

The Iowa County

Iowa State Association of Counties



May 2011

Spring School a Success
2011 ISAC Legislative District Meetings





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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.

capitol comments

ISAC Sets Legislative District Meetings Schedule

By: **Linda Hinton**

ISAC Government
Relations Manager



After a one-year experiment using a webinar format to update county officials on the happenings of the legislative session, ISAC staff will once again be traveling to the six ISAC districts to provide county officials with a summary of the legislation that passed during the last session. Registration for the ISAC Legislative District Meetings is currently available online. The pre-registration fee is \$50 and registration is \$60 at the door. Morning refreshments and lunch are included in the registration fee, as well as a copy of the 2011 ISAC Summary of Legislation. We are hoping that the Legislature will have adjourned for the year and that the summary book will be finalized by the first meeting on June 8. Please see full schedule below.

Each meeting will open with a general session at 9:30 am. After the district completes its business, ISAC policy staff will review the past session. We have invited the Secretary of State's office to provide an update on the redistricting process as well. The General Session will conclude at 11:30 am for lunch. In response to input from members over the years, we have added to the affiliate time. Those meetings will be held from 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm.

The tour of the state will begin with District 5 on June 8 in Ottumwa at the Bridge View Center. This is a new venue for ISAC meetings. The next day, June 9, the District 4 meeting

will be held at Southwestern Community College in Creston. The first week will conclude in District 6. This meeting will be held at The Hotel at Kirkwood Center.

The second half of the meetings will begin with District 2 in Mason City on June 22. That meeting will be held at the Clarion Inn. Wednesday evening will be the only overnight for the ISAC traveling troupe. We will travel to Spencer and stay in order to be at the Clay County Regional Events Center on Thursday, June 23, for the District 3 meeting. The final meeting, District 1, will be in Johnston at the Stoney Creek Inn and Conference Center on June 24.

Once the district meetings are over, ISAC policy staff will begin the process of developing ISAC's 2012 legislative objectives and policy statements. ISAC members are encouraged to fill out the legislative request form to propose objectives for the ISAC Legislative Policy Committee (LPC) to consider. It is best if these proposals are forwarded to your affiliate to review during their legislative process. This helps to ensure that the proposed ideas are properly vetted prior to consideration by the LPC. The LPC members, minutes and more committee information can be found on the ISAC website, www.iowacounties.org. The legislative request form is available on the next two pages or on the ISAC website.

2011 ISAC Legislative District Meetings

Wednesday, June 8

District 5
Bridge View Center
102 Church Street, Ottumwa, IA 52501
**Registration deadline 4:30 pm, May 31.*

Thursday, June 9

District 4
Southwestern Community College
1501 West Towline Street, Creston, IA 50801
**Registration deadline 4:30 pm, May 31.*

Friday, June 10

District 6
The Hotel at Kirkwood Center
Kirkwood Community College, 7725 Kirkwood Boulevard, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404
**Registration deadline 4:30 pm, May 31.*

Wednesday, June 22

District 2
Clarion Inn Mason City
2101 4th Street Southwest, Mason City, IA 50401
**Registration deadline 4:30 pm, June 14.*

Thursday, June 23

District 3
Clay County Regional Events Center
800 West 18th Street, Spencer, IA 51301
**Registration deadline 4:30 pm, June 14.*

Friday, June 24

District 1
Stoney Creek Inn
5291 Stoney Creek Court, Johnston, IA 50131
**Registration deadline 4:30 pm, June 14.*



Please fill out the form as completely as possible

Date of Submission:

1. Title:
2. Describe the problem.
3. History of the problem.
4. Why does the problem need legislative resolution?
5. What is the suggested solution? Please include code references.
6. Who will support the legislation? Who will oppose it?



Legislative Request Form

7. Has this legislation had previous introductions? Have you discussed this issue with any legislator? If so, which ones? Will those legislators champion the bill?

8. Does this issue or problem have statewide effects and why?

9. What data needs to be collected to support the issue?

10. Contact Person

Name:

Office:

County:

Telephone:

E-Mail:

Please attach any helpful documentation and return either to your affiliate for consideration in their legislative process or to ISAC. If forwarding to ISAC please submit by August 1, 2011 to:

Linda Hinton, Government Relations Manager

Iowa State Association of Counties

501 SW 7th Street, Suite Q

Des Moines, IA 50309

or

lhinton@iowacounties.org

FASD a Possibility

By: Linda Kemp

ISAC County Case
Management Specialist



I recently reached a milestone in my employment with CCMS. As of March 5 I have been in this job for 10 years. Considering the fact that the majority of my time on the job and in the case management agencies has been with my nose in the client files, you know I have read a lot of files. There have been excellent successes and graduation from even needing case management. Individuals who, thanks to supports and services, are able to live with skills they have learned, lessons internalized, and be part of the community. Then there are those cases where no matter how wonderful the goals are written, or how many providers have tried their best, the client remains stuck with behaviors or choices that just don't make sense to everyone else. You know who I am talking about because every agency deals with them. Several years ago I listened to presentations about Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD). The effects of prenatal exposure to alcohol are wide ranging and can be overlooked as even being involved when other diagnoses are given.

I am not an expert on the subject of FASD. My intention here is to raise the possibility for some of the challenging individuals in the mental health system, both children and adults, who have found their way onto case management caseloads. The following is information from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and is available at www.samhsa.gov. I have pulled sections word for word from some of their publications.

Alcohol is a teratogen, a substance that can harm a fetus. When a pregnant woman drinks alcohol, it passes through her blood and enters the fetus through the placenta. Its harmful effects may be seen in virtually every part of the fetus, including the brain, face, heart, liver, kidneys, eyes, ears, and bones. These effects can affect a person's health for a lifetime.

FASD is an umbrella term describing the range of effects that can occur in an individual whose mother drank alcohol during pregnancy. These effects may include physical, mental, behavioral, and/or learning disabilities with possible lifelong implications. The term FASD is not a clinical diagnosis. It refers to conditions such as fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS), alcohol-related neurodevelopment disorder (ARND), and alcohol-related birth defects (ARBD). FAS includes a pattern of neurologic, behavioral, and cognitive deficits as well as specific facial features. ARND includes neurologic abnormalities such as problems with memory and motor skills. ARBD includes defects in the skeletal and major organ systems.

The effects of FASD vary widely from person to person. Difficulties in an individual's ability to succeed at home, school,

work, and in social situations may arise at different ages. Students with FASD may have many learning challenges, including:

- Visual and auditory processing problems;
- Difficulty with reading comprehension;
- Memory problems;
- Sensitivity to sensory input;
- Attention deficits;
- Problems with social behaviors;
- Problems following multiple directions or rules;
- Difficulty with math and abstract reasoning;
- Inability to understand cause and effect; and
- Difficulty organizing tasks and materials.

Due to auditory processing problems, these students may not respond to traditional teaching methods, such as lectures. They may "melt down" due to sensory overload and may fidget a lot. They may struggle in math class. Most do not learn from punishment because they cannot generalize rules. In addition, many have impulse control problems. Children with FASD typically lack social skills, such as listening, asking for help, waiting their turn and sharing.

How can we help students with FASD? Every child is different, and much of what works with students with FASD may be learned through trial and error. Here are some general tips for working with students with FASD:

- 1. Use literal terms.** Avoid words with double meanings, slang, and idioms. Do not use metaphors and similes.
- 2. Be consistent.** Use the same words for key phrases and oral directions.
- 3. Repeat, repeat, repeat.** You may need to re-teach information multiple times.
- 4. Follow a routine.** Routines help students with FASD know what to expect and decrease their anxiety.
- 5. Keep it simple.** Students with FASD learn better in a simple environment with few distractions. One-on-one or small groups work best when possible.
- 6. Be specific.** Say exactly what you mean. Give directions step by step. Break large tasks into smaller tasks. Use pictures, charts, or other visual aids. Show the student what to do.
- 7. Provide structure.** Structure helps students with FASD make sense of their world.
- 8. Supervise.** Students with FASD can be naïve and gullible and lack social skills. They need constant supervision to develop patterns of appropriate behavior.

Continues on page 16.

Everything Old is New Again

By: Robin Harlow

ISAC Technology Project
Manager



The title of this month's column comes from a song by Peter Allen (Australian songwriter) who wrote:
Don't throw the pa-ast away
You might need it some rainy day
Dreams can come true again
When everything old is new again

I am currently about half way through James Gleick's new book "The INFORMATION: A History; A Theory; A Flood." The book is a fascinating review and discussion of what information is, the information innovators, and how information is impacting our daily lives. I highly recommend the book for those that enjoy both history and technology. The book makes you understand our place in the information movement and from a historical perspective, maybe things do not move quite as fast as we think.

Gleick notes that mankind has been transmitting information long before invention/discovery of paper, wires or signals. His chapter on "Drums That Talk," is a case of listening but not hearing the message. Early European explorers of Africa would hear the drums and assume that coded beats were being transmitted. The explorer's assumed that that the receiver had to de-code the message. In fact the European explorers were missing the fact that the drums were actually speaking a language that most locals learned from a young age. The drum's sound would carry for about seven miles and then be relayed whenever needed. Messages could literally travel hundreds of miles a day. These ancient drums were far out pacing any communication process in Europe in that time period.

The book discusses the earliest workings and struggles of the telegraph and telephone systems. Mid-19th century scientists were just coming to grips with the workings of electricity. It was easy for academics during this period to draw a relationship between how the nerves worked in the body and the new technology of the telegraph. The telegraph used electricity to relay messages the same as the body's nerves. Media was just as eager for sound bites in 1850 as they are today and quickly label this new technology the "Nervous System for the Earth."

I found it somewhat interesting that newspapers were early, large users of the telegraph. As Gleick states, "Some were concerned that the telegraph would be death of newspapers." The telegraphs actually helped newspapers to grow and many even changed their

names to "Telegraph" to reflect the embrace of the technology. Any story "Communicated by Electric Telegraph" in the byline had to be worth reading.

Gleick tells an 1846 story about clerks working in Jersey City and their purpose of relaying telegraph messages originating in Baltimore and Washington. Because insulated waterproof wiring wasn't invented yet, the clerks would take the telegraphed messages and hop on a ferry to cross the Hudson to deliver the messages destined for New York City. This reminded me of "sneaker-nets." In the non-networked world of the 80's, there was a time where we would copy a computer file to a "floppy" and in our 'sneakers' run it to another computer or office, or remote location. In both cases, the need to move the new technology spurred the need for solutions completing the new "network."

Today we take the concept of time and place as a given. My smartphone can tell me the current weather anywhere in the world. Gleick describes how weather reports from across England led to the development of weather forecasts in 1854. Not that the weather forecast today are any more accurate than they were in 1854, but the concept of understanding that observing weather in multiple locations at once demonstrated that weather was more complex and structured than a local rain storm.

This observation that not all things are local became what Gleick describes as a transformative idea. Our ability to know about any major event practically anywhere in the world is common place for us. But in the 1850's it was revolutionary. This revolution led to the ability to sync movement of goods, information and people. In their 1850 world people could now coordinate the arrival of meeting someone at a train station or place "online" orders via the telegraph with the demand to send goods by a deadline or not to send them at all.

The book describes how abbreviations were used to reduce the cost of the transmitting messages. Newspapers could transmit "baal" instead of "The flour market transactions are smaller than yesterday." This saved them money, we use abbreviations in texting because it saves us time and energy. So those new-fangled texting lingoos the kids are using today are but a re-treaded relic from the past.

Continues on next page.

iPad 2

By: Tammy Norman

ISAC Office Manager



Q: Please explain the differences between the iPad and the iPad 2 and your opinion on which I should purchase?

A: The iPad 2 is the upgrade to the original iPad and though it has some new features and enhancements, it is ultimately very much the same. To aid you in your decision making, I will outline a few of the features and costs. Keep in mind when considering the two, what do you plan on using the iPad for, and what is your budget?

Features and Costs

The features of the iPad 2 are not very different than the original, which is disappointing to many that were awaiting this latest version; however, there are a few distinct differences and enhancements. If you enjoy using Apple's FaceTime or Skype, you will like the two new cameras that are featured in the iPad 2. These new cameras will enable you to do video calling with the iPad 2. Also, the iPad 2 is lighter weight and thinner. The iPad 2 does feature a faster dual-core processor and upgraded graphics which are reflected in the speed of the applications that you use.

Things that have not changed, however, are the resolution and display; the iPad 2 contains the same as the iPad. The iPad 2 contains the same ebook reader as the original. You are able

to out video to an HDTV with both the iPad and the iPad 2, though the iPad 2 enables you to output at 1080p and with the iPad you are limited to 720p. You will also be able to use most of the applications that are out there on either the original or the iPad 2.

The final consideration is cost. The iPad 2 is coming out at the same pricing as the original which is beginning at \$499 (WiFi Only) and \$629 (WiFi and 3G). You are able to choose from larger storage capacity which ultimately adds to the cost. You will find that the 32GB version will be more than enough for most end users and can be purchased for around \$730.00 (Wifi only). If you feel the features of the iPad 2 are not that amazing, you will be able to purchase the original iPad at lower costs (around \$100 less expensive than the newer version) without really missing out on the benefits and fun of the iPad adventure. Finally, if you have the fortitude to hold out, talk is already on the horizon of the "iPad 3" which will supposedly shatter the tablet world, only time, and patience, will tell.

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 at tnorman@iowacounties.org. Until next month, keep clicking!

Continued from page 8

It was with some amusement when I read about the concerns of parents in the late 19th century about how the telephone line was used for "flirtation purposes" or even that Plato feared that people would become 'forgetful' because writing (new technology) was supplanting oral traditions. Aldous Huxley once said, "the charm of history and its enigmatic lesson consist in the fact that, from age to age, nothing changes and yet everything is completely different."

If you are interested in understanding that the future is built on the debris of past failures and accomplishments, then James Gleick's "The INFORMATION: A History; A Theory; A Flood" is the book for you.

meetings

Spring School a Success - Your Feedback

ISAC would like to thank all of you who attended the 2011 ISAC Spring School of Instruction held in Des Moines on March 23 and 24. Over 750 county officials traveled to Des Moines for this year's spring school at the Des Moines Marriott Downtown and Renaissance Savery Hotel.

The exhibit hall was back this year on the first day of the conference. Three refreshments breaks were held throughout the day allowing members the opportunity to meet with various exhibitors about their products and services. Thank you to the 46 exhibitors that attended and supported the conference. An event of this scale would not be possible without the exhibitors. We also want to thank ISAC's conference sponsors: Platinum Sponsor – County Risk Management Services, Inc. representing ICAP and IMWCA; Gold Sponsors – Cott Systems, Inc. and DEVNET Incorporated; Silver Sponsors – Cost Advisory Services, Inc., Election Systems, and Software and TrueNorth Companies.

Due to the success of the Exhibitor Learning Center debut at the 2010 fall school, the following sessions were offered at the spring school: Host Your Data with Integrity™ - Online Solutions for Countywide Information Management by Midland GIS Solutions; Saving for Retirement with the NACo 457 Deferred Compensation Plan by Nationwide Retirement Solutions; and PaperLESS Solutions by "Solutions", Inc.

ISAC also hosted the following educational seminars on Wednesday morning: My Month of Eating Local - A Journey to the Heart of the American Dream by Rob Marqusee, Woodbury County Director of Rural Economic Development; Financial Needs of Iowa County Roads by Steve DeVries, ICEASB Executive Director; and Spending Taxpayer Dollars: Competitive Bidding and Requests for Proposals by Darin Raymond, Plymouth County Attorney.

During the ISAC Business Meeting and Awards Ceremony also held on Wednesday, the FY 2012 ISAC budget was approved by the membership, and Tarrant County Texas Judge and NACo President B. Glen Whitley gave the presentation, "County Government Works: An Initiative to Raise Awareness and Understanding of Counties."

During the awards ceremony portion, \$3,000 scholarships were awarded to the following eight outstanding high school students: Sara Waid, South Hamilton High School in Hamilton County; Cody Alan Sacquitne, Decorah High School in Decorah County; Luke Peterson, PAC High School in Pocahontas County; Ciara McCarty, Corning Community High School in Adams County; Brandon Honeyman, Muscatine

By: Stacy Horner

ISAC Meeting/Event Administrator



High School in Muscatine County; and Aaron Johnson, City High in Johnson County. Dillon Schmidt from West Lyon High School in Lyon County also received a \$2,000 scholarship from the Iowa Counties Information Technology Organization, and Stephanie Fisher from Clear Creek Amana High School in Johnson County received the past president's scholarship in the amount of \$3,000. Stephanie is pictured on the cover of this month's magazine receiving her award from ISAC President Marge Pitts. Scholarship eligibility is limited to children of county officials or county employees. ISAC scholarships are funded through the ISAC Education Foundation. Although not honored during the spring school, the following students will receive runner-up scholarships in the amount of \$1,500: Justin Hagedorn, Carlisle High School in Polk County; Anna Kollasch, Bishop Garrigan High School in Kossuth County; Emilee Berry, OABCIG High School in Ida County; Dray Carl, Corning Community High School in Adams County; Molly Thomas, Centerville High School in Appanoose County; and Bess Fevold, West High School in Johnson County.

Following an afternoon full of affiliate meetings, the ISAC Dance gave members the opportunity to socialize and enjoy music provided by Knight Life Productions. Morning refreshments were available for all affiliate groups meeting at both hotels Thursday morning. All day Thursday was dedicated to the affiliate groups. All registered conference attendees enjoyed a box lunch provided by ISAC. This time was spent networking with county officials from other affiliates.

We look forward to seeing everyone at ISAC's 2011 Fall School of Instruction being held November 16-18 at the Coralville Marriott Hotel and Conference Center. This will be our last conference held in Coralville. Planning is underway to host the 2012 fall school at the newly renovated Veteran's Memorial Auditorium of the Iowa Events Center, located right off of I-235 in Des Moines. Registration and conference hotel room blocks for the 2011 fall school will not open until late summer, so please do not make your reservations until conference details are announced this summer. We appreciate your assistance in this matter.

We greatly appreciated all the feedback that was given on our online post-conference survey. All feedback is taken into consideration when planning and making alterations to future conferences. Please contact me at shorner@iowacounties.org if you ever have any comments or suggestions regarding ISAC conferences and events.

Continues on next page.

Conference Feedback

Program changes that are made at past and future ISAC conferences are made in large part due to member feedback. All conference agendas are presented to and approved by the ISAC Board of Directors. We strive to provide our members with the most beneficial and cost effective conferences. I wanted to answer some questions and clear up some confusion out there among our members regarding feedback that was received in response to the 2011 spring school.

Conference Location

ISAC is comprised of 15 statewide associations or affiliate groups that range in various sizes. All 15 of these groups have the opportunity to meet during designated time set aside for affiliates during our two annual conferences, called “affiliate time.” Even though not all 15 affiliate groups usually meet at each conference we must be prepared if they all decide to meet. So, trying to find a conference location with 15 different rooms of various sizes to accommodate all of our affiliate group meetings is very challenging. Simply put, there are not a lot of properties in Iowa that meet this space requirement. When we do find a location to adequately accommodate all of our affiliate groups and members, we usually sign multi-year contracts with the property or properties to get the best possible room rental and sleeping room rates. It’s a lot easier to negotiate lower rates when you can guarantee a property more than one year of business. This in turn keeps your registration costs among the lowest for comparable conferences.

Annually, the spring school must be held in Des Moines because the Legislature is in session. A lot of our members take advantage of the spring school to visit the Capitol and meet with their legislators. We have more location flexibility for our fall conference. Our goal now, and in the past, is to sign contracts about three to five years in advance to get the best dates and rates for our conference attendees.

Conference Agenda

Member feedback and budgetary concerns was the reason behind changing the spring school format from a two-and-a-half day conference to a two-day conference. We received many requests to tighten up the spring school agenda, thus limiting the amount of time needed for travel and overnight accommodations. ISAC took these concerns to the ISAC Board of Directors and the Board agreed to adjust the conference agenda to address these concerns.

Since the conference is hosted by ISAC, the organization does provide a limited amount of conference-wide educational programming, by-laws required business and programming to allow our members to network with other affiliate groups. The majority of the conference is dedicated to affiliate time, which is planned by each individual affiliate group. ISAC is aware of how important affiliate time is to its members. Any agenda revisions made in the past two years have either increased and kept the amount

of affiliate time the same. For example at the 2011 spring school, ISAC provide affiliate groups with (an increased amount of) 11 hours of affiliate time, which was the same amount of time provided at the 2010 fall school. If you have specific concerns with your affiliate time programming, we suggest you contact your affiliate president. Each affiliate is responsible for planning their 11 hours of affiliate time.

Conference Sleeping Room Blocks

In the past, ISAC has received numerous and consistent complaints about not being able to reserve a sleeping room within the conference hotel blocks because it was full within hours or even minutes of opening. The problem was that certain counties were reserving a large amount of sleeping rooms within the conference block at one time. The county then decided not to use all of their rooms and canceled them right before the deadline. Unfortunately, these rooms then would go back into the hotel’s general block and were unavailable to our members at the reduced conference rate. By reserving and then cancelling large amounts of rooms, it didn’t give members who attended the conference the opportunity to stay at the conference hotels. These unused rooms also go against our attrition, which is a percentage ISAC must meet in the number of sleeping rooms actually used vs. the total number originally in the room block. Attrition is used to negotiate our sleeping room rates and the number of rooms available in our conference block.

In reaction to these complaints, we formed a new process in partnership with the Des Moines Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) and the Iowa Housing Bureau. This free service allows only registered conference attendees to reserve one hotel room at the ISAC rate in the conference hotels. We have been very pleased with the feedback that we have received since the inception of this process in August 2009.

After registering for the conference and reserving your sleeping room through the housing bureau, you receive an acknowledgement email stating your hotel location, room type/rate, arrival/departure date and credit card information. This hotel reservation acknowledgment from the Iowa Housing Bureau confirms your sleeping room for the conference. Closer to the conference date, the hotel (you selected and that is listed on your acknowledge email) will send you a hotel confirmation number. More or less, you are receiving two hotel confirmations; one from the housing bureau at the initial booking and one from the hotel prior to the conference date.

Thank you again for attending the conference and for all of your feedback. We look forward to continuing to offer our members the most beneficial conferences for the best cost possible.

ISAC brief

Welcome Ashley



Hello all, I am very happy to have the chance to take some time to officially introduce myself. My name is Ashley Moore, and I have been newly appointed to the Program Support Analyst position for the Community Service Network (CSN). My first day with ISAC was on April 11. Before I begin to share a bit about myself, I would like to first say that I am greatly looking

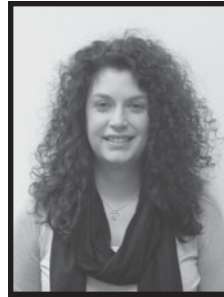
forward to the opportunity to work with all of you.

Like some of my fellow colleagues, I have taken quite a journey in order to find myself working here in Des Moines, Iowa. I am originally from a small town approximately half an hour north of Tampa, Florida. So, if by chance any of you see me wearing a sweater when by local standards, it's really not that cold, you now know why; my blood hasn't had the chance to properly thicken yet after a life in the Florida sunshine. I completed my education at the University of South Florida (USF) earning a Bachelors of Science in Management Information Systems in the spring of 2009. Before moving to Des Moines, I worked for nearly seven years at a Bay Area Golf and Country Club in which I held many roles ranging from membership services to company accounting.

Just three short weeks after graduating from USF I married my best friend, Kyle. In July of 2009, we started our Iowa adventure in order for Kyle to pursue a professional health care career. Upon moving here, I assumed a Technical Service Specialist position with Wells Fargo. While there I provided internal technical support to users needing resolutions to application inquires and issues. I also supported users in troubleshooting hardware issues and assisted in new hire training.

In our free time Kyle and I enjoy exploring this beautiful part of the country which is so new to us. During the part of the year when the weather is more compatible with our thin Florida blood, we spend most of our time outdoors taking photos, biking and running. Working with ISAC has become a new and exciting part of my journey, and its one that I am looking forward to immensely.

Welcome Gina



I am very excited for the opportunity to introduce myself to you all. My name is Gina Fontanini, and I am the new Program Support Coordinator for the Community Services Network (CSN). My first day of work was April 4, and I am so glad I have the opportunity to work with such wonderful people here at ISAC. I look forward to meeting all of you individually, face-

to-face or over the phone in the near future.

Prior to working at ISAC, I was an Information Specialist for the Iowa Secretary of State here in Des Moines. I worked with youth and people with disabilities on educating themselves about the democratic process. I was able to familiarize myself with the voting and legislative processes. This is where my passion for public service came to fruition. I was immediately entranced by what was happening at the Capitol during the legislative session, and I knew that I wanted to work to make a difference in the lives of the people of Iowa.

I grew up here in Des Moines, on the Southside. My parents own a restaurant where I have worked at least part time since I was 18 years old. I graduated from Dowling High School and went on to the University of Iowa. During my third year, I moved back to Des Moines and transferred to Drake University (Go Bulldogs!) where I graduated with my Bachelor's Degree in Sociology and Women's Studies. I am currently enrolled in Drake's Masters of Public Administration program and will graduate in December.

In my spare time I like to spend time with my many extended family members, friends, and my boyfriend. I have a very close extended family and some that aren't family, but I think of them as family. I like to run with my mom and sister. Last fall we completed our first half marathon together at Disney World, and we are hopefully going to try to do it again this year. When I am not busy with work, school, family or running, my time is occupied by my dog (or as I call him, my furry child). He is a 75 lb husky mix and is spoiled rotten. If you see me I am sure I have a picture of him on my phone if you would like to see him. I intend to work hard with the ISAC team members as well as the wonderful people connected with CSN.

NACo Legislative Conference, March 4-9, 2011

Several ISAC members and staff, including NACo Board members Judy Miller, Lu Barron and myself, attended the 2011 National Association of Counties (NACo) Legislative Conference at the Wardman Park Marriott Hotel in Washington, D.C. from March 4 to 9. We left the madness and confusion of the Iowa Legislature, where the two houses are ruled by opposing parties, and it seems like nothing can get accomplished. Imagine our surprise when we got to our nation's capital, and found out that the *very same situation* exists! The talk of the day in Washington City was whether or not the government would shut down, because the Congress couldn't agree on a budget. I bet if they had to conduct their meetings under the Iowa Open Meetings Law and approve a budget at a public hearing by March 15 they'd be done *tout de suite*, which is French for Don't Tread On Me.



Photo 1

But we Iowans had our own business to conduct. It is the responsibility of Iowa NACo members to help make Linn County Supervisor Linda Langston President of NACo! There has never been a NACo president from Iowa. The first step is to be elected Second Vice President, which is the office Linda is seeking at the election to be held in July at the Annual Conference. In Washington, Iowans and others tended a table at the conference hotel that offered information about Linda, Vote for Linda stickers, and tasty candy. The good news is that no one else filed to run by the deadline, although nominations from the floor are possible.

The conference had several interesting general session speakers, among them Admiral Mike Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who described his Sea of Goodwill project to support service members, veterans and their families by seek-

By: Grant Veeder

Black Hawk County Auditor and
ISAC NACo Board Representative



ing objectives for them in employment, education, and access to health care for life. Also speaking were Attorney General Eric Holder, HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan, Senator (and recent county official) Chris Coons of Delaware, and Joe Scarborough, the former congressman and host of MSNBC's "Morning Joe" program. Scarborough decried the lack of cooperation between the major parties that has allowed critical issues like the national deficit to worsen. He compared the current situation unfavorably to his time in Congress, which says a lot, considering that members were impeaching the president back then.

The Iowa delegation attended Senator Tom Harkin's weekly Iowa Breakfast at the Dirksen Senate Office Building on the morning of March 9, and visited in the offices Senator Grassley and Congressmen Braley, King, Latham and Loebsack. Our message to each revolved around the concern that Congress will try to solve the deficit by cutting only domestic, non-military discretionary programs, which take up only 8% or 10% or 14% of the budget. (You know how budgets end up being variously interpreted.) We noted that stimulus money and threatened programs like Community Development Block Grants have helped fight the unemployment that has put a drag on the recovery. We also stressed the urgent need for cooperation between Democrats and Republicans so that blah blah blah fill in the blank, and they all more or less agreed. Turns out that everyone is completely in favor of bipartisanship, at least the Iowans. Why can't other people be more like us?

Continues on next page.



Photo 2

NACo news

I have lately been appointed to the NACo Deferred Compensation Advisory Committee, which oversees NACo's partnership with Nationwide Retirement Solutions. I was initiated into the committee at the Legislative Conference, where they showed me the secret elbow handshake and the thing with the monkey skull. ISAC also endorses Nationwide's 457(b) plan, and if your county is looking for an outstanding provider of deferred compensation services to help your employees save for retirement, let me know.



Photo 3

As at the 2010 Annual Conference in Reno, a resolution was presented to all the steering committees Calling On Congress To Reduce Spending Enough To Balance the FY 2012 Federal Budget and Significantly Pay Down The National Debt. And as at the annual conference, the only steering committee that passed it on to the Board of Directors was mine, Finance and Intergovernmental Affairs, on a split vote. While some people

sniffed at this proposal as a Tea Party pipe dream, there is no question that our nation's huge deficit threatens our future prosperity. However, a balanced 2012 federal budget is unrealistic at this point, and insisting on one would be a rather brassy demand from an organization that expends a great deal of effort urging federal support, the green kind, for local government. My feeling, as I expressed it at the Board meeting, is that NACo should try to partner with the feds in exploring ways to reduce the deficit, rather than asking for money with one hand and shaking a fist with the other. (Well, I really didn't say the last part like that, but I wish I would have.)

In the end, the Board passed an alternative resolution offered by President Glen Whitley (whom you may recall from the ISAC spring school in Des Moines later in March), which pointed out that federal assistance to state and local governments will mitigate further layoffs and produce private sector jobs. These are benefits that can contribute to reducing the deficit and the debt, but if we want Washington to listen to us, we should be offering solutions (probably painful ones) that address the big picture.

There was more stuff, but it seems impractical to try to tell you everything. Make plans now to attend the annual conference in Portland, Oregon, July 15-19, so that you can support our own Linda Langston for NACo Second Vice President!

Photo 1: Humboldt County Supervisor and ISAC Board Member Harlan Hansen discusses issues with Senator Tom Harkin.

Photo 2: Story County Supervisor Wayne Clinton discusses county issues with Congressman Tom Latham.

Photo 3: Sioux County Supervisor Mark Sybesma (far right) voices county concerns to Senator Charles Grassley.

SAVE THE DATE!

The Seventh Annual **ISAC**  Scholarship Golf Fundraiser

September 21, 2011
Otter Creek Golf Course, Ankeny

Golfer and sponsor registration forms available this summer at www.iowacounties.org.

Hosted by the Iowa State Association of County Auditors and the Iowa State Association of County Supervisors



Making Medicare Make Sense

Q: What provisions of the Affordable Care Act does the new Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight (CCIIO) administer within the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)?

A: Recently, the Office of Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight, (OCIIO), which originally reported directly to the Department of Health and Human Services, was moved within our agency, CMS.

This new center within CMS, CCIIO is charged with helping implement many provisions of the Affordable Care Act, the historic health reform bill that was signed into law March 23, 2010. CCIIO oversees the implementation of the provisions related to private health insurance, while the rest of our agency oversees public health insurance programs, such as Medicare, Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program.

CCIIO's current areas of emphasis are:

- Ensuring compliance with new insurance market rules, such as the Patient's Bill of Rights;
- Helping states review unreasonable rate increases and overseeing new Medical Loss Ratio rules;
- Providing oversight for the State-Based Health Insurance Exchanges and compiling data for www.HealthCare.gov; and
- Administering the Consumer Assistance Program, Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan and Early Retiree Reinsurance Program.

Q: What is the Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan (PCIP) that is currently available either through your home state or the federal government 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?

A: People with pre-existing conditions face daunting challenges, and high costs, when they go shopping for health insurance. In most states, private health insurance companies can refuse to insure someone if they have a pre-existing condition.

PCIP is a new program created by the Affordable Care Act to help provide coverage for uninsured people with pre-existing conditions until new insurance market rules go into effect in 2014.

The Affordable Care Act helps uninsured people with pre-existing conditions get high quality care, at affordable prices, and get some control back over their own health care.

It does so in two ways. Starting in 2014, discrimination based on a pre-existing condition by an insurer will be prohibited in every state, and consumers will have access to affordable private health insurance choices through a new organization called an Exchange, a competitive marketplace for health plans.

Until then the Affordable Care Act establishes the PCIP as a transitional program to make health coverage available to consumers if they have faced barriers to private health insurance because of a pre-existing condition and have gone without coverage for at least six months.

The Affordable Care Act provides federal funding to support a PCIP in every state. The program may vary depending on which state you live in. Some states have requested that the federal government run their PCIP, which would be CMS in its operations with the Department of Health and Human Services. CMS is contracting with a national insurance plan to administer benefits in those states. A little more than half of the states have requested that they run the program themselves.

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.

The Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan:

- Covers a broad range of health benefits, including primary and specialty care, hospital care, and prescription drugs.
- Makes certain that all covered benefits are available for you, even if it's to treat a pre-existing condition.
- Doesn't charge you a higher premium just because of your medical condition.
- Doesn't base eligibility on income.

To find out about the PCIP details for your state, please check out this website <https://www.pcip.gov> and choose the topic at the top of the page, "Find Your State."

Continues on next page.

miscellaneous

You can also find out more about the Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan by calling: 1.866.717.5826 (TTY: 1.866.561.1604).

Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan regular hours of operation are Monday - Friday, 9:00 am to 10:00 pm.

Be careful though, you can only enroll in the PCIP by applying for coverage using the methods described on the website, or over the phone by calling, 1.866.717.5826. Do not respond to phony calls or letters asking you to enroll for a fee.

Once you apply and become eligible, we will mail you a letter that includes the amount of your monthly premium and instructions for making your first premium payment to complete your enrollment. You must pay your monthly premium to maintain that coverage.

CCMS

Continued from page 7.

How FASD Co-occur with Mental Illness

Prenatal alcohol exposure can cause behavioral, cognitive, and psychological problems. Signs and symptoms of FASD are similar to various mental health disorders. In many cases, the signs and symptoms of an FASD go unrecognized or are misdiagnosed as a mental illness or brain injury. Individuals with an FASD may also receive multiple diagnoses, such as attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder, oppositional defiant disorder, and anxiety disorder. Therefore, it is important to determine if the signs and symptoms are a result of prenatal alcohol exposure.

If an FASD is unrecognized, treatments may be ineffective. When the best possible diagnostic and treatment methods do not work, consider the possibility of an FASD.

Co-occurring disorders [mental illness and an FASD] among persons with an FASD may occur more often in those with a family history of mental health disorders. Some conditions such as schizophrenia, mood disorders, and ADHD, have genetic vulnerability. Because persons with an FASD are likely to have co-occurring conditions, getting an accurate diagnosis is critical.

The cognitive impairments in FASD can hinder the ability to succeed in treatment. Such impairments include:

- Difficulty following multiple directions at home, school, work, and treatment settings.
- Difficulty participating in treatment that requires receptive language skills, such as group therapy, 12-step programs and motivational interviewing.
- Difficulty processing information outside sessions and applying what they have learned (e.g., can recite rules but will repeatedly break them because they forget or cannot apply them).
- Tendency to process information very literally (e.g., told to “take a cab home,” one young man stole a cab).
- Difficulty grasping the concept of historic time and future time. Reward systems that involve earning points one week for rewards the next may be ineffective. Punishing people for things they did weeks ago may not produce positive change.

This is just a sample of the wealth of information out there on this topic. If any descriptions bring to mind someone you know, do further research. Discovering the right diagnosis can make a world of difference for a struggling individual and for the people trying to help. Treatment and approaches that actually work provide for positive outcomes!

Ten years and counting—I continue to enjoy the time I spend with my nose in your files. They are never boring! Thanks for letting me in.

U.S. Communities

By: Chris Mellis

U.S. Communities Program Manager

A Veritable Buffet of Procurement Options, Resources, and Savings for Your Agency

Save Time, Save Money, and Boost Your Revenue

Counties across America are reaping substantial savings, rebates, and efficiencies in their procurement processes through the national cooperative purchasing alliance, U.S. Communities.

Sponsored by ISAC and NACo, U.S. Communities administers contracts that have been competitively-solicited by lead public agencies on behalf of agencies across the nation. The end result is a combination of best supplier overall, government-priced products and services to choose from and huge savings on time and resources agencies would normally spend on their own solicitations. Types of goods and services offered under the contracts include office supplies, sports and athletic equipment, uniform and work apparel, janitorial supplies, technology services and equipment – even roofing supplies! Here’s a closer look at the contracts and what participating agencies stand to gain.

Rebate! Did Somebody Say, ‘Rebate’?

Yes. Agencies can optimize their purchasing power through various rebate incentives made possible through contracts administered by U.S. Communities. The Tech Depot, an Office Depot company, contract provides a useful example. Under this contract, which provides various technology services and equipment, participating agencies have access to rebates via one of, or all of three, purchasing incentives in a given year (see table below).

Jeff Wierenga, Senior Sales Manager with Tech Depot, says these kinds of rebates are very rare in the technology industry and are likely what makes the contract unique compared to others.

agency....through this contract we bring agencies the solutions and savings opportunities they need, including e-commerce options and free shipping.”

The Tech Depot contract isn’t the only one offering agencies more bang for their buck through rebate incentives. With Home Depot’s contract, agencies with purchases between \$25,000 and \$99,999 earn a rebate of 1%, while purchases of \$100,000 and over earn a 2% rebate. The BSN Sports/US Games contract delivers a 1% rebate on annual volume purchases of sports and athletic goods between \$100,000 and \$199,000 and up to a 3% rebate on annual volume purchases valued at \$300,000 or more.

Time (and Labor) Really is Money – Now Agencies Can Save More of Both

Rebates aside, another critical feature of U.S. Communities’ contracts is the savings on time and resources agencies would normally spend on procurements. Now agencies can take advantage of contracts that have already undergone a fair, transparent, and competitive solicitation process. They can save time, money, and labor for other critical areas of their business instead of tying up those resources in processing and preparing RFPs, bids, or bid reviews, and having to endure lengthy solicitation waiting periods.

Sharon Brause works in the purchasing division at the City of Chandler in Arizona and explains how her agency utilizes the Home Depot contract to optimize its procurement needs.

“We’ve utilized several contracts with U.S. Communities, but the specific one that I use is with Home Depot for general maintenance supplies and building materials. This contract is great for helping us fulfill the needs of our various city de-

“You could be a county, a non-profit, or a government

Continues on next page.

Type of Purchasing Incentive	Purchase Amount/Volume	Rebate
E-commerce Transactions	50% of Orders and 50% of Volume	0.5%
Annual Purchase Amount	Over \$2.5M / Over \$5M	0.5% / 1.0%
Individual Purchase Amount	Over \$2,500	0.25%

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miscellaneous

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partments because they [Home Depot] have such a wide variety of product.” Brause says. “By using this contract, we eliminate the cost of going out for a bid, reduce the lead-time it takes for us to obtain products, and receive an annual rebate back to the City. We’re also part of a larger buying group and typically receive a discounted price because of the volume expenditures that the contract provides. I think it also helps that we have a great partnership with our local Home Depot Pro Account Manager as well!”

In some cases, the contracts even allow agencies to do some one-stop shopping. “Typically an agency will get a different contract for lumber, another for paint, or possibly turnkey la-

bor etc. [for a particular job],” explains Keith Vos, Director of National Sales/Renovation Services at Home Depot. “With U.S. Communities, all material and labor can all be included under one contract.”

Get in On the Savings and Benefits!

Thousands of agencies have similar stories to share like the ones here. Isn’t it time you looked at other ways to optimize your procurement program, find more savings, and add more revenue to your bottom line? Visit www.uscommunities.org today for more information.

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2011 calendar

May 2011

- 5 CCMS Advanced Case Management
(Hilton Garden Inn, Urbandale)
- 6 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting
(ISAC Office, Des Moines)
- 18-20 County Zoning Officials Spring Conference
(Dubuque)
- 20 Community Services Statewide
Legislative Meeting
(Mary Greeley, Ames)

June 2011

- 2 CCMS Supervisors Training
(Hilton Garden Inn, Urbandale)
- 8 District 5 Legislative Meeting
(Bridge View Center, Ottumwa)
- 9 District 4 Legislative Meeting
(Southwestern Community College, Creston)
- 10 District 6 Legislative Meeting
(The Hotel at Kirkwood Center, Cedar Rapids)
- 15-16 CCMS Fundamentals Training
(Holiday Inn Airport, Des Moines)
- 15-17 ICIT Conference
(West Des Moines Marriott)
- 22 District 2 Legislative Meeting
(Clarion Inn, Mason City)
- 23 District 3 Legislative Meeting
(Clay County Regional Events Center, Spencer)
- 24 District 1 Legislative Meeting
(Stoney Creek Inn, Johnston)

July 2011

- 8 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting
(ISAC Office, Des Moines)
- 12 CCMS Administrators Meeting
(Stoney Creek Inn, Johnston)
- 15-19 NACo Annual Conference
(Portland, OR)
- 27-29 Iowa State Association of County
Auditors Conference
(Isle of Capri, Waterloo)

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)
- 10-12 CCMS Annual Conference
(Sheraton, 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)

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)
- 27-28 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting
(ISAC Office, Des Moines)

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, Des Moines)

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, 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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The Seventh Annual

ISAC



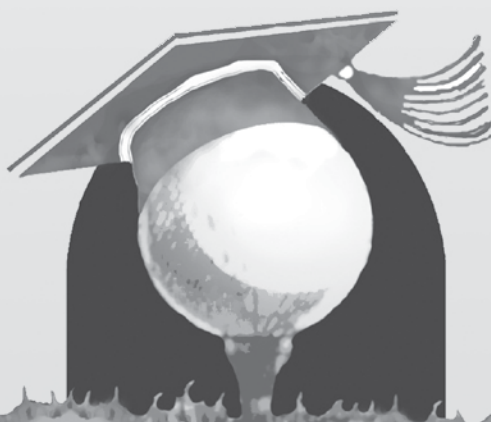
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