



# FIVE COUNTY NEWS FROM 'R' VIEW

VOLUME IV NUMBER 1

JANUARY-MARCH, 2004

## Announcing Southwest Utah's 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Human Services Public Forum

It's time once again to come together as a community to discuss human services concerns and issues that affect our community. Over the past decade, many important program developments have had their start from our Public Forum gatherings. Join political leaders, agency representatives, local businessmen, low-income individuals and concerned citizens for the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Human Services Public Forum. This year we are highlighting emergency food network needs as well as issues such as transportation, health care, better jobs, education, child care and many others issues which affect our community and our nation. They affect all people— those who experience it first hand and those who know it through their work, their church, their family, and their neighbors. Concerned citizens from each of the five counties in southwest Utah are invited to meet together to discuss, prioritize and provide input that can make a difference in human service needs on the local level.

Your input and involvement *can* make a difference!

Dates and times for each of the five scheduled forums are listed below:

**Iron County**  
**Monday, March 22, 2004**  
**Paiute Tribal Office**  
Conference Room  
440 North Paiute Drive  
Cedar City, UT  
3:00 to 4:30 p.m.

**Beaver County**  
**Monday, March 29, 2004**  
**Beaver High School**  
Multi-purpose Room  
195 East Center Street  
Beaver, UT  
3:00 to 4:30 p.m.

**Garfield County**  
**Tuesday, March 23, 2004**  
**Panguitch Fire Station**  
50 North 100 East  
Panguitch, UT  
3:00 to 4:30 p.m.

**Kane County**  
**Tuesday, March 30, 2004**  
**Kanab City Library**  
374 North Main  
Kanab, UT  
3:00 to 4:30 p.m.

**Washington County**  
**Wednesday, March 31, 2004**  
**Dixie State College**  
Gardner Center, Room B  
225 South 700 East  
St. George, UT  
3:00 to 4:30 p.m.

For more information on the Human Services public forums contact:  
Beth Cottam at:  
435-673-3548

## Permanent Community Impact Fund Board (PCIFB) Public Meetings to Prioritize Potential Projects For 2004

**Kane County**  
**Wednesday, March 3, 2004 - 1:30 p.m.**  
Kane Co. Courthouse - Commission Chambers  
76 North Main Street; Kanab, UT

**Iron County**  
**Thursday, March 4, 2004 - 10:00 a.m.**  
Iron County Courthouse - Commission Chambers  
68 South 100 East; Parowan, UT

**Garfield County**  
**Thursday, March 4, 2004 - 1:30 p.m.**  
Panguitch City Office - Council Chambers  
25 South 200 East; Panguitch, UT

**Washington County**  
**Friday, March 5, 2004 - 1:30 p.m.**  
Five County AOG Office - Conference Room  
1070 W. 1600 S., Building B.; St. George, UT

**Beaver County**  
**Wednesday, March 10, 2004 - 11:00 a.m.**  
Beaver County Administration Building  
Commission Chambers  
105 East Center Street; Beaver, UT

For more information contact: Diane Lamoreaux at (435) 673-3548

## Staff Spotlights:



**Amber White** started working in the Child Care Resource and Referral as a referral counselor in November, 2003. She moved to St. George this past fall to attend Dixie State College, where she is studying Early Childhood Development. She recently married, and

her husband Dusty works for Tempest Gas Company as a backhoe operator.

Amber was born in Milford, Utah, where her dad works for the Union Pacific Railroad. She has an older brother who is married with one child and resides in Milford. An older sister lives in St. George and is also attending Dixie State College. Amber loves spending time with her family and enjoys camping and playing sports like softball and volleyball. She loves her new job and working with Lauri and Julie. Amber says she has enjoyed getting to know everyone at Five County and is looking forward to working closely with everyone. She thanks all of the staff for their friendly welcomes!

### Daneene Taylor



As the new full-time Training Specialist in the Cedar City office of Child Care Resource & Referral, Daneene feels that her job is a perfect fit for her educational background: she majored in Interpersonal Communication and minored in Early Childhood Development. She graduated from SUU

in May. She is excited to work with Five County Association of Governments and the Child Care Resource & Referral team.

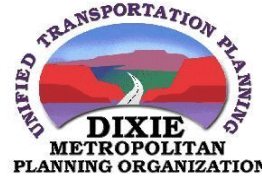
In her spare time Daneene likes to read, watch old “chick flick” movies, and sing. She was a member of the HOPE Show Choir at the Cedar City Institute of Religion for the past year and a half. Music makes Daneene happy. She also enjoys watching sports, especially football and basketball, and playing pool with her husband. Her favorite

way to spend time is to hang out with family and friends.

Daneene was born and raised in Parowan, Utah. On December 30<sup>th</sup> she was married to Gary Taylor of Fremont, Utah. Daneene is excited to settle into her new job and her new married life.

## Scoring Points in the Planning Field

Making progress in the conduct of the urban transportation planning process for the Dixie Urbanizing



arena is not always easy or visible to the public. Recently the Dixie Metropolitan Planning Organization achieved some public involvement goals and assisted other players in landing some additional

federal funding for projects. They have also been the benefactor of key Utah Department of Transportation statewide administrative decisions, that we have been encouraging, for a stronger State planning, project, and operations presence in Utah's Dixie.

### Improving the public involvement process and outreach to the general public on transportation issues

will be an annual task for the Dixie Metropolitan Planning Organization. This “year-one” goal was improving attendance at the biennial public open-house. The last event was held at the offices of the Five County AOG on December 3, 2003. Like the previous open-house held in December 2001, it was designed to provide information to the public and planning partners as well as obtain input on the planning process, the long range plan and existing and future projects to improve the transportation system for the area. At 2003's open-house more than 25 people attended, representing the general public, developers, land managers and elected officials to our states' legislature. State Representatives David Clark and Steve Urquhart expressed their willingness to champion project needs with the Legislature in upcoming sessions. Local Congressional office staffers Maureen Casper and Mike Empey were encouraged by Senator Bennett's and Congressman Matheson's support for appropriations and re-authorization earmarking that have, or will impact, projects in the MPO area. Increased attendance was likely due to improved coverage of the event in local newspapers, more public awareness of transportation issues as traffic congestion builds in this growing area, and the availability of a draft plan for people to view and respond. In two years the MPO plans to

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access each 6th grade classroom with a flyer to be taken home. Besides being a tool to educate children and parents about transportation issues, it will also advertise the next open-house. This method has been used successfully in Utah County where open-house attendance numbers in the hundreds. Another measure of growing public interest in the planning process is the increase in written comments from the public. In addition, many people visited sites throughout the planning area where the long range plan was available for viewing.

**Obtaining additional funding over and above the annual allocations** that come to the St. George Urbanized area for public transit, highways, and paths will always be a goal for Utah's Dixie to realize sufficient construction and capital dollars to make the necessary improvements to the transportation infrastructure. This past year, MPO staff and executive leadership have made inroads through established relationships with our Congressional representatives and staff. This effort led to additional funding for public transit (\$500K) and the northern corridor (\$1Million) under the 2004 Appropriations Bill recently passed by the U.S. Congress.

The State Transportation Commission decides the fate of Enhancement Grants from throughout Utah being considered for approval from the Utah Department of Transportation's Enhancement Committee. The Santa Clara Drive and Streetscape project sponsored by the City of Santa Clara, and Landscaping of Exit 4 near Bloomington on I-15, sponsored by the City of St. George, were two projects considered for the second round of evaluations conducted February 4th in Salt Lake City. The Commission will allocate two years of funding totaling \$6 million dollars. Of 52 applications received, 21 were selected for presentations on February 4th. From that group, somewhere between 12 to 15 projects may be selected for funding. Key MPO players and partners sit on the Enhancement Committee for UDOT. Jerry Lewis, our State Transportation Commissioner and MPO executive council member, and Lori Rose, Washington County Trails Coordinator, are voting members. Lowell Elmer, Director of the Dixie Transportation Planning Office, Five County AOG, is an ad hoc member. This leadership provides effective representation on this important statewide function and decision making panel. Projects not funded this time will have an opportunity to be considered again in 2006.

**Realizing a stronger state transportation agency presence in Dixie** has been a cry for many years by the leadership of the City of St. George and one enjoined by the MPO staff and AOG leadership in anticipation of urbanized status and the need for expanded planning, project development and operations capacity. UDOT leadership has recognized this need to enhance their role in the planning and project development processes. They have shifted responsibilities between two traffic engineers to apply a greater operations hand in signal and traffic operations in Dixie. UDOT says that Troy Torgerson will be able to focus more of his time in supporting traffic operations here in St. George. Ms. Tamerha Maxwell,

Project Manager for Washington and Iron Counties, replaces Mr. Robert Dowell who has accepted District management responsibilities in Richfield. Ms. Maxwell has experience in urban project development and will be located in Cedar City, improving this role's proximity to project development demands and liaison with local project sponsors. Clayton Wilson has filled a new planning engineer position with UDOT's Region 4 office in Richfield. The Region's business plan shows his position as requiring a minimum of 33% time spent in liaison with the Dixie Metropolitan Planning Organization, its cities and other public and private partners. These decisions are positive and are a step in the right direction in meeting the increased demands of transportation growth in Dixie.

The Dixie MPO recently expanded its presence on various statewide committees. These include the Enhancement Committee as explained above. In addition, Ron Whitehead, Public Works Director for Washington County and member to the MPO advisory committee, is a member of the State Corridor Preservation Committee, which makes recommendations to the State Transportation Commission on right-of-way and transportation corridor protection issues and needs. Aron Baker, Traffic Engineer for the City of St. George and another member of the MPO advisory committee, is a back-up to Troy Torgerson, UDOT, to the statewide Traffic Management Committee, which makes recommendations for funding and development for traffic operations management.

These leadership decisions, committee assignments, and Congressional relationship building are key to achieving quality administrative, planning and development points in the transportation planning field for Utah's Dixie.

If you have any questions or wish to share any concerns with the transportation planning process contact: Mr. Lowell Elmer, Director, Dixie MPO, Five County AOG, P.O. Box 1550, St. George, UT. Telephone: 435-673-3548, Fax: 673-3540, or e-mail: [lclmer@fcaog.state.ut.us](mailto:lclmer@fcaog.state.ut.us)

(Lowell Elmer)

## **HB 111 (2004 General Session)**

House Bill 111, currently under consideration by the Utah Legislature, modifies provisions relating to municipal and county governments. One of the many provisions of the Bill would specify what size of municipality is required to complete a "Plan for Moderate Income Housing" (PFMIH) and incorporate that "plan" as an element in that community's General Plan.

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Currently all cities and all towns, as well as counties, are required to comply with the PFMIH requirements. The legislation, as introduced, would have limited this to just cities of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd class (those more than 30,000 population). The Bill passed by the House onto the Senate, as currently amended, requires all cities to comply, but excludes towns (communities less than 1,000 population) from these requirements. The Bill also modifies PFMIH "review" requirements, obligating a jurisdiction to biennially (every two years), rather than annually, review their plan and its implementation and prepare a report. Two other significant amendments were also added. First, a provision placing limits on civil lawsuits against municipalities regarding PFMIH requirements so that when plaintiffs seek enforcement or claim violation of this section, they may not recover damages but may be awarded injunctive or other equitable relief only. In the second, the Legislature redefines moderate income housing. This is a Bill to watch and action may still be pending by the time this newsletter reaches you. Status of the bill can be found on the Utah Legislature web site: <http://le.utah.gov> (Gary Zabriskie)

Please submit articles to Diane Lamoreaux via e-mail ([newsletter@fcaog.state.ut.us](mailto:newsletter@fcaog.state.ut.us)) or in writing to: P.O. Box 1550; St. George, Utah 84771-1550. For other information or services, please call (435) 673-3548 or visit our web site at: [www.fcaog.state.ut.us](http://www.fcaog.state.ut.us)

### ***Steering Committee Meeting Schedule***

**Wednesday, March 10, 2004 - 1:00 p.m.**  
Beaver County Administration Building  
Conference Room  
105 East Center; Beaver, UT

**Wednesday, April 14, 2004 - 1:00 p.m.**  
Parowan Public Library, Meeting Room  
16 South Main Street, Parowan, UT

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