data issues that are not required to be corrected in order to generate and submit warehouse reports, but are data issues that DHS and ISAC have flagged as important. Correcting the CDI issues will ensure that high quality data is being stored in CSN. This tool will allow a county to monitor its data compliance/integrity throughout the entire year!

Another year and chapter of warehouse reporting is beginning again. We look forward to another successful year of warehouse reporting in CSN for FY 2013!

meetings

Top 10 Reasons to Attend Fall School

By: *Stacy Horner*

ISAC Meeting/Event Administrator



There are many reasons for county officials to attend the 2013 ISAC Fall School of Instruction, but here are our Top 10.

1. Make valuable networking connections throughout the various conference events at the recently renovated Veterans Memorial Community Choice Credit Union Convention Center. It's a great space for our conference!
2. Help select ISAC's top priorities for the 2014 legislative session.
3. Participate in your affiliate meetings and presentations.
4. Visit the exhibit hall to learn how new products and services can assist your county.
5. Find out who will receive the 2013 ISAC Golden Eagle.
6. Participate in the ISAC Steps to Wellness program.
7. Participate in the Books for Blank community service project benefiting Blank Children's Hospital.
8. Find out who wins the 2013 ISAC Excellence in Action Awards.
9. Participate in the ISAC Educational Seminars and Exhibitor Learning Center.
10. Learn from and socialize with hundreds of your county colleagues and friends in the same place!

<http://www.iowacounties.org/fallschool.htm>.

It is updated often with all the latest conference information that you will need to prepare for the conference, including: hotel reservation instructions, conference agendas, exhibit hall information, and all other conference updates.

Registration for the 2013 ISAC Fall School opened on Wednesday, August 28. Please remember that you must register for the conference on the ISAC website before you are able to reserve your hotel room through the online housing system. Advanced conference registration closes at 4:30 pm on Friday, November 1; however, the ISAC hotel room blocks will only be available until 4:30 pm on Friday, October 18. We strongly encourage you to pre-register for the conference. It greatly helps the ISAC staff to plan accordingly for meals and materials. This keeps the conference registration rates as low as possible, which in turn saves money for your county. Please contact shorner@iowacounties.org if you have any questions. We look forward to seeing you in November!

Please bookmark the 2013 ISAC Fall School webpage at

About the Cover - August 2013



I apologize for not including an about the cover explanation in the August 2013 issues of the magazine. The beautiful cover photo was taken by former ISAC staff member Ashley Moore at Goose Pond in Keene, New Hampshire.

I am always looking for interesting story ideas, cover photos, etc. to publish in the magazine. Please send them to rbennett@iowacounties.org for consideration.

My Farewell Message

The time has come to write my very last article for *The Iowa County magazine*. I will attempt to put my thoughts into words with the hope that those who know me will understand how much I appreciate them, the work they do, and how much I will miss them. I begin at the beginning.

My educational background included earning my Bachelor's degree in Education. While I did teach school for five years, I also took 12 years off to raise three children. Once moving out of Sioux City, I found getting back into teaching to be achievable only as a substitute. Needing a steadier income, I eventually was hired by Grundy County to manage the mental health funds and start up a targeted case management program. Thus launched a 20-year career involving county government, mental health services, public funds, and state policies.

I worked in Grundy County for eight years. Leaving the staff there was a difficult decision. They were wonderful to work with, and actually gifted me a gold pinky ring which is rarely off of my finger. Working in Grundy those eight years prepared me for my next challenge, which was being able to work as a Case Management Specialist for CCMS. If one counts a full life to include the number of people you meet and can call by name, I have truly enjoyed a full life in this position.

I have come to know many supervisors and administrators of programs dealing with familiar and not so familiar issues. It is amazing the variety of challenges staff alone can pose to administrators and supervisors. Confronting these leaders have been staffing issues ranging from just being a bad job match (even after copious amounts of training, reminding, and monitoring), to someone being on an abuse registry in a different state. Many new policies were born based on such experiences. Part of my job was being the "venting" post, and I have heard a lot of venting! It is a wonder they all can sleep at night.

I have also witnessed their true appreciation for the work their staff does. While leaders in the programs have a lot of paperwork to review and compliance issues to contend with, they are very close to the clients that the case managers work with on a daily basis. They don't mind the multiple interruptions to help brainstorm strategies and solutions to help staff feel supported and successful. They are also very grateful for the work done by the office staff. While office staff responsibilities vary from agency to agency, one thing is true - without them chaos would ensue. Bookkeeping, filing, billing, chasing down claim deni-

By: Linda Kemp

ISAC Case Management
Specialist



als, typing notes, answering the phone, understanding a note that is billable or not billable, dealing with new electronic systems and programs, skillfully talking with clients no matter their mental capacity or state of mind, and the list goes on. A well run agency is a work of art and at the heart you, will find the office staff.

I have come to know case managers by reading hundreds of case files over these years. Even though writing styles vary widely (some are so wordy they can take many, many words to say one simple thing and others so stingy with words you are left with question after question) you can tell how they feel about their clients. The staff who last respect their clients and work hard for them, even if some clients are difficult people to be around.

I have come to admire so many people in this field. The changes, the money, the staffing, the rules—all add a significant level of stress yet, there are those who just move forward, change what they need to, and keep the mission which is at the heart and purpose of the job—giving voice to the voiceless, bringing hope to families and those with the disability, truly making a difference. And they keep on smiling! (Have you met Sheila Kobliska?)

CCMS has been so great to work for. I have worked with Deb Westvold, Connie Wacht, Dan Vonnahme, Deb Eckerman Slack, Jackie Olson Leech, Cindy Chappelle, and now Molly Steffen. I still miss Dan. Every once in a while I will see a TA release sheet signed by Dan in a file and it brings back memories of him and his passion for his job and of course for fishing! ISAC staff has played an important role in my endeavors in this work. I relied on so many over the years for personal and technical support. Each and every staff member has brought unique talent to their individual positions in both CCMS and ISAC. It has been a real pleasure to be a part of it.

What I will miss are the friends I have made over the years as I traveled across much of the state. I will miss those familiar faces, miss catching up with "old" staff and meeting the new staff. I will miss feeling like I was providing something needed by these agencies whether it was information or just being that "venting" post.

Continues on page 12.

ISAC brief

Welcome Molly

My name is Molly Steffen and I joined the ISAC team on July 29 as a Case Management Specialist within the CCMS Department.

I am a University of Northern Iowa graduate and have been employed in the case management field for the past 15 years. I began working in case management in 1997 at Vera French Community Mental Health Center in Davenport, IA and have spent the past 10 years as a Case Management Team Leader at Golden Circle in Des Moines. While serving in these prior roles, I had the opportunity to observe first hand and benefit from the technical assistance and support provided by the CCMS staff. I have always respected the work CCMS performs and am so excited to now be a part of this impressive team!

By: Molly Steffen

ISAC Case Management Specialist



On a personal note, I was raised along with my 10 brothers and sisters on our family farm in Algona, IA. This large family dynamic helped instill in me the importance of organization, communication and team work. I believe this experience has continued to serve me well throughout my professional career. My husband, Jay, and I now make our home in Ankeny with our sons, Michael and Sam, and our family dog, Vince. We enjoy attending and cheering our boys on in their activities, spending time with family and friends and rooting on the Panthers and the Hawkeyes!

CCMS

Continued from page 11.

My plans for the future include slowing down, being off the road in bad weather, sleeping a little later, more time with the three grandchildren, and actually getting back into the classroom as a substitute teacher. As I write this I am in the process of meeting the requirements to get a Substitute License in Iowa. Although it has been a long time since I "answered the call" from a school district, I am looking forward to the advantages such part time work provides.

Into this new chapter of my life I take with me a richness I would never had known had I not been a Case Management Specialist meeting and working with so many wonderful people. It really is hard to put into words. I wish you all the very best life has to offer.

With love and admiration,
Linda

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Habeas Corpus, Part I

By: Grant Veeder

NACo Board of Directors
Black Hawk County Auditor



Of all the Constitutional issues that arose during the Civil War, the most perplexing one, then and now, concerned the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus. As we continue to wage today what we call a “war on terror” with no end in sight, we frequently have to ask ourselves how much freedom we are willing to forgo ourselves or deny to others in order to protect the freedoms guaranteed by our Constitution. It becomes a bit of a tightrope act.

Lincoln walked a similar tightrope, with the main emphasis being on the habeas corpus issue. A writ of habeas corpus (Latin for “you have the body”) is an order by a judge that a prisoner be brought before the court so it can decide whether the prisoner is being legally detained. It has been a concept of English law for centuries, and as a fiercely guarded right that protected British subjects from arbitrary arrest, it was retained in the American Constitution by those subjects who parted ways with the Mother Country.

This is what the second paragraph of Article I, Section 9 of the Constitution states: “The privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in Cases of Rebellion or Invasion the public Safety may require it.” So the Constitutional Convention of 1787 recognized that situations may arise where, no matter how sacred this privilege may be, the common good is better served by detaining individuals without formal charges or the guarantee of a speedy trial.

The issue arose shortly after the opening of hostilities at Fort Sumter, which fell to Confederate forces on April 13, 1861. Two days later President Lincoln issued a call for 75,000 militiamen to suppress the rebellion. He asked the governors of the loyal states to send troops to Washington, D.C. because of a perceived threat to the capital. How serious was the threat? Picture yourself living in Washington under these conditions: On April 17 a Virginia convention votes to withdraw their state, directly across the Potomac River from Washington, from the Union. The District of Columbia is surrounded on its other three sides by Maryland, a slave state where secession fever is swelling. The next day, Virginia troops take control of Harper’s Ferry, the site of a large federal arsenal about 65 miles northwest of Washington. On April 21 Confederate forces capture Gosport Navy Yard in Norfolk, Virginia, with its 1,195 heavy guns. On April 22 Confederate President Jefferson Davis

sends a telegram to Virginia Governor John Letcher that says in part, “Sustain Baltimore if you can. We re-enforce you.”

Those words imply that Baltimore, Maryland is already in Confederate hands. What is going on in Baltimore?

The only way to reach Washington by train from the north was through Baltimore. On April 18 and 19, troops from Pennsylvania and Massachusetts entrained for the capital to answer Lincoln’s call. In Baltimore, as in some other large cities, train engines weren’t allowed in the central business district, so train cars were hitched to teams of horses on one side of town and hauled through the streets a mile and a half to a station at the other side of town. Baltimore was prominently “secesh,” and on both the 18th and the 19th thousands of people tried to stop the soldiers with rocks and brickbats. On the 19th, the last of ten horse-drawn cars ferrying the Sixth Massachusetts Volunteer Regiment through the screaming mob was derailed by a load of sand and several anchors. The troops set out to quick-march the remaining mile to the Camden Street Station, and pandemonium erupted. Four soldiers and twelve locals were killed and dozens on both sides were injured by gunfire and savage beatings.

The governor of Maryland and the mayor of Baltimore sent a delegation to Washington to plead with Lincoln to send no more troops through the city and simultaneously gave the orders to destroy railroad bridges leading into Baltimore. On April 22 another group of Baltimoreans remonstrated with the president, and Lincoln lost his temper. “You express great horror of bloodshed, and yet would not lay a straw in the way of those who are organizing in Virginia and elsewhere to capture this city. The rebels attack Fort Sumter, and your citizens attack troops sent to the defense of the Government...and yet you would have me break my oath and surrender the Government without a blow. There is no Washington in that – no Jackson in that – no manhood nor honor in that,” he lectured. “Go home and tell your people that if they will not attack us, we will not attack them; but if they do attack us, we will return it, and that severely.”

Continues on page 14.

lincoln letters

Continued from page 13.

As a resident of Washington in April of 1861, how are you feeling right now? Does it seem that you are experiencing a rebellion where the public safety requires the suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus? It seemed that way to President Lincoln, and on April 27 he authorized General of the Army Winfield Scott to suspend the writ at or near any military line between Philadelphia and Washington if the public safety required it. Meanwhile, Union forces from New York and Massachusetts traveled by sea to Annapolis and were soon in Washington and Fort McHenry near Baltimore.

John Merryman, a prominent Baltimore County farmer, was one of those involved in burning railroad bridges. As a lieutenant

in the Baltimore County Horse Guards, he led a company of 25 cavalymen who cut telegraph wires and burned bridges of the Northern Central Railway on April 23. At 2:00 am on May 25, a troop of soldiers arrested Merryman at his handsome estate and trundled him off to jail at Fort McHenry. The next day his attorney petitioned the Supreme Court justice with jurisdiction in the U.S. Circuit Court in Baltimore, who happened to be Chief Justice Roger B. Taney, for a writ of habeas corpus. Taney's response caused perhaps the most celebrated faceoff between a president and a Supreme Court chief justice in U.S. history.

To be continued.

NACo news

Continued from page 6.

We could try to ban bloc voting. The bylaws currently say, "Any active member may but is not required to permit its votes to be cast by its state as a block [sic]." This sounds fairly innocuous (a "may," not a "shall," as we like to say), but there is typically pressure on state delegations to maximize their influence by voting in concert. Even with a ban, the pressure would still exist, and bloc voting could be accomplished by unanimous piecemeal voting.

These are issues that Melvyn Houser must now wrestle with. I guess I'll still be around to wrestle with them as well, but sometimes I'm better suited to snickering from the sidelines. So how about it, Melvyn? You wrestle and I'll snicker.

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The contract delivers services that will help you maximize savings on energy expenditures, provide better budget and cost control, and improve procurement efficiency. Through the contract, Tradition Energy will provide a comprehensive suite of services, which include procurement for the following:

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Please contact Rachel Bennett at rbennett@iowacounties.org to learn more about the ISAC Preferred Vendor Program.

miscellaneous

Farewell Fair, It's now Time to Tailgate (and Collect Taxes)

It is hard to believe that the State Fair has come and gone. The bright lights and loud music from the midway, the great food on a stick, and my family's favorite, the fried dill pickle spears. The fair this year was all the more enjoyable with the great cooler weather. I cannot remember the last time we had such wonderful weather for the Fair. While I am disappointed at the end of the summer, I quickly become excited to see fall and the start of high school and college football. With fall comes crisper air, changing foliage of our great Iowa landscape, and picking out the best spot for tailgating. While waiting for our team to take the field, we enjoy hot coffee, hot chocolate, great barbeque, adult shastas, countless games of bag toss, and making memories with friends and family.

Another item at the top of everyone's mind as we roll into fall is the rate environment moves that occurred over the summer and the news from the Federal Reserve. While the specter of rising rates has made for interesting conversation over the past couple years, investors were granted a stark preview in the second quarter as rates jumped dramatically on changing expectations for the direction of monetary policy. Federal Reserve (Fed) Chairman Bernanke surprised market participants after the June meeting with a more detailed framework for ending quantitative easing, predicting that domestic growth would be strong enough to begin tapering asset purchases this year and end purchases completely by mid-2014. This led to the largest weekly increase in the 10yr Treasury yield in more than a decade at +40bps, and pushed both bond and stock prices substantially lower on the quarter.

Compelling arguments have been made that both support and discredit the notion that the Fed can begin to adjust monetary policy as early as September. On one hand, consumer confidence hit a five-year high during the quarter on the heels of strong equity markets and rising housing prices. On the other hand, the downward revision to first quarter GDP from 2.4% to 1.8% reflected weaker consumer spending than previously reported, and a major decline in inflation expectations raised concerns about deflation. We take the Fed at its word that any changes in monetary policy will be data dependent and recognize the data may not permit the Fed to make changes as quickly as the market seems to expect.

The global economic picture has not gotten any clearer either. The Chinese central bank is dealing with a liquidity squeeze generated at least partly as a result of their efforts to tame credit expansion. This squeeze could dampen growth, and indeed

By: **Ryan Berry**

Iowa Public Agency
Investment Trust (IPAIT)
Public Funds Associate




government leaders have been dampening growth expectations recently, fueling a decline in commodities and emerging markets. In an offsetting move, Japan is implementing a larger asset purchase program as part of a more aggressive monetary policy. These major initiatives will impact global growth, but the results remain to be seen.

Although the market risk environment continues to shift, the U.S. economy is on firmer footing than a year ago. The path to higher rates will continue to be a winding one, so we remain focused on capturing the major market and economic shifts rather than responding to short-term noise.

The economic situation is improving, although slower than we would all like, and football season is starting. I enjoyed seeing many of you at the Golf Scholarship Fundraiser in August. Wait a second – that also means that tax time is here again, how time flies! I have been paying attention to the tax roll back in the news and discussing with participants. I know that this issue adds to the challenges for our counties; however, based on my conversations with many county officials during recent travels, our Iowa counties seem to be financially stable and able to tackle this problem head on.

Keep us in mind this fall. IPAIT continues a great partner for county funds deposits, including tax money. We strive for convenient and liquid placement, and always keep safety of principal at the top of mind. May your tax collection (and your football team) have a great season. Remember to visit us on the web at www.IPAIT.org. Thank you for your business and support.



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Government Finance Officers Conference

The Fall 2013 Conference of the Great Plains Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) will be Wednesday, October 9 and Thursday, October 10. The conference will be held at the College of Public Affairs and Community Service on the campus of the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

Some of the sessions include:

- Professional Ethics: A Preventative Maintenance Approach
- Lean Government
- Implications of the Affordable Care Act to Local Government
- New COSO Guidelines on Internal Controls
- Internal Controls for IT – COBIT Framework
- The Impact of Federal Banking Regulations and Policies on Local Governments
- Changes to Federal Single Audit Requirements
- Computer Security Topics
- Engaging Citizens in the Budget Process
- Saving Energy and Streamlining the Vendor Payment Process
- Panel on Professional Development
- Changes to GASB (a two-hour review of the many changes being implement by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board)

The mission of the Great Plains GFOA is to foster excellence in government by providing financial managers with opportunities for education, professional development, and exchanging ideas with peers in other jurisdictions. Further information about the Great Plains GFOA and a conference registration form, visit: <http://www.greatplainsgfoa.org/>.

If you have any questions, please contact Steven Schafer, President Great Plains GFOA, at steve.schafer@nebraska.gov or 402.471.4385.

employment

Director of Nursing

Iowa County Bloomfield Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center, an 85 bed SNF located in Dodgeville, WI, has an opening for a Director of Nursing. This position is responsible for assuring the Nursing Department acts in accordance to state and federal regulations while promoting the highest quality of services to residents and the community.

Minimum qualifications for this challenging position include an Associate's Degree in Nursing from an accredited institution with a current Wisconsin license to practice as a registered professional nurse. The candidate must have five years of experience in Long-term Care or acute care with at least two

years of management or supervisory experience. A Bachelors or Master's Degree is preferred, but not required.

Salary is negotiable and will be based upon candidates' qualifications and experience. A generous benefit package is offered. Required application, benefit package information, and detailed job description that include job responsibilities and qualifications are at www.iowacounty.org or available at Bloomfield Healthcare, 3151 County Road CH, Dodgeville, WI 53533 or call 608.935.0374. First review of applications is scheduled for 4:00 pm on September 9. Applications will be accepted until a qualified candidate is hired.

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2013/2014 calendar

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)
- 15-16 ISCTA Fall Leadership Retreat
(Fairfield)
- 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)

January 2014

- 14 CCMS Administrators Meeting
(Hilton Garden Inn, Johnston)
- 22-23 ISAC University
(West Des Moines Marriott)

February 2014

- 5 Statewide Supervisors Meeting
(Courtyard by Marriott, Ankeny)

March 2014

- 1-5 NACo Legislative Conference
(Washington Hilton, Washington, D.C.)

- 12 County Day at the Capitol
(Des Moines)
- 13-14 ISAC Spring School of Instruction
(Des Moines Marriott Downtown)

April 2014

- 8 CCMS Administrators Meeting
(Hilton Garden Inn, Johnston)

May 2014

- 14-16 ISCTA Annual May School
(Waterloo)

June 2014

- 11-13 ICIT Midyear Conference
(West Des Moines Marriott)

July 2014

- 8 CCMS Administrators Meeting
(Stoney Creek Inn, Johnston)
- 11-14 NACo County Solutions and Idea Marketplace
(New Orleans, LA)

October 2014

- 14 CCMS Administrators Meeting
(Hilton Garden Inn, Johnston)
- 15-16 CCMS Fundamentals Training
(Courtyard by Marriott, Ankeny)

November 2014

- 6 CCMS Advanced Case Management Meeting
(Stoney Creek Inn, Johnston)
- 12-14 ISAC Fall School of Instruction
(Veteran's Memorial Community Choice
Credit Union Convention Center, Des Moines)

December 2014

- 9-11 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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