

The Iowa County magazine

*Increase
Reimbursement Rates
for all Medicaid
covered services*

*• Major issue in rural
Iowa - challenges to
fund staff and to
keep facilities
open.*

M E D I C A I D

*• Apply for the
state waiver that
would maintain
Medicaid coverage
for those in
county jails.*

March 2024
ISAC Top Legislative Priority:
Medicaid Funding



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The Iowa County

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ISAC's Mission:

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

ISAC's Vision:

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

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Sustaining Rural Healthcare

I have had the opportunity to work in Iowa hospitals in various capacities for more than 30 years. As the CEO of Stewart Memorial Community Hospital, a 25-bed critical access hospital in Lake City, I can share my perspective. Rural hospitals are critical in ensuring access to health care services for Iowa communities. Often hospitals are the lifeblood of rural communities as the largest employer and an economic driver; but these facilities face unique challenges in securing adequate funding to sustain operations and meet rural populations' diverse health care needs.



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The landscape of rural health care in Iowa

Vast stretches of farmland, small towns, and tightknit communities characterize rural Iowa. In this landscape, rural hospitals serve as lifelines, providing essential health care services to residents who may otherwise face significant barriers to access. Despite their importance, rural hospitals in Iowa often operate on razor-thin margins and struggle to maintain stability amid various challenges.

All hospitals must navigate a complex web of regulatory requirements, compliance standards, and accreditation processes that often entail substantial administrative costs and resource allocation. Hospitals also deal with implementing infrastructure and technology system updates that further strain limited financial resources. These issues can be more pronounced for rural hospitals because of limited funds.

The most significant challenges facing rural hospitals fall into two broad categories:

- **Financial pressures** – Because rural hospitals serve smaller populations, they tend to have low patient volumes. This can limit their ability to offer specialized services, such as obstetric units. Further, federal legislative attempts would reduce Medicare reimbursement for certain services provided at hospital outpatient departments. In addition, several drug manufacturers put policies in place four years ago, limiting the contract arrangements that 340B Drug Pricing Program-participating hospitals have with area pharmacies. Combined with the burden of uncompensated care and high fixed costs, these financial pressures threaten the viability of rural health care facilities.
- **Workforce shortages** – Recruitment and retention of health care professionals pose significant challenges for rural hospitals. The allure of urban settings and shortages in critical health care professions exacerbate staffing issues, increasing strain on already limited resources. Registered nurses, laboratory and radiology technologists, respiratory therapists, and certain physician specialties are among the most challenging positions to fill. These challenges are not new and have been a reality in my 20+ years of hospital leadership, but they were exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

Funding mechanisms

Funding mechanisms for rural hospitals can vary depending on the county, region, and specific circumstances. Common examples include:

- **Government grants and subsidies** – Many rural hospitals rely on government funding through grants or tax subsidies to cover operational costs, infrastructure improvements, or specific programs to serve rural populations.
- **Grants from nonprofit organizations** – Nonprofit organizations focused on health care or rural development may offer grants to support rural hospitals, especially for initiatives related to community health, health care access, or innovation.
- **Loan programs and financing options** – Rural hospitals may rely on loans or financing options from banks, financial institutions, or government agencies to fund capital projects, equipment purchases, or operational expenses.

Sustaining Rural Healthcare

- **Medicare and Medicaid Reimbursements** – Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement structures provide foundational support for rural hospitals, albeit often at rates that cover just a fraction of the cost of care.
- **Medicare Advantage (MA) plans** – These Medicare-approved plans provide health coverage to more than half of the nation’s seniors, but hospitals nationwide have concerns. Commonly cited issues include excessive denial rates and slow payments. The increasing number of these plans can affect hospitals’ financial viability, especially in rural areas. Looking at publicly available CMS data, Iowa has experienced a 142% increase in MA enrollment since 2016. This is far above the national average increase of 82% (also significantly high).
- **Partnerships and collaborations** – Rural hospitals may enter partnerships or collaborations with other health care providers, health care systems, or academic institutions to share resources, expertise, or funding opportunities.
- **Patient revenue** – Like urban hospitals, rural hospitals generate revenue from patient services, including fees for medical procedures, consultations, and other health care services. But rural hospitals may face challenges because of lower patient volumes and higher rates of uninsured or underinsured patients, potentially even enhancing the need for rural healthcare.
- **Private donations and philanthropy** – Rural hospitals may receive donations from individuals, corporations, foundations, or community organizations to support specific projects, equipment purchases, or operational expenses.
- **State and local funding initiatives** – Some local governments allocate funds to support rural health care facilities through direct subsidies, tax incentives, or other financial mechanisms.
- **Telemedicine reimbursements** – With the increasing adoption of telemedicine, rural hospitals can generate revenue by providing telehealth services and receiving reimbursements from insurers or government programs for virtual consultations and remote patient monitoring. Many payers will only reimburse telehealth services at a fraction of what an in-person visit would be covered at; however, the hospital has the same cost or overhead for the service.

These funding mechanisms can work independently or in combination to support rural hospitals’ financial sustainability and operational viability, ensuring continued access to health care services for rural communities.

Policy recommendations

Addressing the funding challenges rural hospitals face in Iowa requires a multifaceted approach. Policy interventions aimed at bolstering reimbursement rates, incentivizing workforce recruitment and retention, streamlining regulatory processes, and increasing access to capital for infrastructure improvements are essential to ensure the continued viability of rural health care facilities.

Rural hospitals are indispensable pillars of Iowa’s health care infrastructure, providing essential services to communities without access to care. But, their financial challenges threaten their ability to fulfill this vital role. By implementing targeted policy reforms, fostering collaborative partnerships, and investing in innovative solutions, stakeholders can work together to ensure rural hospitals in Iowa remain resilient, sustainable, and capable of meeting rural communities’ evolving health care needs for generations to come.

Medicaid Reimbursement Related to Public Health

It's not often when you have a group of elected and appointed officials from across the state, Democrats and Republicans, enthusiastically agreeing on a legislative priority for the FY 2024 Legislative Session – Iowa needs to increase Medicaid reimbursement. As a public health director whose budget is supplemented by Medicaid reimbursement, it should surprise no one that I'm in favor of this, but this priority impacts all Iowans. Let me explain.

According to a 2023 report from the Health Resources and Services Administration, 37 counties in Iowa have a primary care physician shortage, and 82 counties have a dental provider care shortage. In Iowa, 715,589 individuals, or approximately 22.4%, are enrolled in Medicaid.

Let's start there. We have a dental shortage in most Iowa counties, and Medicaid reimbursement for dental services is about half of what they receive from private insurers like Delta Dental. In fact, most dentists lose money when they provide services to Medicaid clients. As a result, many dentists refuse to accept Medicaid clients at all, and very few are taking on new Medicaid clients. So, we start with a shortage of providers, and then on top of that, a solid 22% have a lot of difficulty even accessing those services.

Now, as local public health and Title V service providers, we do our best to fill those gaps. We provide dental sealants, fluoride varnish, and exams in our offices and in our school-based clinics to prevent tooth decay. We also provide care coordination to a dental office that will see Medicaid, but that often means scheduling with the College of Dentistry. Now, as Johnson County Public Health, we're incredibly blessed to have such a fabulous resource as the College of Dentistry in our backyard – but the wait time is over a year. That's because the College is a resource for the entire State, and they receive an excess of 400 new patient referrals each month with room for approximately 100-110 patients monthly. By the time the child has their appointment, their condition may have deteriorated and now requires anesthesia and surgery at a much higher cost of care. Now imagine being a growing child and being in pain for a year. Having difficulty eating and difficulty learning – all because you're in pain. Think of the pain and suffering that could have been avoided had that child had access to preventive dental services close to home and in a timelier fashion. Not to mention the cost savings of preventive care vs surgical care. Now multiple that by approximately 1,200 kids a year.

Now let's think about pregnancy. In 2022, 39% of births were funded by Medicaid. During pregnancy, oral health care is critical, as pregnancy makes you more susceptible to gum disease and cavities which can lead to poor health outcomes for mother and baby, like preterm birth and low birth weight. Given that Iowa is one of only four states seeing an increase in infant mortality, this should be a wakeup call. When four out of every 10 babies are born with Medicaid, there's an opportunity to move the needle by making dental and prenatal care more accessible.

But, let's say the plight of low-income mothers and babies isn't enough to sway you. There's still a reason to care about increasing Medicaid reimbursements. Iowa has 118 hospitals. Of those, 59 are associated with the state or local governments. According to the American Hospital Association, 58% of hospitals lose money on Medicaid services because the reimbursement is less than the cost to provide the service. That puts the burden on local taxpayers. The county hospitals levy taxes to cover their costs to keep their doors open. Rather than sharing the cost across the state, locals needing to shoulder this burden run the risk of losing their hospitals and access to care, altogether.




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Medicaid Reimbursement Related to Public Health

Many hospitals have eliminated their birthing centers to save money and to keep their doors open. As a result, 33.3% of Iowa counties are maternity care deserts. That impacts everyone, regardless of pay source. Iowa is 51st in the nation for access to OBGYN care. That doesn't bode well for Iowans, for women, or for anyone who wants to improve our infant and maternal mortality rates.

Like it or not, the healthcare system as it exists relies on braiding funding from multiple sources to sustain itself. And when one source consistently reimburses less than the cost of providing care, the most vulnerable Iowans pay the price first. But ultimately, in the end, we all lose.




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March Legal Brief

Core Responsibilities of the County Supervisor

This article begins with a necessary caveat – this article is not intended to be an all-encompassing list of county supervisor responsibilities. The Supervisors’ Manual is 113 pages long and even it does not cover everything a supervisor does. You can, however, find that manual on our website here - <https://www.iowacounties.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/2023-Supervisors-Manual.pdf> - if you want to read more. Here, we will only scratch the surface of some of the broad categories in which the county supervisor has a role.

I pulled the below paragraph straight from the Supervisors’ Manual introduction because it is worth repeating here and is a well stated overview of the position of county supervisor:

“Under our form of government in Iowa, counties are empowered to perform any function to “protect and preserve the rights, privileges, and property of the county or of its residents, and to preserve and improve the peace, safety, health, welfare, comfort, and convenience of its residents” except as limited by the constitution or a statute. Iowa Code §331.301(1). This broad power is a part of county home rule and is vested in the county board of supervisors. Id. §331.301(2); Iowa Const. amend. 25. The board of supervisors, therefore, serves as the governing body of county government. The functions of the board of supervisors are varied and its authority embraces practically every aspect of county government. Although these functions are primarily administrative in nature, the board exercises powers and characteristics of each of the three branches of government: executive, legislative, and judicial.”

Another place to start is to mention what a county supervisor is not – and that is the county supervisor is not the CEO of the county. Whenever a discussion is had on the structure and authority within county government, that discussion must be rooted in an understanding that Iowa law very clearly intends county government to be a horizontal leadership structure and not a vertical leadership structure. The supervisors’ involvement/control varies from elected officials and quasi-independent boards. This is a topic in and of itself, and one I will be discussing more at ISAC’s Spring Conference during the county structure presentation, but for now suffice to say a primary role of the county supervisor is collaboration. Working with the other supervisors, offices, and departments to put best practices in place is often the only way to accomplish the county’s goals.

Additionally, the beauty of local control and county home rule is that the role of a supervisor will not be the same from county to county. For example, while the state laws that apply to the position are the same for all supervisors, some county supervisors may not have drainage districts (or they may be managed by a separate board of trustees) or wind turbine projects. The focus of a county supervisor’s work will be guided by the local and unique needs in your county.

Legislative Body of the County

The board of supervisors has the authority to create county legislation “only by the passage of a motion, a resolution, and amendment, or an ordinance.” The specifics of how to accomplish these actions are laid out in Iowa Code §331.302.

Budgetary Responsibilities

One of the most impactful of a supervisor’s duties is the budgetary responsibility. Each year, the board of supervisors sets the budget for the county by the process in Iowa Code §§331.421-331.437.



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Additional budgetary responsibilities include the review and approval of claims by the board of supervisors under Iowa Code §331.401(1)(p). This is another area where horizontal leadership comes into play and while the Board of Supervisors sets the budget and approves claims, the Board of Supervisors “may not disapprove a claim submitted by elected county officers on the ground that the claim exceeds the appropriation for a particular line item category that the claims falls within.” 1985 Iowa Op. Atty. Gen. 29, 1985 WL 68971 (June 19, 1985).

Related to this authority, the supervisors approve and execute contracts on behalf of the county. See Iowa Code §331.341.

Appointments

Iowa Code §331.321(1) lists many appointments the board of supervisors is required to make. While these are required appointments, a county may not have all the commissions and boards – such as an airport authority or county zoning. This Code section is not all inclusive, and there can be other areas of the Code that require the board of supervisors to make additional appointments, in particular when the county is involved in partnerships such as with 28E entities.

A question that often comes up is if supervisors can serve on the board and commissions upon which they make appointments. A county supervisor is permitted by law to serve on any board or commission, unless specifically prohibited by law (Iowa Code §331.216). So, for instance, county supervisors can serve on county boards of health. An Attorney General Opinion held that Iowa Code §331.216 supersedes the common law and permits county supervisors to appoint one of their own members to serve simultaneously on the county’s conservation board.

Oversight and Management of County Property

The board of supervisors manages county property. See Iowa Code §331.361 for additional details on this process. Like most laws, however, there are exceptions to this general rule. Iowa Code §350.4 delegates this duty to the conservation board – “The county conservation board shall have the custody, control, and management of all real and personal property heretofore or hereafter acquired by the county for public museums, parks, preserves, parkways, playgrounds, recreation centers, county forests, county wildlife areas, and other county conservation and recreation purposes.”

Another property oversight question that often comes up is who has custody and control of the courthouse? The question arose during the COVID-19 Pandemic and often comes up in the case of inclement weather about who can close the courthouse when needed. §331.502(1) states the auditor has general custody and control of the courthouse *subject to the direction of the board of supervisors*. There is an Iowa Attorney General Opinion that gives more detail about the back and forth and joint processes that should be followed by the auditor and the board of supervisors. 2001 Iowa Op. Atty. Gen. 01-4-1, 2001 Iowa AG LEXIS 13 (April 12, 2001). Also of note, the answer regarding who can close the courthouse may be different than the answer to who can close an office or department within the courthouse. This is a perfect example of how layers of horizontal leadership built within Iowa law results in the need for collaborative policies for the county to use.

Finally, you will note I have not mentioned human resources/salaries/employee oversight here. This is partially because I am out of room in this article. But that is also because it could be an article on its own. This is an area in which I receive numerous questions, and the answers are nuanced and vary depending the situation and parties involved. Again, it is an area while the supervisors most definitely have a role, it requires collaboration with other officials and offices. Thus, the topic really becomes one of county structure more generally instead of just a discussion on the role of supervisors. I will end with a final plug for my Spring Conference presentation and the HR Seminar I will be moderating, both of which will plan to discuss employee matters within the county structure. Stay tuned!

IT in the Counties Update

I wanted to take a few minutes and update everyone on the wonderful world of county technology! There is tons of stuff happening in the tech world today, and it does hit the county space.

We continue to offer our Tech Team Assessments for all of the counties, and we have had a great time visiting with some amazing county folks! One of the common things we see when it comes to security in the counties is of course passwords. Passwords are a pain, but they are the keys to your county's data; and, one of the main things the bad guys are always after when they target you. There are steps you can take to help your county stay safe.

Complex passwords

We really should be using passwords that are many characters and are complex when we access our computers, emails, and websites. Here is some good information on why we need to be better at passwords. Look this graph over and see where your passwords stack up.



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Let's look at your online bank account. For example, if you are using 8 characters with numbers, upper- and lower-case letters, and symbols, it would take the bad guys about five minutes to hack your password. I can order a cup of coffee and tell one really good Norwegian joke in five minutes. Goodbye money! We really need to do a better job with our passwords!

Multi-factor Authentication (MFA)

Using MFA makes your systems more secure and is one of the most recommended practices you can use to keep your county safer and your personal information safer.

If the bad guys get your password, you are still secure because you have MFA turned on to your account. The bad guys are not going to have your cell phone (we hope). MFA should be used for everything you log into such as email, social media sites, bank/credit card sites, and so much more. Having MFA enabled makes it that much tougher for the bad guys to get your stuff so they will move on and go after someone less secure than you. MFA is not a suggestion anymore for the counties. It should be a requirement, and we can assist you with the details for making that happen.

TIME IT TAKES A HACKER TO BRUTE FORCE YOUR PASSWORD IN 2023					
Number of Characters	Numbers Only	Lowercase Letters	Upper and Lowercase Letters	Numbers, Upper and Lowercase Letters	Numbers, Upper and Lowercase Letters, Symbols
4	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly
5	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly
6	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly
7	Instantly	Instantly	1 sec	2 secs	4 secs
8	Instantly	Instantly	28 secs	2 mins	5 mins
9	Instantly	3 secs	24 mins	2 hours	6 hours
10	Instantly	1 min	21 hours	5 days	2 weeks
11	Instantly	32 mins	1 month	10 months	3 years
12	1 sec	14 hours	6 years	53 years	226 years
13	5 secs	2 weeks	332 years	3k years	15k years
14	52 secs	1 year	17k years	202k years	1m years
15	9 mins	27 years	898k years	12m years	77m years
16	1 hour	713 years	46m years	779m years	5bn years
17	14 hours	18k years	2bn years	48bn years	380bn years
18	6 days	481k years	126bn years	2tn years	26tn years

MFA is a combination of two of these three things:

Something you
KNOW

Password or phrase
PIN

Something you
HAVE

Code from app or SMS
Push notification
USB token

Something you
ARE

Finger or thumb print
Face scan
Iris scan

IT in the Counties Update

Password Managers

By now you are probably wondering how do I keep track of 3,000 passwords that are all 18 characters and have all different symbols? That's a great question! One trick is to use password phrases such as bible verses or a favorite quote from a movie that are lots of characters, and then use 3 for the letter E or an exclamation point for an I. Make it so you can remember that phrase, but make it hard for someone to guess. "Luk3, ! aM Your F@ther!" would be a pretty good passphrase.

Better yet would be to use a password manager. A password manager is a program that can be on your computer and phone, and it keeps all of your different passwords stored and ready to use. It requires you to use one master password that is really secure to access it, but then you can get to the rest of your passwords. The cool thing is that these programs will actually generate a really complex password for you each time you need a new one and all you have to do is remember that one master password to access them. I don't know how many times the recorder in my county (I won't say her name, but it's Teresa.) would say, "Do we have to change passwords again? I can't come up with a new password all of the time!" She really didn't complain, but I wanted to see if she actually reads these. So, with a password manager, all of that fun stuff is handled by the program itself. There are numerous very secure password managers out there. I know we use Keeper here at ISAC, and Worth County uses Bitwarden, but give me a shout if you have questions or need some ideas.

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ISAC Spring Conference Educational Seminars

ISAC Spring Conference

March 13-15, 2024

Veterans Memorial Community Choice Credit Union Convention Center, Des Moines

Wednesday, March 13

ISAC HR Seminar | 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Meeting Rooms 305-307

We are excited to invite all County Day at the Capitol and ISAC Spring Conference attendees to a bonus session on the afternoon of March 13 that will discuss all things county human resources (HR). A panel will discuss their experiences as both county HR professionals and as HR attorneys. The seminar will be moderated by ISAC General Counsel Kristi Harshbarger and will be broken down into four 30-minute presentations.

To lead things off, Amanda Fesenmeyer, SHRM-CP, Black Hawk County Human Resources Director, and Melissa Wellhausen, Page County Auditor, will offer a primer by discussing practical every-day practices and tips, real-life experiences, the overall role of a county HR professional, and working with elected officials and other offices and departments.

Following, experienced HR attorneys Emily Wilson, Associate, Sherinian Hasso & Wilson, and Joshua Hughes, Associate, Dorsey & Whitney LLP, will discuss involvement of outside counsel, real-life experiences from both sides of litigation, and walk through examples of where mistakes were made for HR matters to arrive at their desks.

The third 30 minutes will be a “Lightning Round” of commonly asked questions and concerns in county HR. The panelists will offer speedy insights to these hot topics. And lastly, ample time will be provided for attendee questions.

We would encourage all members to attend, especially those with HR duties, those who manage staff, and all elected and appointed county officials. Please plan to join us for this extremely educational and relevant seminar.

HR Seminar Agenda

2:00 pm – 2:05 pm – Seminar Overview and Introductions

2:05 pm – 2:30 pm – County HR Professionals

2:30 pm – 3:00 pm – HR Attorneys

3:00 pm – 3:30 pm – Commonly Asked Questions “Lightning Round”

3:30 pm – 4:00 pm – Questions and Answers

Thursday, March 14

ISAC Educational Seminars | 9:00 am - 10:15 am

County Structure – Meeting Rooms 302-303

This presentation will answer your questions about county structure, including hierarchy and roles of various elected officials and quasi-independent boards. Find out some of the many reasons why county government is not structured like private business and is not a vertical leadership structure. Other myths will be busted related to county handbooks, salaries, and budgets.

Speaker: Kristi Harshbarger, ISAC General Council

ISAC Spring Conference Educational Seminars

Innovation and Excellence in Health and Human Service Delivery – Meeting Rooms 306-307

Iowa Health and Human Services (HHS) Director Kelly Garcia will present an overview of the transformative initiatives currently underway at Iowa HHS.

Speaker: Kelly Garcia, Director, Iowa Department of Health and Human Services

Unhoused in Iowa – Meeting Rooms 312-313

This panel discussion will focus on the issue of unhoused individuals throughout the state of Iowa. The following and much more will be presented. The overall scope of the topic and its effects on individuals and communities will be covered. Panelists will also explain why the problem is both urban and rural. Finally, programs and best practices will be described. Time will be allotted for questions and answers.

Panel: Aaron Fuller, Knoxville Police Department; Angie Arthur, Homeward Iowa; Shelby Ridley, Primary Health Care; Cynthia Latcham, Anawim Housing and Allterra Property Solutions



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Des Moines International Airport

Iowa Land Records Governance

Currently, there are more than 23 million real estate and land related electronic documents available for businesses and individuals to search for FREE in the Iowa Land Records (IRL) Search application. That number continues to grow each day and is one of the few statewide digital systems for land records in the Midwest. It's a modern marvel Iowans should boast about!

Maintaining this large, easy-to-use online database takes a lot of moving parts and has a unique governance process. Since its launch in 2005, IRL relies on a unique relationship between counties, county recorders, and multiple service providers. Recordings completed at the recorder's office are transferred to ILR through an API provided by Electronic Services System (ESS) to the service providers.



Committees and subcommittees meet monthly or quarterly and are open to the public. All committee members and the ESS team can be found on the Iowa Land Records website, which can be accessed through the QR or URL provided in this article.

- **Coordinating Committee** – established to govern ESS, to coordinate efforts to deliver services and information through ESS, and to make policy regarding the operations of ESS. The committee is comprised of recorders and stakeholders.
- **Subcommittees (Finance and Standards)** – established for more specific discussions. Each subcommittee is composed of members from the six districts of the statewide Iowa County Recorder's Association.

The Electronic Services System is a model for the collective local governance of a statewide system. The scope of these policies includes but is not limited to the following:

- **The format, attributes, and organization of data** and images of recorded documents in ESS and member systems
- **Business rules and requirements** for the management and maintenance of data and images of recorded documents in ESS and member systems
- **Specifications and procedures for the transfer of data** and images from local county systems to ESS including Iowa Land Records
- **Specifications and procedures for the exchange of information** and business processes associated with the electronic filing and recording of documents through ESS and the IRL E-Submission service

See Code §331.604, subsection 3b and the ESS Policies and Procedures published at <https://iowalandrecords.org/accountability-in-reporting/>.

The 28E agreement can be found under filing number: M514302, published at <https://sos.iowa.gov/search/28ESearch.html>.

ISAC Golden Eagle Nominations Now Being Accepted

Since 2010, ISAC has honored individuals as ISAC Golden Eagles during the Annual Conference General Session. The ISAC Golden Eagle was created to recognize and honor individuals who have provided extraordinary public service to county government through ISAC and/or NACo. Golden Eagle Honorees are selected from nominations submitted to the ISAC Golden Eagle Committee, which consists of board and staff members. The committee will then submit its recommendation to the ISAC Board for approval. The ISAC Golden Eagle honoree(s) will be recognized during the 2024 ISAC Annual Conference General Session.

Those eligible for induction include: current or former elected and appointed county officials; business or civic leaders; ISAC preferred vendors; persons providing assistance to counties as trainers, consultants or advisors; and/or former members of ISAC staff. *Current ISAC board members and staff are not eligible.

Honorees will be selected on the basis of their service rendered to county government through ISAC and/or NACo. Such service may include: leadership in ISAC and ISAC-affiliated boards; service to NACo; service on state or national boards or commissions; service to counties in training, education and development of local leadership; advocacy for counties and good local government; and assistance and support to counties.

Past honorees include:

2010 – Jane Halliburton, former Story County Supervisor and ISAC board member
2011 – Kim Reynolds, Governor and former Clarke County Treasurer
2012 – J. Patrick White, ret. Johnson County Attorney and ISAC Past President
2013 – Mike Wentzien, former Supervisors Lobbyist
2014 – Richard Heidloff, former Lyon County Treasurer and ISAC Past President
2015 – Sue Vande Kamp, former Story County Recorder
2016 – Linda Langston, former Linn County Supervisor and NACo Past President
2017 – Wayne Clinton, former Story County Supervisor and ISAC board member
2018 – Harlan Hansen, former Humboldt County Supervisor and ISAC Past President
2019 – Marge Pitts, former Clay County Auditor and ISAC Past President
2020 – No Golden Eagle
2021 – Lonny Pulkrabek, former Johnson County Sheriff and ISAC Past President
2022 – Melvyn Houser, Pottawattamie County Auditor and ISAC Past President
2023 – Joan McCalmant, former Linn County Recorder and ISAC Past President

To nominate qualified individuals to be honored as an ISAC Golden Eagle, please complete the form that's available on our website, www.iowacounties.org, under the Programs tab, and return it to: Iowa State Association of Counties, Attn: ISAC Golden Eagle, 5500 Westown Parkway, Suite 190, West Des Moines, IA 50266 or rbennett@iowacounties.org.

Please return submissions before May 24, 2024. A golden eagle is not guaranteed to be honored annually. If you have any questions regarding the ISAC Golden Eagle, please send to support@iowacounties.org or 515.244.7181.



Rachel Bennett

ISAC Member Relations Manager
rbennett@iowacounties.org

ISAC January Board Minutes Summary

ISAC Board of Directors Meeting - Wednesday, January 17, 2024

President Barry Anderson called the meeting to order at 8:30 am and led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members and staff introduced themselves.

President Anderson introduced Burlin Matthews, ISAC past president and former Clay County Supervisor. Burlin swore in President Anderson and the remainder of the ISAC officers and Board members.

Much of the meeting was a Board Orientation which included presentations from ISAC staff related to their duties and responsibilities. Bill Peterson discussed the organizational structure, and Kristi Harshbarger reviewed the organizational documents.

Following the Board Orientation, the November 15, 2023, ISAC Board of Directors meeting minutes were unanimously approved. The ICTS Board of Directors and IGBP Board of Directors meeting minutes from that same date were reviewed for informational purposes.

Kelsey gave an overview of ISAC University. There were 136 registrants, and it was be a great conference.

Rachel reported that County Day at the Capitol is being held on March 13 starting at 8:30 am in the Capitol Rotunda. Affiliates have been invited to host booths to exhibit the services they provide. This year's event will focus on unfunded and underfunded mandates. The event is free, but a separate registration is required. Following County Day, ISAC will host a Human Resources Seminar for all Spring Conference attendees or County Day at the Capitol registrants. The Seminar will be held from 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm at the convention center. The panel will include experienced county HR professionals as well as attorneys who work closely with county HR issues.

Rachel outlined the 2024 NACo Legislative Conference agenda and the events specific to Iowa attendees.

Bill and Barry recently attended the NCCAE Presidents and Executive Directors Meeting in Washington, D.C. They summarized the event activities and gave highlights.

Brad gave a summary and highlights of the ISAC financial report dated December 31, 2023. The financial report was approved unanimously.

Brad reviewed the ISAC 990 and referred to the Conflict of Interest and Whistle Blower policies. The ISAC 990 was approved unanimously. All Board members need to sign and return to Brad the Conflict-of-Interest Statement. A motion passed unanimously instructing Board members to return the signed statement.

Katie gave an update on the ISAC Office Project. The office is scheduled to open sometime in mid-February.

Jamie Cashman gave an update on the first couple weeks of the legislative session including bills and topics of interest to counties. He gave an overview of the behavioral health alignment. The Governor's bill should be released soon that will give the framework and structure. Other topics that are being discussed of interest include compensation boards, preemption, property tax, and our top priorities.

Jamie gave an overview of the Government Relations Team and its duties during the legislative session and in the interim. Lucas and he lobby at the Capitol, and other members of the Government Relations Team include Bill Peterson, Krisit Harshbarger, Rachel Bennett, and Katie Cook.

President Anderson adjourned the meeting at 12:00 pm.

2024 Calendar

March 2024

- 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)
- 26-27 Public Health Conference of Iowa
(Holiday Inn Des Moines Airport)

April 2024

- 14-17 ISSDA Spring Civil School
(Holiday Inn Des Moines Airport)

May 2024

- 1 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting
(ISAC Office)
- 8-10 Western Interstate Region (WIR) Conference
(Mariposa County, California)

June 2024

- 11-13 ICRA Summer School
(Okoboji, Iowa)
- 19 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting
(ISAC Office)
- 26-28 ISACA Summer Conference
(Embassy Suites Des Moines Downtown)

July 2024

- 12-15 NACo Annual Conference and Exposition
(Hillsborough County/Tampa, Florida)
- 17 ISAC Scholarship Golf Fundraiser
(Toad Valley Golf Course, Pleasant Hill)

August 2024

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

September 2024

- 17-20 ISSDA Fall Jail School
(Holiday Inn Des Moines Airport)

October 2024

- 2-4 ISAC Board of Directors Retreat
(Clay County, Iowa)
- 6-9 Assessors Fall School
(Holiday Inn Des Moines Airport)

November 2024

- 13 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting
(ISAC Office)

December 2024

- 3-6 ISSDA Winter School
(Holiday Inn Des Moines Airport)
- 4-6 78th Annual Iowa County Engineers Conference
(Veterans Memorial Community Choice Credit
Union Convention Center, 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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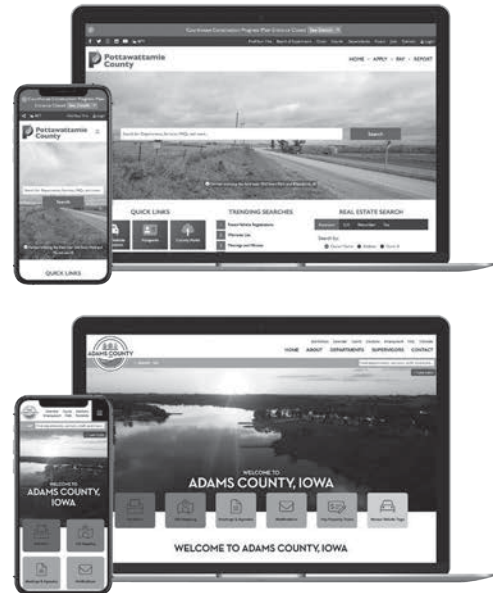
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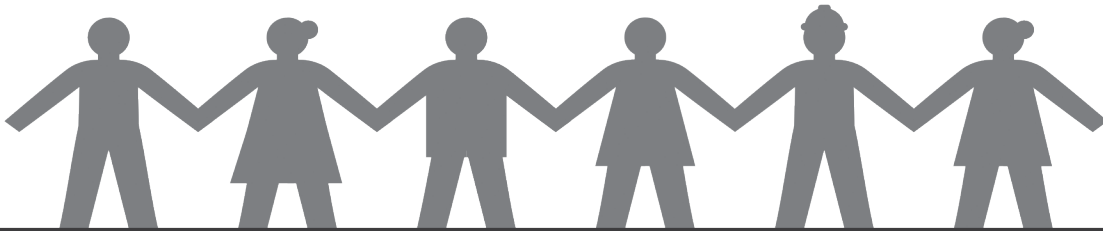
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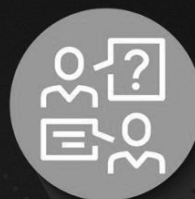
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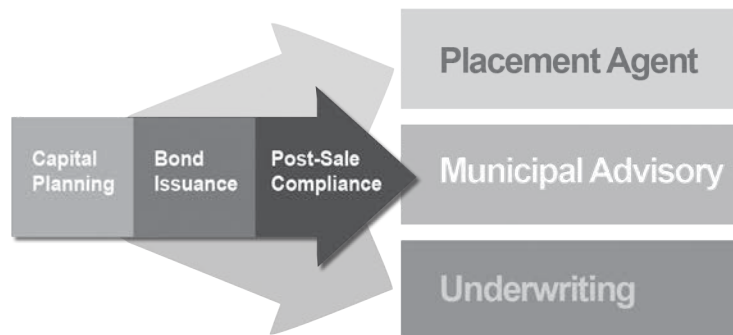
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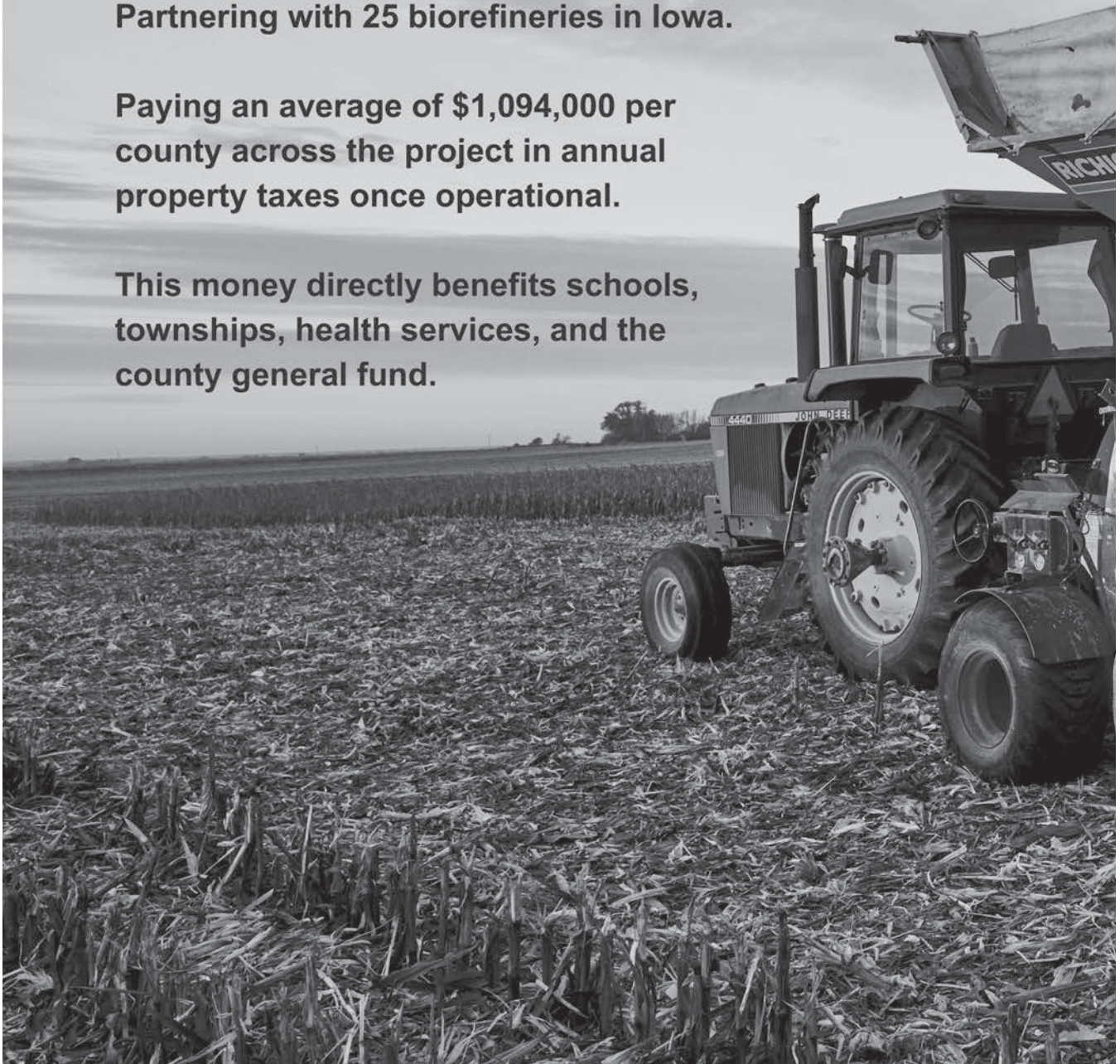
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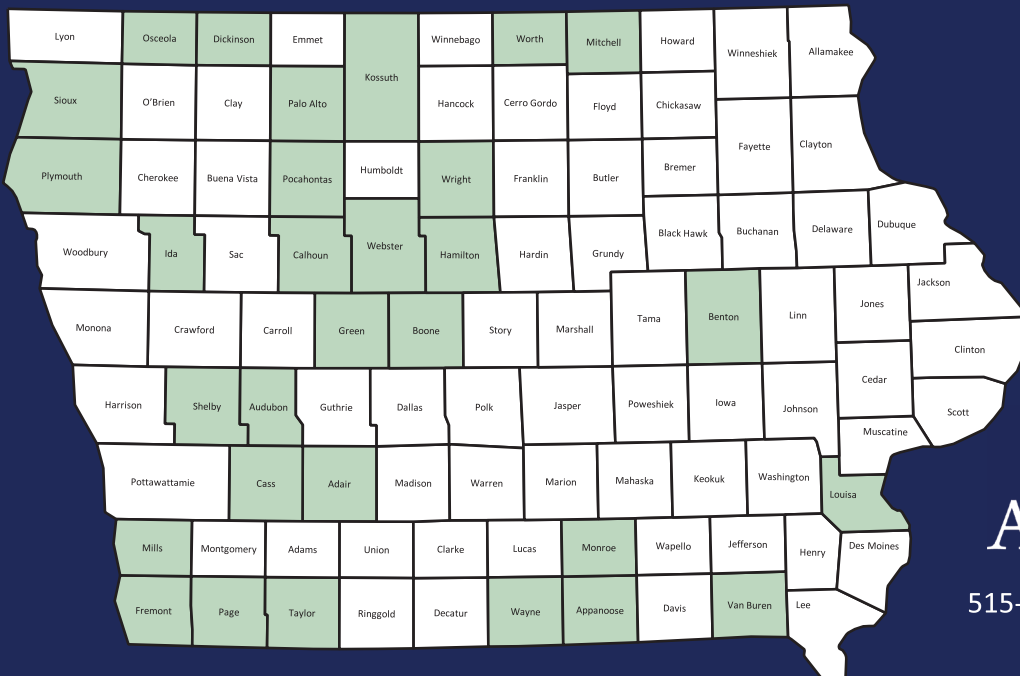
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