

## NACo, sheriffs tackle loss of benefits in jail

by **Mary Ann Barton**  
editor

A task force made up of members of NACo and the National Sheriffs' Association met July 14 to begin tackling a problem that sees people lose federal health benefits when they enter county jail.

Across the United States, county jails house the mentally ill and those with substance use disorders. When someone is arrested and is unable to make bail, they lose their federal healthcare benefits. Those people are often stuck in a revolving door, landing in jail after their health care is disrupted after losing their federal health benefits.

People can lose not only Medicaid benefits but also Medicare, Social Security, Children's Health Insurance Program benefits and even

veteran's benefits, said NACo Executive Director Matt Chase in a town hall held at NACo's Annual Conference.

"This issue is simply about federal policy makers not understanding the difference between prison and jail," Chase said. "When you look at case law, the only individuals who are guaranteed healthcare are inmates; they are guaranteed a right to healthcare services because they've lost the ability to procure it on their own. What that court case doesn't say is actually who pays for it."

See **BENEFITS** page 2



NACo President Mary Ann Borgeson hugs Cookie Monster July 15 as Jeanette Betancourt, senior vice president for U.S. Social Impact at Sesame Workshop, takes the stage during the General Session at NACo's 84th Annual Conference and Exposition in Clark County, Nev. See more conference coverage, including a photo gallery, starting on Page 5. Photo by Denny Henry

## Group issues ransomware warning to local governments

by **Rachel Looker**  
staff writer

School districts, library systems, sheriff's offices and other areas of local government have all been hit by a recent wave of cyberattacks that has targeted counties throughout the country. These malware or ransomware attacks are affecting servers, websites and even the start date for some schools.

In response, a consortium of local government groups and others have issued a fresh warning to local governments to back up systems on a daily basis; reinforce basic cybersecurity awareness and education and revisit and refine cyber incident response plans.

The Center for Internet Security

describes ransomware as a type of malware that blocks access to a system, device or file until the ransom is paid. Ransomware encrypts files on infected systems with different variants that can erase files or block access to the system using other methods.

The consortium that issued the warning includes the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center, National Governors Association and the National Association of State Chief Information Officers. They are supporting ransomware victims and encouraging the government to protect networks

See **WARNING** page 2

## Turning a life around in Florida

by **Charlie Ban**  
senior writer

Justin Volpe didn't know how he was doing.

He was used to a little more noise when he spoke in front of groups, he knew how to handle those little distractions. But

at the Florida Association of Counties' Annual Conference in Orlando in June, he heard only intermittent clinks of silverware.

"I'm not used to that, usually people keep talking," he said. "I

See **TREATMENT** page 3



Facing mental illness and drug addiction, Justin Volpe turned his life around after being diverted to county treatment programs.



## Losing benefits: ‘We’re wasting taxpayers’ money’

From **BENEFITS** page 1

“We have a problem where you lose your benefits at arrest and not at conviction,” he said. “There’s also a double standard, if you are arrested and you post bail, you retain your federal benefits, but if you’re housed in the county jail, you lose them.”

Task force co-chair Arapahoe County, Colo. Commissioner Nancy Sharpe said the group plans to raise awareness about the Medicaid Inmate Exclusion Policy with federal, state and local officials as well as the public.

“Most people do not know we have this kind of an issue,” she said. “We’re looking to amend the policy that would help contribute to better health justice and public safety outcomes for



**Arapahoe County, Colo. Commissioner Nancy Sharpe leads a town hall discussion July 14 on the loss of health benefits in jail.** Photo by Denny Henry

these individuals as well as our communities.”

The topic is “near and dear to me,” said audience member Caddo Parish, La. Commissioner Steve Jackson. “I talk about it all the time. We’re wasting

taxpayers’ money. The \$350 we spend just to hold them is wasted. We’re spending \$5.5 million on healthcare on pretrial detainees.”

Panelist Washtenaw County, Mich. Sheriff Jerry Clayton also spoke to NACo members at the town hall. “I was excited [about the task force] for a variety of reasons,” he said, noting that while his county is “fairly well off...how do we support a population with mental, behavioral and physical health problems?”

The possibility of recidivism stands at 58 percent for those with mental health problems, he noted.

Fellow panelist Jim Martin, vice president of project development at the National Commission on Correctional Healthcare, noted that detaining the mentally ill costs three times that of the average inmate.

The task force plans another in-person meeting in October. Chase noted that the group welcomes input from all. **CN**

Download NACo’s “Federal Policy Impacts on County Jail Inmate Healthcare & Recidivism” publication here: <https://www.naco.org/resources/featured/healthcareinjails>.

## Ransomware attacks spark warning

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against the threat of a ransomware attack.

Backing up systems and storing the back-ups offline ensures the integrity of the restoration process. If recovering from an attack, the groups recommend restoring a stronger system than was lost, by ensuring it is fully patched and updated to the latest version.

It’s important to refresh employee training on recognizing cyberthreats, phishing and suspicious links which will help local governments prevent cybersecurity attacks, they warned. It’s also important to reiterate to employees how to report incidents to IT staff.

Counties should establish a clear plan to address attacks, which should include how to request assistance from external “cyber first responders” in the event of an attack.

If ransom is not paid within a certain time frame, there is a risk of decryption keys being destroyed or files being permanently deleted, according to the Center for Internet Security.

Schools in counties across the country including Alabama and Louisiana have been the victims of cyberattacks.

On July 23, Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards declared a state of emergency after intentional cybersecurity breaches in the Sabine, Morehouse and City of Monroe school systems. According to the state of emergency proclamation, the cybersecurity incident may potentially compromise other public and private entities in the state.

WTVY reported that Houston County Schools in Alabama delayed the start of their school year after the system’s server

was targeted in a malware attack. The school system is working with law enforcement and network engineers.

The attacks have also reached county library systems.

The Butler County Federated Library System in Pennsylvania experienced a ransomware attack on its servers, according to a press release.

Library officials confirmed the brand of ransomware used in the attack was “Ryuk,” according to the release. The attack has affected some services throughout the library system including the use of public computers, renewal of items, library catalog access, collection of fines and placement of item holds which were unavailable.

The Butler County Federated Library System has been in contact with police and the FBI.

The Georgia Department of Public Safety’s network servers were also targeted in a ransomware attack. According to a statement, Georgia’s Department of Public Safety experienced outages in internal and customer facing applications and was “working diligently to resolve the issue.”

Additionally, the servers at the Lincoln County Sheriff’s Office were hit with ransomware, according to Lincoln County Public Information Officer Ronnie Rombs. Only the sheriff’s office was targeted, he said.

According to the Center for Internet Security, some variants of ransomware can be unlocked or decrypted. The website, [NoMoreRansom.org](http://NoMoreRansom.org) which is run by cybersecurity vendors and government agencies, collects and shares all known decryption keys. **CN**

For additional resources visit: <https://bit.ly/2MBtod9>

## SNAP/STATS



## GOOD BUY, SUMMER

### NUMBER OF BACK-TO-SCHOOL RETAILERS

STORES	NUMBER
Family clothing: .....	28,951
Shoes: .....	24,693
Department: .....	7,930
Children’s clothing: .....	7,065
Book: .....	6,448
Office supply: .....	6,141

Source: U.S. Census Bureau/County Business Patterns



# U.S. House repeals ‘Cadillac Tax’

by **Brett Mattson**

The U.S. House of Representatives approved H.R. 748, the “Middle Class Health Benefits Tax Repeal Act of 2019” July 17, on a bipartisan vote of 419 to 6.

The legislation would repeal the 40 percent tax on high-cost health plans also referred to as the Cadillac Tax, which was originally included in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) of 2010.

Repealing the Cadillac Tax has been a top priority for counties across the country since its inclusion in the ACA.


## The legislation would repeal the 40 percent tax on high-cost health plans.

Counties employ more than 3.6 million workers and rely on health care coverage as one of the primary benefits used to attract and maintain a quality workforce.

Implementing this excise tax, which is currently set to go into effect in 2022, on employer-sponsored health insurance, would significantly impact county budgets and workforce development.

In March, NACo joined more than 500 organizations in a letter urging members of Congress to cosponsor legislation to fully repeal the excise tax.

Companion legislation in the Senate, S. 684, currently has 42 cosponsors supporting legislation to repeal the Cadillac Tax.

NACo is encouraged by the efforts of the House to quickly pass legislation to repeal this tax and will continue to work with the Senate to pass a full and permanent repeal of the Cadillac Tax. 

*Brett Mattson is a legislative assistant in NACo's Government Affairs department.*

# Former inmate now serves as peer mentor to mentally ill

From *TREATMENT* page 1

guess they were listening.”

Miami-Dade County Commissioner Sally Heyman called it for what it was.

“They were captivated,” she said. “Nobody got their food and left, everyone stayed. He definitely had their attention.”

What Volpe told the crowd of roughly 300 was a story, his story, that serves as the model for Miami-Dade County’s efforts to divert mentally ill inmates to programs that can help them get better, the underpinning of NACo’s four-year-old Stepping Up Initiative.

Once a mentally ill and drug-addicted restaurant and bar worker, just getting by, Volpe has since become a peer support specialist, having worked for Miami-Dade County for six years in that role before moving to work for an independent contractor.

In 2003, Volpe’s brother prompted him to move to Miami when he was 19, to make a clean break from a difficult home life in New Jersey.

“It was a chance for a fresh start, but the problems just followed me here,” he said. In fact, his problems got worse as he entered his 20s.

“I had unstable relationships with a lot of people in my life, but my mental health problems didn’t start coming out until 2006,” he said.

From 2003-2007, he moved 10 times and held 20 different jobs. He was proud, despite of his addiction and schizophrenia, to always have kept his rent paid. But while he kept that winning streak going, he was losing elsewhere, the combination of methamphetamine use and paranoid delusions trimmed his 6 foot 1 inch body down to 130 pounds; he is 200 pounds now.

“I’d just walk the alleys of Miami Beach at night,” he said.

But his continued drug use wasn’t for lack of effort. He reached out to his family for help, and they went one further and staged an intervention, with his divorced mother and father and his brother all com-

ing together to try to talk sense into him.

“For the most part, people are trying, I know people who’d like to have their own lives under control, but they just can’t do it,” he said. “Given the right tools, people want to do better for themselves.”

He didn’t want to do inpatient care, but he went to rehab, where withdrawal took its toll.

His delusions continued, and he left New Jersey to return to Miami, where he picked up day labor jobs.

“I wasn’t clinging to too much, but I wanted to go back,” he said. “I took the meds, I lived a normal life.”

Then he got bored, overconfident he was under control. He started using again.

“I thought I was better, but at 22 years old you just don’t have the perspective to know,” he said.

In April 2007, he faced a felony theft charge and wound up on the psychiatric care floor of the Miami-Dade County Jail, since shuttered.

“That was called ‘The Forgotten Floor,’” said Miami Dade County Judge Steve Leifman, associate administrative judge for the Eleventh Judicial Circuit Court of Florida.

“I feared for my life,” Volpe said. “They wouldn’t let me sleep, and I heard people being beaten a few doors down. I heard guys pleading for their lives. I was in a constant state of fear.”

Simply put, if he didn’t have mental and emotional stress before, he certainly did during his confinement.

All the while, over a month and a half, his family was trying to get him released and placed in the county’s Criminal Mental Health Project.

Leifman started and leads the project, which eventually got Volpe out of the county jail, his charge reduced to a misdemeanor and into community-based treatment, plus a stay at a halfway house.

Volpe wasn’t entirely pleased — a psychiatrist told him within a few minutes of meeting him that he would never work or live

a functional life.

“I was upset, but I agreed to treatment,” he said. Soon after, treatment ended up being more of a networking opportunity for his addiction.

“I met up with more people to use and absconded from the house to use.”

He found a place to live with a mother of six in the Liberty City neighborhood. One day, she left to buy drugs and never came back, and when a boyfriend came looking for her, Volpe decided to walk 12 miles back to the house. He passed people waiting for the light rail, and he could hear their reactions to how bad he smelled. That was his moment of clarity.

He returned to the halfway house, dutifully underwent treatment, and prepared to figure out what his next move was when he was offered a job as a peer support specialist.

“She said, ‘How would you like to work with severely mentally ill people,’” Volpe said. “I told her, ‘Lady, I’m mentally ill, I have a criminal record.’”

But that actually worked in his favor. It both made him an excellent candidate for the job and the job itself would serve as a deterrent to relapse.

“I had to walk in the doors of the courthouse every day around cops — corrections officers, judges, lawyers,” he said. “I was paranoid to begin with. There’s no way in hell I was going to get high and walk into this building.”

He was the contact person for people in recovery through the Criminal Mental Health Project and helped train law enforcement in crisis intervention. He worked for the county for six years before working in a similar capacity for a nonprofit.

At the nonprofit, he meets people when they’re released from jail, he helps them get their medicine, delivers them to their treatment provider, gets them clothes and takes them to where they’ll be living.

He follows up on a regular basis, takes them to appointments and support groups. He shares his own story, but most importantly, he listens.

“People tell me they feel more comfortable talking to me, they can trust me, because I’ve been where they are,” Volpe said.

“He’s a remarkable employee,” Leifman said. “He’s helped thousands of people get help and stay out of the criminal justice system. The secret sauce of our success is our peer support system.”

“There was one man he was taking to McDonald’s and buying him breakfast every day. To them, he was less of a part of the system and more someone they could trust.”

That long walk that led to his moment of clarity became part of his daily life outside, though.

“If you don’t have your own car, you have to take the bus, and the bus doesn’t come all the time. I was averaging eight miles a day walking, so I’d run through a pair of shoes every three months.

“I’d show up when people got out of jail and they’d see how sweaty I was and that I would just be getting on the bus with them.”

While that reality continued to ingratiate him to his clients, Heyman saw a problem that needed some help.

It took a while, but the county found a car for him — a 2004 Dodge Stratus with 200,000 miles on it.


“Man, as long as it had AC, I’d take it,” Volpe said.

Later, that car was upgraded to a Ford C-Max hybrid. Now he can see 10 clients in a day. All after he left the county’s employ.

“He’s smart, he has a great personality and he’s been through the system,” Leifman said.

“A lot of people look at him, not realizing that he’s been ill, in recovery and been in the criminal justice system. When they see how far he’s come, that helps. He’s aspirational.”

Volpe knows he has excelled, which gives him more empathy for his clients.

“I started at the bottom, and I’ve made it, I have a wife and son and get to work where I can help people, but I know this doesn’t happen a lot, a lot of people fail,” he said. 



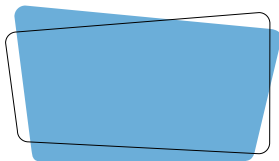


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# WORKSHOPS

## Landscape changing quickly for aging services

by **Charlie Ban**  
senior writer

### WHO SPOKE:

**Kristin Dillon**, senior vice president for state and community engagement, AARP

**Sandy Markwood**, executive director, National Association of Area Agencies on Aging

**Mary Rumbaugh**, director, Behavioral Health Division, Clackamas County, Ore.

**Barry Zimmerman**, director, Human Services Agency, Ventura County, Calif.

### WHAT PARTICIPANTS LEARNED:

The absence of a national aging policy is hindering local efforts to provide support for older residents.

At the same time, the clock is ticking toward 2030, when 73 million Americans will be over the age of 65, with a tipping point coming in 2035, when the population of Americans over 65 will outnumber those 18 and under.

“That will have a dramatic impact on the services and support that county governments provide,” said Sandy Markwood, executive director of the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging. “Given the increasing longevity of older adults, aging services and support is now encompassing not one generation of older adults, but multiple generations of older adults.”

She pointed out that 70 percent of older adults will need 3-5 years of services and support to help them age successfully, a number driven in large part by dementia.

NACo First Vice President Mary Ann Borgeson plans to focus on the aging support services that counties provide.

Ventura County, among others in Southern Califor-

nia, is seeing a lot of younger residents leave to escape high housing costs, increasing the proportion of older residents.

Barry Zimmerman, director of the county’s human services agency, projected that by 2030, one-third of the county’s residents will be over 60. “For us, this is a concern that we’re only now becoming aware of,” he said. “To be frank, there hasn’t been a lot of focus on the aging and the needs of the aging cycle.”

The county is partnering with its area agency on aging to create a dementia-friendly community.

“We promote awareness of what dementia is, what it isn’t and how to address dementia or the decline of cognitive abilities as people age,” Zimmerman noted.

That involves educating the public on what people experience as dementia progresses, and employing a sensory activity that emulates the challenges someone with dementia faces as their faculties are affected, which Zimmerman said helps give his adult protection practitioners and health care providers a greater understanding of what their clients experience.

“You would assume health care providers would be aware of some of the issues surrounding dementia, but they are not.”

Mary Rumbaugh, director of Clackamas County, Ore.’s Behavioral Health division, shared the story of the county’s senior loneliness line, which is staffed 24 hours a day to connect older adults to old-

er adult specialists.

Launched in 2018, the service offers resources and referrals for services to address their needs, including preventing elder abuse and suicide, but Rumbaugh said it offers something more.

“When somebody calls, they can have a friendly person to talk to, someone to listen to them, they can get emotional support and understanding,” she said.

The service recorded its 3,000th call in June, and call volume increases every month. She related the story of an older woman who was one of the service’s first callers, who was dealing with such significant stressors that operators sent paramedics to her home. They followed up with postcards and calls to her

home, and the woman has returned to good health.

“It helped that everyone who spoke to her had a good understanding of what she was dealing with and she didn’t have to retell her story every time she called,” Rumbaugh said.

They, along with Kristin Dillon from AARP, bemoaned the lack of coordinated service development around aging, even as the “tidal wave” approaches.

Dillon said any progress was a good start.

“Sometimes it feels so daunting thinking about where you start” such a large task, she said. “The important thing is to start somewhere small, something you galvanize support around. Then build from there.” **CN**



**Sandy Markwood**, executive director of the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging, speaks to NACo members July 12 at a luncheon on how counties can support older residents. Photo by Denny Henry



# CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

## Workforce inclusion, extension of services key to integrating immigrants

by **Charlie Ban**  
senior writer

### WHO SPOKE:

**Amanda Bergson-Shilcock**, director of Upskilling Policy, National Skills Coalition

**Susan Downs-Karkos**, senior director of external affairs, Welcoming America

**Cris Ramón**, senior policy analyst, Bipartisan Policy Center

**Jim Zwetzig**, commissioner, Morgan County, Colo.

**Zee Xiao**, director, Mayor's Office for New Americans, Salt Lake County, Utah

### WHAT PARTICIPANTS LEARNED:

Without a federal policy on how best to integrate immigrants, the onus falls on state and local governments and nonprofit organizations to ease new arrivals' way into the communities in which they're settling.

The nonprofit Welcoming America aims to help communities become more welcoming by creating a network of local governments and nonprofits that put in place the programs and policies that work to ease integration.

"We don't want to just stop with tolerance," said Susan Downs-Karkos, the group's senior director of external affairs. "Where there isn't a sense of social cohesion, we want to help people recognize what they have in common with each other."

Welcoming America has created a certified welcoming program, and Salt Lake County is the first county to be certified. Roughly 13 percent of its population is foreign born.

The county operates the Mayor's Office for New Americans, where Zee Xiao serves as director.



**Jim Zwetzig, a Morgan County, Colo. commissioner, explains why his local nonprofit has done a more effective job helping immigrants integrate than a government directive would have done. Amanda Bergson-Shilcock of the National Skills Coalition is to his right.** Photo by Denny Henry

"Where there isn't a sense of social cohesion, we want to help people recognize what they have in common with each other."

"It's a priority because we value newcomers and the story of migration is still fresh in our minds," Xiao said, referring to Mormons who settled Utah. "And economically, we know we can't grow a state without immigrants."

Though immigration is a politically divisive issue, Amanda Bergson-Shilcock, director of upskilling policy at the National Skills Coalition, pointed out that workforce and economic development are the most bipartisan areas for immigration.

Immigrants make up one-sixth of the nation's workforce overall, with higher proportions in different regions.

"In general, there's a recognition that when immigrants want to be able to contribute to their best and highest ability, that communities and their economies benefit," she said.

She added that performing data studies of immigrant groups and their readiness to contribute to a local economy can help with that, so that policy discussions can start with a foundation of facts, rather than speculation or fear.

About 10 percent of Morgan County, Colo. comes from East Africa, most of whom are refugees who work in the county's meat-packing plant.

The local police force responds by engaging with the

different populations and age groups within the populations.

"Though families share the same culture, a child in the school system thinks a lot differently than an adult working in the plant," said Commissioner Jim Zwetzig, who is the vice chairman of NACo's Immigration Reform Task Force.

He credited the nonprofit One Morgan County for doing much of the heavy lifting integrating the county's refugee population.

That work and involvement his local native Morgan County population has put into the organization has informed his beliefs in what government should and shouldn't try to do in integrating new arrivals.

"To make integration work, it can't come from government, and I mean that from the county government or the city government," he said.

"It has to come from people in the community." **CN**

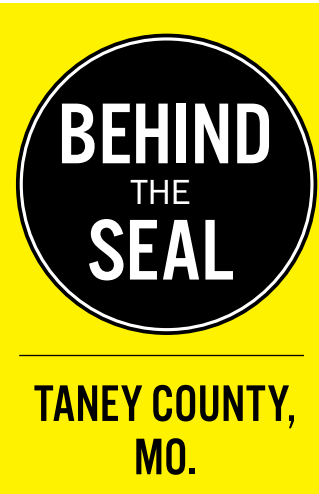


The main image of the seal depicts river commerce that was common in the county.

The White River symbolizes what was the main thoroughfare for transporting supplies and people.

The steamboat in the center of the seal symbolizes the flatboats and steamboats that were the preferred vessels for transportation.

If you would like your county's seal featured in "Behind the Seal," contact Rachel Looker at [rlooker@naco.org](mailto:rlooker@naco.org).







## CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

# How to engage the hard-to-reach for 2020 census

by **Charlie Ban**  
senior writer

### WHO SPOKE:

**Stanley Moore**, commissioner, Cook County, Ill.

**Tim Olson**, associate director, field operations, U.S. Census Bureau

**Beth Lynk**, director of census counts, Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights

### WHAT PARTICIPANTS LEARNED:

Even with the citizenship question settled, an accurate 2020 census will face an uphill battle. The biggest obstacles to a complete count are the different “hard to count” populations that can be found all over the country, even without the question that many, including the Census Bureau itself, projected would suppress response rates, even

among American citizens.

They are minority groups, children under age 5, rural residents, urban residents, non-native English speakers and there’s no one-size-fits-all formula to reach them.

“What is a hard-to-count group in my county might be totally different from one in yours,” said Stanley Moore, a Cook County, Ill. commissioner whose father worked for the Census Bureau.

Counties are motivated to ensure as complete of a census count as possible because the results determine congressional representation and the distribution of millions of dollars in federal funding each year.

More than that, Tim Olson said, is that counting someone demonstrates respect for them. He is the associate director for field operations at the

Census Bureau. He also knows that not everyone is as aware of the coming census, which will record where people live as of April 1, 2020.

“What about people who live in your community who don’t follow what we follow, they’re not in the loop and they don’t care,” he said.

Beth Lynk, director of census counts at the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, said the key to reaching disaffected populations is through friends and family — trusted messengers. Counties could reach those influencers by meeting them in their spheres of activity.

Mecklenburg County, N.C., for example, is holding an ethnic media roundtable to disseminate information through those channels.

“Think if there is a way we

can use technology to reach people,” Lynk said. “Would text messaging be a more effective communication tool?”

Technology will play a major part in this census, the first in which people can respond online. Even so, paper forms are being printed for every home in the United States, and enumerators will soon be trained for followup visits when people don’t respond online, on the phone or by mail.

“We train them to be relentless,” Olson said. “They’re instructed to go and go and go until they get a response; they are going after 100 percent (completion rates).”

To that end, messaging for vulnerable populations should emphasize the legal obligation for privacy the Census Bureau must abide. And, households with concerns can make the

process less intrusive by answering early.

“If they are worried about immigration or losing benefits because too many people live in the home, the simplest way is to just respond so we don’t show up and knock on their door,” Olson said. “We know people are afraid, certain communities are on edge wondering what’s going to happen.”

Moore elaborated on the state of Illinois’ \$29 million commitment to help counties form complete count committees, which will fund local outreach campaigns.

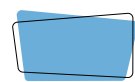
Cook County is allocating \$2 million for its own outreach campaign.

Messaging aimed at the hard-to-count populations will likely be picked up in mainstream media and trickle up. **CN**



Tim Olson, associate director for field operations at the Census Bureau, speaks to NACo members July 15 at the Annual Conference; he hopes most people will respond to the 2020 census online, but knows many will prefer the paper copies that are being printed for every home in the United States. Photo by Denny Henry





## CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

# County branding means more than a logo



**Melissa Blosser of Douglas County, Nev., speaks at the “Making Your Mark with a County Brand” session July 14 during the NACo 2019 Annual Conference.** Photo by Denny Henry

**by Charlie Ban**  
senior writer

### WHO SPOKE:

**Lori Letzring**, community services and outreach manager, National Association of County Information Officers

**Melissa Blosser**, public information officer, Douglas County, Nev.

**Shawn Milne**, commissioner, Tooele County, Utah

### WHAT PARTICIPANTS LEARNED:

A county's brand should inspire residents to identify with it. It's more than a logo, it's a statement, a promise, an identity.

But that strength in a county's brand can make the creation of a brand sometimes difficult and always time-intensive.

“We, as county officials, have a hard time with citizens not knowing what counties provide, so we need to make sure that we have these brands as visible and as unified and ‘everywhere’ as possible,” said Lori Letzring, community services and outreach manager for the National Association of County Information Officers.

“In Hillsborough County, Fla., we have our brand on every

street sign,” she said. “It helps because citizens know that this is a county street, this is maintained by Hillsborough County. It says, ‘Hey, we provide this. This is a service your county provides.’”

Once that brand is established, however, it can be difficult to change.

“A rebranding may be one of the most divisive things that you will ever do within your community,” Letzring said. “People care so much about their brands. You can have public comment for several hours because it represents your community.”

Counties should develop a style guide.

“There are always people within the organization that want to tweak things, they want to add new colors or they want to add a tag line, and that can take away from your brand,” she said. “You want to make sure that whatever it is, that it's cohesive and its unified so that all of the parts of your organization have that brand.”

Whatever your county's brand should be, it should evoke strong emotion, Melissa Blosser, public information officer for Douglas County, Nev. said.

When Douglas County rebranded in 2010, the effort went as far as changing the color scheme of its website to match.

“The shapes, the colors, the design ... we really wanted that brand recognition,” she said. “Anything we produce has the same look and feel. Every single social media post and that consistency helps people trust us.”

That consistency will go beyond just appearance, to the point where people will expect the same level of quality in all of the county's work products.

Blosser said counties with smaller budgets can make use of help from interns, who are often on the cutting edge of new technology and ideas.

Tooele County, Utah had no real brand, but it did have an image problem, or so county officials thought.

As a newly elected county commissioner, Shawn Milne saw a need to change the county's perception that it was dependent on its storage of industrial and nuclear waste. Milne wanted to pivot to tourism.

“How do we change from ‘That county way out there that buries stuff in the ground’ to ‘Hey, I want to go there this weekend for a concert!’”

To his delight, studies showed that most people didn't relate those bad things to Tooele County because they barely thought of Tooele County at all.

“One-third of people, when they were asked what they thought of Tooele County, they had no impression at all,” he said. “That's actually really great news from a marketing perspective, because you have a blank slate to work with.”

“We all know where those skeletons are, and we all perceived that those skeletons were what everybody else was identifying with us, but they weren't.”

With land area greater than three states, Tooele County itself offered a verdant opportunity to present itself to 4.5 million people traveling annually from Salt

Lake City to Nevada, California and points north and south. The county considered focusing on the Bonneville Salt Flats there or its auto racing track, “the fastest place on earth.”

But reframing the effort's mission changed its scope.

“While the fastest place on

earth is great if we're going beyond the state's boundaries, most people (around us) already knew about those things,” Milne said. “The easiest way we could capitalize was to focus next door.”

The campaign? “So much, so close.” **CN**

## GET TO KNOW...

### Williamson County, Ill.

#### Welcome, Williamson County, Ill.

Williamson County is located in southern Illinois with the county seat in Marion. The county is named after Williamson County, Tenn. after emigrants migrated to the Illinois area. The county was named in honor of Hugh Williamson, a surgeon general in the American Revolutionary War, a North Carolina legislator and a member of the Continental Congress.

**The area is nicknamed “Little Egypt” because of the county's proximity to the Mississippi and Ohio rivers and the similarities in the landscape compared to areas along the Nile River.**

The county's communities have evolved from coal mining towns to historical centers that are continuing to grow with retail, hospitality, sports, music and entertainment. The county offers various activities including outdoor recreation, sports events, cultural attractions and family entertainment. **Williamson County is known as the “Goose Capital” of the world for prominent geese hunting.**





CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

Forge partnerships to improve your county’s health equity

by **Mary Ann Barton**  
editor

**WHO SPOKE:**  
**Sig Hutchinson**, commissioner, Wake County, N.C.  
**Nick Macchione**, director, Health and Human Services Agency, San Diego County, Calif.  
**Mark Ridley-Thomas**, supervisor, Los Angeles County, Calif.  
**Kenneth Wilson**, county administrator, Franklin County, Ohio

**WHAT PARTICIPANTS LEARNED:**  
When most people think about improving health equity, they might think it’s mainly about trying to level the playing field when it comes to being able to afford to see a doctor.

But it’s also about affordable housing, access to fresh food, the ability to get affordable prescriptions and protecting children and the elderly from harm, members of NACo’s Healthy Counties Advisory Board noted July 13 at NACo’s Annual Conference.

The board met at NACo’s Annual Conference to discuss some of their more challenging problems when it comes to health equity — or as Nick Macchione, chair of the group, put it — “the things that keep you up at night.”

Macchione is director of San Diego County’s Health and Human Services Agency and kicked off the standing-room-only meeting.

One type of health equity that some might not consider is advocating for and creating parks and recreational areas that promote a healthy lifestyle, especially in low-income areas, said Wake County, N.C. Commissioner Sig Hutchinson, who took part in a panel discussion of the topic.

Adding parks, open space, bike-sharing and bike lanes creates added value beyond the obvious, he noted, including economic development,



**Kenneth Wilson, county administrator, Franklin County, Ohio, speaks to NACo members July 13 during the Healthy Counties Advisory Board Meeting at the Annual Conference.** Photo by Denny Henry

physical activity, stress reduction, community building and environmental opportunities associated with preservation of land.

The causes of health equity issues — a “chronic crisis” — are due in part to poverty sometimes caused by racism, sexism and other problems that must be dealt with, said fellow panelist Los Angeles

County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas.

“This crisis is exacerbated by long-standing inequities.”

Some 918 people died last year in the county who were

homeless and mentally ill, he said.

Homelessness is also a problem in Franklin County, Ohio.

“Housing means everything, without housing you can’t have health, you must have a roof over your head,” said panelist Kenneth Wilson, Franklin County, Ohio administrator. In his county, “we’re 54,000 units short of what we need for affordable housing.”

Within the last couple of weeks, he noted, the county announced they plan to invest \$65 million over the next 10 years for affordable housing along with millions of dollars kicked in by the City of Columbus and private companies.

To make this work, partnerships are important, he said.

“We know that health equity is really about access and opportunity,” Wilson said.

“In order to provide access and opportunity to the ‘have-nots’ you must have strong alliances with your non-profits and private sector.”

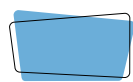
WORD SEARCH

ORANGE COUNTY, Fla.  
Created by: Mary Ann Barton

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P	E	Z	J	F	I	V	X	J	S	J	N	N	E	O	D	O	J	K	V
X	D	Z	P	K	Q	N	C	W	K	A	N	D	A	A	E	E	W	H	E

- BASKETBALL:** The county is home to the NBA’s Orlando Magic.
- BEATLE:** Paul McCartney reportedly has a home in the county and likes to dine at Briarpatch restaurant.
- COURTHOUSE:** The county courthouse was built in 1997 at a cost of \$100 million.
- DISNEY:** Walt Disney World Resort, which is 47 square miles, is located in parts of Orange County and parts of Osceola County.
- HISTORY:** The Orange County Regional History Center, which opened in 2000, is housed in the former courthouse, built in 1927.
- KEROUAC:** Beat Generation author Jack Kerouac lived in the county, where he wrote and edited his novels.
- LAKEs:** The county is home to more than 100 lakes.
- MOSQUITOS:** The county’s original name was Los Mosquitos County. The county changed its name in 1845 in a nod to its orange groves.
- GATORLAND:** Even though the county is known for Disney World, its very first theme park was Gatorland, which opened in 1949 featuring a 15-foot gator. It’s still open today and owned by the same family.
- MAYOR:** Orange County Mayor Jerry Demings, sworn in Dec. 4, 2018, is the first African American to serve in that role.
- MOSS:** You will find Spanish Moss hanging from trees — mostly live oaks and cypress — in the county.
- ORANGES:** Oranges are a big business but have dwindled since its peak of 80,000 acres of groves in the 1970s.
- ORLANDO:** The county seat is Orlando; its name used to be Jernigan, named for its two first permanent settlers.
- POPULATION:** The county is the fifth most populous in Florida, with 1,145,956 residents.
- UNIVERSITY:** The University of Central Florida is located in the county and has a student population of more than 66,000.





# CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

## Public art bridges gaps, strengthens communities

by Rachel Looker  
staff writer

### WHO SPOKE:

**Jay Dick**, senior director of state and local government affairs, Americans for the Arts

**Gabrielle Enfield**, county grants administrator, Washoe County, Nev.

**Tony Manfredi**, executive director, Nevada Arts Council

**Joe Meschede**, civic arts coordinator, Burning Man Project

**Mickey Sprott**, cultural supervisor, Clark County, Nev.

### WHAT PARTICIPANTS LEARNED:

Members of the Arts and Culture Commission discussed ways to engage with state art agencies, establish public art programs and create projects on the county level at the "Creating Vibrant Communities Through Public Art" session during NACo's Annual Conference on July 13.

"I would argue that there isn't much that arts and culture can't help solve," said Tony Manfredi, executive director of the Nevada Arts Council.

The value of the arts is very important to counties, Manfredi added, because it brings people together and cuts across any political challenges.

"Bring the arts in," he said. "Utilize that and realize that it's really a critical component in all of the challenges that we face."

Clark County, Nev., Cultural Supervisor Mickey Sprott said the county has numerous pieces of public art in its collection as well as more than 400 utility boxes painted and designed by local artists.

The county has undertaken projects to create public art programs such as the Clark County Child Haven Center, where Social Services brings children who were removed from their families. The center had sterile, dark hallways that were intimidating to children



**Jay Dick, senior director of State and Local Government Affairs at Americans for the Arts, speaks to NACo members at the "Creating Vibrant Communities Through Public Art" session on July 13 at the NACo Annual Conference.** Photo by Denny Henry

before an artist designed colorful murals to make the space more child-friendly.

"When you go back home to your counties, talk to your departments. Find out if you have processes where you're taking in children or any of the front-line interactions. How can art change those interactions, make it more positive?" Sprott asked the commission members.

Another project in Clark County involves a town hall meeting room in Overton, Nev., where a wall features a mobile 12-foot by 40-foot oil canvas that depicts the history of Overton. The piece can be removed and taken to a different building if the town board moves from the office.

"Every time town hall meets, they have a reminder now of where they came from. It also reminds them of their duty to keep that rural lifestyle that is so

important to them," Sprott said.

Washoe County, Nev., Grants Administrator Gabrielle Enfield discussed the county's ArTrail project, which serves as a public participatory experience along a 200-mile route through the county, she said. The trail celebrates cultural, historic and artistic landmarks.

Burning Man Project's Civic Arts Coordinator Joe Meschede also added to the art community in Washoe County by creating Burning Man, which he described as a temporary city that becomes Nevada's third largest city for one week before it disappears.

Artists, musicians and other volunteers travel to the desert where they create and support their own city with an airport, post office and hospital. He said everyone brings their own talents to support the functioning city and at the end, the



**Mickey Sprott, cultural supervisor, Clark County, Nev., speaks July 13 to members of the NACo Arts and Culture Commission.** Photo by Denny Henry

art and structures are burned.

"People don't always consider themselves to be artists. Burning Man is the place where people decide that they are," he said.

Jay Dick, senior director of State and Local Government Affairs at Americans for the Arts, said when it comes to federal government support for the arts and culture, funding is

at a recent all-time high. Arts and culture are now in five different appropriations bills on the federal level, he said.

"There's a lot of great things going on, on the federal level, that you see going down to the states, county and local levels," he said. "It's a great time to be involved in the arts and culture because we're really spreading our wings." **CN**





# CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

## Outdoor rec leads to strong economies, communities

by **Rachel Looker**  
staff writer

### WHO SPOKE:

**Mauricia Baca**, executive director, Get Outdoors Nevada

**Stephanie Forte**, founder, Forté PR

**Bob Gardner**, supervisor, Mono County, Calif.

**Eric Peterson**, public affairs director, Coconino County, Ariz.

**Dirk Van Duym**, research economist, Bureau of Economic Analysis

### WHAT PARTICIPANTS LEARNED:

With national parks receiving more visitors in 2015 than all of Disney, national football, national baseball, national basketball, soccer and NASCAR combined, county officials discussed the important role outdoor recreation can have in creating stronger economies.

Mauricia Baca, executive director of Get Outdoors Nevada, explained how connecting people to the outdoors builds stronger communities and stronger economies.

“My basic thesis is that the idea is that Nevada’s outdoors, really anybody’s outdoors, equals both a stronger community and a stronger economy because they go hand in glove,”

she told NACo members July 14 at the NACo Annual Conference.

In order to create stronger economies through the outdoors, Baca discussed the role of educating children by using “outdoor classroom spaces” to improve STEM outcomes.

To illustrate how outdoor recreation can create a stronger economy, Baca explained that the total economic outputs that surround Lake Mead generated \$397 million in 2018.

Eric Peterson, public affairs director for Coconino County, Ariz., referred to a study on the extension of the North Rim season at Grand Canyon National Park. Peterson described the North Rim as a “rustic, resort tourism” area that operates in the summer by set dates determined by the park’s services.

“This was the classic case of deferred maintenance of infrastructure. It has pushed the North Rim into a summer season only because pipes aren’t going to be buried deep enough for water to be able to move and not freeze [and] cabins aren’t outfitted for a winter climate,” he said.

“We have this incredible place on the north side of the canyon that is not operational [for half

the year].”

The study looked at the economic benefits of the area and had the North Rim open two weeks earlier and close two weeks later. The study found 37,000 more visitors in the extra four weeks, generating \$230,000 per day.

“Those are the kind of data studies that we need every day to prove the value of the land that we are helping to manage and helping to engage with a tourism economy,” Peterson said.

Dirk Van Duym, a research economist at the Bureau of Economic Analysis, elaborated on statistics, adding that the bureau has been working to compare the economic impact of the outdoor recreation sector with other sectors in the economy.

The Outdoor Recreation Jobs and Economic Impact Act of 2016 provided funding for the bureau to take a closer look at the economic outdoor sector.

The goal of the project is to deepen the public’s understanding of the outdoor recreation sector’s impact.

“It allows the economic activity associated with outdoor recreation to be separately identified and measured in

greater detail,” he said.

According to Duym, on the national level, 2.2 percent of the entire economy is related to outdoor recreation and there are over 4.5 million jobs at the national level in the outdoor recreation sector.

Duym said he is using data from a number of different

sources to create statistics that will be divided into different outdoor activities such as fishing, boating and hiking, among others.

“There’s a wealth of information to show you how much your state is contributing in terms of the outdoor recreation sector,” he said. **CN**

## ON THE MOVE

### NACo OFFICERS AND STAFF

#### • Immediate Past President

**Greg Cox** attended the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania meeting Aug. 5 in Berks County, Pa.

#### • NACo President Mary Ann

**Borgeson** attended the South Carolina Association of Counties meeting, held Aug. 4-7 in Beaufort County, S.C.

• Program Manager **Jack Morgan** represented NACo at the Southwest Virginia Cohort SolSmart Designation Event in Wise County, Va. that was held July 25 – 26.

• Program Manager **Pamela Mann** represented NACo at the Primary Care/Public Health/Workforce Summit in Jackson County, Mo. The summit was held July 25 – 27.

• Chief Innovation Officer **Cheryl Burnett**, Director of Program Strategy **Jayant Kairam** and Associate Program Director **Alejandra Montoya-Boyer** participated in the Economic Mobility Leadership Network Kick Off, held July 29-Aug. 1 in Multnomah County, Ore.

• Research Analyst **Jonathan Harris** gave a NACo update at the County Commissioners Association of West Virginia conference, held Aug. 3-6 in Tucker County.

• Membership Director **Kim Hall** discussed NACo updates with members of the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania, which held their annual conference Aug. 4-6 in Berks County.



Cox



Borgeson



Montoya-Boyer

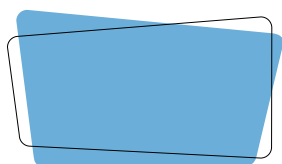


Harris



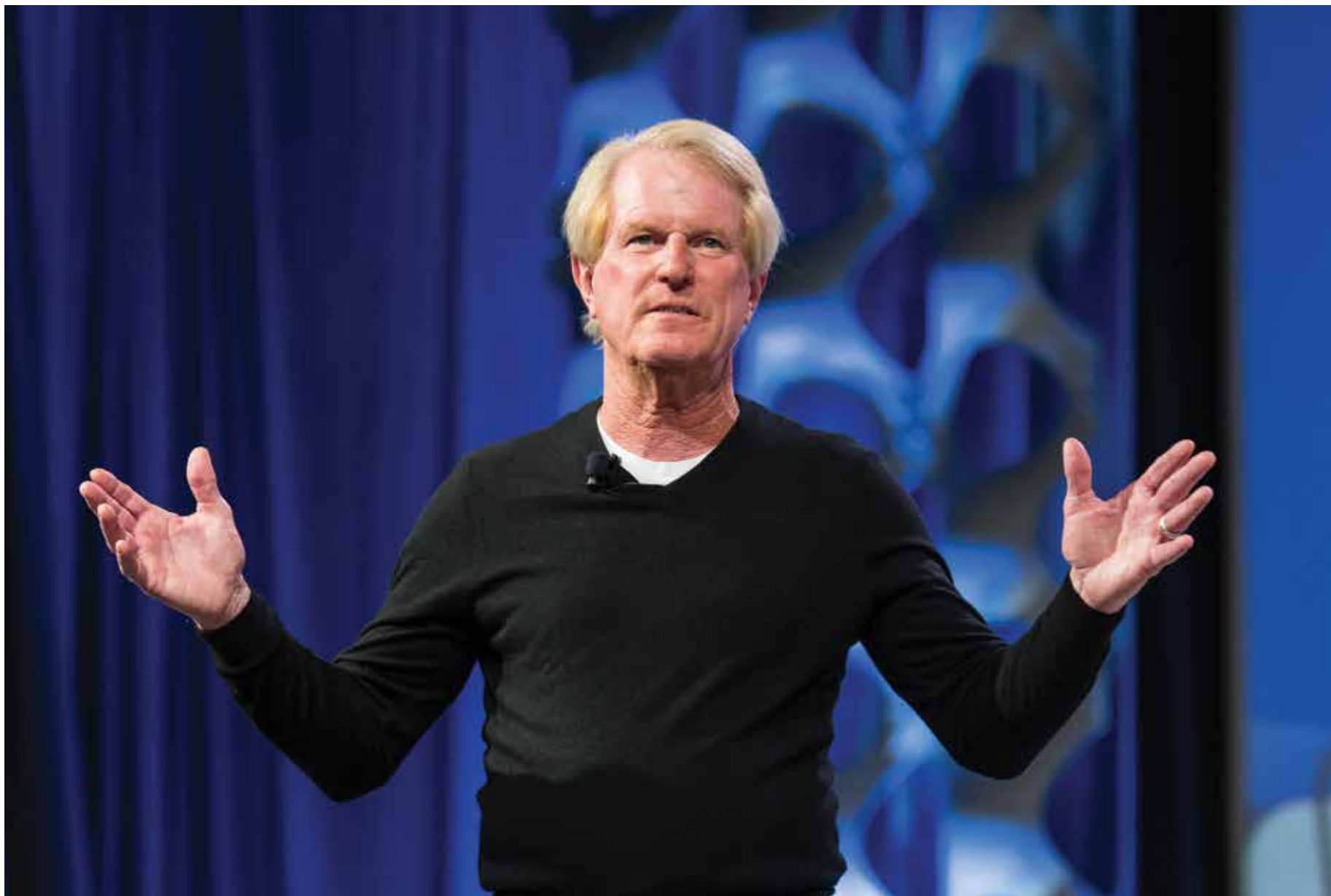
**Mauricia Baca of Get Outdoors Nevada tells her audience that outdoor recreation equals both a stronger community and a stronger economy.** Photo by Denny Henry





# GENERAL SESSION **SPEAKERS**

## Purpose, not politics, drives meaning



Roy Spence of the Purpose Institute talks to NACo members July 15 about the importance of “doing good” in your work life during the General Session at the Annual Conference in Clark County, Nev. Photo by Denny Henry

**by Charlie Ban**  
senior writer

Roy Spence has known his share of business leaders and politicians, and also the people who will never attract a headline.

After knowing them, their motivations, achievements and satisfactions, he has distilled an essence he knows can work for anyone, and certainly for the United States.

“If America is going to develop its full potential we need to have purpose not politics,” he told the General Session audience July 15 at NACo’s Annual Conference.

Purpose transcends all else, and fuels even those who have achieved everything else imaginable, he noted.

His organization, the Purpose Institute, which he founded after years of advertising work with Austin-based GSD&M, aims to help businesses position themselves in a direction beyond simple profit.

He watched his sister, who suffered from spina bifida, not only live beyond her expected childhood lifespan all the way to 49 years, but he saw her graduate high school and attend community college. He helped five living former U.S.

presidents get together — remotely — in one day to record announcements asking for donations for storm victims after hurricanes Harvey and Irma. And, he adds, he got to tell them to “Get over it” when they needed to make last-minute changes to the TV spot.

He admittedly cribbed some of his philosophy from Aristotle’s definition of happiness, which comes from achievement.

“Do good, be happy,” he said. “You don’t have to watch any more TED Talks. If you’re doing good and you’re not happy, you’re probably not doing good.”

How does someone know their purpose?

“Where your talents and the needs of the world intersect, therein lies your purpose,” he said.

He shared advertising campaigns he has worked on, with a focus on pro bono work aimed at social goods like reducing littering on highways of his native Texas. He also presented a purpose statement for NACo members.

“The purpose of America’s county commissioners is to listen, learn, act and take responsibility for always serving the greater good,” he said.

In politics, he sees the needs

of the world as the plight of those with physical and mental illnesses, and he sees an opening for a purpose-driven U.S. president.

“The next American president needs to step up and say, ‘We have a crisis of mental and medical issues,’” he said. “Patients can get whatever they want — drugs, guns, jail. The one thing they can’t get — is help. We should have facilities within 100 miles of every citizen, and we could have it in five years or 10 years.”

Given the counsel he has kept in his career, he may be more right than most people think. **CN**





# GENERAL SESSION SPEAKERS

## Magician connects principles of magic to leadership

by **Rachel Looker**  
staff writer

Magic tricks, Scrabble hacks and a deck of cards taught county officials how to see the world from a different perspective and learn valuable lessons about being leaders at the July 13 General Session at the NACo Annual Conference.

David Kwong, an illusionist, magician and crossword puzzle maker, shared his insight on the thought processes of magicians to “pull back the curtain on magic” for the crowd.

“Magic in a sense is a puzzle. It’s a way to challenge your brain to see if you can work out the solution,” he said.

Kwong said a fundamental aspect of magic is preparing ahead of time and described the principle of magic, which occurs when there is an excess amount of preparation that an audience would doubt went into a trick.



**Illusionist David Kwong mesmerizes the crowd July 13 at the Opening General Session of NACo’s Annual Conference in Clark County, Nev.** Photo by Denny Henry

He described the “deepest, darkest secret of magic” as the illusion of free choice: If you can get your audience believing that they are dictating how the trick goes, they will more

readily buy into the illusion.

Kwong compared this to having a good idea at work and convincing a boss it was his or her idea, which will result in the idea moving forward.

He referred to the “choice of architects,” where someone controls the choices of others or nudges someone to take a certain action.

Kwong transferred this

concept to leadership, saying leaders know how to get an audience, followers or employees to make decisions that are good for them.

“You’ll find when you can empower other people to make decisions, the overall fact is that they will be more engaged in the outcome,” Kwong said.

He showed off his own magic skills by doing sleight-of-hand card tricks, pulling a dollar bill out of a kiwi, and using random Scrabble words where the scores added up to the numbers on the bottom of the dollar bill pulled out of the kiwi.

“My hope is that you can take some of these principles and think about them and apply them to your life in not a manipulative way, but rather embrace them as a way that you can get ahead in your own situations and have more control in your own life,” he said. **CN**

## White House celebrates rapport with counties

by **Charlie Ban**  
senior writer

Doug Hoelscher, White House director of Intergovernmental Affairs, is no stranger to county elected officials. Not after playing a part in the Trump administration’s invitation to each of them to visit the White House and meet with administration officials over the past two years.

“Our ongoing state leadership days initiative is a real tribute to this ongoing relationship,” he told the Opening General Session audience.

More than 2,000 county officials accepted the invitation to 35 events at the White House, and the series is continuing, allowing newly elected county officials, on a regional basis, a chance to meet administration staffers. He cited *Governing’s*

recent story “How President Trump Became Counties’ Best Friend and Biggest Ally.”

“(President Trump) has actively solicited your input in underscoring our commitment to federalism and moving decisions out of Washington and respecting local leaders,” he said.

He picked a crowd-pleaser as an example: the new Waters of the United States rule in the Clean Water Act. It’s predecessor had long been the target of county governments’ ire.

“This new rule will increase predictability and consistency by creating a definition that is more easily implemented,” he said. “For too long in Washington, bureaucrats valued control over improvement and process over progress. That is changing thanks to President Trump’s leadership.” **CN**



**Doug Hoelscher, White House director of Intergovernmental Affairs, addresses the Opening General Session at NACo’s Annual Conference in Clark County, Nev.** Photo by Denny Henry





# STEERING COMMITTEE BRIEFINGS



**Nevada State Forester Kacey KC describes the Silver State's unique landscape to the Public Lands Steering Committee.** Photo by Denny Henry

NACo steering committees met throughout the conference to vote on policy platform changes and resolutions and hear from administration officials and experts in their issue areas.

## Public Lands

What's a forest chief to do in a state with few forests? A lot, as Kacey KC, Nevada's state forester, explained. The Silver State is 70,700 acres, but 86 percent is owned by federal agencies, with more land in tribal hands, leaving about 11.5 percent of the state's area.

"I'm the state forester but I don't have a state forest," she told the Public Lands Steering Committee July 12. "I do have some land in state parks."

Though 8.5 million acres of the state is forested, it's not traditional timber or marketable timber. KC's domain is 82 percent rangeland. "We're a lot more than forest, even though our badge is a forest and a tree, we really are range managers

and watershed managers," she said. "Many parts of our state are vast grasslands now, where we've lost forest and rangeland and become primarily cheat-grass."

As Nevada approaches 2020, the department of forestry will have to update its natural resource strategy, which identifies priority landscapes and threats they face and how the state and its partners will face those threats. Those threats are catastrophic fire and subsequent invasive species.

Fire has always played a role in the state's ecosystem, but a fire suppression effort has caused some rangelands and forest to be overstocked. From 1980-1999, 40 acres burned and in the following 19 years, 9.5 million acres burned, with 2.3 million acres burning in the last two years.

"It's becoming more devastating to our landscapes and our ecosystems," she said. "They used to mainly be caused by lightning, now

they're mainly human-caused. We are educating people that the ecosystems that they're seeing out there are not what they were 15 years ago and the same things they were doing, recreating in these areas can't be done now."

## Community, Economic and Workforce Development

Angie Cooper, senior director of Global Public Policy at Walmart, discussed modernizing existing laws to revamp

policy actions. A recent report by Walmart addresses a major workforce skills gaps in the future.

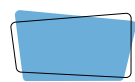
"There are so many people doing great work all across the

**See BRIEFINGS page 15**



**The FCC's Greg Cooke speaks to members of NACo's Telecommunications and Technology Steering Committee, at their meeting July 12 in Clark County, Nev.** Photo by Leon Lawrence III





# STEERING COMMITTEE BRIEFINGS

## From BRIEFINGS page 14

country and we want to ensure because of where we sit, what we see, our customer base... We want to be at that table," she told NACo members July 12.

Katia Albanese, a project director for several U.S. Department of Labor Office of Disability Employment Policy initiatives, including the State Exchange on Employment and Disability, discussed unemployment and disability, pointing out that one in 10 working-age Americans has a disability that impacts their opportunity to work. She advised county officials to raise awareness and elevate the importance of diversity and accessibility in hiring practices to help those who are disabled in the workforce.

"A strong national economy requires strong local economies, and an inclusive national workforce requires strong local workforces and that means workforces where everyone who wants to work, does work," she said.

Mitchell Glasser, manager of the Housing and Community Development Division in Orange County, Fla., and president of the National Association for County Community and Economic Development (NACCE), represented NACCE as a partner for county officials.

## Telecommunications and Technology

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) was set to vote Aug. 1 on improving how data is collected when mapping broadband capability across the country, according to Greg Cooke, director of Intergovernmental Affairs at the FCC.

The FCC will consider establishing "Digital Opportunity Data Collection" to collect geospatial broadband coverage maps from Internet service providers, Cooke told members July 12. That will include adopting a process to collect

public input or "crowdsourcing" on the accuracy of service providers' broadband maps. More granular data is needed to direct funding to fill the gaps. Broadcasting & Cable reported USTelecom is preparing broadband mapping tests that it plans to share with the FCC.

## Justice and Public Safety

Frank Russo, director of government and legislative affairs at the National District Attorneys Association (NDAA), explained how value-improved data has taken form in federal legislation with the First Step Act, which cut mandatory minimum sentences.

"We [the NDAA] were behind that because we saw the value in showing data from the changes that were made by Legislature," Russo said, noting that prosecutors are embracing data-driven decision making. The San Francisco district attorney's office has launched an effort to focus on racial bias



**Roderick Woullard, supervisor, Forrest County, Miss., introduces himself at the CEWD steering committee meeting.** Photo by Hugh Clarke

within sentencing and has placed data online that is now available to the public.

"That is a radical change I think in a good way for our members to show that we are being transparent," he said. "We want to be transparent for both our communities and our criminal justice partners."

He discussed how using criminal justice dashboards

"makes common sense" to NDAA members because many areas are still using paper files.

Mecklenburg County, N.C., the largest county in North Carolina, still uses paper files, Russo said, and is just beginning to put data online.

"To think that the largest county in one of the largest states in the south is still using

paper files explains the breadth of the problem we have and the challenges our department faces," Russo said. He said the biggest issue with establishing online dashboards is resourcing, both financially and with personnel.

Another challenge involves applying data for larger urban jurisdictions and rural jurisdictions, as different communities interpret data and apply it to the decision-making process in various ways.

"Each jurisdiction is different," he said. "The crimes are different, the ability to prosecute is different, the sheriffs and police officers we work with are different and the human element is different for each prosecutor."

Russo urged county officials to speak with their state and local prosecutors to discuss criminal justice problems and the future of data-driven decisions to see how groups can work together to solve these challenges. **CN**



**Frank Russo, director of Government and Legislative Affairs at the National District Attorneys Association, speaks to members of the Justice and Public Safety Steering Committee.** Photo by Denny Henry



# FABULOUS PHOTOS



Clark County welcomes NACo members July 11 by turning the lights of the iconic Las Vegas sign red, white and blue. Celebrating the opening of the 84th Annual Conference are (l-r): Gary Moore, Greg Cox, Marilyn Kirkpatrick, Mary Ann Borgeson, Roy Charles Brooks, Yolanda King and Matt Chase. Photo by Hugh Clarke



## NACo ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN **PHOTOS**

All images taken by  
Denny Henry unless  
otherwise noted



NACo members stand during the singing of the national anthem and Pledge of Allegiance at a General Session meeting at the Annual Conference in Clark County, Nev.



Chris Constance, Health Committee vice chair, Charlotte County, Fla., addresses NACo members July 15 during the NACo Annual Business Meeting and Election.





# NACo ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN PHOTOS



**DeKalb County, Ga. Commissioner Larry Johnson, outgoing Large Urban County Caucus chairman, addresses NACo members.**



**Morrow County, Ore. Commissioner Jim Doherty sings with an assist from NACo's Jonathan Harris.**



**U.S. Sen. Jacky Rosen (D-Nev.) speaks to members of LUCC.**



**Palm Beach County, Fla. Commissioner Melissa McKinlay takes the microphone during the Business Meeting.**



**Joe Iser, chief health officer, Southern Nevada Health District for Clark County, makes a point at the Healthy Counties Advisory Board meeting.**



**Members of the Women of NACo gather for a photo at the WON Leadership Reception at the 84th Annual NACo Conference in Clark County, Nev. Members enhance the effectiveness of female county officials and engage women officials in seeking leadership positions in their communities and within NACo.**





More than five dozen conference attendees line up for the Sunset Park Bicycle Ride, at sunrise, July 13. Photo by Hugh Clarke

## NACo ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN **PHOTOS**



Rich Sve, Lake County, Minn., Natalie Hall, Fulton County, Ga. and Calvin Brock, Fulton County, Ga., chat July 15 at the NACo Annual Business Meeting.



Helen Robbins-Meyer, chief administrative officer for San Diego County, Calif. makes a new friend.





NACo President Mary Ann Borgeson (center) pauses for a photo with (l-r) daughter-in-law Beth, son Rich, husband Bob and son Ed after being sworn in as president during the NACo Annual Business Meeting and Election.

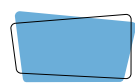


Dagny Stapleton, executive director of the Nevada Association of Counties, picks up her badge at registration.



Geraldine Pegues, Montgomery County, Md. and Michael Imber, Financial Advisory Services Group, attend the newcomers' breakfast July 12.





# NACo ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN **PHOTOS**



Mineral County, Colo., Commissioner Ramona Weber aims to make a lucky strike July 15 at Brooklyn Bowl, site of the NACo Closing Celebration Event.



NACo Ambassador Denise Winfrey of Will County, Ill., enjoys a light-hearted moment at the First-Time Attendee breakfast.



NACo President Mary Ann Borgeson congratulates DeKalb County, Ga. Commissioner Larry Johnson on his election to second vice president of NACo. Looking on are First Vice President Gary Moore (left) and Immediate Past President Greg Cox (right).

Joel Bousman, commissioner, Sublette County, Wyo., makes a point at the NACo Board meeting at the Annual Conference.







**Commissioner Kathryn Starkey of Pasco County, Fla. welcomes county officials July 14 to McCarran International Airport, highlighting international trade during a tour of the facilities.**



**Blue Earth County, Minn. Commissioner Colleen Landkamer, a past NACo president, attends the newcomers' breakfast.**



**Members of the Nellis Air Force Base Honor Guard welcome NACo members to Clark County, Nev.**



**Performer Marie Osmond mingled with NACo members including Greg Cox and Mary Ann Borgeson July 15 at the NACo Closing Celebration Event.**



**NACo Past President Roy Charles Brooks, commissioner, Tarrant County, Texas, pulls a card from a deck of cards offered by illusionist David Kwong at the Annual Conference General Session.**



**Bill Elfering, Umatilla County, Ore. commissioner (right) chats with Todd Nash, Wallowa County, Ore. commissioner, July 12 at the NACo Annual Conference.**



# AWARDS



NACo President Greg Cox extends his hand to Christian Sustaita, who received this year's David Davenport Memorial Scholarship. Sustaita graduated from Cox's alma mater, Chula Vista High School in the top 2 percent of his class. He will attend the University of California, Berkeley, in the fall.

Maricopa County accepts the Aspire Award. Celebrating the honor are (l-r): Andee Gravitt, Mary Ann Borgeson, Grant Veeder, Shelby Scharbach, Steve Gallardo, Scott Ramey and Matt Chase.



Former Clark County Commissioner Chris Giunchigliani and Patrick Gaffey accept the NACo Local Arts Advocacy Award July 14 during the Arts and Culture Awards Reception at the Clark County Government Center. Gaffey, who recently retired, was a longtime cultural program supervisor with the county's Parks and Recreation department.



Jay Dick, senior director of State and Local Government Affairs at Americans for the Arts, presents Guilford County, N.C. Commissioner Kay Cashion with the Americans for the Arts Public Leadership in the Arts Award July 14 at the Arts and Culture Awards Reception at the Clark County Government Center.





Fresno County, Calif. accepts the Aspire Award from Nationwide. Celebrating the honor are (l-r): Andee Gravitt, Mary Ann Borgeson, Grant Veeder, Paul Nerland, Hollis Magil, Samantha Artega, David Joseph, Nathan Magsig, Scott Ramey and Matt Chase.



Best in Category Achievement Award (l-r): NACo President Greg Cox, Mary Rumbaugh, director of the Behavioral Health Division for Clackamas County, Ore., and Erich Twachtman, senior vice president of Public and Labor, Aetna, pause for a photo July 14 after Rumbaugh accepted an award for the county's Senior Loneliness Line during the Achievement Awards Luncheon.



The 2019 Recruiter of the Year Award went to the United Counties Council of Illinois Executive Committee and W. Michael McCreery, executive director. EC members (l-r) Matt Prochaska, Samuel Newton, Joe Payette, David Zimmerman and David Meyer celebrate with 2018-2019 Membership Chair Richard Malm, Jefferson County, Kan. (far right).



(Left to right): Edward Hilts, energy program administrator, Clark County, Nev., Derrick DeGroot, commissioner, Klamath County, Ore., Phillip Drujak, director of Federal Affairs for Miami-Dade County and Toyah Barigye of SolSmart pause for a photo with their Solsmart Gold Awards during the NACo Annual Conference in Clark County, Nev.



Cynthia Moses-Nedd, NACo's former Department of the Interior liaison, receives a thank you from the NACo Board. On hand were (l-r) WIR President Kevin Cann of Mariposa County, Calif., Greg Chilcott, Ravalli County, Mont., and Joel Bousman, Sublette County, Wyo.



# RESOLUTIONS



Supervisor Kevin Cann of Mariposa County, Calif. delivers his committee report at the NACo Board of Directors and Resolutions Committee Meeting. Photo by Leon Lawrence III

**A**t the 84th NACo Annual Conference held July 12-15 in Clark County, Nev., member counties approved dozens of policy resolutions, including 30 that were brand new to the American County Platform. Policy steering committees also made eight changes to platforms, including a comprehensive revision of the Public Lands platform.

Resolutions covered a wide range of federal policy issues that affect county government operations. They include support for the creation of a nationwide 2-1-1 system to connect residents to services, urging Congress to waive the match requirement when a Department of Transportation grant is awarded to an

economically disadvantaged county, support for renewal of the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act and much more.

Here are the newest policy positions adopted by NACo members:

## COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

### Federal Support to Address Unsheltered Homelessness

**ISSUE:** Federal support to address increases in the number of unsheltered homeless persons and families should reflect current and anticipated

need.

**ADOPTED POLICY:** NACo supports increased federal support to address surges in the number of persons and families who are unsheltered and experiencing homelessness.

### Federal Policy Changes Related to Immigrant Eligibility for Federal Housing Benefits

**ISSUE:** Immigrants' use of federal housing benefits and the impact of proposed changes to eligibility for certain immigrant families and on county government costs.

**ADOPTED POLICY:** NACo opposes specific regulatory changes proposed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

that would lead to increases in housing instability and homelessness for some immigrant families receiving federally subsidized housing and shift federal costs and administrative burdens to counties.

### Support a Federal Study to Examine Lost Recording Fee Revenues Due to the Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems

**ISSUE:** The Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems has resulted in lost recording revenues fees for counties.

**ADOPTED POLICY:** NACo supports amending federal law (12 U.S.C. § 4514a) to require the Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) to

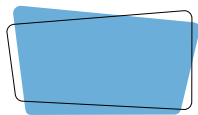
report annually to Congress on the amount of public recording fees not collected due to property transaction practices occurring through Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems (MERS).

### Leverage the Combination of the Investing in Opportunity Act and Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act for Local Prosperity

**ISSUE:** The purpose of the Investing in Opportunity Act is to incentivize private investment in low-income census tracts. Yet, many believe that this legislation may not actually benefit the people living within

*See RESOLUTIONS page 25*





# NACo supports efforts to combat harmful algal blooms

From RESOLUTIONS page 24

Opportunity Zones and may instead cause greater regional inequality.

**ADOPTED POLICY:** NACo encourages the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to amend the proposed Investing in Opportunity Act regulations to allow a business to qualify as an Opportunity Zone Business with 50 percent (as opposed to 70 percent) of its tangible property, owned or leased, meeting the requirements of Opportunity Zone Business Property, so long as said business also employs a Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) program (to be certified by the business' local American Job Center on the IRS Form 8996).

## ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY AND LAND USE

### Urge the Federal Government to Invest in Transboundary Water and Sewage Infrastructure Along United States/International Borders

**ISSUE:** Sufficient to construct water and sewage infrastructure improvements along U.S./international borders.

**ADOPTED POLICY:** NACo urges Congress to authorize and appropriate funding for projects identified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and other appropriate federal agencies, that would address transboundary sewage or contaminated water flows that occur along United States/international borders.

### Support Research into Harmful Algal Bloom Prevention and Mitigation

**ISSUE:** Harmful algal blooms and hypoxic events (severe oxygen depletion) are some of the most scientifically complex and economically damaging issues challenging our ability

to safeguard the health of our nation's aquatic ecosystems. Almost every state in the U.S. now experiences some kind of HAB event and the number of hypoxic water bodies in the U.S. has increased 30-fold since the 1960s with over 300 aquatic life systems now impacted.

**ADOPTED POLICY:** NACo supports the renewal of the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act and encourages the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to collaborate with other federal agencies to identify nutrient reduction strategies and scalable Harmful Algal Bloom mitigation processes.

### Request the U.S. Department of Energy Rescind or Revise Order 140.1 to Remove Restrictions on the Department of Energy's Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board

**ISSUE:** Rule change at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) impacts Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board's ability to protect workers and public health and safety.

**ADOPTED POLICY:** NACo supports regulatory and/or leg-

islative efforts to rescind or substantially revise the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Order 140.1 to clarify the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board's (DNSFB) full authority to protect health and safety of the public and workers with full access to DOE facilities and information, as directed by law and statute.

## FINANCE, PENSIONS AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

### Ensure Volunteer Driver Reimbursement Rates

**ISSUE:** Ensuring mileage reimbursement rates for volunteer drivers for counties.

**ADOPTED POLICY:** NACo urges Congress to enact H.R. 2072, the Volunteer Driver Tax Appreciation Act of 2019, to ensure equal mileage reimbursement between the charitable and business mileage rates.

### Urge Congressional and Administration Commitment to Timely Enactment of Federal Budget Appropriations and No More Shutdowns

**ISSUE:** The purpose of this resolution is to urge Congress and the President to work together to enact all federal budget appropriations bills by October 1 of each new fiscal year, thereby avoiding continuing resolutions and government shutdowns, which create costly delays and uncertainty in providing federal assistance and programs for U.S. counties and their residents.

**ADOPTED POLICY:** NACo urges Congress and the President to commit to working together to get agreement on all spending legislation by October 1 of each year. This is a fundamental responsibility of both Congress and the President and should be taken more seriously. Counties work hard to get their budgets approved on a timely basis and Congress should do the same. Our citizens deserve no less.

## HEALTH

### Improve Compliance through Better Regulation in Nursing Homes

**ISSUE:** Better regulation is needed to support compliance, while ensuring unnecessary regulatory burdens do not take precedence over care, treatment and outcomes.

**ADOPTED POLICY:** NACo supports strengthening efforts by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to improve compliance through collaborative efforts with healthcare providers and stakeholders to reduce administrative burdens, increase effective and efficient conformity with regulations and improve the beneficiary experience by removing regulatory obstacles that diminish the ability to put patients/residents first over paperwork.

### Support Better Staffing in Nursing Homes

**ISSUE:** Nursing homes need adequate staffing levels to provide high quality care, safe care, person-directed care and care that is consistent with state and federal regulations.

**ADOPTED POLICY:** NACo urges Congress to amend federal law to allow disapproval for nurse aide training programs to be discretionary rather than mandatory and support the Nursing Home Workforce Quality Act.

### Support Federal Action to Obtain Better Research on Kratom and to Promote Dissemination of Best Public Health Practices Related to Kratom

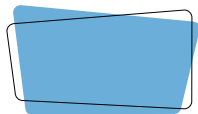
**ISSUE:** Local communities need better data and research related to kratom that will aid the development of public health best practices related to the use of kratom in communities across the United States.

**ADOPTED POLICY:** NACo should urge Congress to pass legislation and/or federal agency directives to fund and support efforts to research the health impacts related to the use of kratom. This includes



Commissioner Kevin Boyce of Franklin County, Ohio, chair of the Finance, Pensions and Intergovernmental Affairs Steering Committee, addresses members. Photo by Leon Lawrence III





# NACo: Involve counties in analysis, implementation of DRRRA

From **RESOLUTIONS** page 25

federal action steps to devote the appropriate agency and staff resources to complete both: (1) a review of existing research on kratom in order to provide counties and other local government jurisdictions with immediate guidance on the most appropriate public health best practices related to kratom; and (2) to pursue more comprehensive research on kratom that can inform longer-term public health approaches related to the use of kratom.

## HUMAN SERVICES AND EDUCATION

### Support Linking 2-1-1 Lines with Substance Use Disorder Crisis Lines

**ISSUE:** 2-1-1 lines are not linked to substance use disorder crisis lines, requiring 2-1-1 to refer callers to a separate crisis line.

**ADOPTED POLICY:** NACo urges Congress and the administration to enact legislative proposals that appropriate funding to link 2-1-1 lines with substance use disorder crisis lines.

### Enact the American Dream and Promise Act or Similar Legislation

**ISSUE:** NACo should support the American Dream and Promise Act or similar legislation.

**ADOPTED POLICY:** NACo calls upon Congress and the president to enact the American Dream and Promise Act or similar legislation that, without imposing costs on counties, would allow certain undocumented immigrants who entered the country as children and/or for humanitarian reasons to attain legal status if they pass background checks, demonstrate good moral character and meet education requirements.



Cheshire County, N.H. Commissioner Chuck Weed delivers his report to the NACo Board of Directors. Photo by Leon Lawrence III

### Support Development of Pilot Programs for Innovative Delivery of Federal Social Services Programs that Are Offered through Local Governments

**ISSUE:** Local governments are responsible for delivering several federal health and human services programs. These crucial social services programs help low-income families buy food, afford utility payments, and provide job training opportunities. Local governments have separate offices spread across cities and counties to deliver specific federal programs. This decentralized system is often-times inefficient and overly complicated, leading to lower program enrollment and less support for vulnerable populations.

**ADOPTED POLICY:** NACo urges Congress and the administration to support legislative and regulatory efforts that would provide additional resources to create, support the development of, and fund pilot/demonstration programs for

innovative delivery of federal social services and workforce training programs that are offered through local governments. Further, NACo urges that this funding would go directly to local governments, which are responsible for operating programs that increase the efficiency of delivery of federal social services programs through the use and adaption of technology and centralized community resource centers, which allow for citizens to apply for several federal social services in a single location, reducing the burden on the constituents and ensuring cost effective allocation of federal resources.

## JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

### Urge Congress and FEMA to Ensure County Involvement in the Implementation of the Disaster Recovery Reform Act (DRRA)

**ISSUE:** On October 5, 2018, President Trump signed the

Disaster Recovery Reform Act (DRRA) of 2018 into law as part of the Federal Aviation Administration Reauthorization Act of 2018. These reforms acknowledge the shared responsibility for disaster response and recovery, aim to reduce the complexity of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and build the nation's capacity for the next catastrophic event. The law contains approximately 50 provisions that require FEMA policy or regulation changes for full implementation, as they amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. It touches multiple funding programs and responsible federal agencies but includes major changes to processes and grant funding managed primarily by FEMA. Through the DRRA, Congress provides greater flexibility for applicants to build what they need rather than simply restore or replace what was damaged. It also mandates financial support for greater resiliency in rebuilding and mitigation and aims to improve expediency of the project process and dis-

pute resolution.

**ADOPTED POLICY:** NACo urges Congress and the Secretary of Homeland Security to ensure that FEMA actively consults with and involves counties in the continuing development, analysis and final implementation of the DRRA. NACo also urges that Congress ensure that due attention is given to the development of adequate local capacity to execute appropriate emergency management activities in the counties as a result of any new policies or procedures required due to DRRA changes implemented by FEMA.

### Urge Congress and FEMA to Reduce Unnecessary Burdens on Public Assistance to Counties Following Presidential Declarations

**ISSUE:** Following approval of post-disaster recovery projects, FEMA's inconsistent processes, personnel and exceptionally burdensome paperwork result in unreasonable delays in reimbursement of Public Assistance costs.

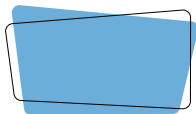
**ADOPTED POLICY:** NACo urges Congress and the Secretary of Homeland Security to ensure that FEMA follows through on its stated strategic goal to reduce the complexity of FEMA, particularly in the case of Public Assistance (PA) reimbursement.

Specifically, NACo asks that Congress require FEMA to:

- Address bureaucratic obstacles in the PA process;
- Reduce the complexity of compliance requirements and processes in the PA process;
- Eliminate inconsistent guidance, training, experience and accountability for FEMA field; operations and staff assigned to Public Assistance and other roles;
- Streamline the oversight of disasters by adhering to their

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# FEMA must reduce burdensome red tape, inconsistencies

From **RESOLUTIONS** page 26

stated intent to realign FEMA so that disasters are “federally supported, state managed and locally executed.”

## **Amend U.S. Code Title 16. CONSERVATION Chapter 12. FEDERAL REGULATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF POWER, Subchapter I. REGULATION OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF WATER POWER AND RESOURCES Section 803. Conditions of License Generally**

**ISSUE:** A resolution urging the United States Congress to amend 16 U.S. Code § 803 (a) (2)(B), to include recommendations from local agencies exercising administration over flood control in the issuing of licenses for waterpower and resources.

**ADOPTED POLICY:** NACo urges the United States Congress to amend 16 U.S. Code § 803 (a)(2)(B) as follows: (B) The recommendations of federal, state and local agencies exercising administration over flood control, navigation, irrigation, recreation, cultural and other relevant resources of the state in which the project is located, and the recommendations (including fish and wildlife recommendations) of Indian tribes affected by the project.

## **Maintain Local Control and Public Safety Priorities Under Federal Immigration Laws**

**ISSUE:** Maintain local control and flexibility under federal immigration laws.

**ADOPTED POLICY:** NACo supports the autonomy of counties in decisions related to the allocation of local law enforcement resources and setting of public safety priorities under federal immigration laws.

## **PUBLIC LANDS**

### **Establish a Minimum for Payments in Lieu of Taxes Side B Funding**

**ISSUE:** Counties, boroughs, townships and parishes with large federal entitlement acreage and small populations have monetary caps within the Payments in Lieu of Taxes formula that place them in an unfavorable position in relation to the majority of all other counties.

**ADOPTED POLICY:** NACo supports amending the Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) formula to establish a base funding to all counties by setting the per-acre variable on the Alternative B to a minimum funding level adjusted by the CPI every year. In 2018, this number was \$0.38 per acre. The maximum payment to counties would not be adjusted. The current population threshold would remain at 50,000.

### **Support Presidential Executive Order 13855 of Dec. 21, 2018 Ordering the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture to Achieve Specific Goals in 2019 to Improve Conditions and Reduce Wildfire Risk in America's Forests, Rangelands and Other Public Lands**

**ISSUE:** Decades of amassed tree, understory and shrub growth that have placed communities, homes, industry, agriculture and water supply systems and people at serious risk for damage and death from catastrophic wildfires, and following through on the specific 2019 performance goals of Executive Order (EO) 13855 for fuels treatment and wood products harvesting.

**ADOPTED POLICY:** NACo supports rigorous and timely accountability and performance

reviews by the respective Inspector Generals (IG) of the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), as well as the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), to assess and report on the progress and performance by the DOI and USDA Secretaries in meeting the specific 2019 goals of EO 13855.

### **Require Federal Land Management Agencies to Offset Acquisition of New Land to Mitigate Financial Impact on Impacted Counties**

**ISSUE:** Private lands either sold or donated to the federal government result in such property becoming exempt from local property taxation; thereby, reducing overall taxable market value of affected counties.

**ADOPTED POLICY:** NACo urges Congress to enact federal legislation to require federal

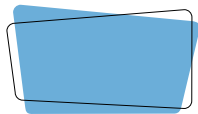
land management agencies to take into account the impact of transferring private land to federal ownership on counties and their tax payers, including the ability of county governments to provide necessary public services and the extent of any tax shift or loss of county property tax revenues that will occur as a result of the acquisition. Federal land management agencies, where possible, should be required to offset any acquisition of new land with a similar relinquishment by trade or sale of public land to private ownership within the same county. If additional federal land acquisitions are deemed necessary or agreed to by the impacted county, such lands may be acquired without offset. In all instances, federal land management agencies must coordinate with affected counties and disclose the financial impact to counties reflecting the loss of tax base

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Catawba County, N.C. Commissioner Kitty Barnes, vice chair of the Environment, Energy and Land Use Steering Committee, delivers her report to the NACo Board of Directors. Photo by Leon Lawrence III





# NACo supports creation of a nationwide 2-1-1 system

From RESOLUTIONS page 27

and land use prior to new land acquisitions taking place.

## Call on the U.S. Forest Service to Timely Increase Active Animal Unit Months on Grazing Allotments That Have Undergone Vegetative Treatments or Undergone Conversions Between Cattle and Sheep

**ISSUE:** Forest Service's refusal in many cases to update and increase grazing allotment active Animal Unit Months following vegetative management projects or following the conversion of approved grazing animals between sheep and cattle.

**ADOPTED POLICY:** NACo urges the U.S. Forest Service to timely update and increase active Animal Unit Months (AUMs) on grazing allotments that have undergone vegetative management treatments of any kind, or that have undergone a conversion of approved grazing animals from sheep to cattle or from cattle to sheep, in order to update, reflect and implement the Active AUM carrying capacity of those allotments for the operator. If any studies and reports are necessary, such as occupancy studies or National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) related studies, then the Forest Service should commence those studies immediately after the vegetation project or conversion in question has been completed. NACo also urges the U.S. Forest Service to include grazing and Active AUM impact analyses within NEPA and other environmental studies conducted before vegetative treatments.

## Urge the U.S. Forest Service to Address its Backlog of Needed

## Restorations and Replacements of Aging and Deteriorating Grazing Infrastructure

**ISSUE:** Aging and deteriorated grazing infrastructure on U.S. Forest Service (USFS) allotments nationwide, where fences, stockwatering fixtures for catchment, conveyance and access, and other grazing related infrastructure on USFS lands have deteriorated beyond the ranching operators' ability to perform routine maintenance on them.

**ADOPTED POLICY:** NACo supports legislation and cabinet-level administrative orders to require the U.S. Forest Service to inventory the backlog of needed restorations, replacements and repairs of aging and dilapidated grazing infrastructure, such as fences, stockwatering fixtures for catchment, conveyance and access, etc., that have deteriorated so badly as to be no longer maintainable by the ranchers on a routine basis, and require regional foresters to devise and carry out region-by-region plans to prioritize and address this backlog.

## TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY

### Encourage Congress to Pass Legislation to Formalize the Process Through Which Data Gathered by the TestIT App is Used to Modify the Broadband Coverage Maps

**ISSUE:** NACo, through efforts from NACo's Telecommunications and Technology Steering Committee and the Rural Action Caucus, is at the forefront of the issue of creating accurate broadband coverage maps. The current maps



Wayne County, Mich. Commissioner Alisha Bell, of the NACo Justice and Public Safety Steering Committee, gives her report to the NACo Board. Photo by Leon Lawrence III

tend to inflate the availability of service across the nation but particularly in more rural areas. These maps are an important source document in the development of national broadband deployment policy and the deployment of federal funds for broadband development. Having accurate coverage maps is essential to the development of good federal policy on broadband deployment.

**ADOPTED POLICY:** NACo encourages Congress and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to create a formal process by which crowd-sourced data gathered by applications such as the TestIT app can be used to create new or update the existing FCC broadband coverage maps. Further, NACo believes that such legislation should require the FCC to test and certify the accuracy of these crowd-sourcing applications.

### Support Preserving Public Safety's Access to the T-Band (470-512 MHz)

**ISSUE:** On February 22, 2012, President Barack Obama signed Public Law

112-96. The law requires that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) begin auctioning the public safety T-Band spectrum (470-512 MHz) by February 2021 and clear all public safety operations from the band within two years of auction close.

**ADOPTED POLICY:** NACo urges Congress to support the Don't Break up the T Band Act of 2019 (H.R. 451), which requires the auction of the spectrum and the relocation public safety incumbents from the T-Band spectrum.

### Support of the Creation of a Nationwide 2-1-1 System

**ISSUE:** While 2-1-1 service is available to many parts of the country, there remain gaps in coverage and gaps in service levels for millions of Americans due to a lack of federal resources to support the network's 24/7 nationwide capacity that has the ability to link vulnerable residents to critical services.

**ADOPTED POLICY:** NACo supports the creation of a nationwide 2-1-1 system to connect unconnected residents to 2-1-1 services any-

where in the United States by leveraging the 240-plus 2-1-1 providers that currently cover 94 percent of the population, and should be used as the non-emergency number during regional and statewide disasters to connect residents to critical information and resources. Currently 94 percent of Americans have access to a 2-1-1 service in their local communities, but serious gaps in access to a 2-1-1 service remain for millions of Americans due to a lack of federal resources to support the network's 24/7 nationwide capacity. More work is needed for the 2-1-1 network to attain its full potential to be a nationwide resource that can strengthen families and local communities. We urge our federal partners to help bridge the gap of access for Americans by supporting the creation of nationwide 2-1-1 texting capability so every American can connect with vital services 24/7; supporting opportunities for 2-1-1 to secure funding from federal agencies to expand their current capabilities to reach

See RESOLUTIONS page 29



# Preserve franchise fees

From **RESOLUTIONS** page 28

unconnected communities and regions; and supporting investments in 2-1-1's disaster recovery services through partnerships with government agencies like the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

## Preserve Local Franchise Obligations

**ISSUE:** The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is considering a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (05-311) that a cable operator be able to reduce its cable franchise fees by the market value of franchise obligations such as services to schools and libraries and Public, Educational and Governmental (PEG) Channels.

**ADOPTED POLICY:** NACo affirms the importance of cable franchising in granting permission for cable companies to use valuable public property for their lines and opposes any regulatory proceeding or legislation that seek to alter the terms of existing franchises, including any effort to require that non-financial obligations be subject to offset against franchise fees.

## TRANSPORTATION

### Direct Congress and the U.S. Department of Transportation to Assist Economically Disadvantaged Counties by Waiving the Local Match Requirement

**ISSUE:** Economically disadvantaged counties must rely heavily on federal grants that require matching funds to pay for critical repairs and capital improvements; however, economically disadvantaged counties often times have no means to contribute to the match which further disadvantages these communities and their residents.

**ADOPTED POLICY:** NACo urges

Congress to waive the match requirement when a grant is awarded to an economically disadvantaged county. An economically disadvantaged county, as defined in 42 U.S.C. 3161, shall possess one or more of the following characteristics:

- Has a per capita income of 80 percent or less of the national average;
- Has an unemployment rate that is, for the most recent 24-month period for data are available, at least one percent greater than the national average; or
- Has experienced or is about to experience a special need arising from actual or threatened severe unemployment or economic adjustment problems resulting from severe short-term or long-term changes in economic conditions.

### Amend Federal Law Regarding the Use of Federal Highway Administration Emergency Relief Funds

**ISSUE:** Current law governing the use of Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Emergency Relief (ER) funds does not allow enough time for counties with projects to repair roads damaged in federally declared disaster areas to advance to the construction stage.

**ADOPTED POLICY:** NACo urges Congress to amend federal law, specifically 23 CFR 668.105(h), to allow entities receiving Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Emergency Relief (ER) funds six years after a disaster occurrence to advance projects to the construction obligation stage, as opposed to the two-year requirement in current law. Additionally, NACo urges the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to suspend its recent practice of rejecting extensions to the two-year rule while Congress debates a change to current law. **CN**

## PROFILES IN SERVICE

### DEBBIE WISE

NACo Board of Directors  
Circuit Clerk and Recorder  
Randolph County, Ark.



Wise

**Number of years involved in NACo:** Five

**Years in public service:** 28

**Occupation:** Randolph County Circuit Clerk and Recorder

**The hardest thing I've ever done is:** Sit through court when there were children being abused and mistreated because of the parents being addicted to drugs or alcohol. Drug addiction plays such a big role in today's society and it's important for us to get help for the people who need it most whenever we can and never judge people based on their past experiences.

**Three people (living or dead) I'd invite to dinner:**

My dad, John F. Kennedy and Abraham Lincoln. I consider these three people inspirational figures that assist me with how I make decisions in my day-to-day life.

**A dream I have is to:** Run a café by the beach.

**You'd be surprised to learn:** I traveled a lot when I was growing up because both of my parents were in the military. Now, I'm proud to call Pocahontas, Ark. my forever home.

**The most adventurous thing I've ever done is:** Run for office all these years.

**I'm most proud:** That I was able to go from being a single mom with a high school diploma to being elected Randolph County Circuit Clerk since 1990; being elected president of the Association of Arkansas Counties (AAC) Executive Board, as well as becoming a member of the NACo Board. I'll forever be thankful for the citizens of Randolph County, AAC and the NACo board for entrusting

me with the responsibility to serve such an important role.

**Every morning I read:** Local newspapers and *The New York Times*

**My favorite meal is:** Any meal I get to eat with my family. I love to try new foods from different cultures.

**My pet peeve is:** Judgmental people. Judging and belittling people is never OK, no matter the circumstance.

**My motto is:** "Wisdom knows what to overlook." — William James

**The last book I read was:** *A Higher Loyalty: Truth, Lies, and Leadership* by James Comey

**My favorite movie is:** True stories, drama and suspense movies

**My favorite music:** Anything I can dance to

**My favorite U.S. president:** Abraham Lincoln

**My county is a NACo member because:** It gives small counties the ability to learn new ideas and solutions that affect the state and county government at more than just a local level. It only takes one person to make a difference, but if we all come together to develop new solutions, we could make a difference not just in Arkansas, but within the nation.



**My favorite way to relax is to:**  
Go to the movies and spend time with my grandkids.



## BRIGHT IDEAS | JACKSON COUNTY, Mich.

# Road Recycling Improves County Roads

### PROBLEM:

Inadequate funding for road improvements has left county roads in poor conditions.

### SOLUTION:

Establish a road recycling program that creates durable roads and reduces the costs of traditional construction work.

by Rachel Looker  
staff writer

In Jackson County, Mich., county roads are being re-ramped from the bottom up.

The Jackson County Department of Transportation Road Recycling and Improvement Program is a large-scale approach to improve the condition and durability of the county's 1,600-mile road system.

Christopher Bolt, who heads up Jackson County Department of Transportation, explained that Michigan has seen declines in road funding.

With dwindling resources and costs rising to repair roads that are falling apart, many projects were unable to be completed.

There are two classifications of roads in the county which are "county primaries" and "county locals," he noted.

As of 2018, half of the county primaries needed major work that would cost \$300,000 to \$400,000 per mile. Out of the 1,000 miles of county local roads, 800 miles needed a full reconstruction.

An estimated \$300 million to \$400 million investment would be needed to repair all the roads in the county.

The department took a two-pronged approach to find a solution: Save the roads that could be preserved and rebuild the roads that needed it.

"While we have this huge challenge, it's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to change the way the roads are constructed

[and] to build them in a more durable fashion," Bolt said.

The county invested \$6 million and purchased "cold-in-place" recycling equipment that is used to grind up existing asphalt roads, blend it with binding agents and place it back down as a new road base.

The equipment includes the Wirtgen CR 3800 recycler, the Wirtgen KMA 220i stationary recycling plant, supporting pieces of equipment, a lab to develop mix designs and a ground-penetrating radar vehicle with scanning equipment.

Average county local roads have between 3.5 and 5.5 inches of asphalt as the top layer with gravel as the base, he said, adding that when climates change, the gravel base is comparable to a sand castle that washes away with the waves.

Through the road recycling and improvement program, a recycled base is used to build roads from the bottom up.

The base is tested in a laboratory and the mix is designed with binding agents. Bolt said the recycled base is nearly as strong wet as it is dry and be-

cause of its durability, crews only uses 2 inches to 3.5 inches of asphalt on top of roads, saving money on projects.

"It just builds a more durable base where we're not wasting time and money patching potholes, which helps improve the safety of our roads and the quality of life of our residents and visitors," he said.

It only takes one to two days to recycle an entire road that may have some slight curves, Bolt said. He described the process as similar to rototilling a garden.

Road recycling can help reduce and delay cracking, create stronger roads and reduce costs in traditional construction methods.

"We're chasing our tails with taking care of roads that are falling apart," Bolt said.

"It creates a sense of helplessness from the people side of things to just be patching the same pothole that you patched two weeks ago."

The county did extensive research before purchasing its equipment, including talking with a contractor who was re-

cycling roads in Florida, meeting with the Ministry of Transportation in Ontario, Canada and speaking with the Alaska Department of Transportation to see the sustainability of recycled roads in colder climates.

"We were the only one in the U.S. that we know of, possibly even the world, that run and own a full comprehensive recycling road program," Bolt said. "There are some municipalities that might own one or two pieces of equipment, otherwise they're just hiring contractors to do a road here or there."

Twelve miles of roads were recycled in 2018 in Jackson County and over 50 miles are planned to be completed in 2019 with 50 to 80 miles planned each additional year.

Through the program, taxpayers are estimated to save \$125 million over the next 50-plus years.

Not all communities have the right circumstances where a road recycling program is efficient, Bolt said. Counties need to have a certain infrastructure system, a dedicated workforce

to operate the equipment and support from the county board of commissioners. He said for different regions of the country with primarily concrete roads, the program would not be a consideration.

"We're trying to tell people through our pilot work and our road system that this technology can do great things and it can be economical," he said.

The department is looking at other innovations including a program to incorporate waste plastics in asphalt.

"Our culture is one of continuing to explore ways to build better roads including the incorporation of recycled waste plastics as an additive in the hot mix asphalt that's used on top of our roads," Bolt said.

Counties interested in learning more about road recycling can contact Bolt at [cbolt@mi-jackson.org](mailto:cbolt@mi-jackson.org). **CN**

*The Jackson County Department of Transportation Road Recycling and Improvement Program is the recipient of a 2019 NACo Achievement Award in the Transportation category.*



Crews use The Wirtgen 3800 recycler to recycle a road in Jackson County.



## LEADERSHIP EDGE

# Life's Not Fair: Get Used to It

by Tim Rahschulte

Many life lessons are simple truisms that we learned as children and carry with us throughout our adult lives. One of the earliest and truest life lessons has to be “life’s not fair.” How many times did you hear that growing up? It was likely early in life that you realized just how true that short statement is. The fact that life’s not fair was certainly evident by the time you were 3 or 4 years of age (or maybe a lot earlier, if you have siblings). Although it’s been taught to us from an early age, we may still struggle with this lesson from time to time.

When we’re born, we all fall somewhere along the “fairness continuum.” Some are born into fortune, some into immediate fame, others into opposite and extreme conditions and still others somewhere between the extremes. We have no choice about the demographics or socioeconomic situations that we’re born into. Although we may have limited choice at birth and during the immediate years that follow, as we get older, our choices increase. In particular, how we choose to view the fairness or unfairness of life changes.

A great number of people have squandered the advantages they were born into. And a great number of people have overcome the extreme conditions they were born into. We learn, sooner or later, that life and its fairness are a state of mind. The most productive people and all great leaders know this. They don’t dwell on the fact that life’s not fair or feel victimized because of it. Rather, they realize that any effort to complain and blame does little to address the underlying issue, which is how to overcome the reality of fairness to realize greatness.

Any effort to simply com-



plain and blame is the path of least resistance and is what a lot of people choose, unfortunately. Choosing to dwell on an unfair situation comes at a major opportunity cost of your effort, time and capability. It’s your choice to decide what to do with the world as you find it. We all know from experience that we’ll find the world unfair from time to time or maybe even quite often. What will you do? What do you do today? What have you done in the past?

This is how a senior vice president at a supply-chain logistics company explained to me her perspective on life: “Life is really all about what happens to you and how you then react. What happens to you is about 10 percent of life. Ninety percent is how you then react to it. That is what you have control of and how you react is based upon your past experience and those experiences — good, bad, indifferent — are what makes your 90 percent stronger moving forward.”

What she is referring to here

is a mindset of resilience — the ability of a leader to recover from difficulties and setbacks. All leaders experience setbacks, roadblocks and challenges; it just comes with the job. The best leaders realize setbacks will occur because life’s not fair, but they are not willing to accept failure because of them. They absorb the impacts, reflect on what went wrong and what pushes against them and their effort to progress, adjust as needed and err on the side of positive action to gain forward momentum.

You cannot control every situation you encounter, but you can control your imagined future, mindset and subsequent choices. Your imagined future — that which is possible every day and every moment of every day — will affect your success and enjoyment in life and leadership. And the choices you make will precede the actions you take. The best leaders spend their time on what they can do, rather than dwelling on any limiting factors, conditions or abilities that highlight

what they can’t do. This was a reminder provided by Cynthia Trudell, the chief human resources officer at PepsiCo, who said: “You are who you are. Be that and figure out how that is important to others.”

You can’t be who you aren’t. It’s for this reason Oscar Wilde said: “Be yourself. Everyone else is taken.” We learned a similar lesson from Linda Betz, the chief information security officer at The Travelers Companies, who said, “I play my game. I focus on what I am good at.” To be most successful, you’ve got to leverage your strengths.

If you’re like most people, you have created lists of your strengths and weaknesses a time or two (or 12) at varying points throughout your life and career. For a long time, consultants, coaches and psychologists recommended placing focus on improving weaknesses. However, the most successful among us do just the opposite: they focus on their strengths to the point of trying to make them even

stronger. The best professional running backs in the National Football League don’t practice tackling to be better as linebackers or throwing in an effort to become better quarterbacks. The best pitchers in Major League Baseball don’t take extra batting practice. The best leaders do the same; they don’t focus on who they’re not and what they can’t do. Those who are the best (the very best) focus on their core strengths and work to exploit those strengths for their own gain and in support of their team to accomplish shared goals.

Situations will continue to change. That’s something you cannot control. When faced with challenges, choose your own way by focusing on a positive mindset and leveraging your strengths to reach your envisioned future state.

What will you do with the world as you find it? It won’t always be fair. You’ll be faced with difficult changes in your industry and personal challenges to overcome. You’ll inherit weak teams. You’ll experience less-than-good bosses. You’ll be forced to participate in company politics. You’ll put in incredible amounts of work that’ll go unnoticed and might even get falsely credited to other individuals. There may also be the occasion that “fairness” will be weighted in your favor. What will you do? Will you allow it to paralyze you and limit you to simply follow the path of least resistance? Or will you change your mind about fairness and tackle the issues head on? It’s true that life’s not fair. It’s also true that you choose your path. How will you choose? **EN**

*Tim Rahschulte is the CEO of the Professional Development Academy and chief architect of the NACo High Performance Leadership Program ([naco.org/skills](http://naco.org/skills)).*



# Tell Your Story

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Looking forward to hearing from you,  
*Mary Ann, Charlie and Rachel*



## the HR DOCTOR

With Phil Rosenberg

*Phil Rosenberg*

There are many lessons to be learned about administration and public policy from my personal very favorite hobby since childhood, astronomy. It is very hard to find a week, if not a day or two that goes by without some news of the latest discovery, tool or theory in this inspiring science. Some of them provide profound lessons for public administrators about how we do our work and live our lives. I will highlight two in this brief article. I ask readers of HR Doctor articles — all 16 of you around the country — to consider how you can apply these lessons in your own work and your own life. The first is inertia. The second is time.

The first was brought to us in the 17th century by none other than Sir Isaac Newton. This amazing human formulated the theory of gravity, invented calculus, created the reflecting telescope and formulated “three laws of motion.” That’s enough of a milestone career for several world-class scientists, let alone for one person. The first of the Laws of Motion concerns “inertia.” The idea is that “a body in motion remains in motion unless acted upon by an outside force.” If we move in a certain direction, we will continue to move that way until and unless some force causes us to change the direction or speed with which we move.

The idea of inertia is what drives much of how we live our lives and operate our governments. It causes us to resist change even when we see the need for change of direction in the name of comfort or what we think is “safety.” Just keep moving along, unchanged in our habits, is not a far leap at all from the

# Time: Our Most Precious Prize



defining characteristics of a bureaucracy. Those were laid out in the 19th century, thanks to a chap named Max Weber. You live in or work in a bureaucracy, he reasoned, if you see hierarchy and impersonal rules and regulations. The organization default is to the status quo. In other words, stable organizational success is linked to inertia. How wonderful it might be to create new programs, revamp “ancient” civil service rules or create new ways of doing business which may be more efficient and pleasant for citizens. Yet often when we try, we may crash and burn in a collision with established protocols or vested interests resisting change.

When change impacts our lives, for example, changing jobs, moving to a new com-

munity, becoming a mom or dad or finding a significant other with whom to share our lives, the forces driving the change make us uncomfortable. When our direction is altered by the impact of an outside force, uncertainty invades our lives inducing fear as well as the thrill of anticipation. Inertia is very often an enemy to progress. It is reasonable to be uncertain or fearful of change. It may take an act of bravery to face change with a positive spirit born out of wonder about what could lie ahead. The best candidates for office and the most effective holders of public office are those who are not afraid to challenge accepted theory or rules for a better outcome. This is as true in astronomy as it is in public administration.

Speaking of inertia and time, a brief sojourn into an actual and significant threat to our continued existence is in order. There are many millions of large chunks of rock capable over time of impacting our Earth. Some are large enough to destroy cities, counties, continents, or the planet.

We now have the technology, especially with very high-resolution cameras and surveillance satellites, to appreciate how very real this threat can be. The global effects of a large asteroid impact could change the very foundation of our species. Imagine a world where the credit cards don’t work, where you can’t get cash out of an ATM, where the power grid is disabled, and, heaven forbid, DirecTV or Dish TV

does not function. There is a clear correlation between how far ahead we see a danger and our success in preventing or mitigating giant trouble. Conversely, if we pay no attention to major threats, we are not going to be able to act in time. The further out our strategic vision goes, the more time we have to prepare to intercept, mitigate, and deflect individual or worldwide risks.

In life, time is our most valuable asset. Just get older and you will see what I mean.

In our political world it is hard to rally support around long-range problem recognition or action, even though landing on the moon in 1969 demonstrated that it can be done!

Whether the issue is the decaying infrastructure of our daily lives, or the collision threat outlined above, when we are afraid to take a strategic long-term view, what is left is, thank you Sir Isaac, is short-term, tactical thinking, looking to the next election instead of the next generation, missing opportunities and wasting our most valuable resource — the most important “friend” we have in life — time.

So, there it is. This article isn’t really about astronomy. It is not really about some specific public policy need. It is not just about asteroid collision risks. It is about what we need most in our personal and national life — more time.

More time to spend with our children, with our spouses, careers, civic engagement and other things which bring us joy. Think of how much more of a sense of worth and legacy we could have if we just learn to appreciate and act on compelling strategic needs instead of foolishly believing that there is no such thing as inertia and that a future generation will take care of things. **CN**



# NEWS FROM ACROSS THE NATION

## CALIFORNIA

A new program in **STANISLAUS COUNTY** is allowing farmers to **grow an unlimited amount of industrial hemp**, CBS Sacramento reported. The plant, which is closely related to cannabis and has been declassified as a federally controlled substance by the 2018 Farm Bill, can be grown in California as long as it meets certain requirements of THC levels. Stanislaus County allows farmers to grow up to 12 acres of hemp where its fibers can be used for paper, clothing, lotions, ointments and for construction purposes.

## FLORIDA

- A pilot program in **MANATEE COUNTY** is using **mobile ticketing** for bus riders to purchase bus passes and single ride fares, WFTS-TV reported. The program allows Manatee County Public Transit riders



## FLORIDA

- The **LEE COUNTY** Sheriff's Office is helping to foster puppies. The **Cell Dog Program** allows inmates to take care of puppies from the Gulf Coast Humane Society. Inmates are teaching the dogs voice commands, hand signals and other tricks. The program reduces the number of dogs that are euthanized. Photo courtesy of Lee County Sheriff's Office

to use their mobile phones to pay for bus tickets as an option instead of swiping a bus pass or depositing cash when boarding a bus. County leaders are looking to extend the program for three more years.

- The Commission for Children in **ORANGE COUNTY** recently held **information sessions on youth needs**. The sessions shared information on available funding for early childhood education, educational enrichment, juvenile justice and mental and physical health. The Citizens' Commission for Children provides funding and monitoring of human-services programs for children and families in the county.

## GEORGIA

The **HOUSTON COUNTY** Sheriff's Office is **helping elderly citizens and those with disabilities** who live alone, WGXA-TV reported. The RUOK program provides daily check-ins for individuals who can request a time during the day to receive a phone call. If they do not answer the phone, a communications officer is alerted, and first responders are dispatched to the individual's home.

## IDAHO

An **Adopt-A-Beach program** in **BONNER COUNTY** is getting the public involved in maintaining beaches and boat ramps, according to *The Sandpoint Reader*. Bonner County Parks and Waterways implemented the program in hopes of receiving public input on problematic beaches in the county. Volunteers can meet with the department's crew to determine and help maintain areas that need improvement.



## ARIZONA

A program in **MARICOPA COUNTY** is helping to "**calm the canines**" during fireworks shows. For the Fourth of July, hundreds of volunteers visited shelters to comfort dogs throughout the night from the loud noises of fireworks. Volunteers read to the dogs, sang to them and sat next to the canines to help comfort them. Every dog at the shelter had a visitor to sit with them for the Fourth of July. The "Calm the Canines" program is also held on New Year's Eve. Photo courtesy of Maricopa County

## INDIANA

The **CLINTON COUNTY** Sheriff's Office is **connecting inmates with jobs** after they are released from jail. The Second Chance Program works with outside companies, factories, restaurants and other employers to hire inmates, WLFI News 18 reported. Employers

can come to the jail directly to interview applicants. The program has already helped five inmates either obtain jobs or set up interviews.

## MARYLAND

- A **new flood alert protocol** is in place for Ellicott City in **HOWARD COUNTY**, WTOP

reported. The county and the National Weather Service have clarified when flood sirens would sound for certain areas in Ellicott City by designating the area of the county that drains to the Tiber River as "Historic Ellicott City" and the larger area in the county as Ellicott City.

## NEVADA

- PERSHING COUNTY** tried out an **online auction** to sell tax-delinquent properties and raised more than \$1 million, clearing 78 percent of its listings. In 2018, the county sold just 56 percent of its listings, raising \$286,000, holding a live auction on the county courthouse steps.

"I was a little nervous to begin with because I thought that it might hold back our local bidders, but they were really good to work with and it was a much more streamlined process than us having to do all of it ourselves," Lacey Donaldson,



## ILLINOIS

The **LAKE COUNTY** Sheriff's Office launched the **IN-2WORK program for inmates**, a three-day course focused on food safety and food industry management, the *Daily Herald* reported. Inmates who complete the course and pass a final exam will earn a state culinary certification that is good for five years. Photo courtesy of the Lake County Sheriff's Office



### From NEWS page 34

Pershing County clerk treasurer told KTVN News. Pershing County's auction had 109 participants from 20 states. **HUMBOLDT COUNTY** is also using an online auction system.

- **WASHOE COUNTY** is putting a stop to the **CBD oil trend**, with its health district threatening to issue cease and desist letters to restaurants if they put the unregulated product into food.

### NEW JERSEY

The New Jersey Association of Counties wants to invalidate a new **vote-by-mail law** that it says confuses voters and unnecessarily costs taxpayer dollars. The law forces county clerks to automatically send mail-in ballots to anyone who previously voted by mail, starting with the 2016 general election. Previously, mail-in ballots were only sent on demand. The association argued that such a law was an unfunded mandate in an appearance before the New Jersey Council on Local Mandates, an independent state board that decides the constitutionality of laws that may impose unfunded mandates on local governments.

"The vote-by-mail ballots and the vote-by-mail expenses have proven to be very costly for our county clerks in preparing," Executive Director John Donnadio told WBGO News. Donnadio said county clerks spent an additional \$1.5 million to implement the new law in the 2018 general election.

### NEW YORK

- After 100 days, **ROCKLAND COUNTY** will not renew its **emergency declaration** to deal with the measles outbreak. The county provided

free measles- mumps-rubella vaccines and earlier in June, the Department of Health issued mandatory vaccination orders for all children attending summer camp and all camp staff.

- Seven counties have joined a **class action lawsuit against major telecommunications providers** alleged to have withheld surcharge payments, amounting to a "multi-billion-dollar" deficit.

The lawsuit, filed on May 1, alleges the companies — Verizon, AT&T, Time Warner Cable and Frontier Communications — failed to pay counties legally mandated reimbursement funds that offset the high costs of emergency response services. **OSWEGO, FULTON, NASSAU, OTSEGO, SCHOHARIE, SULLIVAN and WYOMING counties** have joined the suit thus far, *The Palladium Times* reported. To offset high costs, state law says counties are entitled to a surcharge fee from telephone services on landline and wireless 911 services.

### NORTH DAKOTA

A 43-ton semi-trailer truck caused a **GRAND FORKS COUNTY**-owned bridge, one that was listed on the National Register of Historic Places, to **collapse**. The bridge was built in 1906 and was rated for 14 tons. The driver, who was carrying dry beans, was fined \$11,400, but KFGO News reported replacement of the bridge would cost between \$800,000 and \$1 million.

### OHIO

The **CUYAHOGA COUNTY** Council voted to include a charter amendment in the November general election that would **keep the sheriff as an appointed position** but grant



### MARYLAND

- The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration designated a **new national marine sanctuary** in **CHARLES COUNTY** to protect the remains of more than 100 abandoned steamships and vessels that were part of World War I. The Mallows Bay-Potomac River National Marine Sanctuary is the first national marine sanctuary designated since 2000. The sanctuary is located along an 18-square mile stretch of the Potomac River. Photo courtesy of Matt McIntosh/NOAA

the office greater autonomy and bolster council's oversight.

*The Plain Dealer* reported that the amendment would stagger the sheriff's four-year term with that of the county executive, require council approval of the executive's appointment of the sheriff every four years, require eight council members to approve or initiate firing of a sheriff after a public hearing in which the sheriff can defend himself or herself, give the sheriff hiring authority and require sheriffs

to have a two-year or four-year degree in criminal justice or law enforcement.

### PENNSYLVANIA

A school district will accept donations to cover unpaid school lunch accounts, arrears that school officials threatened would prompt calls to place children with unpaid accounts into the **LUZERNE COUNTY foster care** system. County Manager David Pedri told Nation Public Radio that at least five donors stepped forward willing to satisfy the \$22,000 in debt accrued by dozens of students. Pedri told CNN that "Luzerne County foster care will never take a kid for not paying school debt." He said the county has asked the school district to "cease and desist with this type of language."

### WASHINGTON

**KING COUNTY**'s 2020 comprehensive plan may involve increased setbacks from the water on Vashon Island to account for **sea level rise**. A report by the Center for Climate Integrity shows that of all West Coast states, Washington is poised to bear the highest financial burden as it tries to shelter communities from a rising sea driven by climate change.

### WISCONSIN

**MILWAUKEE COUNTY** Transit drivers found two **lost children** in the course of their regular bus routes July 5, *The Journal Sentinel* reported. One driver took a child to the police and the other waited until relatives showed up.

*News from Across the Nation is compiled by Charlie Ban and Rachel Looker. Send your news tips to [cban@naco.org](mailto:cban@naco.org) or [rlooker@naco.org](mailto:rlooker@naco.org).*



### NEW YORK

- Adults who accompany children to **WEST-CHESTER COUNTY** pools are receiving tags, similar to an ID card on a lanyard, meant to **remind caregivers** to maintain constant supervision of youngsters in and out of the water. The tags were donated by the parents of a child they lost to drowning at age 2.

### NEW YORK

- The **NASSAU COUNTY** Industrial Development Authority has begun broadcasting a **weekly radio show**, "Nassau Means Business," which will air the first Sunday of every month at 7 a.m. The county's Industrial Development Agency CEO Harry Coghlan will serve as host.





# Always on Guard



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