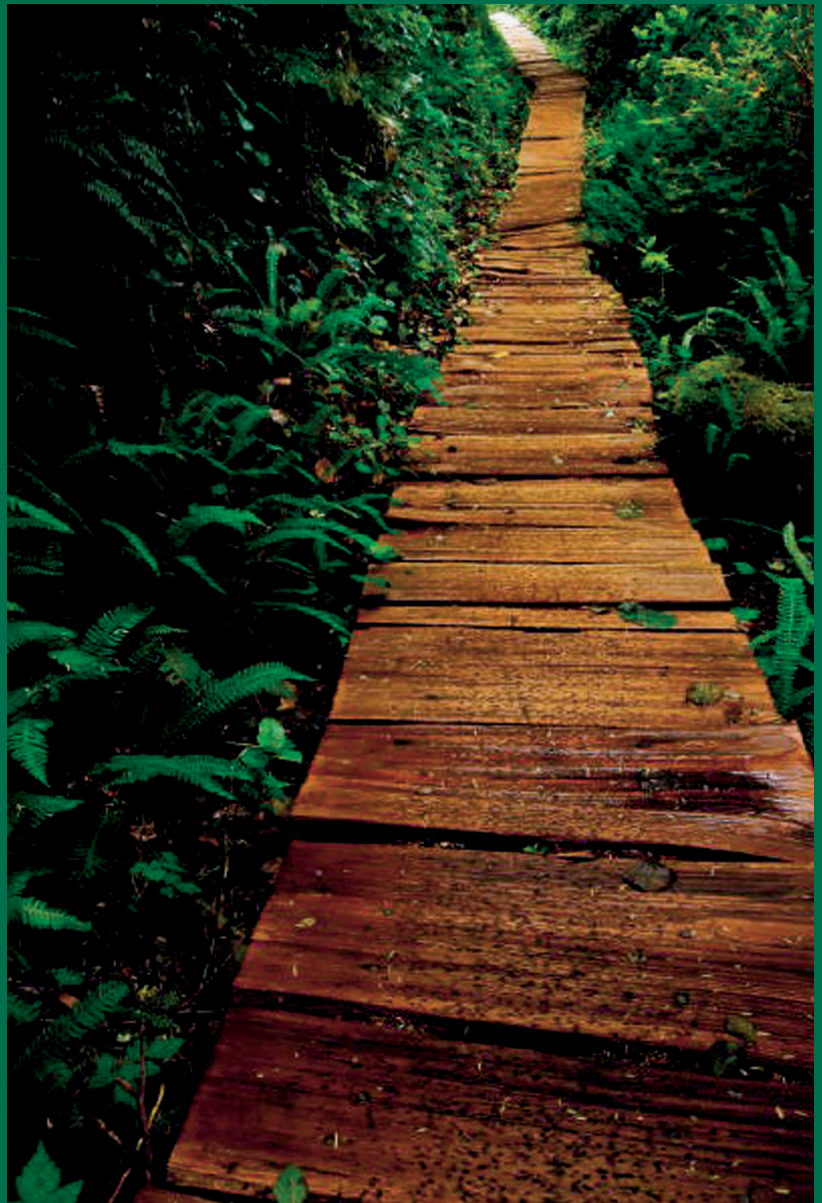


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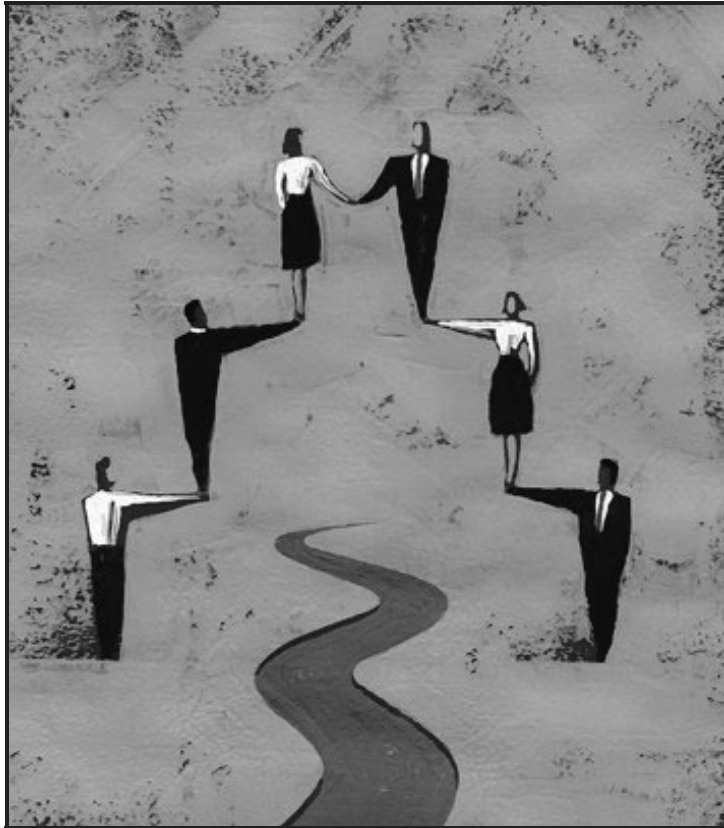
Creating
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In Iowa



October 2004



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 Denise Obrecht, EDITOR



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.

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Local Officials Respond to Challenge to Reform the Property Tax System

In last month's "Capitol Comments," you read about the instigation and background of a new property tax proposal coming forth from a group of local government officials. Below is a summary of the report. This proposal has been approved by the ISAC board of directors and is being considered by the board of the Iowa League of Cities. Upon approval of both boards, and with the possibility of modifications, the plan will be submitted to the Iowa Legislature for consideration during the 2005 session.

Among its guiding principles, the Local Government Tax Group (LGTG) sought to increase accountability, equity and stability in the property tax system. This proposal is the result of two and a half months of research, discussion, analysis and compromise. It is the opinion of the LGTG members that the proposal, when implemented as a whole, is consistent with those principles and will result in a better tax system for Iowa.

Introduction

At the close of the 2004 legislative session, ISAC and the League joined together to convene the LGTG. The committee, comprised of 15 city and 15 county officials, set out with a goal of identifying a comprehensive package of property tax reforms that would result in a better tax system for Iowa. To best achieve its goal, the group divided into three subcommittees, each of which was responsible for identifying necessary reforms to one of three aspects of the property tax system: 1) Assessment and Valuation; 2) Budgeting and Taxation; and 3) Constraints and Limitations. Assessment and valuation issues relate to the fundamental, underlying question of property taxes – how do you accurately assign values to both similar and dissimilar properties so that, in the absence of preferential treatment, each property owner pays his appropriate share of the tax burden? Budgeting and taxation issues address how city and county budgets affect and are affected by property taxes, and attempt to get at the connection between the underlying valuation and the bottom line tax bill. The Constraints and Limitations subcommittee tried to identify the most reasonable restrictions on the ability of cities and counties to impose property taxes. Its goal was to strike a balance between the flexibility that locally elected officials need to address changing community, social and economic conditions and the stability that taxpayers need to manage the financial aspects of their own lives.

By: Jay Syverson

ISAC Fiscal Policy Analyst



Section 1. Assessment and Valuation

Various proposed changes to the assessment and valuation process would primarily result in a broader tax base, thereby lowering the nominal tax rate for everyone. The residential rollback, as well as all other rollbacks, would be eliminated; agricultural and residential valuations would be uncoupled; farm buildings would actually add net valuation to the tax rolls; and ALL private properties would pay some property tax unless a city or county chooses to make them completely exempt. Not in spite of these changes, but rather because of them, it is the estimation of the LGTG that the vast majority of non-agricultural businesses will pay less in property taxes. Additionally, because of the expanding tax base, we expect most homeowners to pay less property tax or not see a significant change. There are, however, four types of properties that will probably see increases, some significant, in their tax bills: 1) newer apartment properties; 2) high-value and non-owner occupied homes; 3) agricultural buildings; and 4) currently exempt properties.

Owners of newer apartment buildings have been using a loophole in current law to be classified as residential, rather than commercial properties. Because of the substantial rollback on residential property, their taxable values have been half that of comparable older apartments that remain commercial properties. Under the LGTG proposal, all apartments will be taxed on 100% of their value, regardless of classification.

High-value homes currently receive a greater benefit from the rollback than do moderately and lower valued homes. All homes are taxed at 48% of value, but the constant rollback percentage translates into a greater dollar impact for expensive homes. The rollback is providing a greater amount of property tax relief to owners of high-value homes, presumably high-income folks that don't need the relief. The LGTG proposal eliminates the rollback and implements a homeowner exemption of 50% of assessed value with a cap of \$150,000. For example, a \$100,000 home would receive a 50%

exemption and be taxed on \$50,000, a minor change from the current taxable value of \$48,000. A \$500,000 home, however, would only receive a \$150,000 exemption and would be taxed on \$350,000, a 45% increase over its current taxable value of \$240,000. The effect of this proposal is to direct more of the property tax burden to owners of high-value homes and to divert more of the burden away from owners of low-value homes. It makes the property tax system more progressive. The proposed homeowner exemption also differs from the current rollback because it only applies to owner-occupied residences. Rental homes, second homes, and all other non-owner occupied properties would be taxed at 100% of their assessed values, approximately twice their current level of 48%.

Agricultural buildings account for about \$2.5 billion, or 2.5%, of taxable property value in Iowa. However, the value generated from ag buildings is automatically subtracted from the value generated for agricultural land by the productivity formula. The result is that the construction of any new agricultural building adds zero net value to Iowa's property tax base. The LGTG proposal would value agricultural buildings, from barns to grain bins to hog confinements, like all other improvements – at their full market values. The value of those buildings would be in addition to the value generated by the productivity formula for agricultural land. The immediate effect of this proposal is a \$2.5 billion increase in the taxable valuation of agricultural property.

The last category of properties that may see an increase in taxes is currently exempt properties. Iowa Code §427.1 currently provides 29 specific exemptions from property tax, including property used for religious, charitable and certain educational purposes. Those non-governmental - yet fully exempt - properties combined to account for about \$7 billion of value in 2003, a figure that probably lags their true value because most local assessors don't expend the time and resources necessary to accurately value properties that don't pay taxes. The largest group of privately-owned exempt properties is religious property, which accounts for about \$2.7 billion. Charitable and benevolent societies account for another \$2.6 billion, and a mix and match of other various properties accounts for the remaining \$1.7 billion. Under the LGTG proposal, the land value of all privately-owned, currently exempt property will become taxable to city and county governments, while the value of improvements will remain exempt. (For most typical properties, a general rule of thumb is that the land value accounts for 20% of a property's total value; improvements account for the rest.) However, individual cities and counties would be allowed to "opt out" of this provision by passing a resolution declaring all "exempt" property completely exempt. In the absence of such a resolution, all non-governmental properties deemed "exempt" by the Legislature will still be required to pay city and county taxes on the value of their land.

Section 2. Budgeting and Taxation

The LGTG proposes changes to the budgeting and taxation systems of local governments that are designed to improve all areas of accountability within the property tax system. Cities and counties will publish a budget form and notice of public hearing that are more meaningful, easier for the taxpayer to understand and highlight the decisions made by locally elected officials. City councils and boards of supervisors will also establish by resolution what they individually deem to be an appropriate ending fund balance in certain funds, and citizens will see how close they stick to their policies. State government will be responsible for funding and administering any property tax credits that it sees fit to implement and will no longer rely on local governments to be the middlemen. The state will also be responsible for funding any new programs or mandates it chooses to implement. Finally, citizens will be allowed to protest any city or county budget just as they are now; however, only those issues raised on the budget petition may be raised in the budget appeal hearing.

Section 3. Constraints and Limitations

The LGTG also proposes to fundamentally change the types of restraints that are imposed on the taxing ability of city and county governments. Assessment and rate limitations, which only indirectly limit property taxes, are gone. Instead, the LGTG suggests an inflationary property tax revenue limitation on the general fund for cities and the general basic and rural basic funds for counties. This proposal will directly limit the total property taxes levied in each of those funds, while retaining enough flexibility for local government officials to respond appropriately to economic, social and community influences. The new limitation: 1) will be based on either FY 2006 or 2007 property tax maximums, as allowed under current Code; 2) will not encourage taxing to the maximum every year by limiting unused levy capacity; 3) will allow for new construction and other changes to net new valuation; and 4) may be exceeded by up to 3% if a city or county follows certain procedures, but property taxes that exceed the limitation by more than 3% will be subject to affirmation by the citizens upon petition. Other limitations, including the restriction on the types of expenses eligible to be paid from supplemental or trust and agency funds, will remain in place. And the most stringent property tax limitation, the local citizens' right to vote out incumbents, will remain as powerful as ever.

The full proposal of the Local Government Tax Group will be available soon on ISAC's website (www.iowacounties.org).

capitol comments

Compromise

The combination is 51, 26 and one. This sequence of numbers unlocks the magic for achieving legislative success. In order for any bill to become law, it must have at least 51 votes in the Iowa House of Representatives, 26 votes in the Senate, and approval by the Governor. To reach these numbers often requires bargain and compromise. It sounds simple enough, but reaching this combination can be pretty tricky. The economic development package recently approved in the September 2004 special session of the Iowa General Assembly represents a classic compromise.

The Iowa Values Fund was created during a special session in June 2003. Two pieces of legislation designed an economic development strategy for Iowa through the creation of the Iowa Values Fund in HF 692 and appropriations for the fund in HF 683. As part of the incentive for business development, the Legislature included some policy matters pertaining to income tax reforms, workers compensation law and liability limits in HF 692. Provisions to keep 56 Iowa Workforce Development offices open around the state were also included.

Governor Vilsack approved the creation of the Iowa Values Fund, but exercised his line-item veto pen by disapproving select sections of HF 692 that happened to be favored by the Republican majority in the Legislature. Basically those provisions involved the income tax reforms, workers compensation limitations, and restrictions in product liability.

Separation of Powers

The merits of the issues that were line-item vetoed can be discussed another day. The key issue at hand involves "separation of powers" and the events that led to the recent special legislative session. The Iowa Constitution limits the governor's line-item veto authority to "appropriations" bills. For any other bill, a veto applies to the entire piece of legislation. The Republican leadership challenged the item vetoes of HF 692 on the basis that the measure was a policy bill, not an appropriations bill. On June 16, 2004, the Iowa Supreme Court issued an opinion that the vetoes were, in fact, unconstitutional.

The majority of people figured that if the Governor won the line-item vetoes would be upheld, or if legislative leaders prevailed then the line-item vetoes would be thrown out and the entire legislation would kick into effect. In a strict sense, legislative leaders won their case. The result, however, was different from what anyone expected: the court ruled that the entire HF 692 was void!

Almost a year had gone by before the Supreme Court issued its ruling. During that time, the Iowa Values Board held numerous meetings and awarded about \$56 million to businesses for development and job growth in Iowa. As a result of the ruling, everything that was done pursuant to HF 692 was without legal basis and Iowa went from a seven year \$506 million economic development plan to nothing.

Summer of Negotiation

The pressure was now on state lawmakers to validate the

By: John Easter

ISAC Director of
Intergovernmental Affairs



business transactions already made and to restore Iowa's role as a player in the corporate incentive game. The Governor and legislative leaders had to find common ground.

But before legislative leaders can offer anything, they must count the votes of their caucus members.

This situation provided individual lawmakers with exactly the political leverage each needed to make their voices heard in the process. It gave them an opportunity to withhold their votes for any program unless they would get their way on the issue of their choice. "In order to get my vote, *this* must be included or *that* must not happen."

With so many issues on the table finding the right combination to secure the votes necessary for passage is tedious. Sometimes the tough negotiations were as much between the two Houses as they were between the legislative and executive branches.

Governor and Leadership Make Deal

As the issues for the special session came into focus, the Iowa Values Fund and its governing board were dropped and about four essential items became clear.

- Workers compensation – in order to get enough Republican votes, tightening rules used in determining compensation for workers who are injured on the job more than once was necessary.
- Economic development – nearly everyone agreed to restore \$100 million to honor commitments already made plus some additional funding.
- Workforce development – restore money for the Workforce Development offices around the state to remain open.
- Tax breaks – provide businesses a one-time tax break by accelerating a deduction for new equipment at a price of \$87 million over two years.

The bare bones package was enacted in two bills. HF 2581 contains the essential policy needed for passage, while SF 2311 provides the necessary appropriations. Specifically, ISAC strongly supports the new funding method to keep workforce development centers open. Generally, everyone in Iowa benefits from business development and job growth. If Iowa is to grow economically through well-paying jobs and quality of life improvements our state must be in a position to compete with other states.

Whether the two bills are enough to facilitate meaningful growth can only be measured by the passage of time. Nobody received everything they wanted and there is probably something in there for everyone to hate. During House debate the bill was described as politics at its best and politics at its worst. Meanwhile, we do know this - together both bills comprise the complete package. SF 2311 passed with overwhelming majorities in both Houses. The policy bill passed with 59 votes in the House and only 26 votes in the Senate. There was not one vote to spare.

Sheriff Sued For Failing To Discipline Son-in-Law

Failure to Discipline

A recent Iowa Supreme Court case involving a county sheriff, *Kiesau v. Bantz* (03-0815), dramatically demonstrates why it is important for county officials to control the workplace conduct of their employees. To put it bluntly, this sounds like a case of a sheriff's deputy who got the idea he could do anything he wanted at work without any consequences.

Tracey Bantz was a deputy sheriff employed by his father-in-law, Buchanan County Sheriff Leonard Davis. Davis received many complaints regarding Bantz from the highest-ranking officers in his department. These included complaints about Bantz's refusal to respond to dispatch calls, his lack of honesty, his lack of good judgment, his inability to work without supervision, and his lack of courage. One officer called Bantz "a lawsuit waiting to happen."

In a written complaint submitted to Sheriff Davis another officer called Bantz the cause of turmoil and low morale in the sheriff's office and said that Bantz was "arrogant in his knowledge that he can do anything and nothing will happen to him." Davis apparently took no action in response to these complaints.

In 1997, Crystal Kiesau was hired as the first and only female deputy sheriff in the county. Bantz seldom acknowledged her and would oftentimes walk out of the room when she entered. In 2001, Bantz, working at his home computer, acquired a photograph of Kiesau in uniform, and digitally altered it to make it appear that Kiesau had pulled up her shirt to expose her breasts. For about 10 months, Bantz showed the altered photograph to others, including other employees in the sheriff's office.

When Kiesau found out, she sued Bantz for defamation and invasion of privacy. She also sued Sheriff Davis and the county, claiming that they negligently supervised Bantz. And, she sued Davis for punitive damages.

At trial, the judge dismissed Kiesau's negligent supervision claim against Sheriff Davis and the county. He also dismissed the punitive damages claim against Sheriff Davis. The jury found for Kiesau on her defamation and invasion of privacy claims against Bantz, and awarded her \$156,000.

On appeal, the Iowa Supreme Court affirmed the judgment against Bantz. Regarding the county, the Court said the district court had misapplied the law regarding negligent supervision, and remanded the case for further proceedings.

On the punitive damages claim, the Iowa Supreme Court pointed out that while a county is immune from a punitive damages claim, an individual like Sheriff Davis can be held liable for punitive damages upon a showing of willful, wanton and reckless misconduct (Iowa Code §670.12).

That occurs, said the Court, "when an actor has intentionally done an act of unreasonable character in disregard of a known or obvious risk that was so great as to make it highly

By: David Vestal

ISAC General Counsel



probable that harm would follow, and which thus is usually accompanied by a conscious indifference to the consequences." The Court said that a factfinder could find that: 1) Davis intentionally failed to take any action against Bantz because Bantz was his son-in-law; 2) Bantz posed a known risk to third parties; and 3) Davis's conduct demonstrated a conscious indifference to the consequences of his failure to act. For these reasons, the Court reversed the district court's decision granting Davis's motion for summary judgment on the issue of punitive damages. That means that Sheriff Davis still faces potential liability for punitive damages.

The lessons from this case? 1) Don't hire your son-in-law (you have to wonder why the nepotism law didn't apply in this case); 2) If you are a supervisor, do your job. Don't let any employee feel that they can get away with murder; and 3) If someone tells you that an employee of yours is a lawsuit waiting to happen, take them seriously.

Do-it-yourself Burials

I find this quite remarkable, but in Iowa there is no state law prohibiting a person from burying a dead body on private property. I could not find a statute prohibiting this practice, so I contacted the Iowa Funeral Directors Association. They confirmed that burial on private property falls under county home rule and is under the jurisdiction of the county's board of supervisors. So a county could pass an ordinance prohibiting the practice, but the Iowa Code is silent.

There are certain requirements which would apply to any burial, regardless of site. For instance, according to the Iowa Administrative Code any grave must be at least three feet deep. Also, a private burial site must be documented in the declaration of value when the property is sold (Iowa Code §558.69).

But apparently in Iowa, unless the county says otherwise, it's okay to bury grandma on the back forty. This is one case where I'd be in favor of *more* government regulation.

Parting Ponderable: When they open up new bank accounts, some counties have been told that they are subject to new security procedures due to the federal Patriot Act. But it's not true. In the U.S. Treasury Department's regulations implementing Section 326 of the Patriot Act, it specifically excludes political subdivisions from the new security regulations. It gets a little complicated, but basically the new customer identification regulations apply only to a bank "customer," and customer is defined so as to exclude any political subdivision of any state. Long story short, counties are political subdivisions, so they are excluded from the Patriot Act regulations regarding financial institutions.

health check

Happiness :o)

In the Declaration of Independence it states that one of our inalienable rights is “the pursuit of happiness.” A lot of people try to get happiness in different ways. Some try to buy it and some try to capture it with pleasurable experiences and activities. Yet there are many people that just don’t seem to be happy. And, they seem to be everywhere: at work, in the grocery store, across the street, in your home, you name it.

Some people are happy because it is in their make-up. You know who they are. They come in the office first thing in the morning with a smile and a cheerful greeting.

In an article on the WebMD website Richard Trubo mentioned four things that can help all of us be happy:

1. **Nuture your relationships.** Maintaining healthy love relationships and friendships can be a challenge but they can inevitably produce happiness.
2. **Join the “movement” movement.** Studies show that exercise is an antidote for mild depression and anxiety. Exercise is a great stress reliever.

By: *Sandy Longfellow*

ISAC Administrative Assistant



3. **Act Happy.** A recent study at Wake Forest University showed that when people simply acted extroverted, they felt happier than when they acted introverted. (I have heard it also stated this way “Act yourself into a better way of thinking.”)
4. **Nuture your spiritual side.** Faith not only provides valuable support, but it’s a way to focus on something other than yourself. Study after study finds that active religious individuals are happier and cope better with crises.

A good thing to remember is that we cannot be happy all the time. There are things in life that we have to deal with, but it can also enhance the good times and make us appreciate special moments, little victories and our relationships with each other. One of the side effects of the 9/11 disaster was an appreciation of those around us. We also became very quickly aware of what is important in life and what gives life meaning. Smile!

technology center

Hyperlinks

Q: “I have received messages and documents with hyperlinks in them, how do I place a hyperlink in a document? Is it possible to remove hyperlinks?”

A: Hyperlinks are actually very easy to insert and to remove. A great feature of placing hyperlinks in a document is the fact that when it is viewed electronically, you are able to click on the hyperlink and view the website the author is referring to. First, open the Internet and visit the website you wish to insert the address for. Next, open the document you wish to insert a hyperlink into (a Word document, an email message, etc.), highlight the word that you wish to be displayed as the hyperlink, right click and from the menu that appears select “hyperlink.” A popup window will appear, select “Browsed Pages” and from the web addresses that appear you can select the Internet address that you wish the hyperlink to be connected to. Once the address is in place, just click “OK.” The word you have highlighted has now become an active hyperlink. You also are able to type the URL or web address directly into the space entitled “Address.” I tend to favor using the web address list that appears because it assures you that the address is accurate and eliminates typos. Another method to insert a hyperlink is by again highlighting the word you wish to become a hyperlink, from your toolbar select “Insert”, “Hyperlink” and type in or select the URL of the website and click on “OK”, a hyperlink has been created.

By: *Tammy Norman*

ISAC Technical
Administrative Assistant



Removal and formatting of a hyperlink is also an extremely simple process. To remove a hyperlink requires basically just two steps. You will need to select the word or words that are the active hyperlink, right click and a menu will appear, select “Remove Hyperlink” and the hyperlink will be deleted. You are also able to format a hyperlink by selecting “Format” from the toolbar and clicking on “Styles and Formatting” from the list that appears, now select “Hyperlink” and “Modify.” A popup window will be revealed and you can change the font type, size, color, remove underlining and so on. Doing this enables you to remove the electric blue color of the hyperlinks that tends to be the default. Remember though, most readers and end users easily recognize the “electric blue” color as an indication that it is a hyperlink. The choice is up to you.

Website Note: We will be posting county election results on our website (www.iowacounties.org) under ‘Hot Topics’ after the November election. Please feel free to use this information for your reference. Please forward any items that you would like addressed in this column to my attention at tnorman@iowacounties.org or by calling 515-244-7181. Until next month, keep clicking!

Overview of Medicaid Case Management and County Responsibilities

By: *Deborah Westvold*

ISAC Case Management Director



County Responsibilities

Targeted case management (TCM) is a Medicaid funded service “targeted” toward persons with a chronic mental illness, mental retardation, developmental disability, or a brain injury. Iowa Code §225.20 sets forth the mandate for case management and states that case management can only be provided by a county, a subcontractor, or by the Department of Human Services.

Currently, 75 counties have chosen to enroll as a case management provider, utilizing either county employees or subcontracting with a private provider. Because Medicaid TCM is a mandated service for those individuals who are eligible, the county needs to assure that there are an adequate number of case managers to serve these individuals. In addition, the county where a person resides has the primary responsibility for assuring that eligible individuals receive case management in a timely manner. Medicaid recipients who are eligible for TCM are:

- Any adult, aged 18 or over, with a chronic mental illness, mental retardation, or a developmental disability;
- All persons on the Medicaid HCBS/MR Waiver;
- Persons receiving funding under the Medicaid Adult Rehabilitation Option (ARO) and who are approved through the prior authorization process; and
- All persons on the Medicaid HCBS/BI Waiver.

Role of Case Management

Case management plays a vital role in the county’s management of the MH/DD system. This service has been successful in assisting individuals to get the services that they need and assure that the public funds that are used to purchase services for the individual are being used appropriately.

The primary role of the case manager is to work with consumers, family members, providers, and others in the community to assess an individual’s strengths and needs in order to develop a comprehensive plan for meeting those needs in the most cost-effective and appropriate way. Following the development of the plan, the case manager coordinates the delivery of services and supports/monitors the implementation of the plan, including the consumer’s progress in meeting their goals. Case management is a service that takes place in the community. The case manager meets with consumers in their home, where they work, at their service providers, or in another place where the consumer feels comfortable.

Case management providers are accredited by the MH/DD Commission and there is a great deal of written documentation that is required. In order to ensure that the written documentation is adequate to meet state accreditation, federal accreditation and billing requirements, it is necessary to keep case manager case loads at a reasonable level. Currently the average case load size for county case management programs is 31.

Funding

One hundred percent of the costs for providing case management services to Medicaid eligible individuals are reimbursed by Medicaid. The cost for providing case management has not increased significantly in the 15 years of the program, rising only an average of 2% per year. Currently the average unit cost for providing case management is \$200. From the outset, this program has been a cooperative undertaking between the state and the counties. The Iowa Code requires that counties pay one half of the non-federal share of case management (approximately 16.5%) for persons with mental retardation or developmental disability, as well as for persons with chronic mental illness who do not qualify for funding through MBC of Iowa.

Recent Developments

Over the past several years a number of changes have been made to the services funded by Medicaid that have had a direct impact on case management services. The implementation of a prior authorization process for case management has resulted in an increase in the amount of paper work and time involved in the annual assessment and case planning process. In addition, the ARO services and the recent expansion of the Home and Community Base Services program for persons with Mental Retardation (HCBS/MR) have resulted in increased referrals for case management service. Since Medicaid does not allow case management programs to have waiting lists, many counties are in the process of increasing the number of case managers in order to provide case management services within the timeframes required by Medicaid.

If you are a case manager and have an address, phone, staff, or e-mail change please contact Sandy Longfellow at 515-244-7181 or slongfellow@iowacounties.org.

ISAC brief

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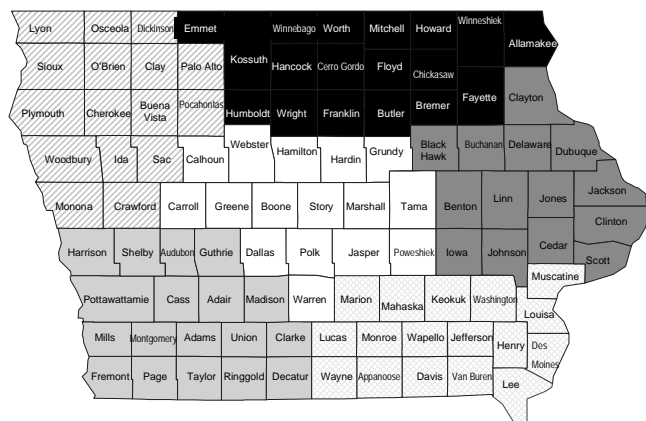
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ISAC Fall School 2004

By: *Jerri Noboa*

ISAC Meetings Administrator



Des Moines Skywalk System

I just got back from walking through the skywalk system between the Marriott and Renaissance Savery in preparation for ISAC's Fall School of Instruction November 14-16, 2004. I have to admit I am a novice in the skywalk system in downtown Des Moines, so who better to experience it and report findings to you? I was afraid of getting lost, but soon discovered you can't get lost. There are skywalk maps throughout the system. From the Savery or the Marriott going through the Kaleidoscope at the Hub is just a circle back to either one. This is where you will want to go during the lunchtime to eat.

I accomplished two things on this excursion. First, I found 19 different places to eat in the Hub. Located just outside of the Marriott are Coney Island and the Oriental Café. In the Hub were the following: AJ's popcorn, Bruegger's Bagels, Burger King, Chutney's (Indian cuisine), Fresh Fruit & Yogurt, Friedrich's World Coffees (for the true coffee lovers), Great Midwestern Café, King's Pretzels, Palmer's Deli (one of the best deli's in the city), Panda Chinese, Sally's Old Fashioned Hamburgers, Subway, Taste Spuds and Tower of Pizza. Second, I went at lunchtime to see how crowded it would be. I was really surprised how few lines there were, and if there was a line it moved rather quickly.

There were a few shops in the Hub: Christopher & Banks (you don't know how hard it was to not go in), JNK Wears (stylish clothing), you can get your nails or hair done, can even get a massage, buy flowers or a cell phone, not to mention you are right by Younkers.

We will provide you with tri-fold map of the skywalk system through the Kaleidoscope at the Hub, along with other locations of fine dining restaurants close to the hotels, when you arrive at the ISAC fall conference.

Savery & Marriott Room Blocks Sold Out

The Downtown Marriott and Renaissance Savery room blocks are sold out during ISAC's Fall School of Instruction. Hotel rooms are still available at the Hotel Fort Des Moines though! The Hotel Fort Des Moines is located at 1000 Walnut and is connected to the Marriott and Savery by the skywalk system. To reserve a hotel room call 800-531-1466 and ask for booking #3062. The Hotel Fort Des Moines' rates are \$69/flat and suites are \$89.

associate member highlights

Community Alert Network



Community Alert Network's high-speed emergency notification service, serving the homeland security needs

of clients for almost 25 years, provides the capability to strategically contact predetermined lists of people and geographical locations to immediately deliver appropriate information when an urgent situation strikes. CAN service can also be used to ask a question or gather information on response time for personnel. This information, included in a report on the completion of every call attempt, is immediately sent to the client.

There is no need to purchase, lease or maintain any hardware or software. There are no complicated procedures to remember. When needed, you make one phone call to CAN. An on-duty Incident Controller will help you to select saved messages or zones or you can create them "on the fly." Messages can be interpreted into other languages at no cost.

Calling lists are kept current and security is strictly maintained with passwords. Once you've identified the message to be delivered and what group is to receive the message, the calls begin immediately. While an average activation will likely only involve 500 phone call attempts, the service is capable of making up to 26,000 call attempts per hour.

Contracts can be developed for just one community, a county, or even for multiple counties. A geographical contract comes with mapping software for creating notification area shape files, four pre-established zones, a 1,000 record database to maintain contact information for special individuals or facilities, and 5,000 phone call attempts annually. If your need is to contact specific individuals rather than geographical areas, CAN's personnel contract is an excellent tool. It provides a 2,500 record database with unlimited updates at no cost.

For further information, call Bob Goldhammer, Midwest Sales Representative, in Des Moines at 800-992-2331. CAN: the Right message for the Right audience Right now!

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- Funding
- Design/Build
- Geographic Information Systems

We believe communication with our clients is as important as sound engineering and planning advice. Our professional staff of 40 employees offers not only sound technical solutions but is committed to go the extra step to ensure constant open communication throughout a project.

Register On-Line For ISAC's Fall School of Instruction

www.iowacounties.org

There will be lots of changes and excitement during ISAC's Fall School of Instruction (November 14-16, 2004) because of one of our biggest improvements overall - the change of conference location to the Downtown Marriott and Renaissance Savery in Des Moines, Iowa. With the new facilities there will be more space for exhibitors, more space for conference attendees, more restaurants close to the conference site, and more hotel rooms at the conference site! Visit ISAC's website for information regarding accommodations, parking information, agendas, ISAC seminar descriptions, and scheduled entertainment.

ISAC scholarship application

ISAC is now accepting applications for their scholarship program. Eligibility is limited to children of county officials or county employees. This does not include city employees, employees of county extension offices, or candidates who are themselves county employees. Children of county assessors are eligible to apply for this scholarship. At least one \$1,000 scholarship shall be awarded annually. The candidates must be seniors in high school. The scholarship can be awarded to anyone who will be a full-time student of any college requiring at least a minimum of two years for a degree. **For the complete list of requirements please visit ISAC's website (www.iowacounties.org) under 'Hot Topics.'**

Name of Applicant _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

County _____

Home Phone _____ E-mail Address _____

Date of Graduation _____ Name of High School _____

Proposed college _____

Have you taken the SAT/ACT _____ If so, your score _____

Total Class Size _____ Rank in Class _____ Grade Point _____ on a 4.0 scale

Which parent of yours is a county official or employee? _____

Parent's Name _____

County Department _____ County Position _____

County Phone # _____

Financial Need: In the space provided, explain your financial need for this scholarship:

Essay: On another sheet of paper type an essay of no more than 250 words explaining your career plans and future goals. **MAKE US SEE THE REAL YOU.**

ISAC scholarship application

Extra Curricular Activities: In the space provided, please identify your most significant extra curricular activities, school activities, work experience, etc. that might be helpful to the committee in judging your application.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

References: We need personal reference letters from three (3) individuals other than family members. (Such as teachers, employers, advisors)

Music Award: For this year only, we are offering the BureauCats Music Award, which is a \$1,500 scholarship. This scholarship is available to an applicant who intends to participate in music on some level while in college, for instance, concert band, symphony orchestra, instrumental ensembles, choir, swing choir, or chorus. If this applies to you, on another sheet of paper, tell us about any plans you may have in this area.

For you to be considered for a scholarship you must:

1. Return application filled out completely
2. Enclose your typed essay
3. Include three letters of personal reference

Return to: Iowa State Association of Counties, 501 SW 7th St., Suite Q, Des Moines, IA 50309-4540.
Applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. on December 16, 2004.

I hereby certify that this application contains no misrepresentation or falsifications and that the information given by me is true and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature of Applicant _____

miscellaneous

Iowa One Call Needs Your Help



The Iowa One Call notification system is a state mandated effort whose purpose is to protect/safeguard lives, the environment, property, and essential services.

Iowa law requires that anyone who plans to disturb the earth contact Iowa One Call (800-292-8989) at least 48 hours before beginning to dig. This gives Iowa One Call time to contact all the utilities in the area of the digging to mark the location of their utilities.

The successful locating of the utilities relies on maps. In a perfect world, these maps would be as current as the last platted sub-division. But this is the real world. After years of operation using maps that were often two years old, Iowa One Call is now making a concerted effort to tap into the counties' Geographical Information Systems (GIS) in an effort to obtain the most current maps.

The data needed by Iowa One Call are named street centerlines with address ranges from low to high. These need to be on the same layer and will require basic information as to the projection used in producing the map.

Currently, Iowa One Call is focusing on those counties where the most out-dated maps are being used and on central Iowa. The effort will eventually include the entire state. Your cooperation is urged and will be greatly appreciated. Steve Halstead is the Iowa One Call mapping coordinator and can be reached at 515/278-8700 or stevehalstead@mchsi.com.

in memory

Hamilton County Supervisor Merle R. "Dick" Barkema, age 57, passed away on Monday, August 30, 2004 at his home. Barkema was first elected to office in 1995 in a special election following the resignation of former Hamilton County Supervisor Gene Willis. He was reelected in 1998 and 2000, following another special election due to redistricting. His current term was to run through 2006. In addition to his wife, Jane, Barkema is survived by three grown children; Scott, Carla and Jay. The couple lived on a farm north of Jewell and Barkema often took pride in telling audiences that it was a century farm. Funeral services were held September 2 in Jewell, Iowa.



classified ads

Budget/Finance Manager

Budget/Finance Manager for Black Hawk County, Iowa (700 employees) to serve as chief budget/financial advisor to Board of Supervisors and liaison with county departments. Performs advanced-level financial analysis, planning/program evaluation, and management analysis; prepares and reports on county-wide budget; develops financial projections to provide multi-year revenue/expenditure forecasts of budgets and coordinate debt management activities; coordinates issuance of financing instruments/G.O. bonds; develops/administers grants. This is a hands-on position with no direct support staff. Requires Bachelor's degree in finance, accounting, public administration, economics, or related area with at least 4 years of professional-level experience in budget analysis or financial management. Prefer county/city government experience and CPA/Master's Degree. Salary range: \$55,000 to \$75,000, depending on qualifications/experience. **APPLY BY: October 8, 2004.** Send resume with five work-related references to: Human Resources, Black Hawk County, 316 E. Fifth Street, Waterloo, IA 50703 or fax to (319) 833-3144. Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.

Mobile Crisis Coordinator

Under the direction of the Johnson County MH/DD Services Director, this position will coordinate all aspects of the Mobile Crisis Response Team including jail diversion for individuals who are in crisis or have been arrested for misdemeanors or non-violent offenses. Serves as a member of the Mobile Crisis Response Team to assess, plan, monitor, refer, and evaluate services. Position requires a Master's degree in a mental health field with 2 years post-degree experience supervised by a mental health professional. Licensed as an independent social worker or mental health counselor. Experience in the coordination and delivery of crisis intervention services is preferred. \$39,049 to \$42,500 to start. Send cover letter and resume to Elaine Sweet, MH/DD Services, 911 North Governor, Iowa City, IA 52245 AA/EOE. Job description can be viewed at www.johnson-county.com

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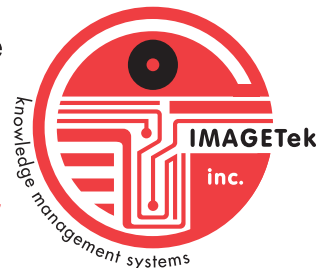
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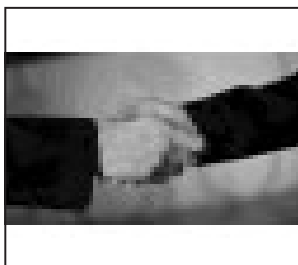
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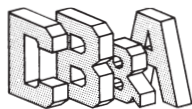
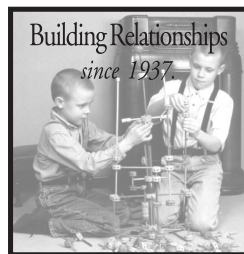
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OCTOBER

- 3-6 Assessors Fall School (West Des Moines)
- 6 General Assistance Retreat
(Ramada Inn, Coralville)
- 7 ICESBA Executive Board (ISAC Office)
- 12 Records Task Force (ISAC Office)
- 12 *CCMS Administrators*
(Baymont Conference Center, Des Moines)
- 20 CRIS Board of Directors (ISAC Office)
- 21-22 *CCMS Strengths Based Training*
(Baymont Conference Center, Des Moines)
- 28-29 ISAC Board of Directors (ISAC Office)

NOVEMBER

- 4 *CCMS Advanced Case Manager*
(Baymont Conference Center, Des Moines)
- 9 Records Task Force (ISAC Office)
- 9-12 County Attorneys Fall Conference
(Cedar Rapids)
- 14-16 ISAC Fall School of Instruction (Downtown
Marriott/Renaissance Savery, Des Moines)
- 15 *CCMS Board of Directors*
(Downtown Marriott, Des Moines)

DECEMBER

- 1 District 4 Winter Meeting (location TBA)
- 2 District 2 Winter Meeting
(Elks Lodge, Charles City)
- 3 Annual Drainage Conference
(Starlite, Fort Dodge) *Tentative*
- 7 *CCMS Training Committee (ISAC Office)*
- 7-9 Engineers Annual Conference
(Scheman Center, Ames)
- 9 District I Winter Meeting
(Holiday Inn Airport, Des Moines)

- 12-15 Sheriffs & Deputies Winter School
(Downtown Marriott, Des Moines)
- 14 Records Task Force (ISAC Office)
- 16 IEHA Board of Directors (ISAC Office)
- 17 ISAC Board of Directors (ISAC Office)

JANUARY

- 19-20 New County Officers School
(Holiday Inn Airport, Des Moines)
- 21 *CCMS Board of Directors*
(Holiday Inn Airport, Des Moines)
- 21 Statewide Supervisors Meeting
(Holiday Inn Airport, Des Moines)

Upcoming Schools

March 16-18, 2005 - Downtown Marriott/Renaissance Savery, Des Moines

November 13-15, 2005 - Downtown Marriott/Renaissance Savery, Des Moines

March 19-21, 2006 - Downtown Marriott/Renaissance Savery, Des Moines

November 29-Dec. 1, 2006 - Downtown Marriott/Renaissance Savery, Des Moines

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



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