

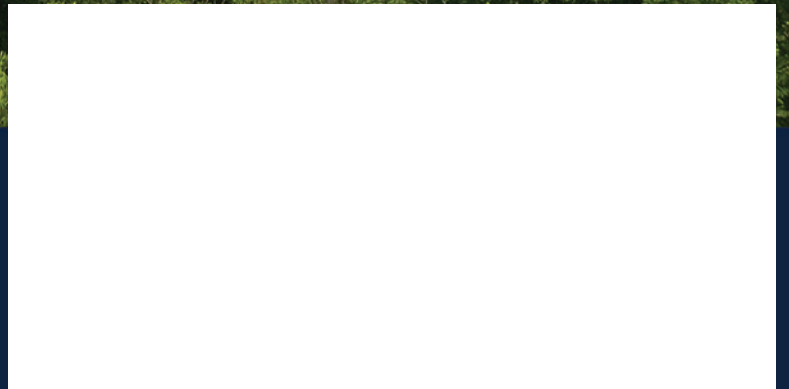
The Iowa County

Iowa State Association of Counties



August 2011

County Leadership Institute
Mental Health Funding





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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.

Annual County Leadership Institute

Fremont County Supervisor Cara Marker-Morgan was one of a select group of 21 leaders in county government from across the United States to participate in the 8th Annual County Leadership Institute (CLI), a rigorous program developed by the National Association of Counties (NACo) and the Cambridge Leadership Associates.

The 3 ½ day Institute, held June 5-9 in Washington, D.C., challenged the county officials to consider innovative approaches to address key issues facing their home county and residents.

Participants worked with the faculty as a group to develop a sense of direction and vision; a mechanism for innovation and creativity; a resource for invigorating organizational culture; and increased risk taking, improved decision making, team building and effective communication.

“These sessions were unlike any I have ever experienced,” Morgan said. “The Institute provided a unique opportunity to learn from the experience and insights of experts in leadership development and to work with my colleagues from across the country on specific approaches to address the challenges that all counties share.”

CLI curriculum was developed in 2004 by Marty Linsky, co-founder of Cambridge Leadership Associates and faculty at the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, in collaboration with Dr. Ellen Schall, Dean, Robert F. Wagner School of public policy at the New York University specifically for NACo. Jeffrey Lawrence of Cambridge Leadership Associates delivered this year’s program.



“The county officials who participate in the institute get information, ideas, and perspectives they can’t get anywhere else,” said Larry E. Naake, executive director of NACo. “These county leaders not only discussed the core principles of public service leadership with faculty, they also collaborated intensively with each other to develop new ways to attack real-life issues of importance to the residents of their counties.”

For more information, contact Ruth Nybro at 202.942.4277 or rnybro@naco.org.

NACo is the only national organization that represents county governments in the United States. Founded in 1935, NACo provides essential services to the nation’s 3,068 counties. NACo advances issues with a unified voice before the federal government, improves the public’s understanding of county government, assists counties in finding and sharing innovative solutions through education and research, and provides value-added services to save counties and taxpayers money. For more information about NACo, visit www.naco.org.



Mental Health Funding

By: *Linda Hinton*

ISAC Government Relations
Manager



After an entire session of discussion regarding the county-managed adult disability service system and an infusion of \$26 million, counties still face a significant shortfall in funding for disability services for FY 2012 and beyond. How can that be? Well, the projected shortfall, after the elimination of the enhanced federal Medicaid match provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) was something in the vicinity of \$40 million. In addition to that change, Iowa's post-ARRA federal match rate is expected to decrease an additional amount. This is due to Iowa's positive economic status when compared to other states. Each state's federal match rate is determined by a formula based on the relationship of each state's per capita income to the national per capital income. Below is a table that shows the changes in the Federal Medical Assistance Percentages (FMAP) for the past several years. The bolded section reflects the influx in federal funding through the ARRA.

Date	State/Local Match	Federal Medicaid Match
10/1/04	36.45%	63.55%
10/1/05	36.39%	63.61%
10/1/06	38.02%	61.98%
10/1/07	38.27%	61.73%
10/1/08	31.18%	68.82%
7/1/09	29.29%	70.71%
10/1/09	27.45%	72.55%
1/1/11	30.32%	69.68%
4/1/11	32.24%	67.76%
7/1/11	37.38%	62.62%
10/1/11	39.29%	60.71%

Without additional funding, the Department of Human Services (DHS) projects that 43 counties would have negative fund balances totaling -\$20,389,619 at the end of FY 2012. Of the \$26 million in new funding, \$10 million is allocated to the Risk Pool to provide funding to address waiting lists for services. That leaves \$16 million to address growth in the system including the increase in Medicaid costs, other service cost increases and new consumers coming into the system. The \$16 million increase sounds like a lot in this year of generally flat funding and it is, but this amount will go into the base next year and there will be a need for additional funding to address inflation and other system cost increases.

This is one of the reasons that the legislature has turned to redesigning the county-managed system. There must be something wrong with it, legislators reason, if there is always a need for additional funding. Even though, the state Medicaid line item has to be increased every year, there is a fatigue on the part of legislators with counties consistently asking for additional funding for Mental Health and Intellectual Disability services. In addition, the issue of legal settlement and the myth that there is no

consistency of services across the 99 counties has added fuel to the fire.

Therefore, the Legislature passed SF 525, Mental Health and Disability Services (MH/DS) Redesign. The bill sets out the legislative intent to redesign the MH/DS system in Iowa. It proposes that the state assume responsibility for the provision and funding of Medicaid services and that non-Medicaid funded services be managed and funded on a regional basis. Unfortunately, the Legislature also repealed the current county-managed system in SF 209 effective July 1, 2013. The code sections repealed are Iowa Code §331.424A (county mental health, mental retardation and developmental disabilities services fund), Iowa Code §331.438 (county services expenditures), Iowa Code §331.439 (county eligibility for state payment), Iowa Code §331.440 (central point of coordination process) and Iowa Code §426B (property tax relief). This creates a great deal of anxiety for counties since there have been numerous attempts to make changes to the service delivery system in the past, which have all failed due to lack of political will and funding. If for some reason a redesign plan doesn't take place, counties will be left with all of the current mandates but with no ability to levy the taxes necessary to fund those mandates.

The redesign bill calls for the creation of a legislative interim committee to establish a plan for revising disability services for adults during the 2011 interim. This interim committee will be made up of an equal number of legislators from both chambers. The interim is charged specifically with looking at property tax issues, the repeals of the current system that were included in SF 209 and go into effect July 1, 2013, and state funding of services.

DHS is directed to set up a number of work groups to address specific issues and provide recommendations to the interim committee. There will be work groups on children's mental health, brain injury, adult mental health, adult intellectual/developmental disabilities, and regional administration. In addition, the Judicial Branch work group on commitments that has been meeting for a year is to continue during this interim. The brain injury, adult mental health and adult intellectual /developmental disabilities work groups are expected to form subgroups that will look at dual diagnosis issues with substance abuse.

The plan developed by the interim committee will be presented to the 2012 legislative session for consideration, with full implementation of the changes by July 1, 2013.

Autopsies

A county has the responsibility, in certain situations, to pay the fees and expenses associated with investigations, reports and autopsies conducted by a county medical examiner.

What creates a situation which triggers these financial responsibilities for a county?

1) A death must have occurred that affects the public interest. Iowa Code §331.802(3) contains a list of 10 situations that result in the death being considered to affect the public interest. I will not list all 10 instances here, but supervisors and especially county medical examiners should familiarize themselves with the list. The applicability of one of these 10 situations are subjective and, additionally, the statute states “[a] death affecting the public interest includes, *but is not limited to*, any of the” 10 situations. Thus, whether a death affects the public interest is subject to significant interpretation. Pursuant to an Iowa Attorney General Opinion dated April 3, 1998 (the “1998 Attorney General Opinion”), this discretion lies with the county medical examiner. The 1998 Attorney General Opinion states that the fact “a particular death does not squarely fit into one of those examples thus does not necessarily preclude a finding that it may, in fact, affect the public interest . . . [and] [t]he determination whether a death affects the public interest *clearly lies with the medical examiner of the county in which the death occurred.*” The standard a county medical examiner must comply with in making this determination is one of “professional judgment in light of all the facts and surrounding circumstances,” according to the 1998 Attorney General Opinion.

2) The deceased was a resident of your county. If a county’s resident dies in another county and that county’s medical examiner conducts the investigation, prepares a report or conducts an autopsy, such fees and expenses shall be paid by the county of the deceased resident. An illustrative example (from an Iowa Attorney General Opinion dated August 23, 1994 (the “1994 Attorney General Opinion”)) is: “If, for example, Mr. Jones were stabbed in Dallas County, where he lived, and went by ambulance for treatment to Polk County, where he died from his wound, Dallas County would bear the responsibility for the fee and expenses incurred by the Polk County Medical Examiner in conducting an autopsy of Mr. Jones.”

By: **Kristi Harshbarger**

ISAC Legal Counsel



What must be done for an investigation or report and when should an autopsy be conducted?

Similar to the determination of whether a death affects the public interest, the county medical examiner is given the discretion to determine whether the public interest requires an autopsy or other special investigation. Iowa Administrative Code §641-127.3(1) lists several instances when an autopsy *shall* be performed and Iowa Administrative Code §641-127.3(2) lists several instances when autopsies are recommended. In all other situations, the county medical examiner may *consider* the request from a private person or public official, and a state medical examiner or the county attorney can *require* that an autopsy be performed. The county medical examiner shall otherwise conduct the investigation in the manner required by the state medical examiner.

In addition, the 1994 Iowa Attorney General Opinion concluded that the examination required under the statute “does *not* require a county medical examiner to view a deceased in every instance before charging a fee for certifying a cause of death.”

How much are the fees and expenses?

The fee for your county medical examiner’s preliminary investigation and written report is set by your board of supervisors. The 1998 Iowa Attorney General opinion explained if your county is paying for the investigation and written report of another county’s medical examiner because one of your residents died in another county (as discussed above), the county of residence must pay a fee in the amount set by the county which appointed the medical examiner conducting the investigation and preparing the report.

In addition, the statute requires the county to pay the medical examiner’s “actual expenses.” The 1994 Iowa Attorney General opinion explained this term to mean expenses “paid out in the actual performance of official duties.” Examples that would be deemed actual expenses included “meals, lodging and mileage incurred in the course of official business,” but not “outlays personal in nature and unconnected with official duty.”

Are there any exceptions that make other parties financially responsible for investigations, reports, or autopsies conducted by county medical examiners?

Yes. There are four (all of which are set forth in Iowa Code §331.802):

1) In the event a child under the age of two years dies from “an unknown cause or if the circumstances surrounding the death indicate that sudden infant death syndrome may be the cause of the death,” then an autopsy shall be ordered and the Iowa Department of Public Health shall pay this expense;

2) In the event a “person’s death is caused by a defendant for whom a judgment of conviction and sentence is rendered,” the county may attempt to recover from the defendant the money paid by the county to the medical examiner;

3) Upon the death of a resident in an institution governed by the Iowa Department of Human Services, then this Department shall pay the costs associated with the investigation; and

4) If a person dies after being brought into Iowa for emergency medical treatment or by the direction of another state’s law enforcement officials or other public authority, then such other state shall pay the fee and expenses (including the cost of autopsy if performed).

Even though a county medical examiner can consider a private person’s request for an autopsy when making the determination whether an autopsy is needed, there are no provisions in the statute, other than the four exceptions above, for the county to make other persons or entities responsible for these costs. The statute uses the word “shall” in relation to the payment by the county of the medical examiner’s fee and expenses, and such word in statutes normally imposes a duty. Moreover, the 1998 Iowa Attorney General Opinion concludes that unless contrary statutory language applies to a given situation, a “county must also pay the expense of an autopsy...conducted by the medical examiner pursuant to Iowa Code §331.802(4).” Therefore, it appears unless one of the four exceptions above apply, counties are responsible for all of the fees and costs associated with a county medical examiner’s investigations, reports and autopsies related to the death of a resident which affects the public interest.



About the Cover

This month’s cover picture was taken during a July vacation by Steve Devries, Executive Director of the Iowa County Engineers Association Service Bureau and avid photographer. The photo was taken from beside the Jefferson Rock and is overlooking the confluence of the Shenandoah and Potomac Rivers at Harper’s Ferry, Maryland.

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

Rural Broadband Update

By: *Robin Harlow*

ISAC Technology Project
Manager



On June 22, 2011, The Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) released a report to Congress entitled, “Bringing Broadband to Rural America: Update to Report on a Rural Broadband Strategy.” The two federal agencies hope that the report will provide new emphasis on the need to support the delivery of broadband to rural communities. This report can be downloaded from: http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2011/db0622/DOC-307877A1.pdf

The report, prepared by the FCC in consultation with USDA’s Rural Utilities Service (RUS), noted that broadband deployment and adoption remains a top priority for the Obama Administration through ongoing loan and grant programs administered by RUS and regulatory reform measures and tools set forth by the FCC. However, more needs to be done to fulfill the Administration’s objective for widespread deployment of affordable, quality broadband services to every community.

In the press release, RUS Administrator Jonathan Adelstein stated, “The FCC’s report confirms the need to continue the Administration’s comprehensive investments and policy framework to ensure that rural communities and tribal nations enjoy the same access to the economic, educational, health care and public safety opportunities and services that broadband delivers in urbanized communities.” Adelstein went on to say, “Financing available through a broad range of USDA programs is essential for economic growth, including jobs, in the parts of the country still waiting for the benefits broadband brings.”

“While we have made significant progress, the report shows that approximately 28% of rural residents still lack access to the kind of broadband that most Americans take for granted,” said FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski. “That is not accept-

able, and it’s why the FCC has launched major initiatives to overhaul our universal service system, free more spectrum, and reduce barriers to broadband deployment. These efforts will help ensure that high-speed Internet can connect rural communities to global markets, jobs, and world-class education and health care.”

Table 1 at the bottom of this page shows that Iowa’s numbers are in line with the overall average. The percent of the total population of the United States that is considered rural is 21.7%. Iowa has 37.3% of its population considered rural. This larger percentage puts additional urgency to developing a broadband connectivity.

The White House has also recently announced the establishment of a Rural Council to strengthen rural communities and promote economic growth. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack will chair the council, which will promote job creation and economic development by focusing on key factors for growth, including broadband.

RUS has funded broadband through its Farm Bill loan program since 2002, and broadband capability through its traditional telecommunications infrastructure program since 1995. Since publication of the FCC’s 2009 broadband report, RUS has invested: over \$5 billion in funding for broadband, including approximately \$1.5 billion in loans for telecommunications infrastructure that is broadband capable; \$13.4 million in grants for broadband in remote rural areas; \$71 million in distance learning and telemedicine grants; and \$3.5 billion in broadband funding awarded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Continues on page 9.

Area	Population	Population Without Access to 3 Mbps/768 kbps or Faster Fixed Broadband Service	Percentage of Population Without Access to 3 Mbps/768 kbps or Faster Fixed Broadband Service
U.S. Rural Areas	67,224,943	18,974,285	28.2%
U.S. Non-Rural Areas	243,181,422	7,186,053	3.0%
Total All U.S. Areas	310,406,365	26,160,338	8.4%
Iowa Rural Areas	1,113,661	325,189	29.2%
Iowa Non-Rural Areas	1,873,321	9,367	.5%
Total All Iowa Areas	2,986,982	334,556	11.2%

Pocket Video Camera

By: *Tammy Norman*

ISAC Office Manager



Q: I would like to purchase a pocket video camera. Do you have any suggestions to assist me with this purchase?

A: Pocket video cameras are an inexpensive, easy method of capturing life's events. A pocket video camera literally can be slipped into the pocket of your clothes or bag. A couple of items to consider before purchasing your new pocket video are as follows: video format/resolution; storage; battery life; and image stabilization.

Video Format/Resolution: First, you need to decide between standard video format or high definition (HD) format. You will need to verify the ability to take still photos and the megapixels; this is important if you wish to snap HD quality photos without carrying an additional camera. Make sure you select 1080p versus 1080i. The "p" stands for progressive scan, which means it records each line of video without skipping any. The "i" is interlaced video and records every other line of resolution. For sharper, clearer video photography, you will want to invest in the progressive scan technology.

Storage: Pocket video cameras use a memory card to store their data. They use a USB port to enable you to download your video to your computer. It will appear as a removable hard drive. You will need to review how much integrated memory is installed and how much room they allow for memory expansion. Integrated memory is memory that cannot be removed from the pocket video camera, it is "preloaded." Memory expansion allows for the ability to add more memory in the future.

Battery Life: This is an important deciding factor if you plan to use your pocket video camera over an extended period of time. It appears most pocket video camera have at least 1.5 hours of battery life and some come with up to 2.5 hours. You will want to verify the type of battery they use and the cost of future replacement.

Image Stabilization: As it implies, image stabilization means that the camera comes with a built in feature to allow for better quality video imaging with end users that do not have steady hands. This feature is a must. There is some added cost for this feature but definitely worth it in the end.

A couple other issues to keep in mind before making your final selection of a pocket video camera are zoom capability, warranty, ease of use, and cost. Pocket video cameras at this time will not be able to compete with the zoom quality that most of their larger counterparts have. Check the warranty that your camera comes with and the ease of use. How easy is it to record and download your video once completed? It should be slick and simple. Most are, however, verify the ease of use before you make your purchase. The price range for a pocket video camera is from \$80.00 to \$250.00.

Website Note: 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!

Continued from page 8.

In a separate statement from the press release, Chairman Genachowski said he "spoke with families who told me about the difficulties they faced without broadband—with dial up as their only option for Internet access. I heard from a hunter who wanted to start a hunting lodge but couldn't without Internet access, a farmer who couldn't participate effectively in online auctions for cattle and farm equipment, parents who were unable to video chat with their son serving in the military abroad, and another family whose daughter had struggled to keep pace in school without the ability to do research online."

These comments should hit directly home with any individual, business or farm operating outside of the 3.5 mile radius from the community's central telephone equipment office. Having access to broadband is no longer a luxury, but a necessity to be able to participate fully in our economy. Without the broadband choice, our young people and our rural businesses will continue to seek opportunities where they have the resources to grow.

Resiliency

As I was thinking about what I would write about for this month's magazine I began looking around myself, my community and the world. What I saw and heard the most about was crisis or tragedies. The flooding, the tornados, the financial crisis, war, high unemployment rates, homelessness, not to mention just the day to day challenges that we all encounter. The more I thought about the gloom and doom before me, the more I thought, "but we have always encountered adversities and challenges-from the beginning of time! Whether the crisis is personal to us, to our communities or to our world, they are there, an ever present entity. Life goes on beyond these crises, but how? Why do some people seem to cope better than others in the face of crisis?" The questions I asked myself led me to think about resiliency and the human spirit. Why are some people more "resilient" than others? Are they born with an innate ability to withstand hardships? Did they learn this skill along their life path?

To answer some of these questions, I turned to my trusty computer and googled the word "resiliency." Of course this brought up thousands of hits, so I narrowed my search to resiliency in humans. Wikipedia defined it this way "Resilience in psychology is the positive capacity of people to cope with stress and adversity. This coping may allow the individual to "bounce back" to a previous state of normal functioning, or using the experience of exposure to adversity to produce a "steeling effect" and function better than expected." The American Psychological Association defined resiliency as "the process of adapting well in the face of adversity, trauma, tragedy, threats, or even significant sources of stress, such as family and relationship problems, serious health problems, or workplace and financial stressors. It means bouncing back from difficult experiences." In other words, resiliency means being able to adapt to life's misfortunes, setbacks and tragedies.

Articles from the Mayo Clinic and the American Psychological Association each had tips/lists of things to do in order to build and improve resilience. These are activities to do every day in order to build your confidence and resilience. The lists were nearly identical and contained the following themes:

Connections: Good relationships with families, friends or others are vitally important. Get involved with your community.

By: Deb Eckerman Slack

ISAC Case Management Specialist



Take care of yourself: Pay attention to your own needs and feelings, both physically and emotionally. This includes the basics of getting enough sleep, eating well and exercising, to participating in hobbies and activities that you enjoy and that are relaxing for you.

Maintain a positive outlook: This includes keeping a positive view of yourself and your own abilities/capabilities, along with maintaining an optimistic outlook and remaining hopeful. Avoid seeing a crisis as an insurmountable problem.

Accept and anticipate change: Expecting changes to occur makes it easier to adapt to them and to tolerate them. Certain goals may no longer be attainable as a result of an adverse situation. Accepting the circumstances that can't be changed can help you focus on circumstances that you can alter.

Set goals and take decisive action: Develop realistic goals. Do something every day that gives you a sense of accomplishment. When you encounter an adverse situation, act on them as much as you can. Taking decisive action, rather than detaching completely from problems and stresses and wishing they would just go away.

Learn from experience: Think back to how you've coped with hardships in the past. Build on skills and strategies that helped you through rough times and don't repeat ones that didn't.

Maintain a sense of humor: Maintain a sense of humor in every day life; don't take things too seriously. If you find humor in a stressful situation, it doesn't mean you are in denial; humor can be a helpful coping mechanism.

When I reviewed the lists presented in various articles, my first thought was "this is common sense stuff." I didn't see any magic words of wisdom in any of the articles I read. Practicing the above ideas on a daily basis can help you build the skills to successfully deal with adversity. Resiliency can help you endure loss, chronic stress, traumatic events and other challenges.

Top 10 Reasons to Attend the 2011 Fall School

By: *Stacy Horner*

ISAC Meeting/Event Administrator



There many reasons for county officials to attend the 2011 ISAC Fall School of Instruction, but here are our Top 10.

1. Listen to and meet the 2012 United States presidential candidates.
2. Help select ISAC's top priorities for the 2012 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. Make valuable networking connections throughout the various conference events.
6. Find out who will receive the 2011 ISAC Golden Eagle.
7. Celebrate ICAP's 25 years of service.
8. Find out who won the 2011 ISAC Excellence in Action Awards.
9. Participate in the Exhibitor Learning Center.
10. Learn from and socialize with hundreds of your county colleagues and friends in the same place!

Please bookmark the 2011 fall school webpage at <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; and all presidential candidate information and updates.

Registration for the 2011 fall school opens on Monday, August 8. 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, October 28; however, the ISAC hotel room blocks will only be available until 4:30 pm on Friday, October 21. 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!

ISAC's
Fall School
of Instruction

2011 *Fall School* of Instruction
Coralville Marriott Hotel and Conference Center
Coralville, Iowa
November 16-18, 2011

Pre-register beginning August 8!

Board Meeting Summary - July 8, 2011

President Marge Pitts called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The ISAC Board of Directors meeting minutes from May 6, 2011 were reviewed and approved unanimously.

The Board unanimously approved the CCMS Board recommended appointments of Larry Vest, Tama County Supervisor, Paul Merten, Buena Vista County Supervisor, and Harlan Hansen, Humboldt County Supervisor to the CCMS Board.

After staff members were dismissed, Casey Lehman, McGowen, Hurst, Clark & Smith, P.C., discussed issues related to the FY 2011 audit with the board. The audit is scheduled for August 2011.

Tammy Norman gave an overview of the office move timeline, reviewed the budget, and went over where the project currently sits including approved changes. The board unanimously approved a list of proposed contingency items.

Brad Holtan gave the financial report as of May 31, 2011. Overall, ISAC should finish FY 2011 either even or a little on the positive side. The financial report was unanimously approved.

Brad discussed the 7th Annual ISAC Golf Scholarship Fundraiser committee and sponsor progress to date. He stressed the need for more sponsorships and urged members to talk to local vendors.

Brad gave an update to the board on employee theft insurance as requested. ISAC currently retains a \$100,000 crime policy and a \$75,000 policy that covers employee dishonesty. The board requested that staff ask the auditors if this is ample coverage. They also requested quotes for \$250,000 and \$500,000 policies.

Kristi Harshbarger gave an update on ISAC vs. IDR. An amended petition has been filed that lays out our claims. In response, the IDR filed an answer, but did not make any counter claims.

Bill reported that Lauren Adams retired after 34 years with ISAC effective June 30, 2011. Jenna Kunstle has taken over Lauren's position as Financial Administrative Assistant. Along with those duties, she will continue to coordinate the ISAC Wellness Program. Tammy introduced the new receptionist/administrative assistant Mindi Patterson who gave her background.

Linda Hinton updated the board on the end of the legislative session. She discussed the legislative interim on mental health and the seven workgroups that will begin work this summer. Linda reported that ISAC requested one veto from the Governor on a line item in the HHS bill dealing with waivers. Mary Beth Mellick gave an update on property tax. The board discussed the importance of having a pro-active approach in the interim regarding property taxes.

Linda reported that the 2012 ISAC Legislative Policy Committee (LPC) will meet on August 18-19 at the Hotel Pattee in Perry and September 22 at the ISAC office in West Des Moines. She stressed the importance of using the legislative request form and going through the individual affiliates to get legislative requests brought to the LPC.

Marge reported that the 2011 Golden Eagle Committee members are as follows: Marge Pitts, Wayne Walter, Deb McWhirter and Mike McClain. Rachel Bicego reported that three nominations were received and that the committee would bring a recommendation to the board at the September meeting.

Stacy reported that the 2011 ISAC Fall School of Instruction registration and hotel room blocks through the Iowa Housing Bureau will open on Monday, August 8. Rachel gave an update on the presidential candidate forum being held at the fall school.

Stacy reviewed and the board unanimously approved the 2012 ISAC Spring School of Instruction agenda. The conference will be held at the Downtown Des Moines Marriott on Thursday, March 15 – Friday, March 16. All affiliates will meet at the Marriott. Spaces for smaller committee meetings are being sought out at other locations but cannot be guaranteed.

Grant Veeder reported on the NACo Western Interstate Regional Conference that was held in Wenatchee, Washington from May 18-20.

Rachel went over the Iowa events that are planned during the NACo 2011 Annual Conference being held in Portland, Oregon from July 15-20.

Following reports and inquiries from the board, President Pitts adjourned the meeting at 2:00 pm.

When It Rains, It Pours

It is with a heavy heart that I must inform you that I will be leaving lovely Iowa and its wonderfully kind people and moving to the west coast to be closer to friends and family. When I accepted my position as IT Program Support Coordinator with ISAC back in the fall of 2008, many of you asked me; "What brought you all the way to Iowa from Juneau, Alaska?" My response usually was "I followed a boyfriend out here for him to attend Des Moines University." Oddly enough, I am in the process of following my new boyfriend, who is from Des Moines, out to Seattle, Washington. He was offered a position with Hertz Rent-A-Car and moved out there with all of our belongings at the end of June. He left me here with just my shoes, clothes and an air mattress.

No, I'm sorry; you can't sway my decision about moving to the west coast. I know it rains quite a bit there but you have to remember that in the town I grew up in, it rains MORE there than it does in Seattle. I am currently looking for employment in the Seattle area. Thanks to my experience working with all the amazing people of Iowa counties, I am currently looking for employment with the counties of Washington State.

During my time here at ISAC I have learned a great many things. Here are my top 10 things I have learned from this great state and its kind and generous people.

1. Iowa is NOT flat, it's hilly. This is more apparent when you are running up your eighth mile hill in the Des Moines Half Marathon or going for a long bike ride.
2. There are more kinds of corn than just white or yellow corn. I am told peaches and cream corn from Grimes is best, but I am sure I can be persuaded otherwise.
3. Yes, you can dip bacon in chocolate, put it on a stick, and walk around with it at the fair. My love of bacon has intensified because of this.
4. A tailgate party is an art form. I did have to learn that tailgating was the same thing as a barbecue when I first arrived. Had to learn that new language called "Midwestern."
5. There are certain ways you just don't want the wind to blow. If you catch a whiff of a hog/cow confinement or a meat rendering plant, you know the wind is blowing in the wrong direction.

By: Chelsea Walden

ISAC Program Support
Coordinator



6. I have yet to meet a group of people that are friendlier or more willing to help out a friend in need during my time here at ISAC.
7. Always get your meat from Fareway. Pork that is sold anywhere else other than Iowa shouldn't be called pork; it should just be labeled "generic meat." It just doesn't taste the same if it is from anywhere else.
8. Each Iowan town has a different motto. My favorite is the "Golden buckle on the corn belt of Iowa."
9. Des Moines is a great place to be located because there are so many wonderful places to visit in every direction that can be reached in a relatively short amount of time. This is coming from a person who grew up in a town where the only option to get out of town was via a ferry or an airplane.
10. If you are coming to Iowa from out of state, you may think that some of the 99 counties must be similar to one another but each one is very unique and has many intriguing attractions to see. When visiting different counties I had the fortune of seeing how vibrant the cities all around the state were.

I will gladly defend the uniqueness of this state to anyone who attempts to call it "Idowahio." In my office, I have a map of Iowa with pushpins of places I have visited in my time here. I hope someday to have it filled. I am looking forward to the next new chapter in my life, but I will definitely be back for a visit or two, especially to fill up that map with pushpin holes.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff at ISAC and all of you for the experiences and knowledge you have allowed me to take away from here. If I had the power to move all of you with me over to Seattle, I would. All of you have made a strong impression on me. I will not forget your generosity, your desire to help others, and your strong work ethic to keep things running smoothly at the county level. Thank you for allowing me to be a part in your lives.

ISAC brief

Welcome Mindi

Hello everyone, I am happy to have the chance to introduce myself as the newest member to the ISAC organization. My name is Mindi Patterson, and I am the new Receptionist/Administrative Assistant. I began working for ISAC on June 29. Before I begin giving you an insight to me, I would like to say I look forward to meeting all of you either here in the office or talking with you over the phone.

Prior to joining the ISAC team I worked for a large brokerage firm in Urbandale specializing in voluntary benefits for corporations. There I dealt with all realms of the United States helping individuals from executives to union workers choose the insurance company and plan that best fit their needs. Throughout my career, helping others has always been a must and something I truly enjoy from the simplest to the extravagant issue.

I grew up in a small Southwestern Kansas town called Scott City. I would be very excited if anyone knew exactly where it was located or even possibly drove through it. I attended Seward County Community College in Liberal, Kansas and then continued my education at Fort Hays State University in Hays, Kansas studying Business Management. While attending college I also played tennis for both schools which helped immensely with my college tuition.

By: Mindi Patterson

ISAC Receptionist/Administrative Assistant



After college my life took me to Aurora, Illinois, which is a western suburb of Chicago. I lived there for three years until another chapter brought me to this great state of Iowa. I have lived in the Des Moines area for nearly five years. I can finally say comfortably that I have adjusted to life in Iowa. It takes some time for ones metabolism to adjust from the Chicagoland area to here, but I will say it is an adjustment that I have enjoyed greatly.

In my free time I love being outdoors in nature, camping, hiking and running. Tennis has remained a must for my active life as well. I have three beautiful children that along with all there activities keep me exploring this great metro area from the west to the east, most times in the same day. I look forward to growing with the ISAC organization and working along with the wonderful group of people they serve.

ISAC brief

2011/2012 District Officers

District One

President: Eugene Meiners, Carroll County Supervisor
Secretary/Treasurer: Darrell Bauman, Dallas County Treasurer

District Two

President: Jack Plathe, Kossuth County Supervisor
Vice President: Carl Mattes, Humboldt County Supervisor
Secretary/Treasurer: Gloria Carr, Floyd County Auditor

District Three

President: Burlin Matthews, Clay County Supervisor
Vice President: Mardi Allen, Dickinson County Supervisor
Secretary/Treasurer: Phil Bootsma, Osceola County Supervisor

District Four

President: Scott Belt, Pottawattamie County Supervisor
Vice President: Mark Wedemeyer, Cass County Supervisor
Secretary/Treasurer: Joyce Jensen, Cass County Recorder

District Five

President: Willie Van Weelden, Mahaska County Supervisor
Vice President: Steve Burgmeier, Jefferson County Supervisor
Secretary/Treasurer: Carol Copeland, Des Moines County Auditor

District Six

President: Rod Sullivan, Johnson County Supervisor
Vice President: Lu Barron, Linn County Supervisor
Secretary/Treasurer: Kim Painter, Johnson County Recorder

counties in the spotlight

Johnson County Awarded LEED Certification

The Johnson County Conservation Board (JCCB) has been awarded LEED® certification at the Gold Level, as established by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) and verified by the Green Building Certification Institute (GBCI) for the new Conservation Headquarters building and the Conservation Maintenance Facility building at F.W. Kent Park, 2048 Highway 6 NW, Oxford, IA.

The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Rating System was designed by the USGBC to encourage and facilitate the development of more sustainable buildings.

LEED is the nation's preeminent program for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings. The Conservation Headquarters building and Conservation Maintenance Facility building were both certified LEED GOLD for energy use, lighting, water and material use, as well as incorporating a variety of other sustainable strategies. By using less energy and water, these LEED certified buildings save money for taxpayers; reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and contribute to a healthier environment for residents, workers and the larger community.

LEED certification of GOLD was based on a number of green design and construction features that positively impact the project itself and the broader community. These features include: a sustainable site, water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, materials and resources, indoor environmental quality, and innovation and design process.

"The Johnson County Conservation Board's LEED Gold certification for these two buildings demonstrates tremendous green building leadership," said Rick Fedrizzi, President, CEO and Founding Chair, U.S. Green Building Council.

Fedrizzi went on to state, "The work of innovative building projects, such as the two conservation buildings, are a fundamental driving force in the green building movement. Building operations are nearly 40% of the solution to the global climate change challenge. While climate change is a global problem, innovative agencies of local government, like the Johnson County Conservation Board, are addressing it through local solutions."

employment

Communications/E911 Manager

Clinton County is accepting applications for the position of Communications/E911 Manager. This is a highly technical position responsible for the day-to-day operation and the effective coordination and direction of the Clinton County Communications E911 Center. The salary range is \$50,000 plus and is negotiable depending on qualifications.

Please find a complete job description and application at www.clintoncounty-ia.gov.

Applications must be received by Thursday, September 22, 2011

NEW

Premier and U.S. Foodservice

**Announcing the launch of the U.S. Communities Food
Distribution and Related Supplies and Services Contract**

Go with the proven leader.

U.S. Communities' Lead Public Agency, North Carolina State University has awarded a new, competitively bid contract to Premier for Food Distribution and Related Supplies and Services (Contract No. 13924). The contract provides U.S. Communities participating agencies immediate access to Premier's food service program solutions, delivered in conjunction with the alliance's broadline food service distributor, U.S. Foodservice.

The Premier Foodservice program takes a comprehensive approach to delivering value, combining sole-source distribution through U.S. Foodservice with national program margins by category and Premier's aggressive contracts with foodservice manufacturers. The program also offers industry-leading value-added services and educational opportunities creating a comprehensive foodservice solution for your public agency.

- ▶ 300,000+ items covered under the U.S. Communities Contract
- ▶ Manufacturer agreements for 90+ categories
- ▶ Average 8-20% savings on manufacturer agreements

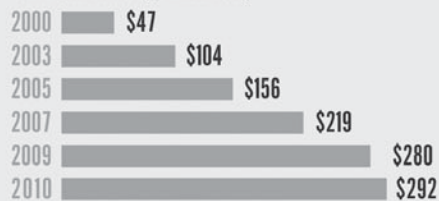


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 - ▶ Retail Concept Solutions – Full line Retail Concept development by Premier for Members only
 - ▶ Recipes with Nutritional Analysis – Web based application at no cost to Premier Members
- ▶ Menu Profit Builder – Ability to analyze menu items being sold in retail operations to make ingredient and/or review pricing strategies with retail operation
- ▶ Menus OnDemand – Minimal cost to Premier Members
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- ▶ Premier ViewPoint[™] Newsletter
- ▶ Premier Regional Council Meetings
- ▶ Premier Culinary Clinics

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miscellaneous

Making Medicare Make Sense

By: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Q: Recently, I have heard about the Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan (PCIP) that is currently available due to the Affordable Care Act for anyone who does not have health insurance because they have been turned down due to a pre-existing condition. Can you tell me about Iowa's PCIP program?

A: Iowans who have had difficulty finding health coverage because of a pre-existing condition now can more easily get much more affordable coverage.

PCIP was created under the Affordable Care Act to help uninsured people with a pre-existing condition get high quality care at affordable prices and serves as a bridge to 2014 when insurers will no longer be allowed to deny coverage to people with any pre-existing condition, like cancer, diabetes, and asthma. This health coverage program is administered at the State level in 27 states and by the Federal government in 23 States and the District of Columbia.

Iowa has elected to run the program themselves. Eligible residents of Iowa may apply for coverage through the state's PCIP, HIPIOWA-FED.

To qualify for coverage:

- You must be a citizen or national of the United States or residing in the United States legally.

- You must have been uninsured for at least the last six months before you apply.
- You must have a pre-existing condition or have been denied coverage because of your health condition.

PCIP covers a broad range of health benefits, including primary and specialty care, hospital care, and prescription drugs. All covered benefits are available for you, even if it's to treat a pre-existing condition.

Premium ranges based on age: \$156 to \$765 per month
Deductible: \$1,000
Out of Pocket Limit: Medical: \$2,500, Pharmacy: \$1,000

For more information, please call 877.505.0513 or visit <http://hipiowafed.com/index.htm>.

To learn about PCIP in another state, including eligibility, plan benefits and rates, and how to apply, visit www.pcip.gov and click on "Find Your State." Then select the state from a map of the United States or from the drop-down menu. The PCIP Call Center is open from 7:00 am to 10:00 pm. Call toll-free 1.866.717.5826 (TTY 1.866.561.1604).

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The Seventh Annual

ISAC



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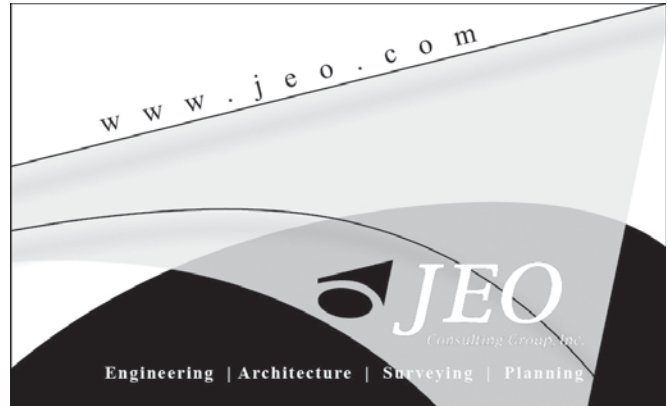
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2011/2012 calendar

August 2011

- 3-5 Iowa County Recorders Association Summer School (Terrible's Lakeside Casino, Osceola)
- 4-5 Supervisors Executive Board Retreat (Springhill Suites by Marriott, Council Bluffs)
- 8 Fall School Registration and Housing Bureau Open (8:30 am)
- 10-12 CCMS Annual Conference (Sheraton, West Des Moines)
- 18-19 ISAC Legislative Policy Committee Retreat (Hotel Pattee, Perry)
- 29 ISAC Office Move to West Des Moines

September 2011

- 15-16 ISAC Board of Directors Retreat (Arrowwood Resort & Conference Center, Okoboji)
- 15-16 CCMS Strengths Based Training (Hilton Garden Inn, Urbandale)
- 21 ISAC Scholarship Golf Fundraiser (Otter Creek Golf Course, Ankeny)
- 22 ISAC Legislative Policy Committee Meeting (ISAC Office, West Des Moines)
- 30 Fall School Program Materials Deadline (4:30 pm)

October 2011

- 2-5 Assessors School of Instruction and Conference (Holiday Inn Airport, Des Moines)
- 11 CCMS Administrators Meeting (Stoney Creek Inn, Johnston)
- 19-20 CCMS Fundamentals Training (Courtyard by Marriott, Ankeny)

- 21 Fall School Housing Bureau Closes (4:30 pm)
- 27-28 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting (ISAC Office, West Des Moines)
- 28 Fall School Registration Closes (4:30 pm)

November 2011

- 3 CCMS Advanced Case Management (Hilton Garden Inn, Urbandale)
- 16-18 ISAC Fall School of Instruction (Coralville Marriott Hotel and Conference Center)

December 2011

- 9 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting (ISAC Office, West Des Moines)

January 2012

- 10 CCMS Administrators Meeting (Hilton Garden Inn, Johnston)
- 18-19 ISAC University (West Des Moines Marriott)

February 2012

- 9 Statewide Supervisors Meeting (Hilton Garden Inn, Johnston)
- 15-16 CCMS Fundamentals Training (Courtyard by Marriott, Ankeny)

March 2012

- 3-7 NACo Legislative Conference (Hilton Washington Hotel, Washington DC)
- 15-16 ISAC Spring School of Instruction (Des Moines Marriott Downtown)

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 2011 and 2012, 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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