



FIVE COUNTY NEWS FROM 'R' VIEW

VOLUME XI NUMBER 2

MARCH-APRIL, 2016

Director's Dialogue



A leadership summit, sponsored by our sister AOG to the north, the Six County Association of Governments, will be held in Richfield, Utah from 8am-2pm on Tuesday, April 12, 2016 at the Sevier County Fair Grounds, 410 East 200 South.

A special invitation for elected officials in the Five County region is extended to attend this summit to learn about: "The Flow of Money-A Regional Focus". That presentation will be by keynote speaker Mr. William Fruth, President of POLICOM Corp. He will help attendees understand how our local economies work, "the flow of money" into and out of an area and what causes this to happen.

Also addressed will be the difference between growing in size and growing in quality, characteristics of strong and weak economies, and what can be done to create a robust, dynamic area, improving living standards for all residents.

Included on the agenda will be "Characteristics of America's Strongest Local Economies" as well as a 2016 Utah Legislative Session report from the perspective of local legislators and its affects on rural Utah. We would love to have you attend and learn ideas that could be applied in your respective roles. We plan to initiate a similar forum in the future for the Five County AOG region and then invite participation of the other regions as they are here with this summit.

Register and review the full agenda at <https://www.snow.edu/sbdc>. We look forward to seeing you in Richfield.

Bryan Thiriot, Executive Director

14th Annual Aging Conference - "Get In Get Fit"



Calling All Seniors!

The Five County Area Agency on Aging is presenting the 14th Annual Seniors Conference on May 13, 2016 at the Festival Hall/Heritage Center in Cedar City. "Get In Get Fit" begins at 9:00 a.m. with a resource fair for services in the Five County area.

Teri Koenig, Gerontologist with Intermountain Health Care Gateway to Wellness, will be the Keynote Address with "Age in Place". Three break out sessions are scheduled including Dr. Jason Barrow, Township/Bullock Pharmacies, "Mastering Your Medications", Tia Chi Quan with Donna Hicks, and Lena Oswald, RN, and Stepping-on with Master Trainer Sheryl Gardner.

Friday, May 13, 2016
Festival Hall/Heritage Center, Upper Floor
105 North 100 East, Cedar City
Check-In - 9:00 a.m.
Conference 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Admission Free (includes lunch)

To Register: Call Amy Brinkerhoff, SHIIP/SMP
at 435-867-6020

Seating guaranteed only if you register by
Friday, May 6th

In addition to speakers, this event will feature door prizes and a resource fair!

Seniors and Caregivers are welcome. Would you like to attend but don't know who will care for your loved one while you're at the conference? The Five County Caregiver Support Program can help! Call Carolyn Moss or Tracy HeavyRunner at 435-673-3548 by May 2, 2016 to inquire about respite care during the conference. Tracy HeavyRunner, Program Director for Home & Community Based Aging Services

Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Program Update

Five County Association of Governments received \$295,738.00 in FY 2015 Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funding. Through public-private collaborations and partnerships, these funds were leveraged with other federal, state, local, and private sources to serve low-income households in Beaver, Garfield, Iron, Kane, and Washington counties. These households received transportation, housing, emergency food and shelter, employment supports, free income tax preparation, youth programming, and other services to stabilize families.

Services were provided to the following:

- 8,626 individuals and 2,700 families*
- 1,404 working households (52%)
- 544 homeless households
- 2,988 seniors
- 465 persons with disabilities

* This only includes CSBG-eligible clients with intake forms. There are individuals served through other Five County Community Action programs such as VITA, Court Ordered Community Service, Youth Volunteer Corps, Youth Court, food pantry, and rapid re-housing funds not included in this report.

CSBG funding is intended to be used to leverage other resources which assist low-income families. Five County Association of Governments leveraged CSBG funds as follows:

Five County used \$1.00 in CSBG funding to leverage:

- \$15.39 in other federal funding
- \$4.05 in state funding
- \$5.25 in local government funding
- \$4.28 in private funding and in-kind donations
- \$1.88 in volunteer labor

Notable outcomes achieved through Five County Association of Government's FY 2015 Community Action Program include:

Asset Development:

- VITA volunteers filed 3,327 tax returns, saving working families approximately \$665,400
- VITA volunteers returned \$1,407,000.00 in Earned Income Tax Credit to working families.
- Approximately \$5,000,000 was returned to all five counties.

Employment Support:

- 200 unemployed households gained skills needed for employment
- 90 unemployed households gained employment
- 8 households achieved a living wage and are self-sufficient
- 64 employed households seeking services increased income and/or benefits

Housing:

- 108 working households obtained or maintained safe and affordable housing
- 63 chronically homeless, seniors, and persons with disabilities obtained housing.

Youth:

- 59 low-income youth avoided risk-taking behavior for over 6 months
- 26 first-time minor offenders were diverted from the juvenile justice system
- Youth collected over 4,000 lbs. of food
- Youth assembled over 1,200 homeless kits
- 176 youth improved social and academic skills
- Youth Volunteer Corps volunteers took place in over 26 community projects which increased the quality of life in Iron and Washington Counties

Success Stories

"Jane" is a single mother of grown children and a recovering alcoholic. When she received services through the Five County's Community Action program, she had no income and had been homeless for an extended period of time. "Jane" received rapid re-housing assistance through Five County Community Action and supportive services through its partners. With assistance and intensive case management, she obtained employment and renewed her cosmetology license. Through Community Action's Court Ordered Community Service program, she was able to work off a portion of her court fines while engaging in the community. Five County assisted with rapid re-housing. Three months after being placed into housing, "Jane" is now is working full-time and doing hair on the side. She has access to employer-based health insurance, is able to pay her own rent, and provides for her basic needs. She is also a sponsor at AA meetings she attends. "Jane" has said, she finally has life figured out and is able to be engaged in her daughter's life and also her grandchildren's lives. Five County Community Action is thrilled to have been able to support "Jane" as she worked towards self-sufficiency.

"Julie" is a single female with grown children. She was homeless and living at Switchpoint after losing a long-standing rental in Salt Lake City, Utah. She left Salt Lake to get away from triggers after long time meth use, and moved to Kanab with her niece, who had two kids. "Julie" and her niece alternated work schedules to ensure the children had proper supervision. She helped her niece with rent while also saving money for her own place. With case management and support from Five County and Switchpoint, "Julie" finally moved into her own housing, became involved in her church, and became engaged in her daughter's life again. She is currently saving up for a car and rebuilding her credit with the assistance of AAA Fair Credit.

"Ida" fled to Cedar City to escape domestic violence. She was a young single adult rebuilding her life – having nothing more than the clothes on her back. After receiving temporary shelter, clothes, and a few "building blocks" from Canyon Creek Women's Crisis Center, she was referred to Five County for additional services. "Ida" met with a case manager from Five County Community Action. Through bus passes, referrals and coordination with the Utah Department of Workforce Services, and deposit assistance, she worked towards self-sufficiency. She obtained employment that allows her to pay her rent, pay her bills, purchase food, and save for a car. "Ida" is now safe, employed, happy and very proud of the life she is building.

Clint Cottam, Community Action Program Director

Staff Spotlights



Our new Mobility Manager, **Jay Aguilar**, comes to FCAOG from Northern Utah. He has a great deal of experience in transportation and land use planning. He has worked with Bear River Association of Governments and the Cache Metropolitan Planning Organization in Cache Valley. He has been a private business owner.

Jay has served on non-profit boards and currently serves on the American Planning Association Utah Chapter Board. He helped initiate the Logan Transit District and the Northern Bonneville Trail. He has also been a project manager in the public and private sector.

In his spare time Jay enjoys hiking, biking, skiing, playing volleyball and surfing.

Megan Westenskow recently joined the Care About Child Care program working out of her home office in Gunnison. She graduated in Family Consumer and Human Development at Utah State University.



Megan, her husband Evan, three year old Lincoln and 9 month old Graycee reside in Gunnison, Utah.

Nathan Wiberg was born in Richland, Washington and moved to the Orem-Provo area at a very young age. Not long after that his family relocated to Mt. Pleasant Utah where he spent the majority of his childhood. After graduating high school he served an LDS mission in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania.



Shortly after returning from his mission he attended Snow College where he founded an intercollegiate lacrosse club, and met his wife. Nathan finished his schooling at the University of Utah with a bachelor of science in Urban Ecology.

Nathan worked at a frame shop in Salt Lake County for six years, managing three different locations. He also worked as an intern at Sandy City assisting the city planners in the community development department. Shortly after that he took another internship for Salt Lake City's Sorenson Unity Center where he took on an asset mapping project for Salt Lakes westside. He is excited about his new career as a community planner for Five County AOG because it is a great way to help people throughout southern Utah.

After graduating from college Nathan and his family moved to St. George to be closer to family, and enjoy everything southern Utah has to offer. His hobbies are spending time with his wife and son, hiking, cycling, and watching Real soccer.

Childcare Pioneer Passes Away



February 1953 - March 2016

Elisabeth Louise (Lis Barker) Hagen, passed away peacefully on March 10, 2016 in her home in Cedar City, surrounded by her family, after a two-year battle with cancer. Lis was 63 at her passing. A memorial service honoring Lis' life was held March 19th in Cedar City. She will be interred at the Ben Lomond Cemetery in North Ogden.

Until her retirement in 2014, Lis was director of the Five County Association of Government's Child Care Resource and Referral program (now known as Care About Childcare@Five County). Lis worked here for 21 years to educate and train child care providers throughout southern Utah. She was a much sought after lecturer and teacher, presenting at early childhood education conferences throughout Utah and she was an instructor at Southern Utah University for 14 years. Lis was also the author of two books of kindergarten programs currently used throughout Utah.

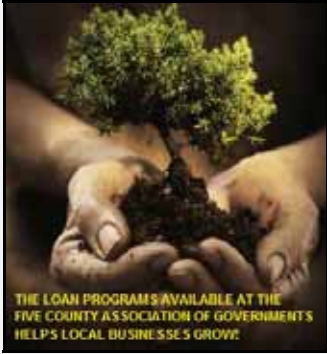
Lis' love for children will be remembered by the current AOG staff, who continue to build upon her legacy, as well as her many students, child care providers, former children from the preschool she ran from her home and nursery classes, but most importantly her beloved children and grandchildren. Lis was a true champion of children, always fighting to improve their world and protect their childhood.

When she turned 60, rather than giving her gifts, Lis challenged everyone to spend quality time with a child and email her about it. She said: "I saw an article in Child Care Exchange that gave me this idea. I have a request to make of you. If you would like to be a part of making my birthday really FABULOUS then here is my request. Do something with a child: your child, your grandchild, children you take care of, a neighbor... any child. Plan a fun activity." We are asking you to do the same in honor of Lis. She believed that the world could be made a better place one child at a time. In this one way we can honor Lis and follow her example in loving and serving kids.

There is no better way to honor Lis than by carrying on her work by connecting with the special children in our lives. When you do this, tell the children you are doing it in honor of Miss Lizzy, an amazing lady who loved children. Lis was a defender for every child. She never stopped fighting to increase the quality of childcare and improve the life of each child. Every parent in southern Utah who has had their child in childcare, who wants the best for their children, and who seeks out quality early childhood education owes a debt to Lis and the hard work she devoted to that effort. We as her coworkers and friends will truly miss her.

Gary Zabriskie, Deputy Director

The Five County AOG Has A Business Loan Program



Do you know a small business that may need capital to start or expand? The Five County AOG has a Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) and a Microloan Fund which were established to create permanent, long-term jobs within the southwestern region of Utah by providing "gap" financing to qualified businesses for eligible activities.

Loans made through the Revolving Loan Fund are intended to help bridge gaps in commercial financing or to fund small start-ups. Funds are repaid into the program and recycled to other businesses, thus "revolving" the same funds.

RLF funds are available in Beaver, Garfield, Iron, Kane and Washington County, Utah. For info see <http://www.southernutahloans.com>

Our newsletter is published 6 times each year.

Please submit event information and article suggestions to the Newsletter Editor via e-mail: newsletter@fivecounty.utah.gov or in writing to: Five County AOG Newsletter Editor; P.O. Box 1550; St. George, Utah 84771-1550.

For other information or services, please call (435) 673-3548 or visit our web site at: <http://www.fivecounty.utah.gov>

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