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Iowa County
Iowa State Association of Counties

August 2010
Smart Planning Legislation



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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.

Highlights of the Iowa Smart Planning Legislation

By: *Gary Taylor, AICP*

Community and Regional Planning
Assistant Professor and Extension
Specialist, Iowa State University



On April 26 Governor Culver signed into law the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund appropriations bill – SF 2389. The bill included what has come to be known as the Iowa Smart Planning Law. The Smart Planning Law started out in January as a stand-alone bill, but was folded into SF 2389 at the close of the session. The smart planning provisions enacted into law with SF 2389 remain almost identical to the provisions as originally introduced in January.

The Smart Planning Law contains four sections. The first section sets forth 10 smart planning principles that state agencies and local governments “shall consider and may apply” during “deliberation of all appropriate planning, zoning, development and resource management decisions.” The 10 principles address:

- 1) collaboration;
- 2) efficiency, transparency, and consistency;
- 3) clean, renewable, and efficient energy;
- 4) occupational diversity;
- 5) revitalization;
- 6) housing diversity;
- 7) community character;
- 8) natural resources and agricultural protection;
- 9) sustainable design; and
- 10) transportation diversity.

The smart planning principles find their genesis in the Smart Growth movement which took form in the early 1990s as cities and counties in congested urban areas struggled with ways to combat traffic congestion, long commutes, air pollution and escalating housing prices (the reader can learn more about the smart growth movement at www.smartgrowth.org). Iowa’s Smart Planning principles, however, focus less on the urban built environment and more on contemporary (e.g., energy efficiency and sustainable design) and rural planning issues. The language in the Smart Planning Law only requires cities and counties to “consider” these principles; it leaves the application of those principles to the discretion of local governments.

The second section sets forth 13 elements that local governments “may include” when developing or amending comprehensive plans or “other local land development regulations.” Most of these elements are common to most comprehensive plans, but some will be new to local governments and planners familiar with how planning has been practiced in Iowa. The 13 elements address objectives, information, and programs related to:

- 1) public participation in the planning process;
- 2) “issues and opportunities” (existing conditions);
- 3) land use;
- 4) housing;
- 5) public infrastructure;
- 6) transportation;
- 7) economic development;
- 8) agricultural and natural resources;
- 9) public facilities (schools, libraries, fire stations, health care facilities, etc.);
- 10) community character;
- 11) natural and man-made hazards;
- 12) joint planning and decision making with other governmental entities; and
- 13) plan implementation.

The law states that comprehensive plans should be integrated with the FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plans that most Iowa communities have adopted, and that the comprehensive plan should specifically address prevention, mitigation, and recovery from catastrophic floods.

Like the 10 smart planning principles, the inclusion of these elements in comprehensive plans is optional for cities and counties. Despite this fact, this section of the law is significant. Although there have been references to the “comprehensive plan” in other sections of the Iowa Code for years (including the reference that local zoning “shall be in accordance with the comprehensive plan”) Iowa, unlike the vast majority of states

Continues on next page.

in the nation, has never had enabling legislation specifically defining what a comprehensive plan should include or the process for adopting it. The Smart Planning law changes that by providing a framework for what a good local comprehensive plan should contain, and by outlining a process city councils and county boards of supervisors can use (again, this is optional) when adopting the comprehensive plan.

Section three of the law creates a smart planning taskforce charged with a number of responsibilities, including the evaluation of state policies and practices for their conformance with the smart planning principles, the development of statewide goals for comprehensive planning consistent with the smart planning principles, the development of a “model regional comprehensive plan,” a review of local comprehensive plans to assess how they address hazard mitigation, and the centralization of information for comprehensive planning, and a central repository for comprehensive plans. The smart planning taskforce met for the first time on June 23. It has divided itself into four workgroups roughly corresponding to the tasks given it by the law, and the workgroups intend to come together with early draft recommendations in August and September. The taskforce must submit final recommendations to the Governor and legislature by November 15.

Finally, section four made \$30 million from the Revenue Bonds Capitals II Fund (the final monies from the I-JOBS bonding) available for disaster prevention infrastructure projects to cities and counties that commit to adopting or amending comprehensive plans to incorporate the smart planning prin-

ciples. The deadline for filing a notice of intent to apply for these funds was July 24; however, a separate “carrot” has been created for smart planning through supplemental disaster community development block grant funds. Any of the 85 counties that were under the 2008 federal disaster declaration (and any city within those counties) are eligible to apply for funds for developing comprehensive plans that contain the 13 elements and incorporate the 10 smart planning principles. One million dollars has been set aside for this comprehensive planning assistance. A one-to-one match is required. Deadline for applications is September 30.

ISAC, the League of Cities and ISU Extension collaborated on a webinar to inform city and county officials of the Smart Planning legislation. The webinar has been archived at on the ISAC website and can be found by clicking on “Smart Planning Webinar Information” at www.iowacounties.org.

For more information on the Smart Planning Law visit: <http://blogs.extension.iastate.edu/planningBLUZ>

For information on the comprehensive grant program visit: http://www.rio.iowa.gov/smart_planning/index.html

about the cover

The cover picture was taken of the stained glass dome in the Henry County Courthouse by Ana Lorber, Henry County Treasurer. By standing in the rotunda below Ana was able to capture the dome’s beauty with her photo.

The dome is located in the third of Henry County’s Courthouses. Finished in 1914 and erected with over 700,000 bricks that came from the Mt. Pleasant Brick and Tile Factory, the courthouse is located at 100 East Washinton Street in Mt. Pleasant.

I’m always looking for interesting photoes for the cover of the magazine. For consideration, please send your photos to rbicego@iowacounties.org.



PM_{2.5} Implementation

By: **Nate Bonnett**

ISAC Legal Counsel



In June, the Iowa DNR kicked off a series of stakeholder workgroup meetings to provide input for an upcoming rulemaking to implement the federal PM_{2.5} standards. At the initial meeting, I was one of over 100 individuals representing various interested groups in Iowa. The DNR is seeking recommendations from these groups that will ensure the new regulations are protective of public health and foster a stable business climate in Iowa. While the large group will continue to meet on a monthly basis through fall, the bulk of the work will be done by seven different subcommittees. I'll focus my efforts on the policy and government relations subcommittee, but others will be involved in areas such as transportation, emissions, permitting, and air monitoring.

You may be asking yourself, "so what is this all about and what does it mean for counties?" It's a good question and one that I don't have all the answers to, but hopefully I can introduce you, the local decision-makers, to the concepts involved, as you will likely have a role at some point in the future.

What are PM_{2.5} Standards?

The body of law we're dealing with here is the federal Clean Air Act (CAA) and associated regulations, which are enforced by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). 42 U.S.C. §§7401-7671q, CAA §§101-618, 40 CFR Parts 50-99. Pursuant to the CAA, the EPA is required to set National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for six different kinds of pollutants, known as the "criteria" pollutants. Particulate matter (PM) is one of the criteria pollutants and the number 2.5 denotes the size of the particles in micrometers. Any particle 2.5 micrometers or smaller is categorized as a fine particle, and is the focus of PM_{2.5} standards. For comparison, a strand of human hair is approximately 75 micrometers wide, so these particles are 1/30th the width of a human hair. Direct sources of PM_{2.5} include combustion emissions from vehicles, power production, fuel burning, and some industrial process. Additionally, certain organic compounds, nitrogen oxides, ammonia, and sulfur dioxide can react under special atmospheric conditions to form secondary sources of PM_{2.5}.

There are two types of NAAQS for most types of criteria pollutants. Primary standards, the most stringent, are to protect public health, including the health of sensitive populations such as asthmatics, children, and the elderly. Secondary standards are to protect the public welfare, such as visibility impairment, animals, crops, vegetation, and buildings. The EPA sets the level for primary and secondary standards based on

peer-reviewed scientific studies and input from external scientific advisors and public comment. For PM_{2.5}, there is no difference between the primary and secondary standards.

This is where the article could take a scientifically complex turn, which I will largely try to avoid while still providing accurate information. The current PM_{2.5} standards cover two types of exposure; on an annual basis and over a 24-hour period. The annual PM_{2.5} standard, most recently revised in 2006, is 15.0 micrograms/m³ of air and the 24-hour standard is 35 micrograms/m³ of air. The calculations are relatively complex for our purposes, but, this means that if on an annual basis or 24-hour period the PM_{2.5} measurement in a given area is greater than these amounts, an exceedance has occurred. This isn't good, but the state hasn't run afoul of the law just yet. If, after some additional calculations utilizing three year averages with some other factors included (known as a "design value"), the amount of PM_{2.5} in the air still exceeds these amounts, the EPA will declare that particular area as in "nonattainment." At this point, the NAAQS has been violated.

Maintaining the NAAQS

So now we know at what level PM_{2.5} must be for all areas of Iowa to stay in attainment. The purpose of the stakeholder meetings is to assist the DNR with implementing rules required by the EPA. These rules are known as State Implementation Plans (SIPs), and are required to address the 2006 federal revision to the PM_{2.5} standards. Iowa's SIP must be submitted to the EPA by May, 2011 for approval. Upon approval, the SIP is enforceable by the state and federal governments.

SIPs can serve two main purposes depending on a state's attainment status. A "nonattainment SIP" would be used if portions of Iowa weren't meeting the NAAQS. The good news is that all of Iowa is in attainment. There have been some close calls recently in the Scott and Muscatine county areas based on current monitoring data, but so far, all areas are meeting the NAAQS (I should add that many interested groups question the reliability of the current monitoring techniques).

An "infrastructure SIP" is what we're working on. This is used to demonstrate that Iowa has the basic air quality management program components in place to implement the revised NAAQS. The specific required elements of an infrastructure SIP are found in CAA §110(a)(2)(A)-(M). In general terms, the plan must in-

Continues on page 9.

Policy Team Busy in Interim

By: Hanna De Groot and Mary Beth Mellick

ISAC Public Policy Specialists

This is the time of year when the legislature has adjourned and the ISAC governmental relations team has more time in the office, but not too much more time. There are still many meetings to attend and interim committees to monitor.

Legislative Interim Committees

The 2010 legislative interim studies that are required by law to meet are the Legislative Health Care Coverage Commission and the Legislative Tax Expenditure Committee. The Legislative Health Care Coverage Commission created several workgroups to focus on specific issues related to health care coverage. The Commission has to file a report with the General Assembly no later than January 31, 2011. The Legislative Tax Expenditure Committee was created as a permanent body under the Legislative Council. Its duties include approving annual estimates of the cost of tax expenditures by December 15 each year and performing a scheduled review of specified tax credits so that each credit is reviewed at least every five years. The first scheduled review is in 2011 and the Committee is authorized to hold an initial organizational meeting following the November 2010 election.

All Things Green

“Green” seems to be the buzz word these days in regard to the economy, planning, and climate change. The ISAC policy team has kept a busy schedule tracking these ever-changing issues, which are detailed below.

2010 County Forum on the Green Economy: County elected officials and staff from around the country met in June at Chicago’s Botanic Garden for the 2010 County Forum on the Green Economy. The event, sponsored by the National Association of Counties (NACo), featured presentations on the county role in economic and workforce development through energy conservation and efficiency, local food systems, sustainable community design and development, and green technology.

A presentation of particular interest focused on the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program. PACE allows property owners to borrow money from municipalities for energy retrofits, and then repay the cost of the installations over 20 years through a special assessment on their property tax bill. The number of states that have authorized PACE has increased from two in 2008 to 23 in 2010. For more information on PACE, or other presentations from the conference, contact Mary Beth Mellick at mbmellick@iowacounties.org.

Smart Planning Task Force: SF 2389, the Infrastructure Appropriations Bill, established a smart planning task force con-

sisting of 29 members, including a county official appointed by ISAC, and government officials from counties of a certain population appointed by the Governor. Les Beck, Linn County Planning and Zoning Director, was appointed by ISAC. The Governor’s appointees include Pam Myhre, Mason City Growth Development and Planning Director; Jeff Kolb, Butler County Economic Development Director; and Don Temeyer, former Community Planning and Development Director for the City of Waterloo, and now a technical advisor for the Howard R. Green Company in Cedar Rapids.

The charge of the task force is to develop a set of recommendations consistent with the Iowa Smart Planning principles established in SF 2389. The task force met for the first time on June 23 and elected the following co-chairs: Nancy Richardson, Iowa Department of Transportation Director, and Ruth Randleman, Mayor of Carlisle. The task force will continue to meet through early November, and submit a report of recommendations to the Governor and Legislature by November 15. Additional information on the smart planning task force and smart planning in general can be found at the Rebuild Iowa Office website, www.rio.iowa.gov.

Climate Change Pilot Project: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in cooperation with Chris Anderson, Assistant Director of the Climate Science Initiative at ISU, has established a pilot project with the goal of identifying barriers to and incentives for considering regional effects of climate change in hazard mitigation and other community planning processes in Iowa. The team that will assist in implementing the pilot project includes Leanne Harter, Story County Planning and Zoning Director, in addition to representatives from ISAC, RIO, EPA, Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Army Corp of Engineers, and scientists from ISU and the U of I. The pilot project is anticipated to be completed in September.

Green Advisory Committee: The Green Advisory Committee was created as part of a move by Iowa to enhance efforts to promote environmental stewardship by encouraging responsible environmental management and recycling. The Committee is to submit a report by January 1, 2011 on the creation of a green certification program and will also make recommendations for the development of a communication and outreach educational resource program. Sara Nielsen, Carroll County Emergency Management, served as ISAC’s representative on the former recycling taskforce and was appointment by the Governor to represent ISAC on the Green Advisory Committee.

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FCC's National Broadband Plan (Part One)

Congress gave the FCC a mandate early last year to develop a broadband plan as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. In mid March 2010, the FCC delivered the plan to Congress. Hearings are now beginning on the plan. In this two part series, I will present the highlights of the Executive Summary of the plan. I will pull all this together in August to help us understand how this will impact the counties and their communities. You can download the entire plan by linking to: <http://www.broadband.gov/download-plan/>.

The FCC plan details how the government can influence the broadband ecosystem in four ways:

1. Design policies to ensure robust competition and, as a result maximize consumer welfare, innovation and investment.
2. Ensure efficient allocation and management of assets government controls or influences, such as spectrum, poles, and rights-of-way, to encourage network upgrades and competitive entry.
3. Reform current universal service mechanisms to support deployment of broadband and voice in high-cost areas; and ensure that low-income Americans can afford broadband; and in addition, support efforts to boost adoption and utilization.
4. Reform laws, policies, standards and incentives to maximize the benefits of broadband in sectors government influences significantly, such as public education, health care and government operations.

This month I will focus on the first two influences: establishing competition policies and efficient allocation of government assets.

1. Establishing competition policies. The plan contains multiple recommendations that will foster competition across the ecosystem. They include the following:

- Collect, analyze, benchmark and publish detailed, market-by-market information on broadband pricing and competition, which will likely have direct impact on competitive behavior (e.g., through benchmarking of pricing across geographic markets);
- Develop disclosure requirements for broadband service providers to ensure consumers have the pricing and performance information they need to choose the best broadband offers in the market;
- Undertake a comprehensive review of wholesale competition rules to help ensure competition in fixed and mobile broadband services;
- Free up and allocate additional spectrum for unlicensed use, fostering ongoing innovation and competitive entry;
- Update rules for wireless backhaul spectrum to increase capacity in urban areas and range in rural areas;

By: Robin Harlow

ISAC Technology Project
Manager



- Expedite action on data roaming to determine how best to achieve wide, seamless and competitive coverage, encourage mobile broadband providers to construct and build networks, and promote entry and competition;
- Change rules to ensure a competitive and innovative video set-top box market. Section 629 of the Telecommunications Act says that the FCC should ensure that its rules achieve a competitive market in video “navigation devices,” or set-top boxes—the devices consumers use to access much of the video they watch today;
- Clarify the Congressional mandate allowing state and local entities to provide broadband in their communities and do so in ways that use public resources more effectively; and
- Clarify the relationship between users and their online profiles to enable continued innovation and competition in applications and ensure consumer privacy.

2. Ensuring efficient allocation and use of government-owned and government-influenced assets. Government establishes policies for the use of spectrum and oversees access to poles, conduits, rooftops and rights-of-way, which are used in the deployment of broadband networks. They include spectrum and infrastructure.

Spectrum is a major input for providers of broadband service. Currently, the FCC has only 50 megahertz in inventory, just a fraction of the amount that will be necessary to match growing demand. The recommendations on spectrum policy include the following:

- Make 500 megahertz of spectrum newly available for broadband within 10 years, of which 300 megahertz should be made available for mobile use within five years.
- Enable incentives and mechanisms to repurpose spectrum to more flexible uses. Mechanisms include incentive auctions, which allow auction proceeds to be shared in an equitable manner with current licensees as market demands change. For example, this would allow the FCC to share auction proceeds with broadcasters who voluntarily agree to use technology to continue traditional broadcast services with less spectrum.
- Ensure greater transparency of spectrum allocation, assignment and use through an FCC-created spectrum dashboard to foster an efficient secondary market.
- Expand opportunities for innovative spectrum access models by creating new avenues for opportunistic and unlicensed use of spectrum and increasing research into new spectrum technologies.

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technology center

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Infrastructure such as poles, conduits, rooftops and rights-of-way play an important role in the economics of broadband networks. Ensuring service providers can access these resources efficiently and at fair prices can drive upgrades and facilitate competitive entry. In addition, test beds can drive innovation of next-generation applications and, ultimately, may promote infrastructure deployment. Recommendations to optimize infrastructure use include:

- Establish low and more uniform rental rates for access to poles, and simplify and expedite the process for service providers to attach facilities to poles.
- Improve rights-of-way management for cost and time savings, promote use of federal facilities for broadband, expedite resolution of disputes and identify and establish “best practices” guidelines for rights-of-way policies and fee practices that are consistent with broadband deployment.
- Facilitate efficient new infrastructure construction, including through “dig-once” policies that would make federal financing of highway, road and bridge projects contingent on states and localities allowing joint deployment of broadband infrastructure.
- Provide ultra-high-speed broadband connectivity to select U.S. Department of Defense installations to enable the development of next-generation broadband applications for military personnel and their families living on base.

Next month I will present the final two methods where the FCC feels they can influence the broadband discussion: Universal availability and the unleashing of broadband to meet national policies and goals.

legal briefs

Continued from page 6.

clude enforceable emission limitations, air quality and ambient monitoring programs, an enforcement program, and adequate personnel, resources, and legal authority to operate. Specific to counties, §110(a)(2)(M), requires the SIP to provide for consultation and participation by local political subdivisions affected by the plan. By federal law, you are guaranteed a seat at the table. The stakeholder group will assist the DNR in ferreting out where the focus should be. The general public will also have the opportunity to comment on the proposed rules as in every other rulemaking.

You can keep track of the workgroup by visiting our page on the DNR website, which is updated frequently. Go to http://www.iowadnr.gov/air/prof/meet_wg/pm25/index.html.

capitol comments

Continued from page 7.

Disaster Response and Recovery

“Disaster recovery” has also become a common theme following Iowa’s natural disasters in recent years, resulting in a strong need for public awareness and education in regard to disaster recovery. This was the focus of two recent educational seminars.

Anatomy of Floods: “Anatomy of Iowa Floods: Preparing for the Future,” was a public forum hosted by Senator Joe Bolkcom, Outreach and Community Education Director for the Center for Global and Regional Environmental Research at the U of I. The forum met five times in June and July in different cities around the state for a discussion on how to help Iowans better understand recent flooding and prepare for future floods. The forum was based on the book, “A Watershed Year: Anatomy of the Iowa Floods of 2008,” by Cornelia Mutel.

Each meeting included speakers from city and county governments, and experts on watersheds and flooding from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS), and Iowa’s state universities. Presentations from the seminar can be found at <http://www.cgrer.uiowa.edu/>.

Disaster Recovery Exercise: On June 24, officials from various state, local, and non-profit government agencies met at the State Emergency Operations Center in Johnston to participate in a mock disaster recovery exercise. The goal of the exercise was to establish a framework that Iowa can use in future long-term disaster recovery efforts. According to the RIO, Iowa is second only to Arkansas in holding such a recovery exercise and creating a long-term disaster recovery plan.

The exercise included a round-table discussion with participants offering goals for Iowa to consider in addressing disaster recovery efforts. Specifically, participants expressed the need for more unification in several areas of disaster recovery, including data storage, defining response and recovery, and communication to the public.

Discussion and comments from the exercise will be compiled by RIO for an After Action Report. Participants will meet again on September 23 to discuss the report and make any necessary changes. A final report will be presented to the Governor’s Office and Legislature on Dec. 30.

technology center

Webinars

By: Tammy Norman

ISAC Office Manager



This month, I wanted to take a moment and look at a cost savings alternative to face-to-face meetings through the use of webinars. As many of you know, ISAC hosted a webinar in place of the district legislative meetings this year. The decision was made to try this method to help counties save money. ISAC is also assisting affiliates in hosting their own legislative webinars. What is a webinar? A webinar is a conference/meeting that is held live over the Internet. An advantage to hosting a webinar versus a conference call is that you are able to share information such as a PowerPoint or any electronic document that can be displayed on a computer screen with those who are attending the webinar via the Internet. You can use a conference call service either through the webinar system or an outside company to provide a toll-free number for your participants which will enable them to join the webinar at no cost to them. You can opt to have them call in using the number provided by the webinar provider, for which the participants will pay their normal long distance phone charges. Finally, you can opt to have them either call in with the long distance number or use Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) service, which utilizes the microphone and speakers on their computer and communicates via the Internet, for the webinar. VoIP will incur no additional charges.

Options

There are several different options to choose from when opting to utilize a webinar service. Factors to consider when deciding which provider to use and the level of service to purchase are as follows: how often will you be hosting a webinar?; how

many participants will be joining the webinars?; do you want to create polls, surveys and reports?; do you want to have the ability to monitor your attendee participation?; and do you want to record the session? You will find that many providers offer either a monthly or annual payment method. GoToMeetings webinar packages range from under \$500.00 per year for the limited service and participants to \$950.00 for the ability to host webinars with up to a 1,000 attendees. A few other companies offering webinar services are Fuzemeeting, Webex, Intercall and PGI. You may opt to up the ante by hosting a webcast which will allow you to use a live video feed and allow the participants to actually view the presenter speaking live or from a recorded video. Look for a future article detailing this option.

Website Note: ISAC Fall School of Instruction registration and hotel room blocks will open on Tuesday, August 24 at 8:00 am. Please find updated details regarding the fall school at www.iowacounties.org/fallschool.htm.

If you have a question regarding new technology and would like it addressed in this column, please contact me at 515.244.7181 ext. 315 or tnorman@iowacounties.org. Until next month, keep clicking!



ISAC's *Fall School* of Instruction
2010 *Fall School* of Instruction
Coralville Marriott Hotel and Conference Center
Coralville, Iowa
November 17-19, 2010

SAVE THE DATE!

Odds and Ends...or Beginnings?

It is Thursday, July 1, 2010 as I write this article for the August edition of the magazine. The sun is streaming in the window, there is not a cloud in the sky and it is the most beautiful color of blue. July 1, 2010. How did it get here so fast? Where did June go? For that matter where did April, May or the rest of 2010 go?

July 1, 2010. The date that targeted case management agencies across the state have been gearing up for. The date that brings some major changes to case management processes. The date that officially begins the Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 90 rule for case management agencies to provide an on-call system 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The date that targeted case management will begin billing in 15 minute units instead of a monthly unit, as prescribed in Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 79.1(1)d.

Several agencies across the state have been providing the 24/7 on call service for years; some agencies began providing the service themselves; some contracted with their area mental health centers to be the screening service for their agencies, while still others were working with the Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME) to contract with Iowa Concerned Hotline to provide the frontline screening. Agencies that chose not to contract with IME and Iowa Concerned Hotline to provide the frontline screening began providing the service on October 1, 2009, while those that chose to participate in the contract with IME officially began providing the service today, July 1, 2010. So while each agency had a choice as to how they were going to provide the service, every agency had to be in compliance by today. CCMS felt that the 24/7 on call coverage by TCM agencies was unnecessary due to the fact that 1) we cannot provide direct service, 2) we develop individualized crisis plans with each individual we serve to address after hours crisis, and 3) there are already systems in place for after hours emergency coverage and we felt that it was a duplication of services and an unneeded expense to Medicaid. The actual need and appropriate usage across the state remains to be seen. We are still hopeful that this rule will be reviewed for necessity and cost effectiveness within the first year, and if in fact it is deemed unwarranted, changes will be made.

The other major change affecting case management processes is the change from billing a monthly unit to billing in 15 minute units. This is a major shift for case management. Prior to this, case managers billed a flat monthly rate for each individual receiving targeted case management. The rate was based on a projected cost report for the service, and the service was cost settled

By: Deb Eckerman Slack

ISAC Case Management
Services Manager



at the end of the fiscal year. So whether they spent 30 minutes or seven hours a month working with or on behalf of a member, they billed the same rate. Agencies have been tracking case managers' billable time according to the definition agreed upon by IME as "any billable activity of one to 15 minutes in length" since at least November of 2009. With the data received from these time studies, agencies completed a projected cost report to come up with a unit rate for their case management services. Upon approval of the unit rate by IME, agencies will be paid for each individual based upon the number of units provided and authorized for each month.

The change in billing also necessitated a change in how the service is pre-authorized with IME and Magellan. While IME is going to authorize a number of units on a monthly basis for members, MBC plans to authorize units on an annual basis for members. This will add another item that case managers will have to track for each of the individuals that they serve. While the change in how units are preauthorized is new to the service of case management, it actually has been in practice in most other health insurance plans for years. For most of us, when we go to a doctor, and the doctor determines a need to see a specialist or further tests or procedures need to be performed. I must get a prior authorization from my insurance company for those procedures to be covered by my insurance. For example, my doctor indicates that I need physical therapy due to a neck injury. This service must be preauthorized by my insurance company, who will give me a certain number of visits for a specified time frame. This same concept will now be true for case management services.

So while we are entering a new fiscal year full of changes and uncertainty, we must continue to be cognizant of the focus of our work; the individuals we serve. Those individuals who are our friends, our neighbors, and our family members, and individuals who are some of the most vulnerable of us. While we are bound by various rules and procedures due to the fact that we are funded by federal Medicaid dollars, our focus must remain on the individual and their "health, safety and welfare." To do anything less is a disservice to those individuals.

ISAC meetings

2010 Fall School Update

The 2010 ISAC Fall School of Instruction is being held November 17-19, 2010 at the Coralville Marriott Hotel and Conference Center. Please bookmark the 2010 ISAC Fall School webpage at 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; and all educational seminars. Please contact shorner@iowacounties.org or 515.244.7181 if you have any questions. We look forward to seeing you in November!

Conference Registration and Housing Reminders

Registration for the fall school will open on Tuesday, August 24. Please remember that you MUST register for the conference on the ISAC website before you are able to reserve your hotel room through the Iowa Housing Bureau. Advanced conference registration closes at 4:30 pm on Friday, November 5; however, the ISAC conference room blocks will only be available until 4:30 pm on Friday, October 22. We strongly encourage you to pre-register for the conference. It greatly helps the ISAC staff to plan accordingly for meals and materials and saves money which keeps your conference registration rates as low as possible.

After registering for the conference, you will be emailed or faxed an ISAC Meeting Registration Confirmation/Invoice. This confirmation/invoice will include three items that you will need in order to make your hotel reservation through the Iowa Housing Bureau: Iowa Housing Bureau website address; a 10-digit ISAC ID; and a 5-digit unique convention ID. Please remember that only ONE hotel room reservation is allowed per conference registration, and the name on the reservation must match the name of the meeting registration made on the ISAC website.

Shuttle Service and Parking Information

All of ISAC's five overflow conference hotels will provide complimentary shuttle service to/from the Coralville Marriott Hotel and Conference Center throughout the entire conference. Please inquire at your hotel front desk upon check-in for shuttle information. If you wish to drive and park, parking is available at the Coralville Marriott Hotel and Conference Center (conference site) for a fee of \$8.00 overnight or \$0.75 per hour. If you choose to park at the conference site, we suggest having both cash and a credit card available for payment.

Conference Agenda

The conference agenda is available on the fall school webpage. Your conference registration includes refreshments each morning, as well as a box lunch featuring assorted sandwich favor-

By: Stacy Horner

ISAC Meeting/Event
Administrator



ites, fruit, chips, cookie and beverage and an afternoon ice cream social on Wednesday, November 17 and an Italian lunch buffet on Thursday, November 18. Please make plans to take advantage of these meals and refreshments in the exhibit hall. This is a perfect opportunity to network with exhibitors and other affiliate members.

If you have any special dietary needs (vegetarian, gluten free, etc.), please email shorner@iowacounties.org by 4:30 pm on Friday, November 5. After this date, we cannot guarantee meeting any special dietary needs. If you have communicated your dietary needs to ISAC, you will receive a special meal ticket with your conference registration packet. All conference attendees are REQUIRED to wear their name badge to ALL conference events. It will serve as your conference meal and admission ticket.

ISAC Educational Seminars

The ISAC educational seminars will take place on Wednesday, November 17 at the times listed below. We have planned a wide variety of topics that will be beneficial to all affiliate members, so please plan to attend!

10:00 am - 11:15 am

The Good, The Bad and The Ugly: How to be Secure Online

Presenter: ICIT Affiliate

Managing Performance in Your Organization

Presenter: Janet E. Burch, Owner/President of Jan Burch & Associates

Current Developments in HIPPA

Presenter: Steven Mitchell, Supervisory Equal Opportunity Specialist with the Office of Civil Rights

12:45 pm - 2:00 pm

The National Debt: Making the Difficult Policy Choices to Improve America's Long Term Fiscal Outlook

Presenter: Sara Imhof, Midwest Regional Director, Concord Coalition

Methods of Operating a Meeting

Presenter: Gene Mohling, ISU Regional Extension Education Director, Region 15

National Health Care Reform: Employer's Responsibility

Presenter: TBA

Welcome Josh

I am very excited for the chance to introduce myself to you. My name is Josh DeGroot and I am the new Program Support Analyst for the Community Services Network (CSN). My first day working at ISAC was on July 6. It is very exciting for me to be able to work with the wonderful people here at ISAC.

Prior to working at ISAC, I was a mortgage broker, both as a business owner as well as an employee of a mortgage bank. So I helped customers who were buying homes obtain financing. And prior to this, I worked at Principal Financial Group in Des Moines as an IT Analyst on the Pension Web Development Team. Here I was part of a team that developed, enhanced, and maintained a 401(k) web application that serviced thousands of customers.

I started life out in northern Iowa in a small town called Livermore. Then my family moved to Ankeny, which is where I have lived for the last 25 years (except for a short stint in Ames for college). After graduating from high school, I attended DMACC for a few semesters before transferring to Iowa State University. I graduated from ISU with a Bachelor's Degree in Management Information Systems.

By: Josh DeGroot

Program Support Analyst



During my days in college, I got married to my beautiful and wonderful wife Alissa. We have been married for 11 years and in those years we have had four precious daughters (Sabrina 10, Olivia 6, Isabella 4, and Eden 2). We also have another one on the way – and yes it would be nice to have things balance out a little more with a boy, but of course, we are excited either way.

With free time virtually unknown in my home, we love to do things with our girls such as swimming, biking, picnics, and movie nights. When time allows, I love to read, exercise, and take my wife out (ALONE!!). I look forward to getting to know the people here at ISAC better as well as seeing what value I can add to the team.

Future ISAC Conferences

2011 Spring School
Des Moines Marriott Downtown
Wednesday, March 23 – Thursday, March 24

2011 Fall School
Coralville Marriott Hotel and Conference Center
Wednesday, November 16 – Friday, November 18

2012 Spring School
Des Moines Marriott Downtown
Thursday, March 15 – Friday, March 16

2012 Fall School
Iowa Events Center
Des Moines Marriott Downtown as Headquarter Hotel
Wednesday, November 28 – Friday, November 30

2013 Spring School
Des Moines Marriott Downtown
Thursday, March 14 – Friday, March 15, 2013

2013 Fall School
Iowa Events Center
Des Moines Marriott Downtown as Headquarter Hotel
Wednesday, November 13 – Friday, November 15

2014 Spring School
Des Moines Marriott Downtown
Thursday, March 13 – Friday, March 14

2014 Fall School
Iowa Events Center
Des Moines Marriott Downtown as Headquarter Hotel
Wednesday, November 12 – Friday, November 14

**All conference dates and locations were approved by the ISAC Board of Directors.

ISAC Board of Directors Meeting Summary - June 18, 2010

The meeting was called to order by President Chuck Rieken, Cass County Supervisor, at 9:30 am.

The ISAC Board of Directors meeting minutes from April 29, 2010 and the Executive Committee meeting minutes from May 7, 2010 were reviewed and approved unanimously.

Brad Holtan, ISAC Accounting Manager, gave the financial report which was approved unanimously.

Joni Tonnemacher and Andy Elston from McGowen, Hurst, Clark & Smith P.C. discussed issues related to the FY 2010 audit with the board. ISAC staff was dismissed giving the board the opportunity to raise any issues of concern with the auditors.

Nate Bonnett, ISAC Legal Counsel, reported that the amicus brief concerning Griffin Pipe Products, Co, Inc. v. The Board of Review of Pottawattamie County was filed at the end of May.

Brad Holtan reported that the ISAC Scholarship Golf Fundraiser was about \$10,000 behind its goal at that point. It was discussed that an alternative fundraising venture may need to be sought if the board wishes to keep the scholarship amounts at the same level.

Davis Sanders and Kristin Knoke from RDG Planning and Design gave a recap of the ISAC/League Shared Building Committee process and shared the phase 2 results.

Steve Roy from Nyemaster Goode law firm reported on a draft of an opinion letter concerning many tax matters for ISAC that he helped to prepare and discussed the recommendations in the letter. The motion passed unanimously to pursue the changes that were outlined in the letter and to report back to the board periodically about the progress.

Bill Peterson, ISAC Executive Director, reported on the process we will use to post the ISAC board minutes on the ISAC website and a summary in *The Iowa County* magazine.

Hanna De Groot, ISAC Public Policy Specialist, reported on the first meeting of the ISAC Legislative Policy Committee. She also reported on progress being made in the creation of an LPC member website similar to the affiliate sites.

Stacy Horner, ISAC Meeting/Event Administrator, updated the board on the 2010 fall school and reviewed the previously board approved contracts for the 2012 spring and fall schools. The proposed contracts for the 2013 and 2014 spring and fall school were approved unanimously by the board.

Grant Veeder, NACo Board Representative and Black Hawk County Auditor, reported on his attendance of the NACo Western Interstate Region (WIR) conference in Billings, MT in May and the NACo board meeting that was held in conjunction with the conference.

Bill Peterson reported on the NACo Annual Conference.

In discussion of the direction of the building project, the board expressed concerns about the cost of the project and whether it was financially feasible and asked for additional financial comparisons for their review and specifics on financing. The board came to a consensus that they were not ready for a decision at that point but the motion passed to request the additional financial information and to keep moving forward with the process.

The board adjourned at 3:35 pm.

2010 ISAC Board of Directors

President: Chuck Rieken, Cass County Supervisor
1st Vice President: Marjorie Pitts, Clay County Auditor
2nd Vice President: Wayne Walter, Winneshiek County Treasurer
3rd Vice President: Darin Raymond, Plymouth County Attorney
Assessor: Tim McGee, Lucas County
Community Services: Lori Elam, Scott County
Conservation: Dan Cohen, Buchanan County
Emergency Management: Lori Morrissey, Story County
Engineer: Mike McClain, Jones County
Environmental Health: Jon McNamee, Black Hawk County
Information Technology: Wayne Chizek, Marshall County
Public Health: Terri Henkels, Polk County
Recorder: Nancy Parrott, Jasper County
Sheriff: Mike Balmer, Jasper County
Supervisor: Harlan Hansen, Humboldt County
Supervisor: Melvyn Houser, Pottawattamie County
Zoning: Anna O'Shea, Dubuque County
NACo Representative: Grant Veeder, Black Hawk County Auditor
Past President: Gary Anderson, Appanoose Count Sheriff

Each of ISAC's affiliates have one seat on ISAC's board (except Supervisors, that have 3). According to ISAC's Articles of Incorporation, the Directors shall be elected annually at the annual or special meeting of each affiliated association.

Duties for the ISAC Board of Directors include electing officers from members of the Board of Directors, developing and monitoring strategic plan, deciding among competing priorities and set policy, recommending ISAC's budget to members, ensuring adequate financial resources, selecting and supporting the Executive Director, enhancing organizations public standing, recruiting new members and assessing board performance.

Full minutes from ISAC board meetings can be found on the ISAC website, www.iowacounties.org. Click "About Us," "Iowa State Association of Counties," and "Board of Directors Meeting Minutes."



miscellaneous

Land-Use Planning and Air Quality

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is reviewing all of its national ambient air quality standards. A more stringent health standard for ozone will be released by August 31. In preparation, counties, cities and council of governments will be provided a toolkit and website to assist with integrating air resource planning into their ongoing management of growth and development. The program is called, “Cleaner Air, Better Communities.”



A guidebook, prepared by the Department of Economic Development and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), will assist counties as leaders look at their current background air pollution, historic land use patterns, transportation corridors and the unique composition of their community for re-

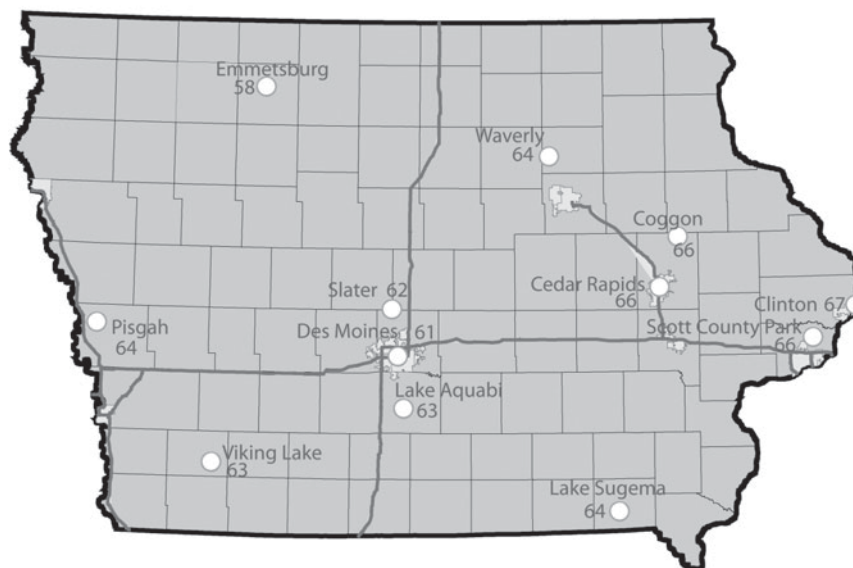
ducing air pollution risks. There will be a checklist of questions and criteria to consider when reviewing new projects or developing comprehensive plans.

Assistance will be available to help develop air resource planning goals which may include establishing criteria related to transportation (vehicle miles traveled (VMT), industrial parks, new facilities and expansions of existing facilities, siting and growth plans, and federal funding opportunities). The website will also include updated information on current local, state and regional air quality status of areas that are meeting the standards, areas that are failing to meet the standards (non attainment) and areas that are currently implementing plans to go from non attainment to meeting the air quality standards (maintenance areas). This is important for understanding the capacity and flexibility for future economic growth.

The website will also give counties and communities access to ambient air monitoring data to assist in understanding air quality trends, identifying trends, and which pollutants and areas of the region tend to be problematic for good air quality.

The chart at below displays ozone values for each of the ozone sampling monitors in Iowa. There are many elements to consider with interpreting ozone monitoring data, including weather, but the last few years show an overall reduction of

IOWA OZONE DESIGN VALUES 2007-2009
(PROPOSED HEALTH THRESHOLD IS 60 to 70 PPB)



ozone pollution and more homogenous levels of ozone. Because of ozone transport, all sources of ozone precursors, whether from industry, transportation sources, urban or rural areas, contribute to Iowa's high background level of ozone.

This chart also shows how Iowa was well under the health standard when it was set at 85 parts per billion (ppb). When the health standard was lowered in December 2006 to 75 ppb, volunteer and industry efforts kept Iowa below the health limit. The EPA is currently considering dropping the standard to somewhere between 60 and 70 ppb. If dropped to 60 ppb, all monitors in Iowa except one will be in exceedance of the standard.

What Counties and Communities Can Do To Reduce Ozone Precursors and Other Air Pollutants

Here are some planning suggestions to help counties and communities keep Iowa within EPA air quality health standards and reduce air quality health risks.

- Avoid incompatible land uses, especially in planning mixed-use zoning. Sensitive populations should be upwind and separated from freeways, distribution centers, rail yards, ports, refineries, chrome plating facilities, dry cleaners and gasoline dispensing facilities. Land uses where sensitive individuals are most likely to spend time include schools and schoolyards, parks and playgrounds, daycare centers, nursing homes, hospitals and residential communities.
- Sources of dust such as rock crushing, gravel production, stone quarrying and mining operations should be separated from residential and sensitive populations.
- Consider if plans to expand certain operations or developments will increase the pollution burden in the county. Find out if the project will trigger thresholds requiring air quality review of emissions.
- If buildings are to be demolished for new development, asbestos fibers could potentially be disturbed. Notify the DNR about the project well ahead of demolition (a minimum of 10 working days) so testing can be done and precautions taken. There is a severe health risk with asbestos and state regulations must be followed. If a site is where asbestos-containing materials have been buried, the same regulations and health safety issues apply.
- Consider tree planting and landscaping standards or ordinances. Establish minimum tree planting standards for new developments. Promote strategic tree planting along streets and in parking lots. Shade from trees helps cool buildings, parked vehicles and pavement, reducing need for energy use.
- Use native plants in landscaping. They require less mowing, watering and use of chemicals.
- Promote land use planning practices that lead to a reduced dependence on automobiles and reduce auto emissions near sensitive population groups. Sensitive groups include children, elderly, and those with respiratory or heart illnesses.

miscellaneous

Making Medicare Make Sense

Q: What is the New Law in 2010 that Makes It Easier Than Ever to Save on Prescription Costs through the “Extra Help” program?

A: Changes in the law now allow more people with Medicare to pay \$2.50 for generics, \$6.30 for brand name drugs.

Making ends meet shouldn't mean going without your medications. If you have limited income and resources, Medicare's “Extra Help” program sets it up so you pay no more than \$2.50 for each generic drug and \$6.30 for each brand name drug. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services estimates that “Extra Help” can save participating seniors as much as \$3,900 per year.

Now it's even easier to qualify for “Extra Help” from Medicare. A new law changed how your income and assets are counted in 2010:

- Life insurance policies do not count as resources
- Help you get from relatives, friends and others to pay for household expenses—like food, mortgage, rent, heating fuel or gas, electricity, water, and property taxes—do not count as income

Many People Qualify and Don't Even Know It

These changes mean that more people will qualify for “Extra Help.” Even if you were turned down for “Extra Help” before, you should reapply. If you qualify, you'll get help paying for Medicare prescription drug coverage premiums, copayments and deductibles. To qualify, you must make less than \$16,245 a year (or \$21,855 for married couples). Even if your annual income is higher, you still may be able to get some extra help. Your resources must also be limited to \$12,510 (or \$25,010 for married couples). Resources include bank accounts, stocks and bonds, but not your house or car.

There's No Cost or Obligation to Apply

It's easy and free to apply for “Extra Help.” You or a family member, trusted counselor or caregiver can apply online at: www.socialsecurity.gov/prescriptionhelp or call Social Security at 1.800.772.1213 (TTY users should call 1.800.325.0778) and ask for the Application for Help with Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Costs. All the information you give is confidential. To learn more about Medicare prescription drug coverage, visit www.medicare.gov, or call 1.800.MEDICARE (1.800.633.4227). TTY users should call 1.877.486.2048.

employment

IT/GIS Technician

Boone County is searching for an IT/GIS Technician that will support the County utilizing a wide range of technologies and software. Primary duties will include IT support, software and hardware installation and support, data integration – including countywide geospatial databases, and assisting staff with the use of CMS on the County web site. The position requires an in-depth understanding of networks, web sites, Active Directory, Domain File Shares, and other enterprise systems.

A bachelor's degree in MIS, Computer Science and 1-2 years of experience supporting users and working on database administration. Additional direct field experience can be substituted for education requirements.

Salary of \$35,000 - \$42,000 depending on qualifications.

The full position description can be viewed at: www.schneidercorp.com/Boone. Resumes can be sent to jcorns@schneidercorp.com. Resumes will be reviewed on a continuous basis until the position is filled.

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- **Connectivity** – satellite for voice and Internet access

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- Mayor Will Cox, Madisonville, Kentucky

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Lunch money saved per pay period	\$20
Pay periods per year	x 26
Total lunch money saved per year	\$520
<hr/>	
Savings over 30 years with inflation	\$29,164^(A)
<hr/>	
Invested over 30 years	\$92,015^(B)

Investing involves risk, including possible loss of principal.

(A) Amount per pay adjusted for inflation by 4% annually.

(B) Assumes an average annual return of 8%. Also assumes savings are invested at the end of each month. Total balance of \$92,015 does not reflect deductions for federal or state taxes. Withdrawals are taxed as ordinary income.

This illustration is hypothetical and is not intended to serve as a projection of the investment results of any specific investment. Neither the accumulation or after-tax amount takes into consideration fees or expenses associated with any particular investment. Investment return is not guaranteed and will vary depending upon your investments and market experience.

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2010/2011 calendar

August 2010

- 4-6 ICRA Summer School (Hotel Julien, Dubuque)
- 5-6 Supervisors Executive Board Retreat (Iowa City Sheraton)
- 18-20 CCMS Annual Conference (West Des Moines Sheraton)
- 24 Fall School Registration Opens (8:30 am)
- 26-27 ISAC Legislative Policy Committee Meeting (Story County Conservation Center, Ames)

September 2010

- 16-17 ISAC Board Meeting and Retreat (Cass County)

October 2010

- 1 Fall School Program Deadline
- 13-14 CCMS Fundamentals Training (Courtyard by Marriott, Ankeny)
- 21 CCMS Administrators Meeting (Hilton Garden Inn, Urbandale)
- 22 Fall School Housing Bureau Closes (4:30 pm)
- 28-29 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting (ISAC Office, Des Moines)

November 2010

- 4 CCMS Advanced Case Management (Hilton Garden Inn, Urbandale)
- 5 Fall School Registration Closes (4:30 pm)
- 17-19 ISAC Fall School of Instruction (Coralville Marriott Hotel and Conference Center)

December 2010

- 7-9 ICEA Statewide Annual Conference (Scheman Center, Ames)
- 9 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting (ISAC Office, Des Moines)

January 2011

- 10 CCMS Training Committing Meeting (ISAC Office, Des Moines)
- 11 CCMS Administrators Meeting (Hilton Garden Inn, Urbandale)
- 26-27 ISAC New County Officers School (West Des Moines Marriott)

February 2011

- 10 Supervisors Statewide Meeting (Hilton Garden Inn, Urbandale)

March 2011

- 3 County Day at the Capitol (Des Moines)
- 5-9 NACo Legislative Conference (Washington D.C.)
- 23-24 ISAC Spring School of Instruction (Marriott and Renaissance Savery, Des Moines)

**All future conferences are listed on page 13.

Please visit ISAC's online calendar of events at www.iowacounties.org and click on 'Upcoming Events.' A listing of all the meetings scheduled thus far in 2010 and 2011, 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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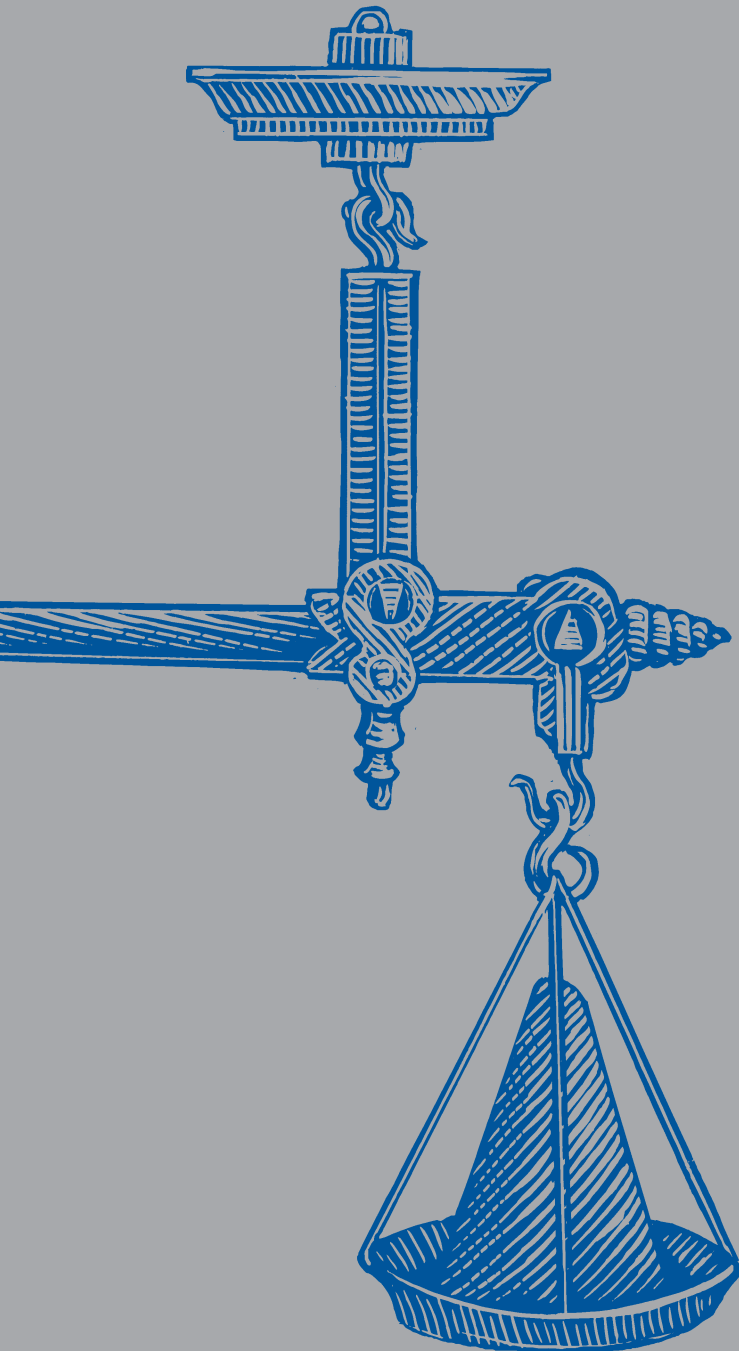
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RESPONDING TO GASB 45

Our actuaries can help you address the financial reporting requirements of GASB 45.



Working together, we will

- Gather the essential data and documents
- Conduct a pre-valuation planning discussion
- Review your plan experience
- Select actuarial methods and assumptions
- Assemble and review the valuation results
- Present and discuss written reports
- Offer observations about plan design

Have less than 100 employees?

With fewer than 100 employees, the Alternative Measurement Method is an option. Valuation results may be available earlier and at a lower cost.

**Qualifications, experience and
commitment to serve you.**

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