

The Iowa County

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#MentalHealthMattersIA

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February 2019

Iowa's Mental Health and
Disability Services System



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Iowa State Association of Counties

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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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**** The views and opinions expressed in articles authored by anyone other than ISAC staff are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of ISAC.**

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Feature - #MentalHealthMattersIA

History of Counties and the MH/DS System

The involvement of counties in funding persons with mental illness and disabilities can be traced back to 1842 when counties began the development of county homes and assumed responsibility for the costs of services to people with mental illness and intellectual disabilities. The State of Iowa began the construction of state institutions - four mental health institutes and two resource centers - in the 1860s and counties continued to fund services at those institutions.

In the 1950s, community-based mental health centers began and were funded primarily by counties. This was the beginning of a movement towards community-based treatment for persons with mental illness. This move would happen for persons with intellectual disabilities in the 1980s when the state of Iowa received its first Medicaid waiver. With this change, community integration was still slow, and counties paid for the portion of service costs that were not paid for by the federal Medicaid program. Even though counties paid for these expenses, counties had little actual control of what services were provided to whom, where, and at what cost.

This changed in 1994 and 1995 when the legislature created the Central Point of Coordination system (CPC). This legislation limited the funds that counties could levy, freezing them at the 1995 budget levels. This is where levy amounts are today minus the amount reduced in recent years when regions were formed. The state obligated counties to pay for 50% of the "base year" amount, and the state was to pay for the remainder and allow for growth in the system. The amount of money allocated from the state was dependent upon its financial position and was not steady. This created a system where there were some years a county may have had too much money and, due to that, the next year, the county was not eligible for state money and then had waiting lists.



Russell Wood

President, Iowa Community Services Association

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An advertisement for the Iowa State Association of Counties (ISAC). It features a profile shot of Suzanne Watson, CEO of the SW Iowa MH/DS Region. The text includes a quote from her, contact information for ISAC, and the website www.iowacounties.org.

"The time to do something about it is now."

Suzanne Watson
CEO, SW Iowa MH/DS Region

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Over the next fifteen years there were frequent changes in the way the system was funded and managed with legislative changes. This included reductions in funding from the state, transfer of the Medicaid responsibility from the counties to the state, change from “Legal Settlement” to “Residency” for funding responsibility, and finally, “Regionalization”.

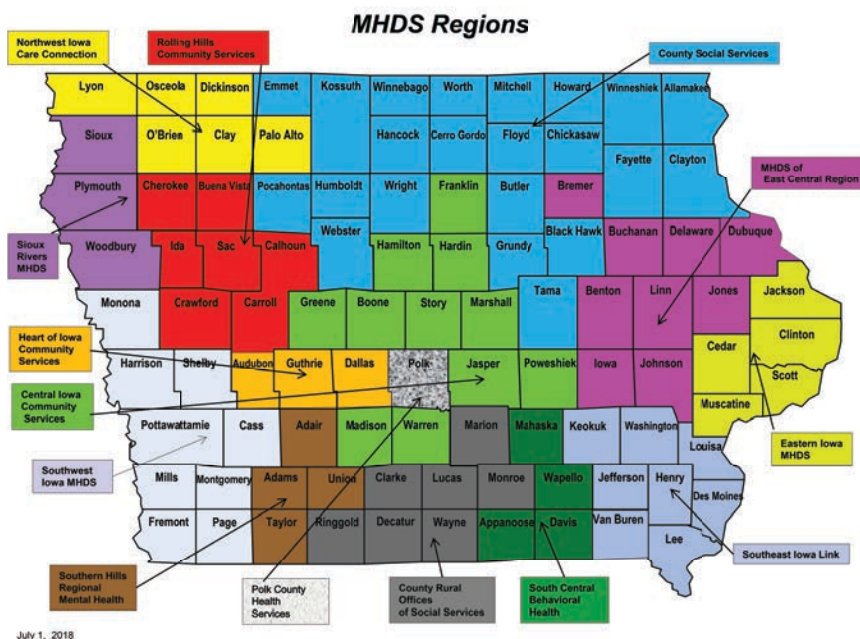
In 2009, the state began the process to move the county-based system of care to a regional one. Counties had to form regions that met specific standards or apply for a waiver. Polk County is the only county that was granted a waiver from regionalizing with other counties but still has to meet the required standards. These changes had to be implemented by July of 2014. At the time of implementation, counties had to reduce their levies to \$47.28 per capita if they were above that amount, and the state contributed an amount up to the \$47.28 for counties that had been historically levying below that amount. This state appropriation was removed after one year, leaving the county/regional levy authority at about \$14 million less than it was in 1995.

In 2017, SF 504 equalized levy capacity within a region but not to exceed the \$47.28 cap. Previously, even in a region, each county had different levy authority, and some were not able to contribute an equal amount. This legislation also directed regions to reduce fund balance to either 20% or 25% cash flow across fiscal years depending on their populations. The penalty to not meet that target threshold is reduction in levy capacity effective July 1, 2021.

In 2018 the Iowa legislature passed HF 2456 which added many crisis services to the list of funding that regions had to provide for. These included services designed to keep persons with mental illness out of institutional, legal, and hospital settings. These services are currently being designed and implemented statewide even though no additional funding authority was given to regions.

In the interim of 2018, workgroups met to discuss many items including a resolution to the funding system concerns that regions were facing. The interim committee that met on this opted to not make a recommendation to the legislature this year. One other group that met was a workgroup on children’s services. They did make a number of recommendations to the legislature including developing a system of care for children that mirrored the system for adults. They recommended that this system be governed by regions as well.

This account of counties’ history of involvement in mental health and disability services (MH/DS) is very abbreviated and does not fully reflect the amount of change that counties have seen in the last 25 years. Almost annually, something else changes, and county government and the employees within have continued to rise to the occasion and provide leadership, planning and funding to persons with mental illness and disabilities. As things continue to change in the future, county government looks forward to continuing to lead and being allowed the ability to acquire funding at levels necessary to meet the needs of their constituents.



Regions are formed as 28E entities under Iowa Code and each one has a governing board that includes representatives from each member county and ex-officio members from a provider and service recipient or a family member of a service recipient. The regions are charged with paying for the non-Medicaid share of costs for Adults with Mental Illness and Intellectual Disabilities. Some regions also pay for services to persons with other developmental disabilities, brain injuries and some children’s services as they were allowed to continue services they provided funding for before regionalization.

Feature - #MentalHealthMattersIA

The Importance of MH/DS

I would like to tell you why I think mental health and disability services are so important. First, we are parents of a family member that is a client at the Glenwood Resource Center.

I have worked very closely with the Administration and the Department of Human Services to see that the clients are well taken care of. I have served as President of the Parent Family Group for the past nine years. We meet three to four times a year to compile complaints and to take them to the Administration.

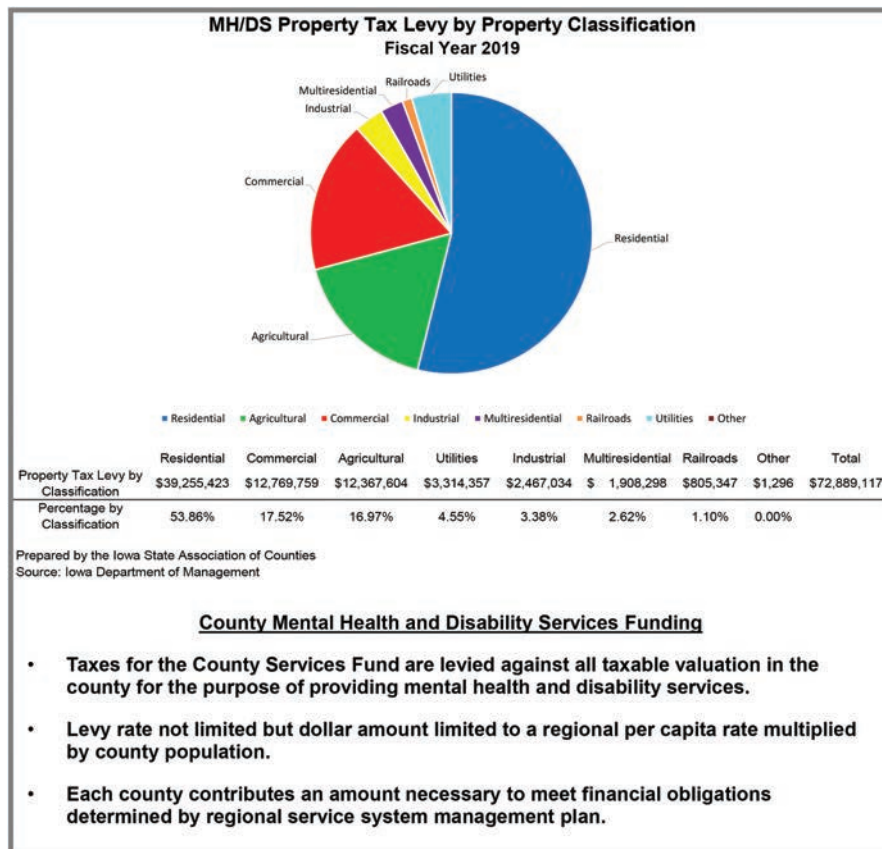
I have also served on the State Mental Health Commission as a supervisor, helping to lay the groundwork for many of the rules and regulations that we work with today. I am currently serving on the Medical Assistance Advisory County (MAAC) Executive Committee and have for the past two and a half years. We work on all types of problems – especially the managed care organizations (MCOs).



Richard Crouch
Mills County Supervisor
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Mental health funding to me is one of the hardest topics to write about; there are so many gray areas. The people in charge seem to think once you pay for a new program it's done. It seems to be forgotten that you have to continually pay for this program plus the changes that have to be made.

County funding is another problem. Some counties have the ability to raise and lower their county rates, while others cannot. In my region we are very fortunate. We asked \$23 per capita in 2018/2019. When we look at our spread sheet over the next four to five years we are still below the state rate of \$47.28 per capita.



It is my feeling that imposing a carryover balance of 20% to 25% would make requirements and funding impossible for some regions. I know this is in SF 504, so we need to work with our legislators to remove or change this.

For years I have talked to the Governor and senate committees about funding for MH/DS and have asked why we couldn't get stable funding. Now that we have a source of funding, they are trying to tie our hands by having regions spend down their current balances. This would force regions to raise their per capita rates or tax asking of the tax payers instead of the state.

For the state of Iowa, it ranks 19 out of the 50 states. How this comes about is what the State spends on controlled funds for mental illness. The state of Iowa is listed as a stingy state by only spending 2.3%.

It is great to see so many people helping those that are less fortunate than we are, and I will continue to work on their behalf as well.

2019 ISAC Top Priorities

Iowa State Association of Counties



Mental Health and Disability Services

Addressing long term sustainable funding has long been an issue since Iowa moved to a regional based mental health and disability services (MH/DS) delivery system.

While progress was made during the during the 2017 session at addressing mental health funding, specifically levy equity for counties within MH/DS regions, the new regional caps that were established do not allow for growth within the system, provide the necessary resources to sustain complex needs services that were called for in this last session in HF 2456, or fund children's mental health services.

Further, the carry forward balance restrictions in SF 504 in 2017 of 20% or 25% depending on the size of the region, are setting up a potential funding calamity with rapid property tax swings from year to year to meet these requirements and fund the necessary services.

SOLUTION



Eliminate MH/DS Levy Caps

Eliminate the regional mental health levy caps that were established in SF 504 and allow for counties to levy what is necessary to meet their regional budgetary needs.



Remove Carry Forward Balance Restrictions

Remove the carry forward balance restrictions of 20% or 25% to provide counties/regions resources for new and existing programs without dramatic changes in property taxes.



Increase Sales Tax

If the above remedies are not advanced, an increase in the sales tax should be considered to fund MH/DS that must be constitutionally protected based on a distribution formula that is equitable for all counties in Iowa.

ISAC members are elected and appointed county officials from all 99 counties.

We represent 16 affiliated associations. Representatives of these affiliates make up our Legislative Policy Committee and our Board of Directors.

Mission promote effective and responsible county government for the people of Iowa.

Vision principal, authoritative source of representation, information and services for and about county government in Iowa.



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Invest in Iowa's Counties.

Invest in Iowa's Mental Health.

ISAC members from various affiliates and staff have created a campaign to further ISAC's top priority asking for long-term, sustainable funding for Iowa's mental health and disability services system. The #MentalHealthMattersIA campaign was rolled out during the first week of the legislative session with a press release, several videos, and social media posts.

Within the first several days of the campaign the analytics from social media sites are overwhelming. Posts on Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube have reached nearly 100,000 people. Using these social media platforms enables the videos to be seen by a large number of Iowans at very little cost compared to traditional advertising.

In addition to social media, ISAC, a contracted marketing company, and members will be reaching out to local and statewide media outlets to share our call for a commitment to Iowa's mental health system. This will be done through press releases, editorials, and invitations to our County Day at the Capitol event on March 13.

In order for the campaign to be successful, we are requesting help from our members and partners. So, how can *YOU* help?

1. Share our message with legislators and your local media.
2. Share our posts on your personal and organizational social media profiles.
3. Share our story for any interested groups/individuals and request that they follow these steps as well.

We have made each of these tasks easy by supplying all links, information, and advocacy materials on one website page. Go to www.iowacounties.org and click on the #MentalHealthMattersIA featured link in the upper right-hand corner of the site. You can also always contact Rachel Bennett at rbennett@iowacounties.org or 515.244.7181.

We would like to extend a special thanks to the ISAC members who were featured in our videos and to Mary Neubauer and Larry Loss. The effort and passion that each person gave to create these powerful videos were incredible. ISAC staff is proud to continue to advocate for the betterment of the system on their behalf, on the behalf of all of our members, and behalf of all Iowans. The time is now!



Feature - #MentalHealthMattersIA



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Iowa State Association of Counties Calls on Legislators to Join Governor's Commitment to Mental Health Services

ISAC's powerful video campaign highlights the need to prioritize improving services for children and providing stable funding for county-level mental health and disability services



Des Moines, IA (January 15, 2019) – The Iowa State Association of Counties (ISAC) on Tuesday applauded Governor Reynolds for her call for the development and expansion of mental health services for the children of Iowa, positive changes to the regional carry forward balances, and the need for sustainable funding for the Iowa mental health and disability services system in her Condition of the State address and calls on legislators to also make mental health services a priority during the 2019 legislative session.

ISAC has committed itself to telling the story of mental health and disability services in Iowa and has created a number of powerful videos in its "[#MentalHealthMattersIA](#)" campaign advocating for immediate changes to address the regional mental health and disability services (MH/DS) delivery system in Iowa during the 2019 legislative session. Excerpts of the videos will be made available for news use by request and the full videos may be shared on social media - with proper credits. ISAC will assist media providers in telling the story of why mental health funding needs to be addressed by setting up interviews with its featured members, policy staff, and mental health service providers.

"A long-term, sustainable funding solution is needed now more than ever to solidify the mental health delivery system in Iowa," ISAC Executive Director Bill Peterson said. "Counties, the regions, and service providers are addressing the needs of affected Iowans, but financial stability can no longer be put off. The time to do something is now."

ISAC is calling for the elimination of the regional mental health levy caps so counties can meet the regional budgetary needs and the removal of carry forward balance restrictions so counties have the resources to fund newly required and existing programs without significant changes in property taxes.

"Iowa counties and mental health regions believe in the incredible importance of investing in mental health services for children that may not be getting the help they need right now," said ISAC President and Dubuque County Treasurer Eric Stierman. "We stand ready to continue our partnership with the state as we work to improve our service delivery and stabilize funding for both the adult and children's system."

Financial constraints that have been placed on the counties must be released so that they are able to develop and expand mental health services for children and to provide services for individuals with complex mental health needs as called for in last year's HF 2456. These constraints will continue to cause instability in both funding and service delivery, as well as dramatic swings in the property tax asking of property owners.

The Iowa State Association of Counties (ISAC) is a private, nonprofit corporation. ISAC members are elected and appointed county officials from all 99 counties. ISAC's mission is to promote effective and responsible county government for the people of Iowa. ISAC's vision is to be the principal, authoritative source of representation, information and services for and about county government in Iowa.

Feature - #MentalHealthMattersIA

Behavioral Health Hospital Coming to Scott County

Mental health and disability (MH/DS) services have come a long way since the passage of Mental Health Redesign in 2012. We now have 14 regions and much more consistent services across the state. Individuals have access to basic services no matter where they live in Iowa. But, MH/DS redesign did not fix everything. Funding continues to be a major issue and so does the lack of hospital beds. The MH/DS regions continue to have individuals transported by the sheriff's office, away from their home communities, for care and treatment.

In 2015, Strategic Behavioral Health, LLC (SBH) approached Scott County officials and stakeholders to discuss the need for additional psychiatric beds based on their independent assessment of bed need in communities nationally. SBH is dedicated to providing quality behavioral health services to patients and their families. SBH, based out of Memphis, has several hospitals around the United States. I was fortunate to visit two of them, one in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and one in Green Bay, Wisconsin. I met with hospital staff, families, and numerous stakeholders in both cities. The community support in both cities was overwhelming. The hospitals offer a variety of services based on the needs of the communities: inpatient, intensive outpatient, partial hospitalization, inpatient co-occurring mental health and chemical dependency, and ECT services. SBH has qualified mental health professionals available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to provide free mental health assessments, to discuss treatment options, and to provide confidential crisis intervention.



Lori Elam

Eastern Iowa MH/DS Region CEO
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Strategic Behavioral Health's new hospital, named Eagle View Behavioral Health, is currently under construction in Scott County. They are building a state of the art facility with the hope of opening their doors by early 2020 due to weather delays. What will that mean for individuals in Iowa? Eagle View Behavioral Health will provide 72 beds serving children, adolescents, adults, and seniors with serious psychiatric issues that can't be treated in a less restrictive setting. SBH's philosophy of care is based on a therapeutic model. Clinical services begin with an initial, no cost, assessment. Upon admission, the psychiatrist conducts an initial assessment along with a therapist treatment plan meeting. A family therapy session is required within 72 hours. In addition to family therapy, there is also group and individual therapy as well as recreational therapy, all evidence based. Discharge planning always includes a safety plan with follow-up appointments or a step down level of care recommendation.

Eagle View Behavioral Health will be the first private, free-standing psychiatric hospital in Iowa. It will offer a variety of therapies for children, adolescents, and adults as not everyone has success with the same type of services. Patient care is not "one size fits all". The average length of stay is five to 10 days depending on the individual. Eagle View Behavioral Health will also provide a classroom setting so the children and adolescents don't fall behind in school work and the psychiatrist can monitor their behavior. There will be a courtyard so individuals can go outside for fresh air. It will also have an in-house pharmacy. Eagle View Behavioral Health will serve both voluntary and involuntary patients, regardless of insurance or ability to pay. Physicians will work full or part time in the hospital and may also set up outpatient clinics. This will allow more choices and options for individuals in need of services/treatment as well as expand the local outpatient network.

Eagle View Behavioral Health will be a partner in the communities of eastern Iowa as they can provide mobile assessments, direct transfer admits, community education and training, Community Liaisons, and invitations to treatment team meetings. SBH offers monthly in-service trainings welcoming all those interested. Eagle View Behavioral Health will add value to our communities by bringing in additional professionals, increasing inpatient bed access, and increasing access to other community based services. Individuals will have more options and choices for care. Eagle View Behavioral Health will not only enhance the current service delivery system, but also add to the continuum of care within the Eastern Iowa MH/DS Region and throughout the state.

Feature - #MentalHealthMattersIA

The Children's System State Board

In early 2018, Governor Reynolds signed an executive order creating the Children's System State Board. This was the first of many steps to establish a children's mental health system in Iowa. It's been noted that while there are many children's services available in the state of Iowa, the lack of a coordinated children's mental health system is a significant gap.

By creating the Children's System State board, it allows individuals from several areas of the system to take a comprehensive look at what resources are currently in place in order to develop a strategic plan with specific recommendations. That strategic plan will then be given to lawmakers with the hopes that they will pass legislation to implement a children's mental health system.

My role on the Children's System State Board was to represent the mental health and disability services (MH/DS) regions. Meetings of the Board began in August 2018. Prior to those meetings, MH/DS region CEOs met to discuss our role in the children's system. The CEOs were in agreement that the regions have the infrastructure to take on the children's system in the role of resource, referral, and coordination. Many of the regions are already providing those types of services along with funding of crisis services. Quite a few of the regions have a background in both children's and adult services. Prior to 2016, many of them were the case management providers for waiver services serving both children and adults.

The Children's System State Board is comprised of 18 voting members from areas such as law enforcement, AEA, legislators, parent representatives, the Iowa Hospital Association, NAMI, etc. The Board is co-chaired by Jerry Foxhoven, Director of the State of Iowa Department of Human Services, and Ryan Wise, Director of the State of Iowa Department of Education.



Darci Alt

Heart of Iowa Region CEO

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"We have to do better."

Rick Sanders
Story County Supervisor

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The Board met a total of five times before the deadline of November 15, 2018 to have the strategic plan to Governor Reynolds and the General Assembly. The strategic plan focuses on:

- Prevention, early identification, and early intervention;
- Comprehensive crisis services;
- Behavioral health treatment; and
- Community-based flexible supports.

The timeline developed for having all new services implemented under the new strategic plan is from July 2019 to July 2021. Most immediate services have been identified as: Universal behavioral health screening, assessment, and evaluation; comprehensive behavioral health crisis services including mobile crisis intervention and stabilization; medication prescribing and management; care coordination; statewide hotline; and System of Care services by 2020. Those will be followed by: mental health and substance abuse education; primary care access to mental health and disability consultation; behavioral support services; outpatient treatment in home and community based settings; therapeutic foster care and child care (without CINA); acute and sub-acute treatment; transition-age youth services including employment related supports; Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) teams; Behavioral Health Intervention Services (BHIS); family and peer support; respite services; and assistance with transportation by 2021.

The Board also recognized the need to address workforce shortages across the state in many areas. A recommendation was made for workforce incentives to be established by July 2020 for professionals working in the behavioral health field.

The state board recognizes that a stable funding source must be identified for the development of the children's system. The system cannot be maintained without it.

The following funding sources are already being used to pay for children's behavioral health services:

- private insurance;
- medical assistance program;
- Iowa Department of Public Health (i.e. substance abuse treatment); and
- MH/DS regions.



"Funding is needed now more than ever."

Dawn Smith
Cedar County Supervisor

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Services not covered by private insurance or Medicaid or services provided to individuals not covered by private insurance or Medicaid should be paid by public funds consisting of a combination of general fund appropriations and/or property tax levy designated.

Recommendations were made to eliminate the Children's Mental Health Home (CMH) and Community Based Waiver Waiting list. Currently, the CMH waiver is capped at 1,014 children served. As of August 2018, 1,035 children are approved for a CMH waiver and 882 children are on the waiting list. Eliminating the waiting list will allow more children to be eligible for mental health services and Medicaid.

The Systems of Care (SOC) program should also be expanded to serve all Iowa children that need the service by July 1, 2020. There are currently four SOC programs serving 531 children in 14 counties. SOC programs serve non-Medicaid eligible children or youth age 0-21 who meet the criteria of having a serious emotional disturbance (SED) and are in need of care coordination and community supports not otherwise available. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) provides estimates of the prevalence of SED for children ages 9-17 in each state. The estimate for the lowest level of functioning (LOF) score of 50 is 18,615 children.

The Board has made recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly regarding funding for the Children's Behavioral Health System. The Board is asking that these initial funding proposals be considered to begin to funding the Children's Behavioral Health System.

The Children's State Board continues to meet and will begin developing administrative rules to help guide the system once legislation has been passed.

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ISAC County Day at the Capitol | March 13

Wallace Building and Iowa State Capitol
Free to attend, but please pre-register!

Join all ISAC members and staff as we advocate for good county government at the Statehouse. Affiliate displays will be set up around the Rotunda and lunch will be served to all attending county officials and legislators during County Day at the Capitol on March 13. Special events will be held for the #MentalHealthMattersIA campaign. Make sure that you attend and help make the county story heard!

ISAC Spring Conference | March 14-15

Veterans' Memorial Community Choice Credit Union Convention Center

Reduced rate pre-registration is available through 4:30 pm on Thursday, February 28. The Spring Conference will feature two full days of education including a general session, educational seminars (see descriptions below), and ample affiliate time. Hot breakfast will be served on Thursday and Friday and a fun, games-filled reception will be held on Thursday evening in the exhibit hall. Lunch will also be provided to attendees both days. Find all event details at www.iowacounties.org.

ISAC Educational Seminars

9:00 am - 10:15 am | Thursday, March 14

Legal Trends and Case Law that impacts Iowa Counties

Counties in the state of Iowa sit at the nexus between state government and smaller municipal government. This presentation will help attendees understand the various changes in the law for counties, as well as municipalities in general, and how it may impact your office or department. This includes employment law, land use law, open meetings/records, and many other areas of the law. Speakers: Brent Hinders and Hugh Cain, Hopkins & Huebner, P.C.

Simple Tech Tools and Tricks

This interactive and conversational educational seminar will give conference attendees the opportunity to learn simple tools and tricks from county IT directors. Attendees will leave with ideas that will make their lives easier and safer. Please bring your devices and questions. Speakers: Micah Van Maanen, Sioux County IT Director; Micah Cutler, Hardin County IT Director; Eric Guth, Winnebago County IT Director; Ryan Eaton, Jasper County IT; Joel Rohne, Worth County IT Director and Andy Flagge, Wright County IT

Employees cannot say that...or can they? – Off-Duty Employee Search

This presentation will examine the unique rights that public employees have to engage in off-duty speech. Employees' conversations during lunch breaks, in the parking lot, or on Facebook may be subject to First Amendment protection or be recognized as protected and concerted activity under labor law. Through an interactive presentation, the presenters will evaluate specific case examples of these rights, advise employers on how to navigate the First Amendment and labor law with respect to off-duty speech, and teach attendees how to address problems created by off-duty speech, even when it may be protected. Speakers: Aaron Hilligas and Ann Smisek, Ahlers & Cooney, P.C.

Need help getting registered? Email support@iowacounties.org and we'll be happy to help!

"It was a dark and stormy night."
- Snoopy

It was one of those days. No. It was one of those weeks. It was cold and damp, and the wind cut you to the bone like a hot ice pick through warm butter. It was one of those days when a guy just wants to curl up with a bad detective novel and a bottle of good Scotch. But, I had a job to do. So, I hauled my creaky bones out of a warm bed, threw some clothes in a suitcase, and headed to the airport. With the cold mist on my windshield together with the oncoming headlights, I felt like Raymond Burr in the movie Rear Window. After a few typical airport delays we finally landed in San Diego. When I got to the hotel I ran into Cathy. All her best friends call her Cat. But I figured I was too much of a gent to call her that. I hadn't seen her for a while because she was abroad. We decided to go out for dinner to a little taco joint across the street. The next morning I thought I would case the hotel. You know. Find the meeting rooms, the restrooms, and figure out the goofy elevator arrangement. That's when I ran into Ricky. Ricky is the guy that everybody knows, and everybody should know. You don't have to kiss his ring, but you always feel like you should. We went over to the taco joint for lunch and that is when it started. Rain! When I was in Sun Valley for a WIR Conference last spring it rained. Now this in Southern California! I'm starting to feel like that little guy in the Li'l Abner comics Joe Btfsplk.



Melvyn Houser
ISAC NACo Board Representative
Pottawattamie County Auditor
melvyn.houser@pottcounty-ia.gov

NACo's Fall Board meeting was held in President Cox's San Diego County last December along with the Large Urban County Caucus Symposium. The symposium's theme was "Connecting the Unconnected" which is President Cox's Presidential initiative. Before all that started, though, there were several workshops. One was a trip to the Port of Entry in San Ysidro where attendees had a look at prototypes for the boarder wall. That would have been interesting, but I decided to go to the workshop titled "The Blue Economy". I thought it was going to be about global trade and the Trans Pacific Partnership. We here in the Midwest think that everything comes from the soil – food, fiber, and fuel. Plus, a bit of wind energy to boot. There is a lot more going on in the ocean environment than I realized. The marine economy there used to be shipbuilding, tuna fishing, and canneries. Those are all gone now and have been replaced by Blue Tech and Blue Jobs. Aquaculture, desalinization, offshore wind energy, biopharma, climate change studies, geologic studies – all this and much more has a \$14 billion impact on the local economy. The workshop was held at the Maritime Museum of San Diego. After the seminar we had a chance to tour some of the eleven vessels they have there. There is a full replica of the first Spanish ship to enter San Diego Harbor in 1542, a Russian submarine, a Vietnam Nam era swift boat, and the Star of India were just a few that we had time to check out because we were all getting soaked from the rain. If you are ever in San Diego and have the slightest interest in maritime history, you need to visit this museum.

All 3,069 counties across the country are responsible for public health and human services. In those large metropolitan areas of millions of people, the attention to that is much greater. Where a small rural county might be concerned with embargoed bridges on a farm to market road, an urban county might be worried about a hepatitis outbreak among the thousands of homeless. This is what happened in San Diego. In a massive effort they administered 122,000 Hepatitis A vaccinations. Not just to the homeless on the streets, but to those in tent camps in the ravines that are accessible only by foot. If the county had not intervened when they did there may have been nearly half a million cases to deal with.

Last year President Brooks' initiative was "Serving the Underserved." Not only do we have to provide the services, we also need to connect the people to those services. Our next mobile workshop took us to a previously empty supermarket which is now a one stop shop for those needing social services. The North Inland Live Well Center has seven areas including administration offices. They are: the Public Health Center, the Family Resource Center, the Child Welfare Center, Aging and Independence Services, Child Support Services, and Military and Veteran Services. This is just one of several Live Well Centers throughout the county. I just folded the brochure I was referring to as I am writing this and caught a glimpse of the county seal. Their motto is "THE NOBLEST MOTIVE IS THE PUBLIC GOOD." I think San Diego County is doing a lot of good for the public.

I went to the Board of Directors meeting looking for Grant Veeder. Grant always sits in the middle of the room trying to look inconspicuous. I'll tell you, though. Grant Veeder is about as inconspicuous as a tarantula on a piece of angel food cake! Every-

NACo News

one looks forward to seeing Grant there because he reads his great limericks at the end of each meeting. Any future NACo President who doesn't appoint Grant to the Board will be the limerick killer. Like a shiv in the back.

Due to the sale of U.S. Communities, one of NACo's asset partners, NACo will be losing about \$2 million per year in income. Even though it was sold at a fair market, NACo will now have to downsize and realign staff, devise a new investment strategy, and reset goals. We are still financially sound and hopefully the membership won't be affected by these behind the scene changes. In her legislative update, Deb Cox gave a few highlights. Out of 13,000 bills presented, only 232 were passed. The Farm Bill was passed and signed. And now the Army Corps of Engineers are required to consult with local governments on any actions or changes they want to make. President Cox asked the Board to approve his concept of a new subcommittee to deal with parks, open spaces, and trails. If this interests any of you, especially conservation directors, you might consider going to a NACo conference and joining in on the decision making there. Brian Namey talked about the new High-Performance Leadership Academy. The next sign up is this April. There is also the Cybersecurity Leadership Academy. Encourage some of your staff to check this out. It would be well worth it. Go to either NACo.org/skills or [/cyber skills](http://cyber skills).

Albert Hammond says it seems it never rains in Southern California, but it pours, man it pours. Veeder and I were sitting and waiting for the time to go to the evening event one block down the street to the USS Midway museum. A decommissioned aircraft carrier. I looked out at the western sky and saw thunderheads building up. The lightning coming closer. Like Patton's artillery through France. Then it started to rain. It didn't just rain cats and dogs. It rained down like dead bullets. I wondered how we were going to make it without getting soaked. And I knew, with my brains and his looks that we weren't going to go far. So, we took the shuttle.

The next day, Saturday, it was time to go home back to Iowa. Clear skies and 70 degrees. Just my luck. A bunch of us were loading into cabs and vans to the airport. I spied an empty seat with four others in the van. I didn't hesitate to jump in with them because, of all the folks I know at NACo, I never met a four I didn't like.

I would like to apologize to the reader for my flight of fancy. Especially for that last line. I guess I've been watching too many old movies this winter. I also want to thank Raymond Chandler, Dashiell Hammett, Mickey Spillane, and others.

ISAC NACo Representative

NOTICE: Pursuant to the ISAC By-Laws, notice is hereby given that ISAC is accepting applications for the position of ISAC NACo (National Association of Counties) representative. The ISAC NACo representative is selected by the ISAC Board of Directors.

The duties of the ISAC NACo representative include attending four NACo Board of Directors meetings a year around the country and representing Iowa on the NACo Board of Directors.

The ISAC NACo representative is automatically a member of the ISAC Board of Directors as well. The ISAC NACo representative will be required to attend nine ISAC Board meetings annually and report to the ISAC Board regarding NACo.

Applicants must be either county officials or county employees. Applicants must be from a county that is a member of NACo.

The term of the ISAC NACo representative is three years and commences in July 2019 at the conclusion of the NACo Annual Conference. A person may serve a maximum of three terms.

This is an unpaid position. ISAC will reimburse the ISAC NACo representative for all reasonable travel expenses to attend the NACo Board of Directors meetings and ISAC Board of Directors meetings.

Applications are available on the ISAC website at www.iowacounties.org, or by calling the ISAC office at 515.244.7181.

Applications must be received by 4:30 pm on March 22, 2019 at the following address:

Iowa State Association of Counties
Attn: William R. Peterson, Executive Director
5500 Westown Parkway, Suite 190
West Des Moines, Iowa 50266

Or

bpeterson@iowacounties.org

The ICAP Grant

What do panic buttons, security cameras and speedbumps have in common?

The answer might be surprising. Each of these items, and many more, have been purchased with funding from an Iowa Communities Assurance Pool (ICAP) Grant. The ICAP Board of Directors launched The ICAP Grant in 2016. Through the program every ICAP member is eligible to receive \$1,000 per year for the purchase of approved loss control and risk management items. Since then, ICAP has given over \$206,000 in grant funds to Iowa counties, including nearly \$74,000 in 2018 alone!

All in all, since April 2016, the ICAP Safety Grant has given more than \$1.4 million directly to ICAP members, which includes counties, cities, and other government entities. Counties have used grant funds to purchase a wide range of necessary safety items, including search and rescue equipment, AEDs, personal protective equipment (PPE) like ballistic helmets and vests, drones, and other items too numerous to mention.

Partnership Expands Grant Impact

In 2017, five ICAP members pooled their grant money, using it to leverage other grants and funding to purchase jaws of life equipment.

It all started when Scott Vaughan, fire chief for the city of Fairfield, identified the need for new jaws of life equipment to be used in extricating victims from serious vehicle accidents. Due to budgetary constraints within the city, Vaughan approached Jefferson County to contribute funding for the new unit.

ICAP's local agent, Tom Gamrath, was promoting The ICAP Grant to the city, Jefferson County, and several other 28E groups which are also ICAP members, including Jefferson County Service Agency, Jefferson County Emergency Management Commission, and Jefferson County E911 Board.

The county supervisors unanimously suggested contributing the county's ICAP Grant money toward the new jaws of life. After talking with the other four entities, Gamrath coordinated the grant applications of all five entities who combined their grant money to purchase the life-saving equipment.

But, the story doesn't end there. The \$5,000 received from The ICAP Grant became seed money to attract other funding sources. Through this partnership of government entities, a \$1,000 grant turned into \$5,000, which eventually culminated in the purchase of a new jaws of life and associated equipment totally nearly \$57,000.

The result of this partnership, which started with The ICAP Grant application, is improved public safety for all Jefferson County residents. This stands as a terrific example of local governmental entities working together for the greater good of taxpayers and the general public—a founding principle of the governmental pooling services offered by ICAP and IMWCA.

The Impact Continues

In 2019, the ICAP Board of Directors hopes to enable more stories like this. The board has approved continuation of The ICAP Grant through 2019, with the sustained goal of giving back to the ICAP membership while also providing access to items that help to protect life and property. This means every ICAP member county is eligible to apply for the grant again this year.

This is a great opportunity for ICAP member counties, and we urge every member county to take advantage. To view a list of items that are eligible for the grant or to submit a request for grant funds, ICAP members can visit www.icapiowa.com/grant. Contact your ICAP underwriter or local agent with questions.

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ISAC Brief

Community Leader Spirit of the Season Throughout the Year

We have just experienced the “most joyful and thankful season of the year.” Friends and relatives become especially prominent in our lives at this time of the year. They are filled with the concepts of thanks, sharing, appreciation, and happiness. Business’s tend to join in the spirit of the season with dinners, celebrations, gifts and special events for employees and families. In some cases, there may even be bonuses, time off, or charitable gifts to various organizations. The business leader puts on their best “face” for everyone during the season.

What I would like to talk about is a business leader that puts on their best face around the year. This individual is thoughtful, sharing, kind, appreciative and in great spirits the year round. Truly a believer in community service and helping those around him and his community not only during the season, but, every day of the year.



KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL AFFILIATE

Gerald F. Schnepf

Executive Director,
Keep Iowa Beautiful

gschnepf@keepiowabeautiful.com

Doug Shull of Indianola – a hometown boy from Sac City, an accountant by background and education, former chief financial officer (CFO) of Casey’s General Stores, state legislator, county supervisor, teacher at Simpson College, a loving husband and father, and an accounting partner with his brother in a local firm. For Keep Iowa Beautiful the last accolade is one of the best. Doug has been on the board and treasurer of Keep Iowa Beautiful since its start – just over 20 years ago.

Doug fully understood that Casey’s has a company heritage focused on small towns. During that time, he came to recognize the long-term importance of the work of KIB in enhancing those communities and in aiding in their survival and success. That was not only for Casey’s benefit, but for the very culture and economic vitality of these special places that often represent the face of Iowa. Doug continues by indicating, “At Casey’s, we were always aware of the importance of a healthy and clean community. I cannot stress enough how helpful this is when recruiting talented employees to join our staff. The appeal of the community where we reside is equally as important as our workplace environment and our stores. For small town Iowa these communities need to put their best foot forward and to build community pride and success.”

Doug continues to serve the organization as its treasurer as well as being an active and involved board member. He has never missed a meeting or in stepping up to help where there may be special needs. Doug has supported change in the organization so that today it is playing an nationally creative and effective role in working with communities and rural Iowa. These traits certainly reflect Doug’s small-town values. Additionally, with Doug’s leadership, the organization has a growing endowment fund. His assistance to utilize the Greater Des Moines Community Foundation as the manager of our finances as well as the endowment continues to be highly successful.

I believe there are many business leaders with similar qualities that are doing good throughout the year – I can say with confidence that the staff and the full board are truly appreciative. Join with other Iowa business leaders like Doug that are making Iowa a great place to live. A special thanks to Doug for sharing his life not only for Keep Iowa Beautiful, but for all the Iowans that are benefitting from the work and success of Keep Iowa Beautiful. We are honored to have Doug as a Keep Iowa Beautiful board member that shares the three “T’s” – time, talent, and treasure.

Take the time to explore with us how you can help us achieve the values that Doug see’s in Iowa’s communities and rural Iowa by becoming a Keep Iowa Beautiful sponsor.

Click on the following and find out how easy it is: <https://keepiowabeautiful.com/become-a-sponsor/>.

2019 calendar

February

7 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting
(ISAC Office)

March

2-5 NACo Legislative Conference
(Washington, D.C.)
13 County Day at the Capitol
(Iowa State Capitol, Des Moines)
14-15 ISAC Spring Conference
(Veterans Memorial Community Choice Credit
Union Convention Center, Des Moines)

April

14-17 ISSDA Civil School
(Airport Holiday Inn, Des Moines)
18 ISAC HIPAA Program Meeting
(Polk County River Place, Des Moines)
23-24 Iowa Governor's Conference on Public Health
(Airport Holiday Inn, Des Moines)
25 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting
(ISAC Office)

May

7-10 Treasurers Conference
(Ameristar Holiday Inn, Council Bluffs)
15-19 NACo WIR Conference
(Spokane, Washington)

June

5-7 Records Summer School
(Council Bluffs)
12 ISAC Scholarship Golf Fundraiser
(Toad Valley Golf Course, Pleasant Hill)
18-21 ITAG Conference
(Sheraton, West Des Moines)
26 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting
(ISAC Office)

July

11-15 NACo Annual Conference
(Las Vegas, Nevada)
17-19 Auditors Annual Conference
(Burlington)

August

20 ISAC LPC Meeting
(Veterans Memorial Community Choice Credit
Union Convention Center, Des Moines)
21-23 ISAC Annual Conference
(Veterans Memorial Community Choice Credit
Union Convention Center, Des Moines)

September

15-18 ISSDA Jail School
(Holiday Inn Airport, Des Moines)
18-20 ISAC Board of Directors Retreat
(Dubuque County)

October

6-9 Assessors Fall Conference
(Airport Holiday Inn, Des Moines)

November

20-21 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting
(ISAC Office)

December

8-10 ISSDA Winter School
(Airport Holiday Inn, Des Moines)

If you have any questions about the meetings listed above or would like to add an affiliate meeting to the ISAC calendar, please contact Kelsey Sebern at ksebern@iowacounties.org.

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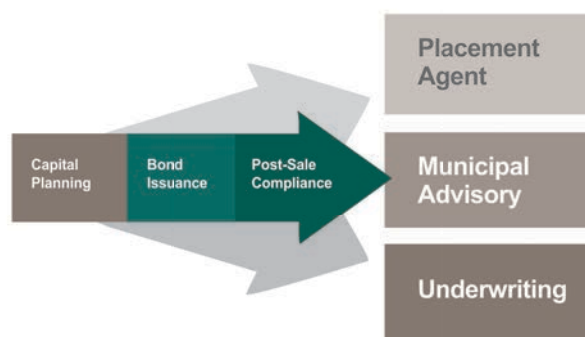
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