

# The Iowa County

Iowa State Association of Counties



February 2013

2013 ISAC Spring School of Instruction

Gender Balance

Mental Health and Disability Services  
Redesign







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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.

# legal briefs

## Gender Balance

**By: Kristi Harshbarger**

ISAC Legal Counsel



While most appointments happen in January, many of you may still be trying to fill various appointments that the county is required to make. The new law on gender balance went into effect last year, but we are still getting quite a few questions on the issue. So this article will attempt to serve as a refresher on the topic and address some of the most common questions.

Iowa Code §69.16A requires all appointive boards, commissions, committees, and councils of a political subdivision to be gender balanced by January 1, 2012, by using a fair and unbiased method of selecting the best qualified applicants. A political subdivision may appoint any qualified applicant, regardless of gender, after making a three month good faith effort to appoint a gender balanced board.

There are a couple of good resources you can find on ISAC's website to help familiarize yourself and comply with the gender balance statute. First, ISAC has provided a sample application and a notice of vacancies form that are designed to assist counties in complying with the directives of 69.16A. Political subdivisions are not required by the law to use a formal application process, nor is it necessary to use this sample application or notice of vacancies if you have an alternative preferred method. We recommend that you consult with your county attorney before utilizing these, or any alternatives. If you choose to use this sample application and notice of vacancies form, please be sure to update the county-specific information. You can also find on ISAC's website a link to a paper entitled "Recruiting Gender Balanced Board and Commissions: A Guide for Cities and Counties."

**Question 1:** If an appointee's term is expiring and they are interested in being reappointed, does the gender balance statute apply?

Yes. The statute doesn't define the term vacancy, but it does state that it "shall not prohibit an individual whose term expires prior to January 1, 2012, from being reappointed even though the reappointment continues an inequity in gender balance." If a vacancy never occurs when a term expires and the appointee is interested in being reappointed, then why have this qualifier? Since January 1, 2012, has passed, you should consider the gender balance statute whenever an appointee's term expires, regardless of whether the appointee is interested in continuing to serve.

**Question 2:** How much do we have to do to make a good faith effort?

This is a more difficult question. The statute hasn't been tested yet, and on its face says only that a county must make a good faith effort for a period of three months to make a gender balanced appointment. ISAC has provided the sample notice and application in an attempt to help counties meet this requirement. You should talk to your county attorney and come up with a plan that makes you and your county attorney comfortable that you have met the requirements and won't become the "test case" for what constitutes a good faith effort.

**Question 3:** Is experience serving as the appointee an adequate reason for that candidate to be the best qualified?

The statute says the county must use "a fair and unbiased method of selecting the best qualified applicant." If a person is appointed just because that appointment would create gender balance and such person is not the best qualified, then the county hasn't complied with the requirement to select the best qualified applicant.

That being said, I would caution counties against using experience as the deciding factor for making an appointment that does not result in gender balance. While experience can be important, that is always going to favor re-appointment of an incumbent that does not result in gender balance on the board. And the policy behind the gender balance statute is to create opportunities for the under-represented gender to become involved in any given board. So while I do believe a county is allowed to appoint the best qualified applicant even if it does not result in gender balance (and not everyone agrees the statute allows this), I have great concern for using a criteria that will inevitably disfavor the under-represented gender as the determining factor in which applicant is best qualified. This is a new statute that has not been challenged or litigated yet (which means we do not have precedent to rely on for how a court may interpret the statute). It would seem quite plausible that a judge could find using experience as a deciding factor creates a biased method of selecting the best qualified applicant that would unfairly disfavor the under-represented gender.

Continues on page 18.

### Mental Health and Disability Services Redesign

By: **Linda Hinton**

ISAC Government Relations  
Manager



The session begins with the county-managed Mental Health and Disability Services system in a state of flux. Counties are working together to identify regions and sorting through a variety of complicated issues: governance, personnel, service plan development, fiscal resources and management. There are approximately 14 regions involved in ongoing discussions. There are also two or three counties that are considering seeking an exemption from being in a region.

As we move forward during the first session of the 85<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, counties are dealing with a variety of mixed messages that have been received from the state on the issue of redesign. The lack of clarity began with the Transition Fund set up by SF 2315.

Throughout the session there was a promise of funding for the counties to deal with the consequences of shifting all of the state funding to the state to pay for all of the Medicaid services for the transition year, FY 2013. On the very last day of session, the legislature decided not to appropriate any funding for the Transition Fund. Instead they set up an application process completely controlled by the Department of Human Services (the Department) and promised to fund up to \$20 million if the demonstrated need would support that amount. The counties were skeptical, but 32 made application for an amount totaling over \$11 million. (The form used did not provide a place for the counties to designate the amount they thought was needed, but this is the amount identified by the Department as appropriate for funding based on the standards outlined in the Transition Fund report). The Department's final recommendation was for \$1.4 million to be divided among three counties. The Legislative Interim Committee met on December 18 and January 11 and made a recommendation to fund up to \$20 million for FY 2013.

To pay or not to pay – One way to manage through FY 2013 without adequate resources was to “hold” state bills. At a meeting with legislators in May, counties were encouraged to continue to provide services provided in FY 2012 while waiting to see what the outcome of the Transition Fund process would be. One way to do this that was fully acknowledged by the state was to hold off on payment of state bills. This would allow the counties to pay their local providers and maintain services. In theory, when transition funds were received, the county would be able to pay the state bills. A sticking point from the very beginning was that the money designated by the legislature for the Transition Fund was federal money. Federal money

cannot be used to match federal money and the bills being held by the counties were Medicaid bills. The legislature will have to determine if they are going to use the funds designated or fund the transition with state general fund dollars.

Another recommendation that counties heard in May was to seek Medicaid funding for services that had been provided with 100% state and local funding in the past. The two primary services in the category are sheltered work/work activity services and Residential Care Facility (RCF) services. Counties through the years have used Medicaid to a greater or lesser extent based on local service availability, philosophy and tradition, and, perhaps, willingness to give up flexibility for federal funding. In the current fiscal year, counties have moved individuals from sheltered work and RCF services into similar Medicaid-funded services. This shift is onerous on sheltered work and RCF providers. In addition, the alternative services may not provide the same support that individuals were used to receiving when providers had the flexibility that is allowed outside of Medicaid. Individuals in residential care facilities are being moved to community based living arrangements, and individuals in work services are being moved to adult day services, which are activity rather than work oriented.

Another area where the state has sent mixed messages is whether counties should be expending 100% of their MH/DS service funds or whether they should be budgeting with a cushion to deal with cash flow and unexpected expenses. The Transition Fund process, as developed by the Department, presumed that counties would have to have less than zero in their MH/DS fund at the end of the fiscal year in order to receive transition funding. At that point the amount recommended was only that to get the county to zero, with no additional funding for cash flow or unexpected expenses. This area has always been tricky because a reasonable amount in reserve across the 99 counties adds up to a big number in the eyes of the legislature.

Continues on page 18.



## Obsessive Compulsive Disorder

**By: Jackie Olson Leech**

ISAC Case Management Specialist



The International Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD) Foundation estimates that 1 in 100 adults are diagnosed with OCD in the United States. There are as many children with OCD as those with juvenile diabetes. That means that in every elementary school there are 4 to 5 children with OCD. In an average sized high school, there are 20 teenagers challenged with the struggles that OCD presents. There is no population group that is more effected by OCD than another, and it can be seen in all social and economic classes equally. Many joke about having OCD, due to their need for order in all aspect of their day, and difficulty tolerating unclean spaces and unorganized environments. But it's not a joke to have been diagnosed with OCD. Like type 1 diabetes, there is no cure for this disorder; however, there are treatments and supports that are effective in reducing symptoms.

Chris Trondsen presented on OCD at the CCMS Fall Advanced Case Management Training on November 1, 2012. He started suffering with OCD as early as age seven. His symptoms increased, and in October of 2002 he attempted to take his own life to alleviate his suffering. His physician informed him that his OCD was so severe that he would never improve. With treatment, Chris was able to go from not being able to leave his home, to completing his graduate degree, taking martial arts, going back to work, and getting his life back. He counsels and advocates for individuals and their families who deal with OCD, and presents throughout the world on the topic of OCD and co-occurring disorders.

According to the Diagnostic Statistical Manual (DSM-IV) of mental disorders, published by the American Psychiatric Association (APA), OCD is an anxiety disorder, characterized by obsessions and compulsions. The obsessions and compulsions and how the disorder manifests itself is as varied as the individuals who are diagnosed with the disorder. Obsessions are the initial thoughts or images that are intrusive and unwanted, causing anxiety and distress. This is more than just excessive worry about real life problems. The person with OCD recognizes that their thoughts are excessive and unreasonable, and they spend at least one hour a day trying to manage and control these thoughts, which interfere with their daily routine and academic, vocational and social functioning. Examples of obsessive thoughts may include, but aren't limited to: fear of contamination; pathological doubting; being responsible for something bad happening; insistence on certainty and absolutes, fear of making mistakes; concerns that something bad will happen if it doesn't end in the right number; fear of the

devil, fear of going to hell; fear of losing control; harming those who are vulnerable; harming a family member; or becoming a serial killer.

Compulsions are the repetitive behaviors and, or mental acts that the person with OCD uses to prevent some dreaded event or situation from occurring. Of course these compulsions are not realistic approaches to neutralize the obsessions, and the person with this disorder can see this at times, but are unable to stop the ruminations and behaviors. Examples of these compulsions are handwashing, ordering, checking, praying, counting, and repeating words silently, all of which have rigid rules applied to them to be successful in the persons mind. Checking behaviors could be repeatedly checking appliances, locks, pockets, retracing steps, and seeking reassurance from others. They may reread, rewrite, and repeat activities, such as going in or out of doors, getting up or down from chairs, excessive showering, bathing, tooth brushing, grooming, or toilet routine, clearing household items, or other inanimate objects excessively. They may order and arrange behaviors in such a ritualistic way that if they deviate ever so slightly, they have to start at the beginning of the compulsive behaviors until it is just right to reduce the obsessive thought. With counting, an individual may do tasks in multiples of the preferred number, such as brush tooth 5 times, tap foot 3 times, etc.

Effective treatments for OCD include Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and psychotropic medications. Most studies show that on average about 70% of patients with OCD will benefit from medication or behavior therapy. Exposure and response prevention (ERP) is a treatment method that helps individuals with OCD confront their fears (the obsession) by discontinuing their avoidant behaviors (the compulsions). In the short-term, the person's anxiety is heightened. Through repeated exposure, without the compulsive behaviors, result in a natural reduction of the anxiety that the obsession created. In order for this approach to work, the person must actively participate in ERP intensively, and take medications consistently. Unfortunately, Chris indicated that 25% of persons with OCD refuse behavior therapy and as many as half of OCD patients discontinue medications due to side effects or other reasons.

Continues on page 9.

## CPT Coding Changes for 2013

By: **Gina Fontanini**

ISAC Program Support  
Coordinator



CPT® stands for Current Procedural Terminology and is a registered trademark of the American Medical Association (AMA). CPT coding is the most widely accepted medical nomenclature used to report medical procedures and services under public and private health insurance programs. The AMA contracts with CMS to be the official coding system that is used to communicate information about medical services and procedures. Under the Health Insurance Portability Accountability Act (HIPAA), health insurers are required to use CPT codes to identify their services provided to the client. The AMA issues major changes to behavioral CPT codes impacting both payers and providers. These changes apply to any services provided on or after January 1, 2013. The AMA has not allowed for a transition period for these changes. These coding changes affect psychiatrists, psychologists, and clinical social workers to name a few providers that provide CPT professional services in all states. The reason this is important not only to the counties paying the bills, but also for CSN is to be HIPAA compliant and account for the changes.

Accounting for these coding changes is significant in the CSN system for a couple of reasons. The first reason is that in the past CSN only accounted for one CPT code per service provided in the billing process. Now the provider can bill one, two, three or more CPT codes for one individual service for a client. The reason for this is because the AMA has moved toward an Evaluation and Management (E/M) coding structure. What is an E/M code? Evaluation is (collecting and assessing information) and Management is (planning treatment or further assessment; prescribing medication). An E/M code is a code that starts with "99XXX" as opposed to the old codes usually started with "908XX". They are used to report a medical service rendered during a patient visit. It is the currently accepted coding used by all physicians and other medical providers. E/M coding may be reported in addition to a "procedure" unless specifically restricted. E/M coding has several components to it that include the following; history, examination, medical decision making, counseling, coordination of care, time, and nature of presenting problem. All of these components are used to determine the correct E/M code to use when billing a service to the payer or county in our case. To make things more complicated, there are E/M codes, and there are separate codes that can be added to E/M if psychotherapy is performed. In addition, psychotherapy has its own set of time codes that cannot be used in conjunction with E/M codes.

These codes are the biggest changes in the coding and billing process with in the mental health system, but it also changes the way that certain services are billed in general to the payer. For instance, this creates problems when trying to authorize services before the client actually sees the provider. The client may go in for E/M and they end up doing 30 minutes of psychotherapy on top of that. This is a problem in the system due to the claims adjudication process. CSN's adjudication process matches the specifics in the authorization to the claim that was entered, but if you are not sure what exact service the client will be getting from the provider the claim will not find the authorization in CSN. The reason for that is some counties match exactly with what they have authorized as a service in CSN. That is also how counties can budget to see what services and for how much they have authorized, versus what they have paid out already. Counties can see all of this information in CSN, if it has been entered by the county. Therefore, CSN staff has been working hard to come up with a solution to this issue. CSN needs to accommodate for the codes, but in addition to that it, must accommodate for the authorization process.

CSN staff is currently working on a service model in which services are authorized at a high level based on certain criteria for each client, and the client can access those services as they need. Then, when the bills come into the county, as long as the client meets the criteria laid out, the claim will adjudicate properly. This will allow the client to get the services they need along with allowing the county to be able to account for the service being authorized. Just as each person's insurance company does at a high level. Of course we may need to do some changes in the meantime before we can get to that point, but that is our long term goal as we move forward with the CSN system.

In addition to all of the above mentioned changes, each county will need to contact their providers and work out a new CPT code crosswalk to figure out rate amounts for each new code.

If you have any question or concerns about CPT coding changes, please feel free to contact Gina Fontanini, Project Coordinator for CSN, [gfontanini@iowacounties.org](mailto:gfontanini@iowacounties.org).

# ISAC meetings

## 2013 ISAC Spring School of Instruction

By: *Stacy Horner*

ISAC Meeting/Event  
Administrator



It's hard to believe that registration for the 2013 ISAC Spring School of Instruction has already opened, and we are well into the conference planning. This two-day conference will take place on March 14-15 at the Des Moines Marriott Downtown. Please remember that you must pre-register for spring school on the ISAC website before making your hotel reservation through the online housing system. Please take note that the 2013 County Day at the Capitol (more information on page 10) will be held in conjunction with spring school on Wednesday, March 13, so you may need to modify your hotel accommodations if you plan to attend both events. In addition to the Des Moines Marriott Downtown, hotel room blocks are available at the Renaissance Des Moines Savery Hotel, Holiday Inn Downtown and Embassy Suites Des Moines Downtown.

All conference activities and affiliate meetings will take place in one location again this year, the Des Moines Marriott Downtown. You can find all of the information that you need to prepare for the spring school at the conference website, <http://www.iowacounties.org/springschool.htm>. From conference registration information to affiliate agendas to maps of downtown Des Moines, the website is updated on a regular basis with new and important conference details.

### Conference Registration Fees

- Advanced registration fee - \$130 (March 1, 4:30 pm pre-registration deadline)
- At-the-door registration fee - \$160

Please pre-register for the ISAC Spring School of Instruction! This greatly helps the ISAC staff to plan accordingly for conference meals and materials. And it saves your county money! **The last day to pre-register will be at 4:30 pm on Friday, March 1.** After that date, all registrations must take place on-site in Des Moines, and you will be charged the at-the-door registration fee of \$160.

**Your name badge is REQUIRED for ALL conference events.**

### Conference Dietary Needs

Registration to the 2013 ISAC Spring School includes refreshments both mornings, an ice cream social and reception on Thursday, March 14, and lunch on Friday, March 15. Please make plans to take advantage of these opportunities as it's a great 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](mailto:shorner@iowacounties.org) by **4:30 pm on Friday, March 1, 2013**. Please note that the conference dates are during Lent. In order for ISAC to guarantee a non-meat box lunch you must request it prior to March 1. 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.

### Conference Attire

Conference attire on Thursday is business dress. Please remember that meeting room temperatures do not feel the same for everyone. You may want to bring a sweater or jacket should the meeting room temperature be too cool for you. Please feel free to dress casually for Friday's events.

Please don't hesitate to contact ISAC (515.244.7181 or [shorner@iowacounties.org](mailto:shorner@iowacounties.org)) if you have any questions about the upcoming 2013 ISAC Spring School of Instruction! We look forward to seeing you in March and sage travels to Des Moines!

### Agenda

Please note that there is ample affiliate time - 11 hours and affiliate committee meeting time - 4 hours. There are also many events planned in the exhibit hall. Please be sure to attend these events and thank the exhibitors for their attendance. A conference of this scale for this low price would not be possible if it were not for their participation. The full agenda can be seen on the next page.

ISAC's **2013 Spring School**  
of Instruction



# ISAC meetings

## **Wednesday, March 13**

3:00 pm - 7:00 pm      Affiliate Committee Meetings - 4 hours  
(Time available for small affiliate committee meetings – limited space available on first come, first served basis)  
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm      Exhibitor Setup

## **Thursday, March 14**

8:00 am - 6:00 pm      ISAC Registration and Information Desk (Des Moines Exhibit Hall, Marriott)  
8:00 am - 6:00 pm      Exhibit Hall Hours (Des Moines Exhibit Hall, Marriott)  
8:00 am - 9:00 am      Exhibitor Morning Refreshments (Des Moines Exhibit Hall, Marriott)  
9:00 am - 9:40 am      Exhibitor Learning Center (Marriott)  
9:50 am - 10:30 am      Exhibitor Learning Center (Marriott)  
9:00 am - 10:30 am      ISAC Educational Seminars (Iowa Ballroom, Marriott)  
10:45 am - 12:00 pm      ISAC Business Meeting and Awards Ceremony (Iowa Ballroom, Marriott)  
12:00 pm - 1:30 pm      Open Lunch  
12:30 pm - 1:30 pm      Exhibitor Ice Cream Social (Des Moines Exhibit Hall, Marriott)  
1:30 pm - 4:30 pm      Affiliate Time - 3 hours (Marriott)  
4:30 pm - 6:00 pm      Exhibitor Reception and Vendor Drawing (Des Moines Exhibit Hall, Marriott)  
6:00 pm - 8:30 pm      Hospitality Rooms (Marriott)  
8:30 pm - 11:00 pm      ISAC Dance (Iowa Ballroom, Marriott)

## **Friday, March 15**

7:30 am - 3:00 pm      ISAC Registration and Information Desk (Marriott 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)  
7:30 am - 8:00 am      Morning Refreshments (Marriott 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Floors)  
8:00 am - 12:00 pm      Affiliate Time - 4 hours (Marriott)  
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm      ISAC Networking Lunch (Des Moines Exhibit Hall, Marriott)  
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm      Affiliate Time - 4 hours (Marriott)

# CCMS

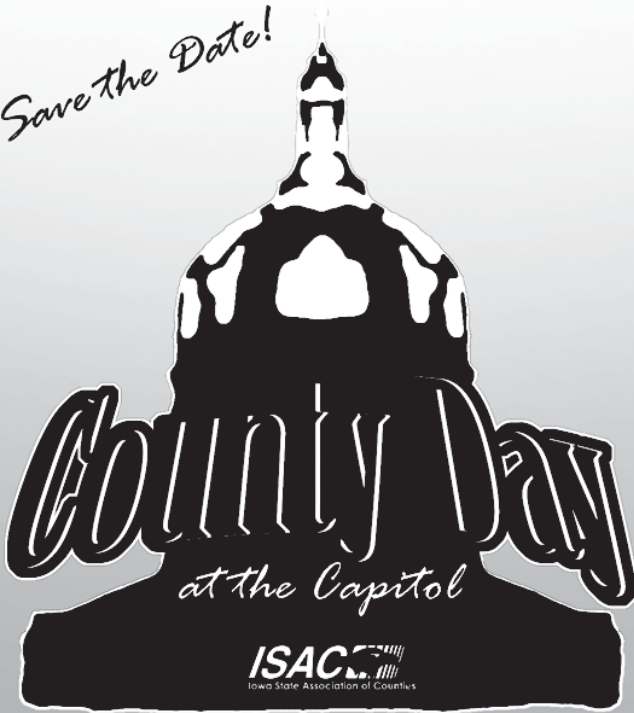
Continued from page 6.

Family Treatment is essential to the success of a person with OCD to learn about the disorder and to understand how they have enabled the person to continue their compulsive behaviors. Family members believe they are helpful by taking on responsibilities of the individual, such as buying their groceries, cleaning their homes for them, paying their bills, or modifying the family routine to accommodate the compulsions. They learn that these behaviors maintain the disorder, and keeps

the individual from changing or getting the help they need. Chris states that without his mother paying for his inpatient treatment, and changing her approach to Chris when he returned home from treatment, he would have never reached the place of recovery he is today.

To learn more about OCD and current treatment options, go to the International OCD Foundation website: <http://www.ocfoundation.org/> or read 'What You Need To Know About OCD' by Michael Jenke.

*Save the Date!*



Join us March 13, 2013!

Join us on Wednesday, March 13, for  
County Day at the Capitol.

### *Schedule of events*

9:00 am - 10:00 am  
Guest and ISAC Staff Presentations  
Wallace Building

10:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Affiliate Displays and  
Legislative Interaction  
Capitol Rotunda

11:30 am  
Lunch  
Capitol Rotunda West Wing

Pre-Register beginning Wednesday, January 16, 2013 for County Day at the Capitol. This event will begin at the Wallace Building auditorium. There will be special presenters on the hot issues of the time. From there, the group will travel to the Capitol. The time at the statehouse will give county officials the opportunity to participate in the lobbying process by meeting with their legislators.

This year's event is being held in conjunction with the 2013 ISAC Spring School of Instruction, March 14-15. Hotel accommodations are available at discounted rates on Tuesday, March 12 at spring school conference hotels. You must pre-register for the spring school on the ISAC website before making your hotel reservations.

We have secured space in the Capitol Rotunda for affiliate displays. This will give each individual affiliate the opportunity to introduce legislators and the public to your important roles in the effective administration of county government.

Lunch will be provided for legislators and attending county officials in the Capitol Rotunda West Wing. This will again give county officials the opportunity to interact with legislators. Please pre-register for an accurate lunch count.

In order to have the opportunity to meet with your legislators on this day, each county is encouraged to set up meetings with their legislators in advance. Most days of the session are extremely busy and having a scheduled time with your legislators is very important to make the most of your day.

As an ISAC member county it is important to be involved in the legislative session and to work to promote ISAC's legislative priorities and objectives. County Day at the Capitol will give our members the opportunity to support ISAC's efforts and work towards improving county government.

It is our hope that by making a concentrated effort to focus on county issues on just one day, that we will have the greatest impact at the Capitol.

Please pre-register at [www.iowacounties.org](http://www.iowacounties.org), and mark your calendars now for March 13, 2013! Pre-registration closes at 4:30 pm on Friday, March 1.

## **ISAC Board Minutes Summary - December 13, 2012**

ISAC President Wayne Walter called the meeting to order and led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance. Current and incoming board members, Jeff Garrett, Washington County Treasurer, and Lonny Pulkrabek, Johnson County Sheriff, gave introductions.

The ISAC Board meeting minutes from October 25-26, 2012 and November 28, 2012, the ISAC Scholarship Committee meeting minutes from October 25, 2012, the ISAC Article, Bylaws and Membership Committee meeting minutes from October 25, 2012, and the ISAC General Session minutes from November 28, 2012 were reviewed and approved unanimously by the Board. The ETC Board of Directors meeting minutes from October 25, 2012 were also reviewed for information purposes.

President Walter recessed for the ETC Board of Directors meeting and reconvened the ISAC Board at its conclusion.

Bill Peterson gave a background on the ISAC Group Health Program and introduced Amanda Baker, Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield of Iowa. There are currently 24 counties that participate in the program. Bill reviewed a detailed presentation of the health program experience, income and expenses, projections, large claims, individual counties, etc. The Board discussed wellness benefits and incentives amply. The following recommendations for the 2014 ISAC Group Health Program were made to the board and unanimously approved: approve recommended rates with income increase of 5.59%; adopt discount proposal with loss of discount limited to 5% per year; and adopt New Plan 11B – with Pharmacy Plan Adjustments as recommended. As recommended, the net income will continue to be below expenses, but eventually the reserves will drop to a level where the income will need to meet expenses.

Richard Crouch, Mike Balmer and Marge Pitts were thanked for their service on the Board. Darin Raymond presented President Walter with a gift of thanks for his year of service as ISAC President.

Linda Hinton distributed a letter to the Board addressed to the legislative mental health redesign interim committee and gave a history of the Transition Fund including the recent DHS funding recommendation of the Fund.

Linda reported that the treasurers' affiliate did not approve increasing the driver's license fee after the ISAC General Session during which the membership voted acceptance of the legislative objectives that included the increase. Linda recommended eliminating it from the book and presented the board with the proposed language. This recommendation was approved unanimously by the Board.

Hanna De Groot presented a letter of support for the Bottle Bill, and the Board unanimously approved signing on to the letter.

Hanna De Groot gave an update on letters of support that a coalition, including ISAC, are working on to send to the legislature. Each group in the coalition will create its own letter with the same overall message, the need for a user fee increase.

Linda and Darin reported on meetings with Senator Gronstal and Governor Branstad during which they were able to discuss the ISAC legislative priorities.

President Walter introduced Jerry Hansen, Iowa Association of County Commissioners and Veterans Service Officers (IACCVSO) President and Montgomery County Veterans Affairs, and Paul Ladd, Boone County Veterans Affairs. Jerry and Paul answered questions and concerns regarding IACCVSO's interest in becoming an ISAC affiliate.

Grant Veeder reported on the NACo Board of Directors meeting that was recently held in Memphis, TN. The meeting was one of the best during which Matt Chase, executive director, gave a presentation and asked for support of how he would recommend the Association move forward.

Bill reminded the Board that the NACo Legislative Conference will be held in Washington, D.C. from March 2-6, 2013.

The Board agreed that all board members should make an effort to go to the annual conference in Ft. Worth in July to support Linda Langston as she is sworn in as NACo President.

Brad reviewed the financial report dated November 30, 2012. He gave an update on the ISAC endorsements. The Board unanimously approved a Resolution to Transfer Community Services Network Assets. The financial report was accepted unanimously.

Continues on page 12.



# NACo news

## NACo Legislative Conference

A top economic researcher and a leading Democratic official have been added to NACo's 2013 Legislative Conference speaker line-up. Mark M. Zandi, chief economist of Moody's Analytics, will speak on Monday, March 4, and Rep. James Clyburn (D-S.C.), assistant Democratic leader, joins the general session line-up March 5.

As Moody Analytics chief economist, Zandi directs economic research at the Moody's Corp subsidiary. Moody's Corp is a leading provider of economic research, data and analytical tools. Dr. Zandi is a cofounder of [Economy.com](http://Economy.com), which Moody's purchased in 2005.

Dr. Zandi's broad research interests encompass macroeconomics, financial markets and public policy. His recent research has focused on foreclosure mitigation policy and the determinants of mortgage foreclosure and personal bankruptcy; he has analyzed the economic impact of various tax and government spending policies and assessed the appropriate monetary policy response to bubbles in asset markets.

Rep. James E. Clyburn (D-S.C.), assistant Democratic leader, is the number three Democrat in the House and leadership liaison to the Appropriations Committee. He is also one of the Democratic Caucus' primary liaisons to the White House.

As a national leader he has championed rural communities, supporting the development of regional water projects,

community health centers, and broadband connections. He has encouraged economic development by securing funding for Empowerment Zones; investing in green technology development such as nuclear, wind, hydrogen and biofuels; and directing 10% of Recovery Act funding to communities 20% under the poverty level for the past 30 years.

When Clyburn came to Congress in 1993, he was elected co-president of his freshman class and quickly rose through leadership ranks. He was elected chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus in 1999, and his reputation as a leader and consensus-builder helped him win a difficult three-way race for House Democratic Caucus vice chair in 2002. Three years later, he was unanimously elected chair of the Democratic Caucus.



### Register Today!

The NACo Legislative Conference is being held March 2-6, 2013 at the Washington Hilton. Registration is available on the NACo website, [www.naco.org](http://www.naco.org). Many Iowa county officials travel to Washington, D.C. each year to attend the conference. During the event there are many educational seminars, general sessions, ISAC plans meetings with each of our congressmen and senators, and much more. Please plan to attend! If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact Rachel Bicego, [rbicego@iowacounties.org](mailto:rbicego@iowacounties.org).

The NACo legislative priorities are listed on the next two pages.

## ISAC brief

Continued from page 11.

The Board unanimously approved the County Case Management Services (CCMS) Board recommended appointments — Tim Schumacher, Emmet County Supervisor, and Terrence Neuzil, Johnson County Supervisor.

Stacy Horner reviewed the 2012 ISAC Fall School of Instruction evaluation results and addressed the concerns.

Rachel Bicego gave an update on the 2013 marketing efforts to date.

Board members shared issues, concerns, ideas and achievements.

The Board unanimously re-appointed Harlan Hansen to the State Election Administrators Training (SEAT) Board.

President Walter adjourned the meeting.



# 2013 Legislative Priorities

**T**he members of the National Association of Counties (NACo) support federal policies and programs that provide the tools, resources, and solutions needed to spur job growth, improve quality of life, and increase the economic competitiveness of America's local counties and communities.

The nation's 3,068 county governments provide the essential building blocks to create healthy, vibrant, and safe communities. This includes supporting and maintaining key public infrastructure, transportation, and economic development assets; creating and sustaining a skilled workforce to meet the needs of private industry; ensuring public health and public safety needs to protect our citizens; and implementing a broad portfolio of federal, state, and local programs in a cost-effective and accountable manner.

People depend on counties to provide services that protect their homes, schools, and neighborhoods. Counties maintain safe roads, bridges, airports, and transit systems and ensure

that we have clean water and effective wastewater systems. Counties operate our courts and jails, and maintain our parks and recreation programs, libraries, waste and recycling facilities.

Counties also provide access to health care, especially for the uninsured and indigent, and serve as the community "safety net" for our children, elderly, disabled, mentally ill, and anyone in need. Counties are also instrumental in moving their communities forward by providing the business conditions, critical infrastructure, and capital necessary for private industry to flourish.

At a time when federal, state and local budgets have been slashed, counties have had to balance their budgets yet continue shouldering so many of the critical programs and services that people, industry and communities depend upon. Therefore, we urge Congress and the Administration to establish a sustainable path forward for our country and encourage a balanced approach to deficit reduction.

---

## The following are America's counties' top priorities for the 113th Congress:

### **Protect Federal-State-Local Partnership for Medicaid**

NACo members support maintaining the federal-state-local partnership structure for financing and delivering Medicaid services. We also oppose cuts, caps, block grants or any other measures that would further shift federal and state Medicaid costs to counties.

### **Support Key Federal Investments in Programs that Promote Local Job Creation and Economic Growth**

NACo members support fully funding key federal programs and investments that support the nation's future economic growth and improved local conditions, including HUD's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program and HOME Program, the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA), investments in local workforce development programs, and investments in highway, transit, aviation, port and water

infrastructure development. We support investments in programs that support the federal safety net, including Medicaid, social services, justice and public safety programs and other domestic programs that are essential to creating and maintaining jobs and high quality communities.

### **Oppose Unfunded Mandates**

NACo members oppose legislative or regulatory initiatives that undermine local decision-making authority at the county level and contribute to reductions to our economic prosperity and workforce.

### **Support Federal Land Revenue Sharing and Payment in Lieu of Taxes Programs**

NACo members support extending full mandatory funding for the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) Program as well as legislative efforts to reform and fund the expired Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program. PILT compensates counties for tax-exempt federal land within their boundaries.

# 2013 Legislative Priorities

## Promote County Priorities within Immigration Reform

NACo members oppose federal efforts that would place the financial burden of immigration on the backs of counties without sufficient funds for health, public safety, and education services. We support comprehensive immigration reform that includes a modernized legal immigration system, establishes a temporary worker program, provides an earned path to citizenship, and enhances border security.

## Protect County Revenue and Investment Strategies

NACo members support the preservation of the federal deductibility of local property and income taxes and the tax exempt status of municipal bonds that provide critical funding for infrastructure and development. Furthermore, we support legislative initiatives that permit the collection of existing sales and use taxes from remote sellers. We oppose any efforts that would preferentially treat any industry seeking to create its own special immunity from state and local taxation.

## Support Rural Development Initiatives and the Farm Bill

NACo members support federal investments in rural development and will work to prioritize and increase the national and local flexibility of these investments through a Farm Bill reauthorization and funding for USDA Rural Development programs. These programs assist rural counties in their efforts to partner with all sectors to develop water/wastewater infrastructure, community facilities, broadband, electric, housing, renewable energy and capital for businesses.



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## About the National Association of Counties

The National Association of Counties (NACo) assists America's counties in pursuing excellence in public service by advancing sound public policy, promoting peer learning and accountability, fostering intergovernmental and public-private collaboration, and providing value-added services to save counties and taxpayers money.

Founded in 1935, NACo provides the elected and appointed leaders from the nation's 3,068 counties with the knowledge, skills, and tools necessary to provide fiscally responsible, quality-driven, and results oriented policies and services for healthy, vibrant, safe, and fiscally resilient counties.



## NACo Fall Board of Directors

By: **Grant Veeder**

NACo Board of Directors Iowa  
Representative, Black Hawk  
County Auditor



I attended the NACo Fall Board of Directors meeting in Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee, on December 7 - 8, 2012. The conference was chaired by President Chris Rodgers of Douglas County, Nebraska. It was also the first meeting of the board since the administrative reins of the organization were handed to Executive Director Matt Chase.

Matt asked for our indulgence as he spent time to clearly enunciate his vision. His experience on Capitol Hill is well in evidence. He urges that we "microtarget" our message to key decision-makers. He believes that only four to eight members of Congress are making the decision on any given issue, so why not be more efficient with our resources? Matt suggests that while we are meeting in Washington, D.C. at our legislative conference we should work together on how we can make our issues win/win situations for the legislators we visit. What can *we* do for *them*? We always want to be at the table, but we should be coming to the table with problems *and* solutions. Noting that "we lack the data and tools to articulate the message," Matt said that staff will work on having better contacts, more data, and specific language on legislation.

More generally speaking, Matt said, "The status quo isn't an option. We have to lead change." He said that in addition to focusing on the White House and the Congress, NACo must engage the business community, the media and the public in telling the county story.

Matt got us personally involved with various topical issues like the Fiscal Cliff, immigration and elections by means of an electronic polling session, which was followed up by panel discussions where we discussed our answers, which we had individually recorded with clever little remote units. We did a pretty good job of illustrating the dilemmas faced by our much-abused leaders in Washington: One of the top selections for addressing our financial difficulties was "closing tax loopholes," but when asked about specific loopholes, a majority of respondents opposed removing or reducing mortgage interest deductions, property tax deductibility or tax-exempt municipal bonds. "...Tax that fellow behind the tree," as Russell Long would have said.

Paul Stebbins, Chairman and CEO of World Fuel Services Corporation and a member of the CEO Council of the Campaign to Fix the Debt, gave a forceful and compelling presentation on the dangers of our out-of-control debt. He worries that our economy has fallen to 24% of the world economy after being 50% at the end of World War II (when, you may recall, many

countries' economies revolved around bombed-out factories and refugee camps). He says that we spend more than any country in the world on our health care, which will comprise 33% of our budget in 2020, and you can't credibly project power with a weak economic base. He said the discussion needs to be elevated out of partisanship, so that we can remove loopholes and lower the corporate tax rate, which is the highest in the world. He says corporations are sitting on their cash because they have no clue what Washington is going to do about taxes, spending, and regulation. If I sound vaguely skeptical it's because Mr. Stebbins appears to see the whole situation from the supply-side point of view, and I think a number of points of view should carry weight in the discussion. We ask our poor people to join the army and be patriots. Can't the corporations be at least patriotic enough to invest a little bit of the money they're sitting on in jobs instead of tax-sheltered financial instruments, if that's what it takes to stimulate the economy and generate the tax revenue needed to address the debt without raising taxes? Well, I'm clearly out of my league here, and I'll leave things to the Great Minds. My main takeaway from the presentation was my inference that property taxes are not the problem.

The board was treated to a tour of Elvis Presley's Graceland. The King's eclectic tastes never fail to astonish. His hallway lined with gold and platinum records is especially impressive to those of us too young to remember him well. (Author's note: A record is a vinyl disc upon which sounds are captured by means of wax.)

NACo is working on providing another health benefit to counties. Discounts for medical services like vision/eyeglasses, diabetic services, hearing aids, lab/imaging and others would probably be tied into the Dental Discount Program, or both programs might be added to the Prescription Discount Card Program.

Although under our rules and/or guidelines campaigning couldn't technically begin until January, candidates for NACo second vice president started to show themselves. Material was distributed on behalf of Stan Batemon, County Commissioner from St. Clair County, Alabama; Sallie Clark, County Commissioner from El Paso County, Colorado; and Tim Josi, County Commissioner from Tillamook County, Oregon.

Continues on page 16.

## NACo news

### NACo, Nationwide Announce 8th Annual Scholarship

This spring, four high school seniors will earn \$2,000 for college from the NACo-Nationwide Scholarship. Winning applicants will have written a short essay describing why it's important for a public sector employee to start saving early for retirement.

To be eligible, applicants must be graduating high school seniors who are legal U.S. residents, and their parent, grandparent or guardians must be enrolled in and contributing to a NACo 457 Deferred Compensation Program plan. In addition, the student must enroll in a full-time undergraduate course of study no later than the fall term of the 2013–2014 school year at an accredited two- or four-year college. Application and entry may be submitted online no later than March 3.

This is the eighth year that Nationwide and NACo have teamed up to encourage high school seniors to think about retirement.

Why spur students who haven't even started full-time work to think about retirement? Three reasons — by applying for the scholarship the students:

- must consider the financial impact of their decisions about college and their career and realize it is never too soon to start thinking about saving for retirement;
- begin to recognize the advantage of having a plan and implementing it sooner rather than later; and
- identify specific actions that help prepare for a financially successful future.

The NACo-Nationwide Scholarship is just one of the services arising out of a 33-year relationship between Nationwide and NACo. As provider of the NACo Deferred Compensation Program, Nationwide regularly reports to the NACo Deferred Compensation Advisory Committee on industry trends, updates statistics on the program and provides ongoing education on retirement issues. Together NACo and Nationwide look for ways to help county employees better prepare for their retirement.

#### For More Information about the Scholarship

All of the information about eligibility, judging criteria and notification process are on the NACo and Nationwide websites. For more information, go to [www.naco.org/retirementscholarship](http://www.naco.org/retirementscholarship) or [www.nrsforu.com/scholarship](http://www.nrsforu.com/scholarship).

## NACo news

Continued from page 15.

The board approved sites for the annual conferences from 2016 to 2018. With those sites chosen, the conferences for the next six years will be held at the following locations:

- 2013 – Ft. Worth (Tarrant County), TX
- 2014 – New Orleans (Orleans Parish), LA
- 2015 – Charlotte (Mecklenburg County), NC
- 2016 – Long Beach (Los Angeles County), CA
- 2017 – Columbus (Franklin County), OH
- 2018 – Nashville (Davidson County), TN

### REMEMBER TO REGISTER FOR THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE!

We want Linda Langston's inaugural ball to be an event long remembered by many Iowa county officials.

## NACo Recommendations to Curb Violence

NACo First Vice President Linda Langston, Linn County Supervisor, joined President Obama during the January 16 White House unveiling of comprehensive proposals to reduce violence in American communities.

As part of his package of legislative proposals and 23 executive actions, the president included a recommendation from NACo and the National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors (NACBHDD) calling for full parity and integration of behavioral health and medical care.

During the nationally televised event, the president announced that the administration will expedite defining essential health benefit categories, including mental health and substance abuse services that existing and new health plans must offer as required under the Affordable Care Act. NACo supports that effort, as well as his intention to make clear to state health officials that expanded Medicaid coverage plans must comply with mental health parity requirements.

NACo has long supported these and other steps that Congress and the administration should take to help prevent future violence in communities. Those steps, including enhancements to behavioral health services, youth development, inmate reentry and the criminal justice system, were all shared last week with Vice President Joe Biden who led a fast-track high-profile review of comprehensive proposals to curb violence in communities in the wake of the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy.

Representing NACo during the January 9 conference call with Vice President Biden were President Chris Rodgers, commissioner, Douglas County, and Langston.

Rodgers and Langston said county governments play a critical role in behavioral health, juvenile justice and the criminal justice system. During the call with the vice president, they detailed several ways the current systems and processes can be improved, and offered specific executive and legislative actions that can be taken to avert future violence in communities.

One of the key actions outlined by President Rodgers would be to harmonize federal regulations so that eligible individuals who are in custody, but not yet convicted, can maintain federal health insurance coverage and benefits.

“Disjointed federal and state policies that cut off benefits for some who enter county jails can cause dangerous gaps

in coverage – particularly prescription drug coverage and behavioral health and substance use treatment – for those who need it,” Rodgers said. “These short-sighted regulations make encounters with the justice system far more likely to send troubled individuals through the revolving door of the system, rather than a gateway to recovery and health.”

Rodgers and Langston also discussed how amending the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act to cover behavioral health providers would improve the ability of county behavioral health and substance use treatment providers to coordinate care for their clients. The HITECH Act, enacted in 2009 as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), gives incentive payments to health care providers to implement electronic health records (EHRs), in order to improve care coordination among providers and thereby improve quality and drive down costs due to unnecessary tests and treatments.

Unfortunately, Rodgers and Langston said, behavioral health providers were not included in the law which means that medical care providers will not be able to share their patients’ records with their mental health providers with the same efficiency.

“County behavioral health providers play a crucial role in the public health system and that excluding them from the HITECH Act incentives undermines the goal of greater integration of behavioral health into the health care system,” Langston said. “As this discussion moves forward, NACo will continue to be engaged in the dialogue and offer ideas to build a more integrated public health and mental health systems, a smarter justice and corrections system and safer more resilient families and communities.”

Across the country, counties own and operate 750 behavioral health authorities and 2,920 jails with more than 13 million admissions and releases each year.

“As this discussion moves forward, and with Congress expected to debate many of the president’s legislative recommendations over the next year, NACo will continue to be engaged in the dialogue and offer ideas to build more integrated and efficient public health, criminal justice, juvenile justice and mental health systems,” Rodgers said.



## about the cover

### Keep Iowa Beautiful Photography Contest

Keep Iowa Beautiful (KIB) is pleased to announce the winners of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Keep Iowa Beautiful Photography Contest aimed at raising awareness of Iowa's natural and environmental beauty. KIB wants to learn what resonates with Iowans based on the photographs they share through this semi-annual photography contest.

**First Place:** Adam Olson. Photo: "Sculpted by Glaciers" taken in Madison County (Cover Photo)

**Second Place:** Eric Dorondo from Glidden. Photo: "Sunset" taken North of Glidden, IA.

**Honorable Mention:** Renae Franzen from Fort Atkinson. Photo: taken Northwest of Eldora along the Turkey River.

Cash awards were presented to the first and second place winners and their photos will be featured on the KIB website: [www.KeepIowaBeautiful.com](http://www.KeepIowaBeautiful.com).

"This is a great way for Iowans to share what they like about

our state," said Kevin Techau, Chairman of KIB's Board of Directors. "This photo contest offers both amateur and experienced photographers an opportunity to tell Iowa's story in a fun, engaging way."

The next deadline is April 19, 2013, and entries must be submitted electronically. The entry fee is \$5 per entry and all entry fees will go toward contest cash awards and to support KIB's programs and services to Iowa communities. Entry guidelines and rules are available at [www.KeepIowaBeautiful.com/kib-photography-contest.cfm](http://www.KeepIowaBeautiful.com/kib-photography-contest.cfm).

Keep Iowa Beautiful's mission is to empower Iowans to make Iowa the cleanest and most attractive state in the nation. By working directly with Iowa communities, corporations and private citizens, KIB is building new citizen pride in caring for Iowa.

## legal briefs

Continued from page 4.

As always, but particularly in this case of the yet untested gender balance statute, the best advice I can give you is to talk to your county attorney and follow their guidance. If a situation in your county was to lead to litigation, you want to get him or her and their advice involved from the start. I do believe this statute will eventually be tested in court and I wouldn't want your county to become the test case because you didn't consult with your county attorney prior to taking action on an appointment.

## capitol comments

Continued from page 5.

Lastly, the state continues to send dual messages regarding whether the intent of redesign is to provide more services to more people or to contain the costs of the current system. Until the state legislature is willing to determine how much state funding they will commit to providing non-Medicaid services, the county/regions will be caught between a rock and a hard place. The property tax investment in services is a finite sum; the legislature has shown no interest in increasing this amount. Therefore, the state needs to take a step back and determine what they are willing to invest and what that will buy. As it stands now, the state has outlined the services that they want and set them out as mandates, but not committed the state funding necessary to ensure that the county/regions can afford those services.

# SAVE ~~THE~~ DATE!

## 2013 Iowa Employment, Training, Benefits & Wellness Conference

Wednesday, April 24 & Thursday, April 25  
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**Tuition: One Day: \$125/person; Day-and-a-Half, \$175/per person**

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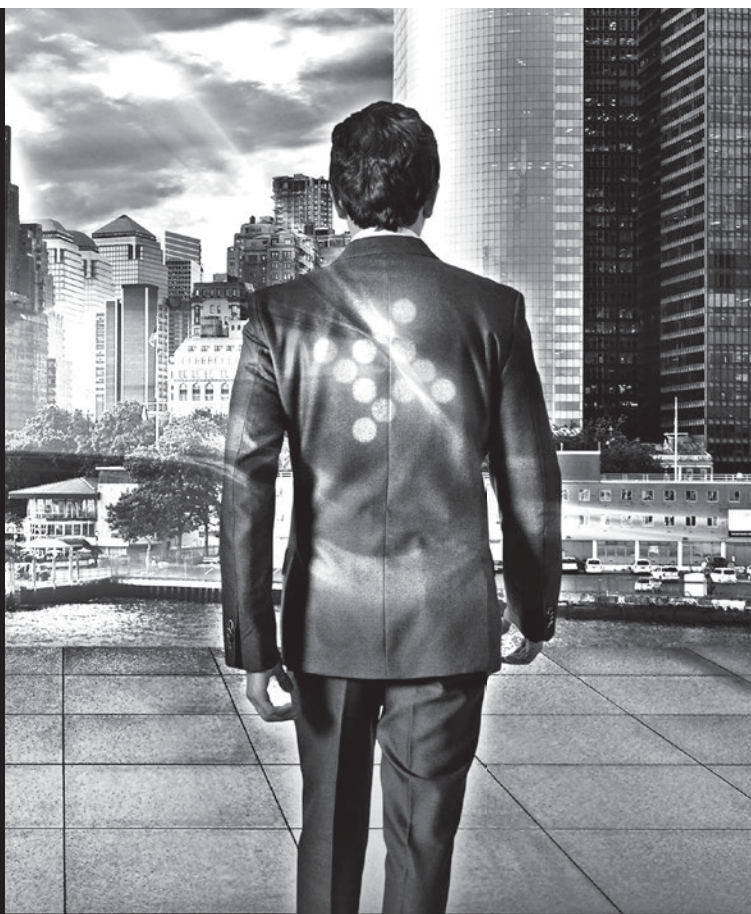
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# 2013 calendar

## February 2013

- 6 Statewide Supervisors Meeting  
(Courtyard by Marriott, Ankeny)
- 7 ISAC Executive Board Meeting  
(ISAC Office, West Des Moines)
- 21 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting  
(ISAC Office, West Des Moines)
- 27-28 CCMS Fundamentals Training  
(Courtyard by Marriott, Ankeny)

## March 2013

- 2-6 NACo Legislative Conference  
(Washington, D.C.)
- 13 County Day at the Capitol  
(State Capitol, Des Moines)
- 14-15 ISAC Spring School of Instruction  
(Des Moines Marriott Downtown)

## April 2013

- 9 CCMS Administrators Meeting  
(Hilton Garden Inn, Johnston)
- 21-25 NACE Annual Conference  
(Des Moines)

## May 2013

- 2 CCMS Advanced Case Management Meeting  
(Stoney Creek Inn, Johnston)
- 9 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting  
(ISAC Office, West Des Moines)

## June 2013

- 6 CCMS Supervisors Meeting  
(Hilton Garden Inn, Johnston)
- 12-14 ICIT Mid-Year Conference  
(West Des Moines Marriott)
- 19-20 CCMS Fundamentals Training  
(Courtyard by Marriott, Ankeny)

## July 2013

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

## August 2013

- 15-16 ISAC LPC Retreat  
(Hilton Garden Inn, Johnston)
- 22 ISAC Scholarship Golf Fundraiser  
(Otter Creek Golf Course, Ankeny)

## September 2013

- 11-12 ISAC Board of Directors Retreat  
(Plymouth County)
- 26 ISAC LPC Meeting  
(ISAC Office, West Des Moines)

## October 2013

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

## November 2013

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

## December 2013

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

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

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