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HB 130 grants still available to counties

By Deb Matteucci, behavioral health program facilitator, Montana DPHHS/DOC

The deadline for letters of intent (LOI) for eligibility for match grant funding under HB 130 has been extended until two weeks after publication of the adopted rules, which is anticipated to be mid-January.

Any of the 19 counties that did not file a LOI by the Aug. 30 deadline still may submit one for this first fiscal year of funding. The letters are for the FY2010 grant period ending June 30, 2010. Counties that already made a submission for this fiscal year's funding need not do anything else but proceed as planned with a grant application until the March 1 deadline.

The letters and applications do not need to be complicated. A simple application to do a few of the "quick fixes" for this first year is all that's needed. A full-fledged crisis system, with everything from intervention and prevention all the way to inpatient beds, really isn't necessary or feasible for the majority of counties.

There are many ideas that may be implemented via the HB 130 grants, such as:

Training: Crisis Intervention Team training for law enforcement; Mental Illness Intervention course for law enforcement, healthcare providers and other community stakeholders; and/or Wellness Recovery Action Planning for consumers of mental health services.

Short term beds: HB 132 provides an opportunity to suspend proceedings in an

involuntary commitment to enable the individual to voluntarily participate in in-patient treatment. You may want to consider setting aside a portion of funds to assist in payment for this type of care for those individuals without other benefits or insurance. These funds could be used to complement the 72-hour crisis stabilization funding.

Jail screening and evaluations: Training and implementation of screening tools for mental disorders at the booking phase, supported by access to a mental health provider when screenings are positive, would assist detention staff in managing those individuals who require a secure setting. This could also be coordinated with screening and response protocols for potential suicide risk.

Data collection: Coordinate with law enforcement and dispatch centers for the region to begin collecting aggregate data on the number of calls with a behavioral health component. This can be done through technology (programming updates to computer aided dispatch) or using some of the grant funds to manually collect data from field files over a period of time.

Diversion Court: Coordination with probation and parole to access funds for medications or mental health treatment services for offenders in treatment court

Please see "HB 130..." on page 10

New MACo steering committee members selected

By Carl Sellstad, MACo President and Fergus County Commissioner

Thanks to everyone who submitted a bio sheet to be considered for a MACo steering committee position. I was overwhelmed to see all the commissioners who applied for appointments.

I believe we have such a strong organization because of the interest and participation of our members. I tried to put you on the committee of your first or second

choice, but, unfortunately, it always didn't work out due to the number of applicants.

I would encourage all of you, whether you are on a committee or not, to please stay involved. Remember, anyone can attend any of the committee meetings.

The complete list of 2009-2010 MACo committees and their members begins on the next page.



MACo News

2009-2010 MACo Committees

Agriculture Committee

Kathy Bessette	Co-Chair	Hill	bessetek@co.hill.mt.us
Maureen Davey	Co-Chair	Stillwater	mdavey@stillwater.mt.gov
Troy Blunt		Phillips	commissioners@phillipscounty.mt.gov
Ken Evans		Chouteau	chouteau@ttc-cmc.net
Tucker Hughes		Judith Basin	thughes@co.judith-basin.mt.us
David Paugh		Golden Valley	swr@midrivers.com
Tom Rice		Beaverhead	trice@co.beaverhead.mt.us
Don Reiger		Fallon	falloncc@midrivers.com
Dave Schulz		Madison	madco@madison.mt.gov
Jim Shanks		Roosevelt	shanks@nemontel.net
Don Swenson		Blaine	dswenson@co.blaine.mt.gov
Herb Townsend		Meagher	con@ttc-cmc.net
Amy Adler	Weed Association Rep.	Rosebud	aadler@rosebudcountymt.com
Harold Blattie	Executive Director		blattie@mtcounties.org

Community, Economic Development & Labor Committee

Joe Briggs	Chair	Cascade	briggs@co.cascade.mt.us
Vic Miller		Blaine	vmiller@co.blaine.mt.gov
Jean Curtiss		Missoula	jcurtiss@co.missoula.mt.us
Ann Marie Davis		Prairie	clerkrecorder@prairie.mt.gov
John Jensen		Fergus	commissioners@co.fergus.mt.us
Cynthia Johnson		Pondera	pococo@3rivers.net
Dale Lauman		Flathead	dlauman@flathead.mt.gov
Gary Macdonald		Roosevelt	comm@rooseveltcounty.org
Mike McGinley		Beaverhead	mmcginley@co.beaverhead.mt.us
Jack Nesbit		Custer	j.nesbit@co.custer.mt.us
Sheryl Wood	Associate Director		swood@mtcounties.org

Conference Planning Committee

Bill Kennedy	Host 2010	Yellowstone	bken尼迪@co.yellowstone.mt.gov
Maureen Davey		Stillwater	mdavey@stillwater.mt.gov
Ann Marie Davis		Prairie	clerkrecorder@prairie.mt.gov
Connie Eissinger		McCone	mcconeco@midrivers.com
Dale Lauman		Flathead	dlauman@flathead.mt.gov
Susan Mosness		Sweet Grass	sgcommish@cablmt.net
Mike Murray		Lewis & Clark	mmurray@co.lewis-clark.mt.us
Carl Seilstad		Fergus	cseilstad@co.fergus.mt.us
Neal Warner		Anaconda-DL	ngwarner@mtech.edu
Dan Watson		Rosebud	dwatson@rosebudcountymt.com
Steve White	Host 2011	Gallatin	steve.white@gallatin.mt.gov
Harold Blattie	Executive Director		blattie@mtcounties.org
Sheryl Wood	Associate Director		swood@mtcounties.org

Energy Committee

John Prinkki	Chair	Carbon	commissioners@co.carbon.mt.us
Mark Rehbein	Vice Chair	Richland	rccomm@midrivers.com
Joe Brenneman		Flathead	jbrenneman@flathead.mt.gov
Jim Durgan		Park	commissioners@parkcounty.org
Pat Eggebrecht		McCone	mcconeco@midrivers.com
Laura Obert		Broadwater	lauraobert@mt.net
Sue Olson		Musselshell	mshlcocr@midrivers.com
Bill Randash		Fallon	falloncc@midrivers.com
Tony Sitzmann		Glacier	oil_west@yahoo.com
Alan Underdal		Toole	tccomm@3rivers.net
Harold Blattie	Executive Director		hblattie@mtcounties.org

Please see "2009..." on next page



MACo News

2009-2010 MACo Committees, cont.

Health & Human Services Committee

Bill Kennedy	Chair	Yellowstone	bkennedy@co.yellowstone.mt.gov
Andy Hunthausen	Vice Chair	Lewis & Clark	ahunthausen@co.lewis-clark.mt.us
Kathleen Driscoll		Ravalli	kdriscoll@ravallicounty.mt.gov
Elaine Graveley		Broadwater	commissioners@co.broadwater.mt.us
Mike Kilby		Musselshell	mshlcocr@midrivers.com
Susan Mosness		Sweet Grass	sgcommish@cablemt.net
Ben Ober		Toole	tccomm@3rivers.net
Marilyn Ross		Madison	madco@madison.mt.gov
Randy Taylor		Park	commissioners@parkcounty.org
Sheryl Wood	Associate Director		swood@mtcounties.org

Information Technology Committee

Sandra Broesder	Chair	Pondera	pococo@3rivers.net
John Jensen	Vice Chair	Fergus	commissioners@co.fergus.mt.us
Tony Cox		Sanders	tcox@sanderscounty.mt.gov
Rebecca Guay		Anaconda-DL	adlceo@in-tch.com
Marty Malone		Park	mmalone@parkcounty.org
John Morgan		Butte-Silver Bow	jpmorgan@bresnan.net
Russ Tempel		Liberty	comm@co.liberty.mt.gov
Janet Wolff		McCone	jwolff@midrivers.com
Art Pembroke	MLIAC/MITA Rep.	Lewis & Clark	apembroke@co.lewis-clark.mt.us
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Interoperability Committee

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Cynthia Johnson		Pondera	pococo@3rivers.net
Mike Kilby		Musselshell	cmkilby@hotmail.com
Mike McGinley		Beaverhead	mmcginley@co.beaverhead.mt.us
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Harold Blattie	Executive Director		hblattie@mtcounties.org
Sheryl Wood	Associate Director		swood@mtcounties.org

Justice & Public Safety Committee

Mike Anderson	Chair	Hill	andersonm@co.hill.mt.us
Leslie Burroughs	Vice Chair	Golden Valley	lburroughs@mt.gov
Bill Barron		Lake	lakecommissioners@lakemt.gov
Mike DesRosier		Glacier	glaciercounty@yahoo.com
Garth Haugland		Beaverhead	ghaugland@co.beaverhead.mt.us
Jim Reno		Yellowstone	jreno@co.yellowstone.mt.gov
Ken Ronish		Fergus	commissioners@co.fergus.mt.us
Daren J. Schuster		Chouteau	dtschus@itstriangle.com
T. Gregory Hintz	MSPOA Representative	Missoula	ghintz@county.missoula.mt.us
Sheryl Wood	Associate Director		swood@mtcounties.org
Fred Hansen	Loss Control Specialist		fhansen@mtcounties.org

Land Use & Development Committee

Paddy Trusler	Co-Chair	Lake	lakecommissioners@lakemt.gov
Suzanne Browning	Co-Chair	Granite	commissioner@co.granite.mt.us
Derek Brown		Lewis & Clark	dbrown@co.lewis-clark.mt.us
Maureen Connor		Granite	mconnor@co.granite.mt.us
Jim Hart		Madison	madco@madison.mt.gov
Joe Skinner		Gallatin	joe.skinner@gallatin.mt.gov
Gail Vennes		Broadwater	gvennes@mt.net

Please see "2009..." on next page



MACo News

2009-2010 MACo Committees, cont.

Land Use & Development Committee, cont.

J.R. Inman		Ravalli	jrinman@ravallicounty.mt.gov
Neal Warner		Anaconda-DL	ngwarner@mtech.edu
Pam Converse	Weed Association Rep.	Broadwater	brweed@co.broadwater.mt.us
Harold Blattie	Executive Director		blattie@mtcounties.org

Public Lands Committee

Leslie Robinson	Chair	Phillips	commissioners@phillipscounty.mt.gov
Todd Devlin	Vice Chair	Prairie	clerkrecorder@prairie.mt.gov
Carol Brooker		Sanders	brooker@blackfoot.net
Greg Chilcott		Ravalli	gchilcott@ravallicounty.mt.gov
Connie Eissinger		McCone	mcconeco@midrivers.com
Chris King		Petroleum	lsolf@mt.gov
Robert Lee		Rosebud	rlee@rosebudcountymt.com
Mike Murray		Lewis & Clark	mmurray@co.lewis-clark.mt.us
Ken Weber		Jefferson	kweber@jeffco.mt.gov
Mike Wendland		Hill	wendland@co.hill.mt.us
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Harold Blattie	Executive Director		hblattie@mtcounties.org

Resolutions & Legislative Committee

Mike Murray	Chair	Lewis & Clark	mmurray@co.lewis-clark.mt.us
Dave Reinhardt	Vice Chair At-Large	Valley	dreinhardt@co.valley.mt.us
Mike Anderson	Justice & PS Chair	Hill	andersonm@co.hill.mt.us
Kathy Bessette	Agriculture Co-Chair	Hill	bessetek@co.hill.mt.us
Joe Briggs	Comm/Ec. Dev. Chair	Cascade	briggs@co.cascade.mt.us
Sandy Broesder	Info. Technology Chair	Pondera	pococo@3rivers.net
Paddy Trusler	LU/Dev. Co-Chair	Lake	lakecommissioners@lakemt.gov
Suzanne Browning	LU/Dev. Co-Chair	Granite	commissioner@co.granite.mt.us
Maureen Davey	Agriculture Co-Chair	Stillwater	mdavey@stillwater.mt.gov
Cynthia Johnson	Tax/Budget/Fin. Chair	Pondera	pococo@3rivers.net
Bill Kennedy	H&HS Co-Chair	Yellowstone	bkennedy@co.yellowstone.mt.us
John Ostlund	Transportation Chair	Yellowstone	jostlund@co.yellowstone.mt.gov
John Prinkki	Energy Chair	Carbon	commissioner@co.carbon.mt.us
Leslie Robinson	Public Lands Chair	Phillips	commissioners@phillipscounty.mt.gov
Carl Seilstad	MACo President	Fergus	commissioners@co.fergus.mt.us
Harold Blattie	Executive Director		hblattie@mtcounties.org
Sheryl Wood	Associate Director		swood@mtcounties.org

Tax, Budget & Finance Committee

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Connie Eissinger		McCone	mcconeco@midrivers.com
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Cele Pohle		Powell	dsgmt2001@yahoo.com
Carl Seilstad		Fergus	commissioner@co.fergus.mt.us
Allan Underdal		Toole	tccomm@3rivers.net
Dan Watson		Rosebud	dwatson@rosebudcountymt.com
Harold Blattie	Executive Director		hblattie@mtcounties.org
Sheryl Wood	Associate Director		swood@mtcounties.org
Tom Swindle	Finance Officer		tswindle@mtcounties.org

Please see "2009..." on next page



MACo/County News

2009-2010 MACo Committees, cont.

Transportation Committee

John Ostlund	Chair	Yellowstone	jostlund@co.yellowstone.mt.gov
Richard Dunbar	Vice Chair	Phillips	commissioners@phillipscounty.mt.gov
Joe Christiaens		Pondera	pococo@3rivers.net
Phil Hathaway		Sweet Grass	sgcommish@cablemt.net
Larry Lekse		Musselshell	mtink@midrivers.com
Bill Loehding		Carter	cccomms@midrivers.com
Dave Miller		Toole	dmiller@toolecountymt.gov
Bill Murdock		Gallatin	bill.murdock@gallatin.mt.gov
Gail Patton		Sanders	patcat@ronan.net
Don Stepler		Richland	dsteppler@richland.org
Jim Ghekiere	Weed Association Rep.	Liberty	weedguy@co.liberty.mt.us
Wayne Buck	MACRS	Rosebud	dbuck@rosebudcountymt.com
Eric Griffin	MACRS	Lewis & Clark	egriffin@co.lewis-clark.mt.us
Harold Blattie	Executive Director		hblattie@mtcounties.org

Commissioners should start 2010 right with these resolutions

By Sheryl Wood, MACo Associate Director

Commissioners need to fulfill certain duties and requirements in the new year. The first commission meeting of 2010 is a good time to adopt policies and set guidelines for next year. Please consider these recommended resolutions and actions. Also, as this notice may look familiar, please review the referenced statutes carefully as changes were made in the 2009 legislative session.

1. Adopt a resolution setting commissioner meeting dates (7-5-2122, MCA, Meetings of board of county commissioners):

(1) The governing body of the county shall establish by resolution a regular meeting date and notify the public of that date.

(2) The governing body of the county, except as may be otherwise required of them, may meet at the county seat of their respective counties at any time for the purpose of attending to county business. Commissioners may, by resolution and prior two days' posted public notice, designate another meeting time and place.

2. Elect a presiding officer of the board (7-4-2109, MCA, Presiding officer of board:)

The board of county commissioners must elect one of its members' presiding officer. The presiding officer shall preside at all meetings of the board, and in case of the presiding officer's absence or inability to act, the members present shall select one of their number to act temporarily as presiding officer.

3. Establish office hours (7-4-102, MCA, Office hours):

(1) Unless otherwise provided by law, each officer shall keep the officer's office open for the transaction of business during the office hours determined by the governing body by resolution after a public hearing and only if consented to by any affected elected county officer each day except Saturdays and legal holidays.

(2) County and city treasurers may, in the interest of

the safekeeping of funds, securities, and records under their control, close their offices during the period from noon to 1 p.m. every day.

4. Appoint commissioner liaisons to county boards:

This is a good opportunity for you to appoint your representatives to county boards and commissions.

5. Set and/or modify per diem/travel rates:

It is recommended that counties adopt a resolution establishing mileage, lodging and per diem rates for business travel. For information on these rates, please refer to 2-18-501, Meals, lodging, and transportation of persons in state service; 2-18-502, Computation of meal allowance; and 2-18-503, Mileage – allowance.

The Internal Revenue Service had not announced the standard mileage rate beginning Jan. 1, 2010 as of press-time, but the IRS will issue a news release soon. For more information, visit www.irs.gov.

The state lodging rate is \$70; high-cost areas include Big Sky/West Yellowstone - Gallatin County, Butte - Silver Bow County, Helena - Lewis & Clark County, Missoula - Missoula County, Polson - Lake County, and Kalispell - Flathead County. For more information, visit the General Administration Services Web site at www.gsa.gov.

6. Establish county classification (7-1-2112, MCA):

At your September meeting, you should have adopted your county classification effective Jan. 1, 2010. If you did not adopt this resolution in September, we suggest you do so as soon as possible. More information regarding your county's classification can be found on the MACo Web site.

In 7-1-2112, Designation of county classification by county commissioners: (1) The several boards of county commissioners must, at their regular session in September of each year, make an order designating the class to

Please see "Commissioners..." on page 9



MACo News

Health care solution should be based on needs

By Owen Voigt, MACo Health Care Trust Administrator

Have you been following the national health care debate? If you have been and if you have a clear understanding of it, please arrange to visit our offices at MACo and explain it to us. Our government officials are under immense pressure from many special interests in dealing with the health care issue.

The key issue seems to be the cost; right now, it's listed at around \$1,100,000,000. I can't seem to get my head around that number. If I have \$6 in my pocket, I can get a sandwich and a drink at Costco. I hear to get below the \$1-trillion threshold set by President Obama, the federal government split the bill and is making the legislation into two bills; one for the doctors at a little over \$250 billion and the rest at about \$900 billion in cost.

Should there be a government option or, now as Nancy Pelosi is calling it, a consumer option? The government option is in the House bill. What about allowing states to opt out of the government option? Some government officials will not vote for it because it has a govern-

ment option and some will not vote for it if the legislation allows states to opt out.

Then there is the discussion of death panels, Medicare cuts, government takeover, no changes to the prescription delivery system, no change to medical malpractice suits and hundreds of other issues either in the legislation or not. Do you listen to the left or the right and are they Democratic, Republican, conservatives or wingers?

I do know two years ago several Health Care Trust members requested we waive the deductible for CPAP machines for those with breathing disorders. The trustees requested staff to look into the issues and cost. After a careful review, the board agreed with the members and changed the plan to waive the deductible. Same thing happened with morbid obesity coverage and it was added effective July 2009. The HCT now provides coverage for bariatric surgery. I understand we deal with much smaller issues, however, they are important to our members and we do address them.

For awhile, I watched and read about this issue closely so I could respond to questions about it. This is such a moving target that if I try to put any more information in my head it might fall off my shoulders. I think I'll just wait for the dust to settle and deal with whatever comes up. Wouldn't it be nice if the federal government would just ask MACo what should be done?

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mce@mt.gov



County News

Granite, Ravalli, Yellowstone win big

By Emelia McEwen, MACo Senior Loss Control Specialist

Three MACo-trained county entities were named winners in the 2009 Governor's Safety and Health Awards Program held in October in Missoula.

The Granite County Medical Center's nursing home and the Ravalli County Road Department were both named the small public employer of the year, while the Yellowstone County was first in the large public employer category. It was Ravalli County's second straight year to be named to the top spot.

The program was created to recognize commitment to excellence in the workplace safety and health arena. It also promotes greater awareness of workplace health and safety across the state and offers the opportunity for leaders to share model programs.

The awards are the highest honors given by the State of Montana in recognition of health and safety excellence. Employees of each county were presented with banners and plaques during the awards ceremony.



Ravalli Co. Road Department (top); Granite Co. Medical Center (left); and Yellowstone Co. (bottom) employees accept their awards Oct. 1.



Seminar benefits officials, employees

By Carl Seilstad, MACo President and Fergus Co. Commissioner

The Eastern Service Area Authority (ESAA), Lewistown Local Mental Health advisory group, Yellowstone County and NACo sponsored a Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) informational seminar in Lewistown in late October.

Our guest speaker was the Honorable Steve Leifman, a Miami-Dade County (Fla.) court judge. The judge spoke on the topic of mental health and how Miami's jails were overcrowded because there were no jail diversion programs for the mentally ill. One person with mental illness in the criminal justice system costs more to deal with than someone with cancer, he said.

We also had two Billings law enforcement officers who gave an excellent presentation on the benefits of a law enforcement officer or first responder taking the CIT training. They explained not only did it help them in dealing with the mentally ill, but it also helped them in their day-to-day duties dealing with all situations.

In attendance were county commissioners, law enforcement, first responders, DES coordinators, school officials and dispatchers. I hope everyone took back some valuable information to share with those whom they think would benefit. Since I became commissioner, mental health services have come a long way. Is it perfect? I don't think so.

The one thing we do have is a lot of people trying to make a difference in the system to make it better. We have crisis centers opening, we have day centers such as The Hub in Billings where people can go for help and a warm meal, we have officers who are now CIT certified who can discern the mentally ill and take them to the proper facility rather than sending them to jail. We have some very good programs that are not only working, but are saving money.

When it comes to funding, I hope we fully fund the programs we have now before we start a new program and cut the funding of the ones that work. If we all work together, we can make a difference in anything we deal with. I would like to thank all those who attended.

Happy Holidays from MACo!



Engineers and Land Surveyors

3530 Centennial Drive, Helena, MT 59601
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7585 Shedhorn Drive, Bozeman, MT 59718
(406) 522-9526

MACo Risk Management and Training

Emelia McEwen
Senior Loss Control Specialist

Fred Hansen
Loss Control Specialist

Phone: (406) 449-4370
Fax: (406) 442-5238



State of Montana

Brian Schweitzer, Governor

Department of Commerce

Anthony J. Preite, Director



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Andy Poole; Deputy Director
Business Resources Division
Phone: (406) 841-2707
E-mail: apoole@mt.gov
Website: businessresources.mt.gov

Financing for Montana businesses that generate a positive financial and economic return for the state and its citizens:

Gary Morehouse, Asst. Division Administrator
Business Resources Division
Phone: (406) 841-2732
E-mail: gmorehouse@mt.gov
Website: businessresources.mt.gov

Herb Kulow; Portfolio Manager
Board of Investments, Infrastructure Loan Program
Phone: (406) 444-1218
E-mail: hkulow@mt.gov
Website: investmentmt.com/Programs/instate

Financing for homeownership and rental assistance for Montana families:

Bruce Brensdal; Executive Director
Board of Housing
Phone: (406) 841-2840
E-mail: bbrensdal@mt.gov
Website: housing.mt.gov

Local government financing:

Dave Cole; Administrator
Community Development Division
Phone: (406) 841-2776
e-mail: dacole@mt.gov
Website: <http://comdev.mt.gov/>

One-stop reference source for virtually all state, federal and local development based public finance programs:

Gary Morehouse; Asst. Division Administrator
Business Resources Division
Phone: (406) 841-2732
E-mail: gmorehouse@mt.gov
Website: mt.financeonline.com

Louise Welsh; Bond Program Officer;
Board of Investments, INTERCAP Loan Program
Phone: (406) 444-0891
E-mail: L.welsh@mt.gov
Website: investmentmt.com/Programs/Intericap

Herb Kulow; Portfolio Manager
Board of Investments, Infrastructure Loan Program
Phone: (406) 444-1218
E-mail: hkulow@mt.gov
Website: investmentmt.com/Programs/instate



County/MACo News

Commissioners should start 2010 right with these resolutions

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which such county belongs, as determined by the taxable valuation of such county for the year in which such order is made, under and in accordance with the provisions of 7-1-2111; and (2) Such classification shall not change the government of the county then in existence until the next succeeding first Monday in January.

7. Conduct a bond inspection (7-4-2213, MCA, Inspection of official bonds):

(1) At a regular meeting of the board of county commissioners in March and September of each year, the board of county commissioners shall carefully examine all official bonds of all county and township officials then in force and effect and investigate the qualifications and financial condition and liability of all sureties on the bonds and their sufficiency.

(2) If it appears to the satisfaction of the board or a majority of the members of the board that any surety upon any bond has, since the approval and acceptance of the bond, died or withdrawn, left the state, disposed of all of the surety's property in this state, or become mentally ill, insolvent, financially embarrassed, or not good and responsible for the amount of the liability on the bond, the board shall immediately cause the clerk of the board to notify in writing the judge of the district court of that district of its action and conclusion and all facts in connection

with and the reasons for the action.

It is recommended you note in your minutes that you've reviewed your bonds, and if applicable, found them to be covered within your insurance policies.

8. Board meeting minutes must be available within 21 days (7-5-2123, MCA, Publication of board proceedings and annual financial statement):

(1)(a) The board of county commissioners has jurisdiction and power, under the limitations and restrictions prescribed by law, to publish in a newspaper at the adjournment of each session of the board, in full and complete detail or in summary form or by reference, with the full and complete text made available on request, a complete list of all claims ordered paid for all purposes, showing the name, purpose, and amount, and a fair summary of the minutes and records of all of its proceedings.

(b) The board may publish the county clerk's annual statement of the financial condition of the county, in full and complete detail or in summary form. If the board does not publish the annual statement in complete detail or in summary form, it shall publish a notice that the annual statement is available and will be provided upon request from the county clerk.

(2) Publication in full, in summary, or by reference of the minutes and records of proceedings must be made within 21 days after the adjournment of the session. Publication of the financial statement or notice of the availability of the financial statement must be made within 30 days after the presentation of the financial statement to the board. The board may not allow or order paid any claim for any publication of minutes and records of proceedings or annual financial statement unless the publication is made within the time prescribed in this subsection.

As always, if you have any questions on these or any other matters, please don't hesitate to contact MACo.

Counties joining inmate programs

By Sheryl Wood, MACo Associate Director

Fifteen counties have approved enrollment in the Inmate Excess Medical Insurance Program, which includes claims administration, while three counties have approved enrollment in the Inmate Medical Claims Administration Management Program.

MACo partner Correctional Risk Services (CRS) is offering a special enrollment offer just for Montana counties from now until March 31.

If you are interested in joining the programs, visit our Inmate Medical Program Web page at: <http://maco.cog.mt.us/pages/IMP.htm> or contact Sheryl Wood, MACo associate director, at 449-4360.



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County/MACo News

HB 130 grants still on hand

Continued from front page

who are not able to pay for needed services or meds to avoid jail time; could also be coordinated with veterans services for those individuals who may be suffering from PTSD as a result of recent combat missions.

Medication support: Bridge funding for misdemeanor offenders who are released from jail but have not yet been enrolled in public benefit programs (Medicaid, MHSP, etc). The program can be established to be self-supporting. Once an applicant is successfully enrolled, benefits can be paid retroactively to application date. By agreement, these retro funds could go back into program account for future bridge fund use. AMDD can support this by providing training on the SOAR (SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery) program. This training assists case managers in learning how to assist individuals in making successful SSI applications.

The deadline to submit comments on the proposed rules has been extended to Dec. 17. The proposed rules can be found at <http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/legalresources/ruleproposals/37-491pro.pdf>. The HB 130 Grant Proration Chart and Match table are on the DPHHS/AMDD Web site at <http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/amdd/services/hb130.shtml>

For more information, contact Deb Matteucci at 444-2013 or dmatteucci@mt.gov, or Dan Ladd at 431-6175 or dladd@mt.gov.

Boards, members to meet in February

Numerous boards and member groups will meet during MACo's Midwinter Conference, Feb. 22-25, at the Best Western Heritage Inn in Great Falls.

The MACo board of directors is set to meet, as are the trustees of MACo's Health Care Trust, the Joint Powers Insurance Authority (JPIA), and the Joint Powers Authority (JPA). Also, the JPIA/JPA annual member meeting will take place at that time.

For more information, a draft agenda will be posted on the MACo Web site next month.

MACo's new main number is 449-4360
JPIA/JPA's new number is 449-4370



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Flood Insurance

Part 2 of 2

The National Flood Insurance Program, a federal program administered by FEMA, offers flood insurance in communities that have agreed to adopt and enforce minimum floodplain management standards. More than 20,000 communities participate in the NFIP.

Flood insurance covers losses caused by a general and temporary condition of partial or complete inundation of two or more acres of normally dry land area or of two or more properties (at least one of which is the policyholder's property) from:

- Overflow of inland or tidal waters
- Unusual and rapid accumulation or runoff of surface waters from any source
- Mudflow
- Collapse or subsidence of land along the shore of a lake or similar body of water. This must result from erosion or undermining caused by waves or currents of water that exceed normal levels and result in a flood

Flood coverage can apply to both the building and its contents. Separate deductibles apply for building damage

and damaged contents. Normally, a 30-day waiting period applies from the date the business buys the policy before coverage begins. Businesses can buy coverage through their insurance agent in amounts up to \$500,000 for the building and \$500,000 for its contents. Excess coverage may be available from specialty insurance companies.

The cost of coverage varies by the risk; the premium will be relatively low in a low-to-moderate risk area and higher near bodies of water.

Every organization should consider purchasing flood insurance. No location is immune to the risk, the cost of coverage is much less than the cost of paying for repairs out of pocket, and the protection is more reliable than possible federal disaster assistance. Because the damage can be so devastating, the risk of flooding is something no organization can afford to ignore.

CONTENT DISCLAIMER: The information provided above is provided from a general insurance/risk management perspective and is NOT legal advice. Arthur J. Gallagher & Co. (AJG) does not provide legal advice as it is not qualified to do so. AJG recommends that you seek the advice of legal counsel in order to become fully apprised of the legal implications related to the information provided above as such implications are highly dependent on the unique facts and circumstances applicable to an individual situation.

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County News

KIDS COUNT book online now

The latest source of indicators of child well-being in Montana, the 2009 Montana Kids Count Data Book, is now available. This annual publication contains organized data at the county level and should be a valuable resource to you as leaders in your communities. Each county has its own page showing the 2000 base year for comparison to the current year.

This year includes expanded state-level data to cover additional information on demographics, social-economics, health and health insurance, and more.

You can view the entire book online at www.montanakidscount.org. For more information, contact Julie Ehlers, Montana KIDS COUNT communications director, at 243-2714.

Roy McCaffree, 1919-2009

Roy McCaffree, 90, died in Eureka on Nov. 15. He was a former Musselshell County commissioner.

A Montana native, McCaffree was a rancher in his hometown of Musselshell for 33 years, where he raised sheep, cattle and quarter horses. McCaffree also served on the Musselshell and Roundup school boards.

He served as a Musselshell County commissioner from 1977 until 1986.



Roy McCaffree

Henry Johnson, 1934-2009

Henry Johnson, 75, died in Miles City on Nov. 8. He was a former Richland County commissioner.

A Montana native, Johnson worked as a heavy equipment operator in the construction field for 45 years. He retired in 1996. Johnson, formerly of Sidney, also was active in the Moose Lodge and other fraternal organizations, as well as his local church. In addition, he served with Richland Economic Development.



Henry Johnson

He was a Richland County commissioner from 1996 until 2008.

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MACo News

MACo, WorkSafe MT join forces to keep counties safe

By Emelia McEwen, MACo Senior Loss Control Specialist

MACo Risk Management has partnered with WorkSafeMT to help reduce injuries in Montana. WorkSafeMT is a coordinated effort of business, labor and state agency leaders and healthcare providers, injured workers, workers' compensation insurers, and other stakeholders to develop a universal expectation of workplace health and safety in Montana.

Risk Management has asked counties to make a commitment to build a safety culture in the counties. Since 2007, we've been working with member counties to implement the MACo On Track Safety program and an early return-to-work program. Risk Management encourages counties to make safety a part of your core values in the workplace. With commitment from the counties and the help of WorkSafeMT, the state hopes to initially bring the injury rate down to the national average. Montana's injury rate is 50 percent higher than the rest of the country. According to DLI Commissioner Keith Kelly, if we reduce the injury rate to the national average, Montana could save \$145 million a year in workers' compensation-related costs.

WorkSafeMT has set up a Web site (www.worksafemt.com) where one may view the video, *Safer Tomorrow*, review resources, see training opportunities and make a public commitment to safety. The site also has information on the Montana Safety Culture Act that encourages employers to implement safety practices.

MACo Risk Management's recommendation to take advantage of the opportunities offered by WorkSafeMT. These resources can help counties meet the goal of reducing injury rates, which will help lower the experience modification factor. The end result is reduced workers' compensation premium rates.



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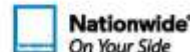
*Based on a 6% investment return and a 3% inflation rate.

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Around Our Counties

Personnel

BUTTE-SILVER BOW COUNTY officials asked the state in late summer to investigate a complaint about the arrest report of a county employee being circulated among the health department staff. In November, BSB officer Kent Fargher and wife Belinda, a health department administrative specialist, were charged in connection with leaking the report and obstructing an officer. The employee in question was arrested by Kent Fargher and works with his wife.

Law Enforcement

FLATHEAD COUNTY launched in November a new page on its Web site that identifies people with outstanding warrants. The idea is allow those with warrants an opportunity to turn themselves in, rather than being arrested. The page, set to be updated at least twice a day, will list both misdemeanor and felony warrants.

LINCOLN COUNTY'S North Annex in Eureka was under repair in November following an break-in and fire in Justice of the Peace Stormy Langston's office the previous month. The incident caused \$200,000

in damage and gutted the judge's office. Displaced employees and officials, which were relocated to other offices and even their own homes, should move back in late November.

Projects

RICHLAND COUNTY commissioners announced plans in early November to display a pair of bridges in Sidney's Peterson Park. The effort is part of a historic preservation project. The bridges once allowed vehicle traffic to cross the main irrigation canal; they'll be moved to the park as part of a walking path.

RAVALLI COUNTY commissioners chose November to remove the century-old cottonwood trees along Fairgrounds Road after a large branch fell on a passing car early last month. While the driver was not injured, it's the second time such an incident occurred in recent years. The Hamilton City Council chose to remove similar trees on the other side of the same road after the incident.

SANDERS COUNTY'S road crews put the Rock Creek Bridge on Thompson River Road back in service in late October. The bridge has been out of commission since 2007,

when it was blocked by debris from the Chippy Creek Fire. Reconstruction, funded by recovery money given to the Lolo National Forest, began in August.

Zoning

GALLATIN COUNTY commissioners in November approved a billboard ban on eight miles of highway near Big Sky. The 2-1 vote was the second time the issue had come before the board since last year, when a large billboard was erected in the canyon. The zoning ordinance also contains a clause requiring removal of that billboard in 10 years.

CASCADE COUNTY attorneys pleaded before the Montana Supreme Court in November the county's side of an argument over the decision to allow construction of a power plant east of Great Falls. A group of nearby landowners and an environmental organization are asking the court to rule the county's 2008 decision to rezone the site to industrial as spot zoning and therefore unlawful. A decision isn't expected for months.

ANACONDA - DEER LODGE COUNTY officials broke ground on a three-mile-long sewer line in No-

vember for the new Northwestern Energy power plant at Mill Creek. The line is part of NWE's \$200-million project, which will allow the state's largest utility to generate some its own power. The plant will be located on 60 acres south of Anaconda.

MISSOULA COUNTY was justified, according to a Montana Supreme Court decision in November, in placing interim zoning on land slated for a gravel and asphalt operation north of Lolo. The project on 126 acres west of U.S. 93 began eight years ago but an initial subdivision effort was nixed. Although the gravel operation was first approved by the county, opposition from the site's neighbors caused a reversal based on public health and safety concerns.

JEFFERSON COUNTY commissioners in early November took steps to change zoning on two properties near the Golden Sunlight Mine and the city-county landfill — for industrial use. The adoption of a resolution of intent to rezone will make it easier for businesses to locate in the county. A tax increment financing district also may be located around each of the sites.



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Announcements & Reminders

Risk management conference nears

Reserve deputy training standards, stretching programs and road slide obstacles are just some of many topics to be covered next month at MACo's Risk Management Loss Control Conference in Missoula. The three-day event, set for Jan. 20-22 at the Hilton Garden Inn, will feature programs and sessions tailored to safety, roads and law enforcement personnel.

Registration will be available on the MACo Web site soon; a draft agenda already is posted there, as is a detailed description of this exciting event.

For more information about the conference, contact Emelia McEwen at emcewen@mtcounties.org; for registration info, contact Karen Houston at khouston@mtcounties.org. They may be reached at 449-4360.

Recycle grant application deadline close

To learn more about the Montana DEQ's recycling infrastructure grant program, visit deq.mt.gov/Recovery/energy/recyclinggrants.asp. Deadline for applications is Dec. 15; selections will be made by March 1, 2010.

Mark Your Calendars

December

- 1-3 MACo Elected Officials Training/Commissioner Certification*
- 3-4 Legislative Finance Committee*
- 3-4 Revenue & Transportation Interim Committee Meeting*
- 11 **Education & Local Gov't. Interim Committee Meeting***
- 11 **State Admin./Veterans' Affairs Interim Committee Meeting***
- 14 Legislative Council*
- 17-18 Law & Justice Interim Committee Meeting*
- 25 State/county/MACo offices closed (Christmas Day)

January

- 1 **State/county/MACo offices closed (New Year's Day)**
- 7-8 Environmental Quality Council*
- 13-14 Water Policy Interim Committee*
- 14 Energy & Telecommunications Interim Committee*
- 20-21 Economic Affairs Interim Committee*
- 20-22 MACo Risk Management Loss Control Conf., Missoula
- 22 **State Admin. & Veterans' Affairs Interim Committee***
- 25 Children, Families, Health & Human Svcs. Int. Committee*

Upcoming Events (2010)

- Feb. 22-25 MACo Midwinter Conference, Great Falls
- May 26-28 NACo WIR Conference, Billings

*All events are held in Helena unless noted.

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