



FIVE COUNTY NEWS FROM 'R' VIEW

VOLUME VI NUMBER 4

OCTOBER-DECEMBER, 2006

Director's Dialogue

Six months have passed since I took the reins here at the Association. We have made it through another fiscal year, with the annual audit almost complete. As of this message, there are no major issues to deal with (no news is good news!). The audit will be presented at our November 15 Steering Committee meeting at the St. George AOG offices.

Please take the opportunity to review the Association's Annual Report found on our website at <http://www.fcaog.state.ut.us/info/report/index.php>. Some highlights I reviewed with the Steering Committee in October include:

- More than 170 individuals serve on 11 advisory committees, providing invaluable advice and direction for program delivery.
- Association staff has assisted in major regional planning efforts including Iron Destiny, Vision Dixie, Hwy 143 (Patchwork Parkway), the Garfield County Resource Management Plan, and the regional Community Wildfire Protection Plan.
- Almost 300 aging case management clients were served.
- More than 1.3 million pounds of food were distributed in the form of 49,000 meals and 27,000 food boxes.
- 82 homes were rehabilitated for energy efficiency and other needs.
- More than 1350 volunteers provided 121,500 hours of service across the district.
- 935 hours of child care training were conducted for 260 programs in 11 counties.

I am proud of the work that our staff of 55 does across our region. We have staff presence in every county, with 18 people in our Iron County offices. I sincerely appreciate the staff's dedication and hard work.

Our organizational structure has changed, with a four-person Management Team and a ten-person Leadership Team helping me assure that our programs continue to be some of the most well-managed in the state.

As the Holiday Season approaches, may we all remember those who may not be here to enjoy the season with us.
(Kenneth L. Sizemore)

H.E.A.T. Program

A cold winter can be a hardship for some Utah families, not only in trying to keep warm, but in paying higher heating bills. The HEAT Program is once again available to help. Beginning Wednesday, November 1, 2006, HEAT (Home Energy Assistance Target) began accepting applications for this assistance. To be eligible for HEAT assistance, total household income must meet approved federal low-income guidelines, and the household must be responsible for home heating costs.

HEAT is a federally funded Energy Assistance Program that is administered by the State of Utah through the Department of Community and Culture(DCC), and locally by the Five County Association of Governments. HEAT assists households in paying winter heating bills by making a one-time payment directly to the utility company. Each household's benefits are calculated individually. Amounts are determined by three main factors: 1) Family Size and Federal Poverty Level; 2) Energy Burden (high heating/cooling bills); 3) At-risk Groups: Children under six years of age, elderly, and disabled.

HEAT benefits are a ONE-TIME payment only and will not cover the entire winter heating costs. Therefore, it is important that each household do all they can to keep utility bills current. A small amount of HEAT funds is available for emergencies such as minor furnace repairs and avoiding utility disconnections.

To apply for HEAT assistance in the five-county area, residents may call the following numbers to schedule an appointment:

Beaver County	435-438-5313
Garfield County	435-826-4317 or 435-467-8597
Iron County	435-586-0858
Kane County	435-644-3803
Washington County	435-652-9643

After applying for the HEAT program, applicants will receive notification in the mail about the status of their application. If the application is approved, they will also be notified of the benefit amount and how payments will be made.

If additional information is needed, please contact Susan Long at the Five County Association of Governments Office in St. George (435-652-9643).
(Jo Seegmiller)

Staff Spotlights:



Curt Hutchings was born and raised in Citrus Heights California, but moved to Loa, Utah as a teenager. After graduation from Wayne High School, Curt spent time living in Iceland for two years. Upon returning to Utah and after some looking around, Curt married Cheryl, his wife of 22 years. Curt & Cheryl are the parents of 5 children and have recently added a Son-In-Law to the group.

Their children are Megan (Andrew Fielding), Alexander, Clayton, Steevi, and Samuel.

Curt with his family has lived in several locations including: Orem and Pleasant Grove, Utah; Indio, California; & St. George and Ivins, Utah. Curt has lived in Ivins for the past 12 years and does not plan on making any other moves soon.

Curt graduated and received a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Utah in 1989. Fulfilling part of graduation requirements, Curt worked as an Intern for Orem City. This was his first exposure to city functions and interaction with the Planning Commission.

After graduation, Curt received three strong opportunities for employment ranging across the country from Harwich, Massachusetts to Indio, California. Curt pursued a position as Assistant Planner for the City of Indio, California and worked there for 4 years until his desire to return to Utah motivated him to move to the St. George area. Curt was hired at the Five County Association of Governments as an Associate Planner in May of 1993 and then advanced as Senior Planner for the Association. Curt worked as Senior Planner from November of 1993 to July of 2006. In July, Curt shifted gears and is now the Transportation Planner for the Dixie Metropolitan Planning Organization (DMPO).

In these various roles, Curt has worked as: Planning Commission liaison; Environmental Officer; Census & data liaison; Circuit Rider Planner; GIS Coordinator; Special Projects Manager; and Transportation projects liaison among many, many other things.

In his spare time Curt enjoys Hummingbird watching, reading and woodworking.

Sarah Ohms Farewell



Sarah Ohms, Data Specialist with our Child Care Resource and Referral office in Cedar City, is leaving for a grand adventure. Sarah will spend six months as an English teacher at the Berhan Language Institute in Fengyuan, Taiwan.

She will use the International Language Programs' teaching methodology which is based on the way children learn their native language - through experience and

interaction. The children, ranging from Kindergarten to 6th grade, will participate in activities, games, stories and songs like they would at a birthday celebration. Sarah will base daily lessons on activities designed for teaching language and on what the children are already familiar with, such as making a snack in the kitchen, tumbling in the gym, acting out stories, or making art projects - all while speaking English.

When she is not busy lesson-planning and teaching, she'll try to figure out the public transportation system, study a little Mandarin, and explore the country while riding around on a scooter! That agenda might sound intimidating to some but we who know Sarah well, just say look out Taiwan, because Sarah will take it by storm. She has been an invaluable part of our organization and staff members have been seen secretly crying in their offices since she announced that she would be leaving. She is leaving shoes that will be hard to fill, but we all love her and wish her the best and hope we can keep in touch by e-mail.....in fact Sarah, can't you just typeset the Child Care newsletter in Taiwan and e-mail it home to print????????

What's Happening with Five County Home and Community Based Programs

The Home and Community Based programs continue to play a vital role in the Five County Area to enable the frail elderly and disabled adults to remain in their own homes or a community setting. We continue to administer four home and community based programs: The Aging Medicaid Program, The Molina Independence Care Program, The Alternatives Program and The Caregiver Support Program; with the support of a program manager, eight case managers, three registered nurses and an accounting technician.

The Aging Waiver Medicaid Program

The Aging Waiver (AW) Medicaid program provides in-home support services to seniors sixty-five years of age or older who meet nursing home level of care and are financially eligible for AW Medicaid. Eligible recipients receive a variety of services which enable them to remain at home and as independent as possible. Services may include: case management, assistance with personal care, homemaking services, chore services, respite care, adult day care, emergency response systems, medication reminder services, medical supplies and equipment, environmental accessibility adaptation, non-medical transportation, companion services, supplemental meals and personal attendant services.

We are currently serving 65 consumers in the Five County Area; but have the capacity to serve more clients. We know there our seniors who could benefit from these services. If you are aware of an elderly person in need, please contact us. We can contact the individual or their caregiver to discuss the program and complete an intake to determine eligibility.

The Molina Independence Care Program (MIC)

The MIC program is currently undergoing some changes. The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has requested that the State of Utah make certain changes to the program in order to comply with federal regulation regarding Medicaid. The Utah Department of Health has submitted an application for the program to be (See next page for additional information)

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operated under 1915c of the Federal Regulations which allows for a waiver to Medicaid to provide home and community based services. While the Utah Department of Health is waiting for final approval from CMS, a hold has been placed on any new enrollments to the program. Clients who are already enrolled in the program will continue to receive services under the current program guidelines. Once approval is obtained from CMS, the Utah Department of Health will work with the existing programs to transition clients to what will be called "The New Choices Waiver." After current clients are transitioned to the new program, the Department of Health will open the program to new applicants.

According to the Utah Department of Health this process will take about 6 months, during which time any potential applicants can contact: Kathleen Bowman, at (801) 538-6497 or e-mail newchoiceswaiver@utah.gov. The Department of Health will maintain an applicant list of potential consumers for the New Choices Waiver and can answer any questions regarding program guidelines, requirements or eligibility.

The Alternatives Program

The Alternatives program is funded by the State of Utah to provide in-home services to frail elderly and disabled adults. The package of services available is similar to that of the Aging Waiver Program and is based upon client needs and certain funding limitations. The program is operated by the Division of Aging and Adult Services with the Area Agencies on Aging administering the program at the local level. Seventy-five percent of program expenditures must be used to serve frail elderly who are 60 years of age or older, are low-income and have a medium to high risk score based upon the State approved screening and intake application. Only 25% of the funds can be spent on adults under the age of 60 who meet the same income eligibility guidelines and also have a medium to high risk score. Financial eligibility for the program is based upon a sliding scale. There may be a small monthly fee for services based on where the person's income falls on the sliding scale.

Due to funding limitations, this program is currently at capacity. However, we encourage people who may be eligible to complete an intake screening and be placed on the applicant list, since potential applicants are added to the program based upon highest need.

The Caregiver Support Program

The Caregiver Support Program is funded under Title III-C of the Older Americans Act. The purpose of the program is to provide a variety of supports and services to Caregivers to enable them to continue to care for a family member or loved one. As part of the Older Americans Act the program provides services for seniors 60 years of age or older. The program has five categories of services to assist Caregivers, they include: Information, Assistance, Respite Care, Training/Support Groups, and Supplemental Services. The program does not have any financial eligibility requirements; however,

we serve those with the greatest social and economic need first. For more details regarding these services and qualifications for the different categories of service please feel free to contact us.

For any questions you may have regarding any of these programs, you can call or e-mail Carrie Schonlaw, SSW at 435-673-3548 or cschonlaw@fcaog.state.ut.us. To complete an intake for one of our programs you may contact Carolyn Moss at 435-673-3548.

(Carrie Schonlaw)

2007 Meeting Schedule

The Five County Association of Governments Steering Committee will meet in regular session in 2007 on the following schedule:

Meeting Date	Location
Wednesday, January 17, 2007 1:00 p.m.	Five County AOG Conference Room 1070 W. 1600 S., Building B St. George, Utah
Wednesday, February 14, 2007 1:00 p.m.	Kane Co. Courthouse Commission Chambers 76 North Main Street Kanab, Utah
Wednesday, March 14, 2007 1:00 p.m.	Beaver Co. Admin. Building Conference Room 105 East Center Street Beaver, Utah
Wednesday, April 11, 2007 1:00 p.m.	Parowan Library Meeting Room 16 South Main Street Parowan, Utah
Wednesday, May 9, 2007 1:00 p.m.	Panguitch Library Council Chambers 25 South 200 East Panguitch, Utah
Wednesday, June 13, 2007 1:00 p.m.	Kane Co. Courthouse Commission Chambers 76 North Main Street Kanab, Utah
Wednesday, August 15, 2007 1:00 p.m.	Panguitch Library Council Chambers 25 South 200 East Panguitch, Utah
Wednesday, September 12, 2007 1:00 p.m.	Beaver Co. Admin. Building Conference Room 105 East Center Street Beaver, Utah
Wednesday, October 10, 2007 1:00 p.m.	Parowan Library Meeting Room 16 South Main Street Parowan, Utah
Wednesday, November 14, 2007 1:00 p.m.	Five County AOG Conference Room 1070 W. 1600 S., Building B St. George, Utah

There are no regularly scheduled Board meetings in July or December. Any necessary location changes will be published one week prior to meetings.

Capital Improvements Lists

Meetings to prioritize potential projects to the Permanent Community Impact Fund Board (PCIFB) for the upcoming year will be held in the following locations:

Beaver County: Wednesday, November 8, 2006 10:00 a.m.
Beaver Co. Admin. Building - Commission Chambers
105 East Center, Beaver, UT

Garfield County: Wednesday, November 8, 2006 2:00 p.m.
Garfield County Courthouse - Commission Chambers
55 South Main, Panguitch, UT

Kane County: Thursday, November 9, 2006 10:00 a.m.
Kane County Courthouse - Commission Chambers
76 North Main, Kanab, UT

Washington Co.: Thursday, November 9, 2006 3:00 p.m.
Five County Association of Governments
Small Conference Room
1070 West 1600 South, Building B., St. George, UT

Iron County: Monday, November 13, 2006 11:30 a.m.
Iron County Courthouse - Commission Chambers
68 South 100 East, Parowan, UT

Please submit articles to Diane Lamoreaux via e-mail (dmoreaux@fcaog.state.ut.us) or in writing to: 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.fcaog.state.ut.us>

Steering Committee Meeting Schedule:

Wednesday, November 15, 2006
12:00 Noon (Please Note Time Change)

Five County Association of Governments
Conference Room - 1070 W. 1600 S.,
Building B; St. George, UT

FIVE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
1070 WEST 1600 SOUTH, BUILDING B
P.O. BOX 1550
ST. GEORGE, UTAH 84771-1550