



# FIVE COUNTY NEWS FROM 'R' VIEW

VOLUME XII NUMBER 2 - NEWSLETTER OF THE FIVE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS - MARCH - APRIL 2017

## Executive Director's Dialog



Bryan D. Thriot, Executive Director

In early March, at our Association's Tonaquint Center office building in St. George, we held the first quarter 2017 meeting of our Regional Economic Development Advisory Board. Southern Utah is on the threshold of enormous growth in our healthcare sector. Our keynote speaker was Dr. David J. Park, Dean

of Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine, currently under construction in Ivins, Utah.



Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine (rendering)

This exciting project includes room for up to 135 medical students in its 104,000 sq. ft. medical education building to be completed this summer. The 32 acre parcel of land will include student housing and other facilities to be constructed in later phases. The administrative offices are currently housed in a 23,000 sq. ft. building across from the main campus. That building will also house a primary care and multi-specialty clinic. Not too far away, in St. George City, the Dixie Regional Medical Center construction project on River Road will effectively double the size of the hospital complex and is considered the largest and most expensive construction project in Washington County's history. The healthcare industry is growing at a rapid pace and southern Utah is well-positioned to benefit from that growth.

Don Albrecht, Director of the Western Rural Development Center (WRDC) at Utah State University presented details on a proposal for a Five County Economic Development

research project that would provide essential information to all five counties which would assist them in their economic development activities, specifically in determining which industries and companies best fit and enhance our southern Utah communities' economies. He has studied and written extensively on the issues confronting rural communities in America. These areas include natural resource concerns, economic restructuring, demographic trends, poverty, inequality, and education.



Expansion underway at Dixie Regional Medical Center (current photo)

After a roundtable review of 2016 economic development accomplishments in each of our five counties, we closed out our meeting with a lively discussion of upcoming 2017 activities. Next quarter's meeting, to be held in June, promises to be no less interesting. We will explore impacts and opportunities from the growth along the I-15 corridor as well as large scale transportation and technology growth occurring in the southern Nevada area that can impact this region, both positively and negatively.

Finally, I want to encourage those who may be aware of any small businesses within this region in need of capital to start up or expand to let them know about our Five County Revolving Loan Fund. If they are having difficulty structuring their business financing, our RLF can assist in providing gap financing, as well as provide microloans to assist the business. The RLF is a key tool in implementing goals found in our regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. See elsewhere in this newsletter for contact information for the Revolving Loan Fund.

We are having an **OPEN HOUSE** at our new office location in Cedar City on Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup> - **See next page** ➔

## Grand Opening Open House on April 12th at the AOG's new Cedar North Main Office

Please join us to celebrate the grand opening of our Association's new Cedar City office location. The Cedar North Main office provides the Five County Association of Governments a location to plan, prepare and partner with federal, state and local governments to strengthen local communities.



The Association's new Cedar North Main office is at 585 N. Main Street

At the Open House please come and:

- Tour the new office location
- Meet our staff who call this building 'home'
- Learn more about programs provided by the AOG

The event takes place on Wednesday, April 12, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m.

Our new **Cedar North Main Office** address is **585 North Main Street**; Cedar City, Utah. It is located between the Cedar City-Brian Head Tourism Bureau/Cedar City Visitor Center and the Frontier Homestead State Park Museum. A map is on the back page of this newsletter.

There is no need to RSVP to us - Just drop by between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Light refreshments will be served all day. We hope to see you there!

### FIVE COUNTY AOG BOARD MEETINGS IN APRIL:

- **Finance Committee:** Wednesday, April 12, 2017 at 12:00 noon.
- **Steering Committee:** Wednesday, April 12, 2017 at 2:30 p.m.

These meetings will be held at the Heritage Center; Rooms # 5 and # 6; 105 North 100 East, Cedar City, Utah.

## Care About Childcare is Building Quality in Local Childcare Areas

Current research has shown that the early years (from birth to 5) are the most sensitive for brain development. Over 90% of brain growth occurs during this period. The people who help care for children are also those who help shape children's minds. Studies show that children

who receive quality child care enter school with better math, language, and social skills. These skills give children a good start toward success in school and in life. Children, families, employers, communities, the nation and society as a whole, benefit from high quality childcare.



Several factors help to create quality in childcare:

- Low child/teacher ratio
- Small group size
- Staff with higher education & on-going training
- Prior experience and education of the director
- Low teacher turnover
- Positive teacher/child interactions
- Accreditation or higher than minimum licensing standards
- Age appropriate activities
- Good health & safety practices

Low ratios and low turnover allow teachers to respond to the individual needs of children, to give each child ample attention and to create a strong bond, adding to the child's security. Higher education helps staff and directors understand the needs and development of young children, which helps teachers plan activities for children, interacting with them in developmentally appropriate ways. Childcare programs with a national accreditation demonstrate an intent to provide high quality care and they are able to document that they meet higher-than-minimum standards by receiving accreditation.



The Child Development Associate (CDA) program and its accreditation process is specifically designed to increase the quality of the provider's knowledge and skills, improve the childcare environment and the children's overall care. Staff at the Five County Association of Governments administers a program entitled 'Care About Childcare - Five

County' and are excited about the wonderful participation we have in the CDA program in our area.

While our name is called 'Care About Child Care - Five County', we actually provide services throughout a ten county area including all of the counties in the Six County Association of Governments' region in central Utah with the exception of Juab County. In that region we already have 17 CDA participants with the first two submitting by the end of the month. In our own Five County region we have 30 participants attending our CDA Cohort class and 20 participants attending our Advanced Cohort class. In all, there are almost 70 participants that are working toward the Child Development Credential. The Association applauds those teachers and providers who are going above and beyond to provide the highest care possible for the children in our area. For information on our childcare programs, visit our website: <http://www.childcarehelp.org>

## **"Caught in the Act - Elder Abuse in Rural Utah" Conference is set this year at Southern Utah University, Cedar City, Utah**

Thursday, May 11, 2017 from 8:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.  
SUU Sharwan Smith Student Center  
351 W. University Boulevard  
Cedar City, Utah



This year's conference is designed to bring together local resources to build networks and better serve our elder population in the rural areas of our state. This conference is designed to promote education, discussion and solutions for the issues being faced by our elders and caregivers in rural Utah

today. Issues such as addiction in elders and their caregivers, domestic violence versus dementia, how can our emergency room at the hospital be a network resource, fiduciary responsibilities, death with dignity, and cultural sensitivity, will all be discussed.

This conference is developed for advocates as well as law enforcement, legal/financial, healthcare and social work professionals. CEU's and POST credits will be offered for each profession including ethics credits. Paul Greenwood, keynote speaker, will educate us on what is needed to prosecute an abuse case. Utah Representative Rebecca Chavez-Houck will educate and lead a discussion on "death with dignity"- end of life decisions- and new laws being considered. We will have a panel discussion from the professionals that intersect in the emergency room of our hospitals, drug addiction/prevention and much more.

For full information on the conference including the agenda, breakout sessions, and information on the presenters, please go to <http://www.utahelderabuse.org>

Funding for this conference is provided by the Utah Division of Aging and Adult Services and lunch will be included for all attending. There will also be a full resource fair. The conference is offered free to the public and professionals, but you must reserve a ticket! Information on obtaining tickets is at the website shown above. Registration for this event will end on April 30, 2017.

If you are interesting in participating in the resource and vendor fair, please contact Joni Lyman, Senior Corps Programs, at 435-673-3548.

If you have any questions or concerns, please email: [nmorrill@fivecounty.utah.gov](mailto:nmorrill@fivecounty.utah.gov) You may also call Nancy Morrill or Tracy HeavyRunner at 435-673-3548.

## **Five County Senior Conference - "Are you Smarter than a Con-Artist?"**

Friday, May 12, 2017 from 10:00 a.m.- 2:30 p.m.  
Heritage Center  
105 N. 100 E.  
Cedar City, Utah

**Pre-conference Resource Fair from 8:30 a.m.- 10:00 a.m.**

Mark your calendar, and reserve the date of Friday, May 12, 2017 for the Five County Senior Conference. This conference will be held the day after the elder abuse prevention conference announced to the left.



We are excited to announce the special key note speaker this year will be **Paul Greenwood**. Paul has many years of experience in the legal system. He is currently San Diego City's lead prosecutor of elder abuse cases. Join us to learn from Mr. Greenwood and many others.

Also participating at the event will be

**Rebecca Chavez-Houck**, a member of the Utah State House of Representatives. She represents House District 24. Chavez-Houck earned a BA and an MPA. both from the University of Utah. She currently lives in Salt Lake City with her husband Martin and two children and works in public relations.



There will also be a resource fair held that morning beginning at 8:30 a.m. The conference itself will begin at 10:00 a.m. Both are at the Heritage Center in Cedar City.

In order to complete a count for the lunch provided free for attendees of this conference, please call the Five County Association of Governments and give our phone receptionist your name and tell of your desire to attend the Friday senior conference. The phone number to call to RSVP your attendance, and be counted for lunch, is 435-673-3548.

## **Five County Association of Governments has a Revolving Loan Fund and a Microloan Fund**



Financing for Your Growing Business

Since 1987, we have administered a Revolving Loan Fund, providing capital for both new and expanding businesses, as well as a Microloan Fund designed to assist small "start-up" businesses. For information on our business loan funds, please contact Gary Zabriskie, Five County AOG Director of Community and Economic Development at 435-673-3548 or see our web site for the RLF which is found at: <http://www.southernutahloans.com>

MAP TO OPEN HOUSE - SEE PAGE #2



Please submit articles, or suggestions for them, to our Newsletter editor via e-mail to ([newsletter@fivecounty.utah.gov](mailto:newsletter@fivecounty.utah.gov)) or in writing to: FCAOG Newsletter Editor P.O. Box 1550; St. George, Utah 84771-1550.

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

Five County Association of Governments is on



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