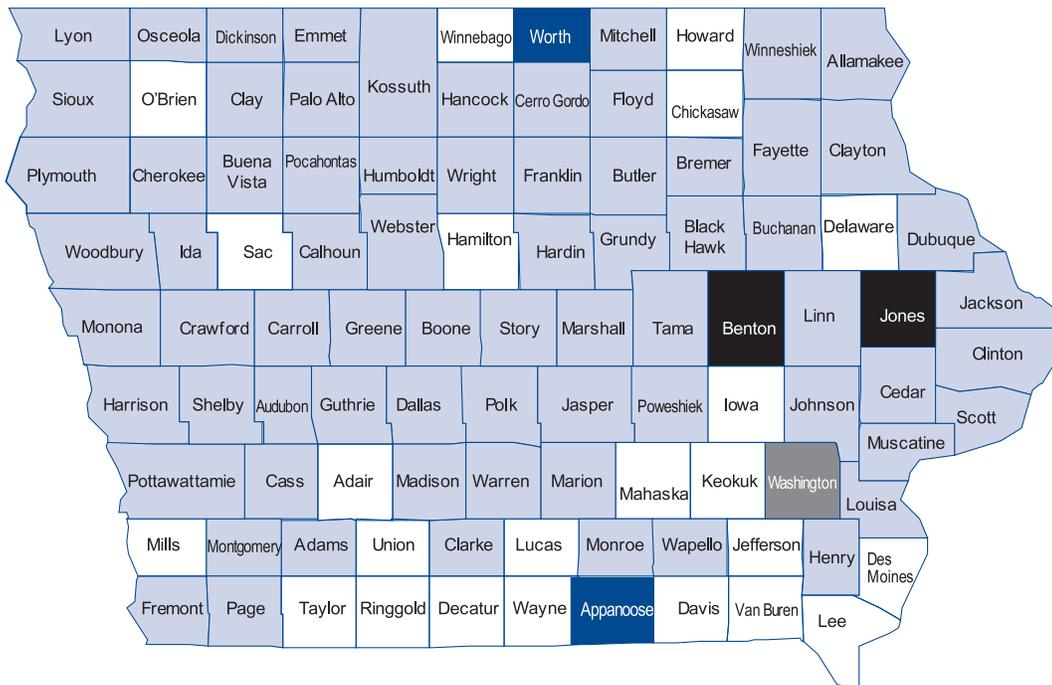


The Iowa County

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County Zoning in Iowa (2000)



CoZo: ISAC's 15th Affiliate

Cris Plocher Says Good-Bye

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The Iowa County

The official magazine of the
Iowa State Association of Counties
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ISAC members are elected and appointed county officials from all 99 counties. The Iowa County (ISSN 0892-3795) is published monthly by the Iowa State Association of Counties 701 E. Court Ave, Des Moines, IA 50309. Periodicals postage paid at Des Moines, IA 50318. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Iowa County, 701 E. Court Ave, Des Moines. Subscriptions: \$20 per year.

County Zoning Officials: ISAC's New Affiliate

On Thursday, November 15, 2001, county zoning officials were voted on by the general membership to become an established ISAC affiliate. The ISAC Board of Directors adopted an amendment to the ISAC Articles of Incorporation and directed that it be submitted to a vote during the business meeting at the ISAC Fall School. The effect of the amendment was to add the County Zoning Officials (CoZo) as an ISAC affiliate, making them ISAC's 15th affiliate. Larry Sundall, Emmet County Zoning Official and Veteran Affairs Director, is currently CoZo's president and was chosen to represent the CoZo affiliate on the ISAC Board of Directors. As an introduction, Larry answered a few questions about the CoZo affiliate.

How did the CoZo affiliate originate and why?

Sundall: CoZo originated in the early 90's when Phil Rovang, Scott County Zoning Administrator, hosted a conference for other county zoning officials. As a result of that meeting a County Zoning Officials Organization was formed. The purpose of the organization is to share information, discuss issues concerning zoning, and assist new zoning administrators in operation and procedures.

How long has the CoZo affiliate been an established organization (before becoming an ISAC affiliate)?

Sundall: CoZo has been an active organization for 10 years but has just adopted formal by laws in March of 2000.



How many active members do you have? Do you share members with other affiliates (engineers, etc.)?

Sundall: CoZo has 62 counties that have active memberships. County zoning officials very often wear other hats in county government. Some of the other job titles zoning people have are assessor, sanitarian, supervisor, engineer, environmental health, veteran affairs director, emergency management, information/technical support and GIS.

What are the main responsibilities of county zoning officials?

Sundall: Zoning officials are charged with carrying out the county zoning ordinance and subdivision regulations, while at the same time being charged with the preservation of prime

agricultural land. They work closely with individuals who do housing development, economic development, signing, industrial development and any other changes in a county so that they are done in a planned and orderly manner.



How do you think your organization will change after becoming an ISAC affiliate?

Sundall: We hope to give other county officials a better understanding of what zoning is and it's role in county government. We want to work through the ISAC process to make meaningful changes legislatively to improve the quality of life in the unincorporated areas of our counties.

What benefits will the county zoning officials bring to ISAC?

Sundall: Currently 74 counties have zoning and several others are considering it or are planning to adopt it. CoZo's goal is to have all counties understand the reasons for zoning and to work closely with those that are considering it and help those that adopt zoning get off to a positive start. We want zoning to have a positive impact in each county. ISAC gets a group of dedicated people that think the quality of life in rural Iowa is important. Expertise in conflict resolution, planning and zoning based off common sense are some of zoning officials strengths.

How will the county zoning officials affiliate benefit ISAC?

Sundall: Many issues before counties in the last 10 years have been tied back to zoning. Environmental, land use, annexation, and livestock confinements are just a few of the issues faced by counties. By working with ISAC and its members, we hope that we can bring an understanding of the issues and solutions to these problem areas.

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spring school

Assessors Agenda

Holiday Inn Airport, Des Moines, IA

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

5pm - 7pm Early Bird Registration (*Holiday Inn Airport*)

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

8am - 4:30pm ISAC Registration (*Holiday Inn Airport*)

9am - Noon Optional Affiliate Time

1pm - 3pm Section 42 Housing

3pm - 3:15pm **BREAK**

3:15pm - 4:30pm Assessing Billboards

6pm - 8:30pm President's Banquet

Thursday, March 21, 2002

7:30am - 4pm ISAC Registration (*Holiday Inn Airport*)

7:30am - 8:30am **Coffee & Rolls with Exhibitors**

8:15am - 10:30am ISAC General Session/Business Meeting

- Years of Service

- Scholarship Award

- Keynote Speaker

- Vote on ISAC Budget

10:30am - 10:45am **BREAK**

10:45am - Noon ISAC Seminars

Noon - 1:30pm **OPEN LUNCH**

1:30pm - 2:45pm How A Contractor Determines A Bid For A Residential Home

2:45pm - 3pm **BREAK**

3pm - 4pm Legislative Update

4pm - 5pm Ice Cream Social with Exhibitors

Keynote Speaker At Presidents Banquet

Gayle Becwar has been selected as the keynote speaker for the Spring School President's Banquet March 20, 2002. Gayle will have a funny, bizarre, innovative and magical performance. Growing up in a family of magicians, Gayle's first introduction to entertainment came as a child, performing with his family's traveling magic show. He recently taped for HBO's *Comic Relief* and for Showtime in their Funniest Man in America Contest. From comedy clubs, colleges, and state fairs to banquets, conventions and trade shows, Becwar's magic, mindreading and humor involves all types of people. Hy-Vee, Inc., in Waterloo, hired him for a performance in November and stated, "Very funny. Best entertainment we've had at a party. Good clean entertainment."

Affiliates At Four Points Sheraton

The recorders and engineers will be meeting at the Four Points Sheraton during ISAC's Spring School. The hotel has agreed to bill the county for hotel rooms, provided you supply them with a purchase order number. Counties are responsible for making their own hotel arrangements and a block of rooms has been made under the Iowa State Association of Counties. For reservations at the Four Points Sheraton call 515-287-6464.

Topics Detailed In January Issue of The Iowa County

Spring School Registration
Spring School Agenda

Advertise in the Spring School 2002 Program!

- ♦prices range from \$100-\$400
- ♦deadline is February 4, 2002

Sponsor an event at Spring School 2002!

- ♦prices range from \$500-\$2500
- ♦deadline is February 18, 2002

Call the ISAC office at 515-244-7181 or email dobrecht@iowacounties.org if interested. Visit ISAC's website at www.iowacounties.org under ISAC Highlights for further information on these two opportunities.

counties in the spotlight

The Adair County Courthouse participated in the annual "Christmas Tour of Trees" December 2, 2001. Adair County was celebrating their Sesquicentennial Anniversary this year and used a historical theme for the Christmas tour. Approximately 300 people participated in the tour and raised \$3,500 in proceeds, which went to the Adair County Memorial Hospital.



Supervisor John Van Vleet and his wife Linda and the "Glad Tidings Christmas Carolers".

around the statehouse

Social & Economic Issues of Water Quality

"Whiskey is for drinking. Water is for fighting about."
- Mark Twain

Midwest Conference of Counties

Last month, four of the ISAC staff attended the annual staff discussion hosted by the Midwest Conference of Counties (MCC). MCC is an organization of the county associations of midwestern states which was organized back in 1989. The active state associations are from Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Indiana, Nebraska and Iowa. Each summer MCC has produced a meeting designed for county officials from midwestern states and a different state hosts it each year. These have never been large meetings. They have been modest, with attendance from about 35 to 90 county officials and staff. The Iowa association hosted the 1996 meeting in Dubuque.

Each January since 1995, a small get-together takes place for association staff. These are usually held in Chicago, a convenient location for all of the active states. While they never consist of more than 25 to 30 staff members, they are valuable for trading ideas and obtaining some notion of what issues other Midwestern counties face. The topics of discussion at these staff retreats vary with the differing ways which local governments are organized and the different responsibilities, powers and relationships between counties and the state government.

Last year there was considerable discussion about proposals to change election law or voting machines in the wake of the controversy over the 2000 presidential election. This year the Wisconsin Counties Association led a discussion about siting cellular telephone towers. The Michigan Association of Counties explained their new prescription drug plan for county officials. The Michigan and Wisconsin staffs also talked about mental health funding, though their systems have not been as dependent upon property taxes as the Iowa system. We compared notes about the progress of so-called "electronic government" initiatives in these states. We touched on county public health responsibilities and the national nursing shortage.

The Topic of Water

In recent years, one topic which seems to gain increasing attention in all of these upper midwestern states is water. Surface water, groundwater, water quality, contamination, fish kills, drinking water, industrial and agricultural sources of pollutants, water runoff, soil conservation, flooding and flood control and arguments about access to river water. For some of these states there is a concern about the water quality of the Great Lakes. For others, like Iowa, a significant amount of attention has been given to the quality of drinking water. We were a leader in giving attention to this issue with enactment of the Iowa Groundwater Act in 1987. But within the Midwest Conference, we have county officials and those who work for county officials in a part of the nation where there has always been a readily available water sup-

By: Robert Mulqueen
ISAC Public Policy Analyst



ply concerned about water quality. (The availability of water – nationally and globally – and the increasing concern about a future of water scarcity is a topic for another column.)

Since passage of the Iowa Groundwater Act, a variety of legislative initiatives and administrative actions have had to do with increased attention to water quality. These include the Grants-to-Counties Program which transfers funds from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to county environmental health offices to pay for well testing and, more recently, the establishment of a state revolving fund to help with the cost of upgrading or replacing septic systems. Aging septic systems can be a significant source of effluent into streams and rivers.

Last spring the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship issued the report of the Iowa Watershed Task Force. This was a two year effort produced by that agency and with the participation of the personnel from nine other state and federal agencies and some 100 men and women who responded to the invitation to contribute their experience and expertise.

The Term Watershed

Why is this important? Isn't this going to be yet another official report which gathers dust on some bookcase? Let's hope not. This report is not some dry tome. It is but 48 pages in length and deals with water quality and much more. It has to do with the social and economic issues of water quality and water availability. It has to do with floods, dams, rehabilitation of flooded areas (remember 1993), soil quality and soil conservation, agriculture, erosion, the management of ecosystems and riparian areas (i.e. waterways of all types), wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation, climate change, drainage districts, the usefulness of geographic information systems, and a variety of related topics.

This research and report to the people of the state of Iowa is based on watersheds because this is what binds all of the items listed above together. Just what does this term mean? To quote the report, "A watershed is the land area that drains to a waterbody. That landscape affects the waterbody's flow, water levels, water quality and natural diversity. In both a real and figurative sense, a lake or river, a wetland, a floodplain, a farm, a city and even human beings are a reflection of their watershed and its health....Watersheds occur at multiple scales ranging from the largest river basins, such as the Mississippi River, to the watersheds of small streams or lakes that may measure only a few acres in size....Because watersheds are defined by natural hydrology, they represent the most logical basis for managing water resources." If you are interested in such dry subjects as your well being and that of your loved ones, you might obtain a copy of this modest report. It makes connections that you might not otherwise make.

Counties Need to Guard Against Negligent Hiring Claims

Hiring is no longer simply a matter of finding the best employee so that the courthouse runs efficiently. It is a new world out there, and one thing counties need to be concerned about is hiring someone whose misconduct gets the county in trouble.

In some situations courts have determined that an employer, either private sector or public sector, had an obligation to conduct a reasonable investigation into the applicant's background and employment history, particularly where the employee was going to have unsupervised contact with the public. Now under the legal doctrine of "negligent hiring," an employer can be held liable, even for the intentional acts of the employee, if it can be shown that the employer knew, or should have known, of the employee's dangerousness.

The first case on negligent hiring in Iowa was back in 1984. It involved a cable television installer that raped a woman in Council Bluffs. In that case, the Iowa Court of Appeals announced that it would follow the trend around the country and adopt the tort of negligent hiring.

It did not go into what an employer is required to do, but the clear implication is that the more contact the employee will have with the public, and especially vulnerable sections of the population like old people or children, the greater the duty to conduct a thorough background check.

In 1999, the Iowa Supreme Court addressed this issue in a case called *Godar v. Edwards*. That case involved sexual abuse of a Marion student by a school district employee. The student sued for, among other things, negligent hiring. The court found that the student had not proved the school district had been negligent. But nonetheless the Iowa Supreme Court did for the first time announce that negligent hiring is a recognized claim in Iowa.

Background Checks

What is a reasonable background check? At a minimum, you need to ask for references and then check them out. You should also ask all former employers whether they have any reason to question that the applicant is honest and reliable and whether the applicant has engaged in any violent or criminal conduct. You cannot ask any questions during background checks that you could not legally ask the applicant directly. You should have all applicants sign a release and hold harmless agreement that authorizes disclosures from past employers. Iowa law already immunizes past employers from liability for statements they make to potential employers, if made in good faith.

Criminal history information is available to you as a potential employer. The Iowa Department of Public Safety will do a check for \$13 per surname requested. For more information call (515) 281 5138. You have to have the applicant's name and date of birth. Get those separate from the application.

By: *David Vestal*
ISAC Deputy Director



Negligent Hiring Cases

There are some reported negligent hiring verdicts from around the country that should make you sit up and take notice. For instance:

- ◆ In a 1999 Massachusetts case, a company called Trusted Health Resources was hit with a \$26.5 million verdict when one of its home health care aides, hired without a background check, robbed and killed a quadriplegic. It turned out the aide had six prior larceny convictions.
- ◆ In a 1990 Texas case a nursing home was liable for \$235,000 for the negligent hiring of an unlicensed nurse with 56 prior criminal convictions.
- ◆ In a 1991 Florida case a furniture company was liable for \$2.5 million for negligent hiring of a deliveryman who savagely attacked a woman customer in her home.
- ◆ In a 1996 Illinois case a nursing home lost a \$2 million verdict for a sexual assault on a 92-year-old female resident by an employee hired without any screening.

Negligent hiring cases with \$1 million verdicts are not that uncommon. Not every county job involves unsupervised contact with the public. But there are also many county jobs where you have to be particularly careful to hire the right person. Like home health aides, park rangers, building inspector, or public health nurses. By law, a few county positions already require a background check but most do not.

Your county needs to decide when to use criminal background checks. On all applicants that are being seriously considered for employment? Only for those positions where there is unsupervised contact with the public? Establish a policy, stick with it, and document your efforts. The time and expense of doing criminal background checks is nothing compared to the cost of one judgment for negligent hiring.

To avoid a successful negligent hiring claim, your first line of defense is to weed out the bad apples during the hiring process. If you don't hire bad apples, and don't have them working for the county, then you are going to avoid negligent hiring claims in the first place. If you do make a mistake and hire a bad apple, and he assaults someone, your best defense is to have clear documentation showing you took the reasonable steps a prudent employer would be expected to take to check out an applicant's background before hiring him.

Parting Ponderable: Here are bloopers from actual church bulletins:

- ◆ Low Self-esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 to 8:30p.m. Please use the back door.
- ◆ The Rev. Merriwether spoke briefly, much to the delight of the audience.
- ◆ Potluck supper: prayer and medication to follow.

health check

Be Heart Healthy

February always gets us thinking of hearts, right? There are two issues that are very topical this month. One is to be kind to those around us – those we know and those we don't. The other is to be kind to ourselves. One of the best ways to be kind to yourself is to stay heart healthy.

Coronary heart disease is the single leading cause of death in America. It makes little distinction between male and female. There are things you can do to help you be heart healthy.

You are what you eat – A healthful eating plan is choosing the right foods to eat and trying to prepare them in a healthy way. This is a change of lifestyle but it doesn't have to be painful. Add some more fruits and vegetables to your meals. Try some new foods. Minimize the trips to the fast food stores.

Take a walk – Include in your daily routine something that gets your heart pumping. Try a fun activity that you will *want* to continue to do like a dancing class, biking, skiing, swimming, and many more. Be adventurous!

Quit smoking – I know that this is a monumental task, but please think seriously about removing this from your life. Several people that I know who have smoked for a very long time are trying the patch or other methods to eliminate this habit and are successful!

By: Sandy Longfellow
ISAC Benefits
Administrative Assistant



Know your health needs – If you are on medication, take it regularly. If you have an ongoing condition, manage it wisely. If you have questions, ask someone who will know the answer.

Enjoy your life – *This is very important.* It may mean making some very serious choices about what you do on a daily basis. What things are most important to you? Do you put those things first in your life? Is your job driving you crazy? Is it time to think about making some serious life changes? There are many techniques for managing stress, but sometimes a very serious look at our life and choosing to do the important things is what is necessary.

Research – Sometimes we need to dig a little deeper and find out information on issues that are important for our lives. There are many great websites that can provide this information. Do be careful to get legitimate sites such as national organizations. Information on heart health can be found at the American Heart Association site: www.americanheart.org

Happy American Heart Health Month!

technology center

Zipped Files



Q. I have received a file that has a .zip extension. What type of file is this and how can I open it to view the information?

A. A file that has a .zip extension has been “zipped” or compressed to save space. Zip files are “archives” that can contain one or more files. Zipping files are helpful in saving space when storing files on your computer or network. Zipped files are also able to be e-mailed in less time. When sending an e-mail to an associate and you have several related files to attach; it can be easier to just zip them into one zipped or compressed file. Another benefit is to archive or zip files that you do not wish to delete but use only infrequently, thus saving disk space.

You will need to keep in mind that to unzip or decompress files you need special software. You can go on-line to www.downloads.com and download the software program of your choice. The price of the software ranges from free to

By: Tammy Norman
ISAC Technical
Administrative Assistant



\$49. Most provide a free trial period to sample the software before actually purchasing. Once purchased, this software will enable you to zip and unzip files as needed. Well worth the cost of the software if storage is an issue.

Website Note

Now that the legislative session has begun, you can track legislative bills on-line. To retrieve the information from ISAC's website just type: <http://www.iowacounties.org/LegislativeInformation/dailybilllist.htm>. This will take you directly to the legislative bills tracking list. Featured on this page are the legislative bills that ISAC has registered a position on or is tracking. By clicking on the bill number you will be able to pull up the actual bill and view it. Please keep your questions and comments coming in. We look forward to hearing from you. Until next month, keep clicking!

Thanks for the Memories

This being my last article for ISAC, I was given more editorial rights to express my parting thoughts as I prepare to change my life significantly by moving with my husband and two dogs to northern California at the end of January. I thought it would be much simpler and more fun to write about my reflections as fiscal policy analyst for ISAC, rather than put forth another data packed chart.

First of all, nothing beats the experience of observing so closely (but close enough) the democratic process and the people involved in public service. Even with the human-nature problems and disagreements involved, I have to admire the perseverance, responsibility-to-the-people, and self-discipline seen in such a noble government system. I have confidence in our democratic republic that the challenges faced ahead this session and in the future will strive for our country's liberties and freedoms.

Secondly, it has been thoroughly interesting and satisfying to be involved in state and local government tax and finance issues. I am appreciative of the kind and quality of government services and products I see around me for which we pay to have in some degree and fashion. Being a property owner/taxpayer myself, I fully appreciate having the opportunity to incur debt so that we can afford to invest in a home, even though this means paying property taxes.

Finally, I can't help but think of the assignment Bill gave us all to do at a staff retreat a couple of years ago. He had us read the book "Who Moved My Cheese," watch and associate with the movie "Tin Cup," and also write in our hand-picked journal one negative and three positive things about our day, three times a week for six weeks. This turned out to be an introspective exercise for me that I pursued beyond my initial

By: Cris Plocher

Former ISAC Fiscal/ Policy Analyst



assignment. So, I'd like to take this opportunity to express some deep thoughts, which boil down to several sayings I attempt to live by no matter where I am.

- ◆ Cherish stability, but also seek improvement every day (not to be mistaken with *never satisfied*).
- ◆ Practice and tradition make me a well-oiled machine, but make sure the right product is still being made.
- ◆ *We're all in it together*, so don't be the only one rocking the boat.
- ◆ *Can't please everyone*, but it *is* possible to displease everyone, so make sure at least one person gets pleased by somebody.
- ◆ Nothing is certain but change itself, so might as well try to influence it (*for the good of all of course*).
- ◆ Change for the better starts from within and works its way out.
- ◆ Never lose that sense of wonder or else run the risk of knowing it all.

So, the time has come to explore, motivated by the thought that there will be a time when we are too old to take risks.

Thanks to you all for helping me experience life during my tenure at ISAC. Instead of saying good-bye, I would like to sing with affection: *Thank You for the Memories*, as the song goes...

Yours truly and sincerely. - Cris

There Are Still County Directories Available!

During the legislative session it is always important to have contact information for the county officials across the state, ISAC affiliates, congressional delegation and key state officials.

Order your 2001-2002 ISAC County Directory now for just **\$15** (non-county officials \$25).

Call ISAC's office at 515-244-7181 for an order form. All orders must be pre-paid.



profiles

Meet Your Board Members

Jane Halliburton

ISAC Board Member & NACo Representative



“There’s no doubt that interaction with county colleagues is the best part!” That is how Jane Halliburton, Story County Supervisor, feels about serving on the ISAC Board of Directors. Jane said, “My hope is that ISAC continues to guide and assist county officials and employees to provide professional, efficient local leadership.” Before serving as Story County Supervisor for 15 years, Jane was previously employed as an elementary school teacher (4th & 5th grade) and an assistant to the president of a small engineering firm.

She has been married to her husband Cal for 38 years and has two children. Her husband recently retired from teaching after 35 years and now has his own company Halliburton & Associates which develops curriculum for creative problem solving and entrepreneurship. Her daughter Kelley works for Human Kinetics publishing company in Champaign, IL and her son Jeff is a partner of Skunk River Cycles in Ames. Jane enjoys reading, music and Iowa State Cyclone athletics (particularly ISU women’s basketball).

miscellaneous

Conservation Strategies for Growing Communities Conference

A conference to help professionals, administrators, and elected officials plan conservation strategies for growing communities will be held March 19, 2002 at the Des Moines Community College Conference Center in Ankeny. The all-day conference is designed to help those involved in community planning and development to stay in regulatory compliance while offering strategies to lower costs.

Sponsored by six Soil and Water Conservation Districts in central Iowa and the Central Iowa Urban Water Quality Project, the conference will center on addressing storm water management phase II compliance, green infrastructure, conservation design and low impact development. The program will highlight the successes of a variety of innovative projects and approaches and talk about how local ordinances can protect community resources and promote incentives for positive changes in communities.

The conference is for anyone interested in new, environmentally friendly approaches to the processes of planning and development. Cost for the one day conference is \$75, \$100 after March 1, 2002. If three or more register from the same firm, the cost is \$50 each. Each registrant is eligible for an award of six CEUs. For more information or to register for the conference, call Alice Vinsand at 515-225-1051.

ALUMNI

CORNER

Loren Thompson

Loren Thompson was the Pocahontas County Supervisor for 16 years. He enjoyed working with the county employees in Pocahontas and other organizations around the state. He is currently retired and enjoys golf and visiting relatives. He is a member of the Legion, VFW, Roefe State Bank, and Pocahontas Economic Development Corporation. Loren has six children that include: Tom, farmer; Jon, computer programmer; Don, Coby employee in Waterloo; Julie, bank employee in Minneapolis, MN; Barb, nurse at Iowa Methodist; Dan, independent service. Loren lives in Mallard, IA.

For information on becoming an ISAC Alumni Member contact Jerri by phone at 515-244-7181 or by email at jnboa@iowacounties.org. Check out their web page at www.iowacounties.org under About ISAC.

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Senate File 69, A County Perspective

Excerpts from the following will be published by the State Public Policy Group in an upcoming issue of Inside Policy for the Governor's Developmental Disabilities Council. Prepared by Craig Wood, Linn County CPC Administrator.

Prior to the implementation of Senate File 69, only a handful of the most populous counties had staff that specialized in the county funding of services for people with Developmental Disabilities. In most counties, families and consumers had no idea to whom they should go to find out about how to access services. Among those counties in which there was a designated contact, there were many different ways of handling things, such that professionals making referrals had a hard time referring people to the proper place. In addition, it was never very clear in any county what the funding policies were.

Senate File 69 changed all that. Now a simple phone call to the county courthouse or perhaps even just a search in the phone book will locate a Central Point of Coordination Administrator in any county. Funding Policies are published (on the web even), and services and eligibility guidelines are readily available for consumers, family members, and referring agencies to review. Each county now has a County Management Plan that is much like an insurance plan for the citizens of that county who need and qualify for Mental Health/Developmental Disability funding. These plans must meet State standards, which has resulted in a consistency from county to county in the language used to identify services and funding policies.

There have been several positive outcomes as a result of each county having these plans and these new staff as "points of entry" into the service system. More people are being served in more appropriate service settings. Several counties participated in a Customer Designed Services project, and most counties are working with consumers and providers to develop highly coordinated, individualized service plans for each individual that receives funding.

Counties served 1,324 more people in FY99 than in FY98, and 1,925 more people in FY00 than in FY99. This is a total increase in the unduplicated count of consumers served of 3,249 people for three years of the county managed system. FY01 data has just been turned in and is not available. Data for the first year of implementation of Senate File 69 was not published by DHS.

Total expenditures under County Management Plans increased from \$224,050,904 in FY98 to \$255,520,297 in FY99 and then to \$276,087,218 in FY00. This was approximately an 11.5% increase per year when the state appropriation for allowable

growth was less than 2% per year. How was this possible? By making a concerted effort to capitalize on federal dollars available to pay for these services, such as using the Home and Community Based Services Medicaid-funded programs.

These reports also show that counties spent \$8,718,295 on MHI Institutions in FY98 and only \$7,524,638 in FY00. At the same time community based services for people with chronic mental illness, such as supervised apartments, increased from \$4,333,482 in FY98 to \$6,389,637 in FY00. Even though state law and the State MHDD system rules do not require counties to fund people with Developmental Disabilities other than Mental Retardation, 80 of the 99 counties funded such services. In fact expenditures for people with Developmental Disabilities by counties increased from \$7,256,520 in FY98 to \$10,300,026 in FY00.

The above data shows that counties are investing more dollars in services, serving more people, reducing institutionalization and increasing community based services. It is also indicative of how county management responds to the needs of its citizens above and beyond the state directives. In spite of the fact that SF69 was primarily a property tax relief bill, giving counties control of the system resulted in improved cost effectiveness and improved services.

One of the negative aspects of Senate File 69 was that caps were placed on the amount of money counties can levy to finance MHDD services. As a result, MHDD service funding is totally dependent on the state to finance increasing demands for services; and when there is a crisis with the state budget as there is currently, MHDD service funding is in jeopardy.

To end on a positive note, having CPC staff has enabled counties to become more aware than ever of the needs for improvements in the MHDD system. County CPC Administrators have developed a System Redesign proposal and have made this proposal a top legislative priority for the Iowa State Association of Counties. The DD Council has endorsed this proposal, as have other consumer groups and provider organizations. It is important to work together this year to get movement on this legislation.

*Notice: The ISAC office will be closed
February 25 and no phone service will be
in place due to the office move.*

*ISAC will reopen February 26
at the new location:
501 SW 7th St., Des Moines, IA 50309*

ISAC brief

ICAP/IMWCA Endorsed By ISAC

The Iowa State Association of Counties (ISAC) formally endorsed the Iowa Communities Assurance Pool (ICAP) and the Iowa Municipalities Workers' Compensation Association (IMWCA) at the ISAC Board of Directors meeting December 14, 2001. Many counties in Iowa have received casualty, liability, and workers' compensation coverage from ICAP and IMWCA since the mid-1980's. Now these excellent programs have been officially recognized by ISAC.

At present in Iowa, almost half of the counties are members of both programs. Recent changes in the insurance marketplace are making these member-owned programs even more attractive. The goal of both programs is to provide broad coverage at stable, yet affordable rates. Bill Peterson, ISAC executive director said, "We are pleased to join the ICAP and IMWCA teams. Our members have reported great satisfaction with the programs, and we thought it beneficial to become more active. We have pledged to provide advice and support to ICAP and IMWCA to enhance their remarkable record of service."

Historically, there has been county participation in the governance of the risk programs. Both ICAP and IMWCA have had county officials serving on their boards of directors. For the past four years, Sac County Auditor Jim Dowling has chaired the IMWCA Board of Trustees. "Endorsement by ISAC of our risk programs is particularly pleasing to me," Dowling stated when notified of the ISAC decision. "It is another example of increasing collaboration between the League and the county association for the benefit of all local government."

(Information and picture taken from the January 2002 issue of Cityscape)



Clockwise from top left: Jim Dowling, chair, IMWCA Board of Trustees; Jody Smith, chair, ICAP Board of Directors; Ken Bilbrey, marketing and ICAP local administrator; Bill Peterson, ISAC executive director; Tom Bredeweg, League executive director.

Quote of the Month:

Politics is not a bad profession. If you succeed there are many rewards, if you disgrace yourself you can always write a book. —Ronald Reagan

County-A-Day Sign-Up

Several counties signed up for the County-A-Day program for the 2002 legislative session. So far, 16 counties have signed up. Here are the counties that are scheduled and dates they plan to be at the Capitol:

January:	23 - Cherokee
February:	6 - Boone & Pocahontas
	7 - Appanoose & Monroe
	12 - Des Moines
	13 - Winnebago & Kossuth
	14 - Iowa
	19 - Delaware
	20 - Buchanan
	21 - Pottawattamie
	27 - Johnson
March:	6 - Tama
	19 - Clay & Palo Alto

There are 32 open days still available in 2002. We would prefer that only two counties sign up per day because of transportation issues between the Capitol and ISAC office. However, if you are only available for a specific date please contact Tammy Norman (tnorman@iowacounties.org or 515-244-7181) and arrangements can be made. We need your county name, a contact person, and their telephone number to register.

A Farewell to ISAC Board Members

At the end of the December 14, 2001 ISAC Board Meeting five people were recognized and thanked for their service to the ISAC Board of Directors. Joyce Jensen, Cass County Recorder, stepped down as the ISAC President and was presented with a picture from ISAC and parting words from the incoming ISAC President Grant Veeder, Black Hawk County Auditor. Terms also expired for Barb Martley,



Barb Martley, Lucas County CPC, and Jerry Musser, Johnson County Assessor were in attendance to receive a certificate for their membership on the ISAC Board of Directors.



Joyce Jensen, Past ISAC President, receives a picture and thank you for her service.

Lucas County CPC; Stan Watne, Wright County Supervisor; Michael Riepe, Henry County Attorney; and Jerry Musser, Johnson County Assessor. Thank you all for your wonderful commitment to ISAC and county government!

2001 Innovation Award Winners

Five county projects received a 2001 Innovation Award during ISAC's Fall School General Session. Award winners are detailed below.

Story County Dual Recovery Program

Gayla Harken, Story County Community Life Program Director, explained the issue that was identified for their project. "Many of the persons who receive services through county funded programs have a chronic mental illness and also have the co-occurring diagnosis of substance abuse. A large number of these people are also involved with the judicial system. Treatment outcomes demonstrate a low rate of recovery." The overall issue was that the person needed to be treated holistically in order for any treatment to be effective and that service providers needed to find a way to be supportive of each other's efforts. The first step was having all Story County providers who work with either substance abuse, mental health and the judicial system meet in December of 1998. A core treatment team was established and meets weekly to discuss consumer progress, goals, and future treatment directions. The consumer is invited to participate in this process. Total costs since December 1998 were \$20,851 (\$10,000 for training, \$10,851 for the core treatment team and joint therapy).

Indoor Emergency Warning System

The issue identified by Walter Wright, Linn County Emergency Management Director, for this project was the need for the Emergency Management Agency (EMA) to alert special needs congregate facilities (schools, child and adult day cares, residential care facilities) of emergencies in the local area. The project involved placing radios in the congregate facilities. School district offices received a two-way 800 MHz radio that allows communication with the EMA and the school district. Each school building and adult care facility received a one-way Plectron brand radio receiver. Emergency information is sent first by a tone alert and then a broadcast message from either the EMA or the sheriff. Day care facilities were issued a NOAA tone alert radio, one-way radio activated by the National Weather Service. Approximately \$22,000 was spent for the two-way radios, \$50,000 for the one way radio receivers and \$8,000 for the weather radios. These funds were provided through a public-private partnership and did not require the use of public funds. "The EMA is better able to coordinate emergency warning and information in the community because of the indoor warning systems to protect the school and special care facilities," said Wright.

Home Alone Rangers

The issue identified for this project was the need to have children staying home alone to be prepared to respond to an emergency and know how to handle a dangerous situation. The program consists of hands on activities, demonstrations, and role playing activities on topics of first aid, being ready for emergencies, rules of the home and food preparation tips for children in

second to fifth grades. Approximate cost per session is \$750 when newspaper advertising is used. Entities involved in the program have donated supplies from their individual budgets. Gina Hardin, Des Moines County EMA Coordinator, said, "We have held two sessions so far with approximately 90 participants. Our goal is to hold the program twice a year in different cities within the county."

Assessors Website

Gary Bilyeu, Story County Assessor, explained the issue identified for this project, "People were traveling miles to stand at our counter and look up information. This was costly and time consuming for both the customer and our staff." The Story County Assessor and the Ames City Assessor built an interactive web site together with data on property characteristics, aerial photography, property lines, taxes paid and unpaid, and sales information. The cost to develop the website was around \$2,000. Bilyeu said, "Telephone and counter traffic reduced by 50 percent at both the assessors' offices and the treasurers' offices. Staff time has been redirected."

Election Process Presentation

With the historical decline in voter participation, Mary Mosiman, Story County Auditor, decided to take the election process to the public. Mock ballot sheets were sent to all area school superintendents and high school teachers. The mock ballot lists gives individuals the choice between well known candidates such as Michael Douglas for President and Annette Benning for Vice President. The presentation includes a brief history on voting facts and the Story County voting history. A mock precinct election is used with the ballots, the results tabulated and winner announced. Mosiman said, "We make sure the participants understand the voter registration process, know how to change their registration and ultimately register if eligible." Service organizations and youth groups will be targeted in the future. The ballots were offered by Matt Parrott Co. free of charge so the only cost is internal labor and mileage to various locations.

Runner-ups for the innovation awards included "Child Care Facility Emergency Procedures Guide" submitted by Gina Hardin, Des Moines County Emergency Management Coordinator; "Hardin County Development Alliance" submitted by Polly Granzo, Hardin County Supervisor; "Jones County Rural Wastewater Organization" submitted by Lisa Garlich, Community Development Planner; "Employee PC Purchase Program" submitted by Jean Schultz, Johnson County Information Services Director; "Addressing Cost of Spiraling Health Insurance" submitted by Benita Davis, Monona County Auditor; "Des Moines County Gang Strike Force" submitted by Patrick Jackson, Des Moines County Attorney; "Linn-Metro Hazardous Material Task Force" submitted by Walter Wright, Linn County Emergency Management Director; and "Planning and Development Database Organization" submitted by Luke Nelson, Boone County Director of Planning and Development.

attorney general

CIVIL SERVICE; COUNTIES; SHERIFF

Office reorganization. Iowa Code §§20.7, 331.323, 331.652, 331.903, 341.341A.6, 341A.8, 341A.12 (2001). Acting in good-faith and for the purpose of economy or efficiency, county sheriffs can eliminate a lieutenant's position in reorganizing their offices and effectively demote the lieutenant having the least seniority. They may not undertake such reorganization for the purpose of avoiding the civil service laws. (Kempkes to Martin, Cerro Gordo Attorney, 10-31-01) #01-10-5(L)

CIVIL SERVICE; COUNTY AND COUNTY OFFICERS

Appointment of jailer. Iowa Code §§331.652, 331.903, 341A.7, 341A.8, 341A.14, 356.1 (2001). The civil service laws for deputy sheriffs, Iowa Code ch. 341A, do not *per se* apply to the position of jailer. Whether they apply to a jailer in a particular county constitutes a matter of fact, which falls outside the proper scope of an opinion and rests upon an analysis of job duties. Although a written certificate of appointment from the civil service commission to county officials should precede their payment of compensation to a properly appointed jailer for services rendered, they may pay compensation in the absence of such certificate. (Kempkes to TeKippe, Chickasaw County Attorney, 12-19-01) #01-12-2(L)

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST; CIVIL SERVICE

Civil service commissioners, city and county attorneys, union representation on appeal. Iowa Code §§341A.12, 341A.16, 362.5, 400.2, 400.26, 400.27 (2001). Depending upon the surrounding facts and circumstances, (1) civil service commissioners may have a conflict of interest if they conduct business with their respective city or county and (2) city or county attorneys may have a conflict of interest when serving as legal counsel to their respective civil service commissions. Union members without licenses to practice law may not provide legal representation to employees in appeals to civil service commissions. (Kuhn and Kempkes to Connors, State Representative, 12-5-01) #01-12-1

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Humboldt County Jail

The Humboldt County Jail will house out-of-county inmates. The Humboldt County Jail can hold up to 14 inmates and is staffed 24 hours a day. Cost for housing the inmates is \$50 per day - per inmate. If you have any questions contact either Sheriff Dean Kruger at 515-332-2471 or Head Jailer Cindy McPherson at 515-322-5450.

NACo news

Achievement Awards Program Materials Available For 2002

One of the National Association of Counties' most popular programs is back for its 33rd year. The Achievement Awards seek to recognize outstanding and unique programs initiated by county leaders to more effectively govern their citizens. Last year, a total of 374 programs were recognized with awards and that number is expected to increase this year. These programs also form a databank, helpful to both NACo and its members, of successful county programs.

Awards are given out in 21 categories, ranging from arts and historic preservation to emergency management, from libraries to information technology. The winning counties are celebrated at a ceremony held during NACo's annual conference, to be held this year in New Orleans, LA. Counties and state associations of counties are eligible to apply.

The deadline for applications is February 15, 2002. To receive an application, or for any other information regarding the Achievement Awards program, please contact Joseph Hansen of NACo's Research Department at 202-661-8834 or by email at jhansen@naco.org.

Understanding County Gov't Powerpoint Available

Visit ISAC's website (www.iowacounties.org) for a powerpoint presentation highlighting county government for your use.

The presentation describes:

- ♦the departments of county government,
- ♦the services counties offer, and
- ♦how counties are funded

Download this presentation and use it to discuss county government with service clubs, schools, and other organizations in your county! Tailor this to the services that your county offers.

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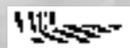
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FEBRUARY

- 13 CCMS East Support - Coral Ridge Mall, Coralville
- 21-22 ISAC Board of Directors - Holiday Inn Airport, DM
- 21 CCMS NE Support Group - Mabe's Pizza, Cresco
- 25 ISAC OFFICE CLOSED - MOVING DAY

MARCH

- 1-5 NACo Legislative Conference - Washington, DC
- 6 CCMS Central Support - Botanical Center, DM
- 6-8 CoZo Annual Conference - Osceola
- 13-14 CCMS Fundamentals - Best Inns & Suites, DM
- 20 CCMS Board of Directors - Holiday Inn Airport, DM
- 20-22 ISAC Spring School - Holiday Inn Airport, DM

APRIL

- 10 CCMS North West Support - Spencer
- 16 CCMS Administrators - Best Inns & Suites, DM
- 17 CCMS Cost Report Training - Best Inns & Suites, DM
- 18 CCMS Support Staff Training - Best Inns & Suites, DM
- 23 Spring Wellness Meeting -
Buena Vista University, Storm Lake
- 25 Spring Wellness Meeting - Holiday Inn Airport, DM

MAY

- 1 CRIS Board of Directors - ISAC Office
- 8-9 CCMS Advanced Case Manager
- Best Inns & Suites, DM

JUNE

- 5 CCMS New Supervisor Forum - Best Inns & Suites, DM
- 6 CCMS Supervisors Training - Best Inns & Suites, DM
- 9-13 County Attorneys Spring Training - Arnolds Park

JULY

- 10 CCMS North West Support - Storm Lake
- 12-16 NACo Annual Conference - New Orleans
- 16 CCMS Administrators - Best Inns & Suites, DM

AUGUST

- 13-15 CCMS Annual Conference - Holiday Inn Airport, DM

SEPTEMBER

- 12-13 Iowa County Attorneys Association (ICAA) Legislative
Committee Workshop - Des Moines
- 17 CCMS Mandatory Reporter Training - Best Inns &
Suites, DM
- 18-19 CCMS Fundamentals - Best Inns & Suites, DM

For agendas or additional information on any of the above listed meetings please visit our website at www.iowacounties.org and click on Calendar of Events! If you have any questions about the meetings listed above, please contact Jerri at (515) 244-7181 or by email at jnboia@iowacounties.org.



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