



FIVE COUNTY NEWS FROM 'R' VIEW

VOLUME XI NUMBER 4

JULY-AUGUST, 2016

Director's Dialogue



On August 15th a kick-off meeting was held as part of our renewed regional Economic Development Advisory Committee's efforts. An array of very knowledgeable speakers participated. Attendees included committee members as well as professional staff from around the region. Our first speaker, Lecia Parks Langston, Regional Economist with the Utah

Department of Workforce Services, provided a clear and positive economic assessment for the southern Utah region. Details of that assessment can be found at: <https://jobs.utah.gov/localinsights>

Ms. Langston's comments included up-to-date economic and demographic information for the five county area. Increasing economic diversification continues to help our counties weather cyclical boom and bust patterns and most counties are seeing taxable sales increase. Non-farm job growth is up in all counties with Kane County leading at 8.5%. Beaver and Garfield counties currently show higher unemployment rates due to recent completion of large solar farms that had shown an expected, but temporary, spike in construction jobs. Otherwise, unemployment trends in the region are consistent with or somewhat higher than the state average.

Dianne Browning, Senior Staff with U.S. Senator Orrin Hatch's Office, presented an update on activities and funding opportunities at the federal level. She suggested that all projects should be part of local and regional priority lists and long range plans. She described how Senator Hatch's office acts as a liaison to introduce city and county representatives to the appropriate federal agencies for technical assistance and funding. When appropriate they can bring the necessary focus and attention to key projects and funding needs.

Don Willie from World Trade Center Utah described how they work to help communities and business owners to think globally to help make our local businesses and economy more stable. He talked about how local communities can better prepare to serve new businesses and support existing business in expansion of their

markets to the international level. You can learn more about World Trade Center Utah and its mission on the web at: <http://business.utah.gov/partners/wtcutah>

The meeting brought together enthusiastic economic development professionals from throughout our southwestern region of Utah who provided updates on new businesses, activities and plans in their respective jurisdictions; offering assistance, suggestions, and recommendations in a very collaborative and collegial setting. Thank you to all who attended. We look forward to continuing to provide insightful speakers and timely topics at these meetings that inform and set the stage for a stronger regional and local economy.



Special thanks go out to our presenters and the Washington County Water Conservancy District for hosting our meeting.

The Five County Association of Governments will continue to support an on-going regional economic development dialog which creates a stronger region through collaboration and coordination. Over the next year we will facilitate the collection of city and county economic development plans and strategies in an effort to better understand our region and then to help chart a course for future growth and development of the region. Our next meeting will take place in the latter part of January 2017. Please direct questions to me at 435-673-3548 ext. 121. Bryan D. Thiriot, Executive Director



SEE INSIDE FOR INFORMATION ON OUR EARLY CHILDHOOD CONFERENCE ON SEPT. 9th & 10th **REGISTRATION IS NEEDED SOON!**

Staff Profile



Linda Sawchenko started work as an Administrative Assistant at the Association in late June. She was raised in Auburn, Maine. Linda and her husband bought an RV and traveled the USA for 5 years living and working their way across the country. They came to St. George, Utah as their pre-retirement.

Linda says she likes to read, watch old movies, and take long walks. Employment-wise, Linda comes to the Five County AOG most recently from Bella Terra (formerly Kolob Care). She has worked in the financial, industrial, restaurant, and health care fields; usually as administrative assistant or in accounting. Linda attended high school in Auburn, Maine and college in Florida and Arizona. Gary Zabriskie, Director of Community and Economic Development

Aging Department Changes



In the past three months we have had personnel changes in the Aging Department felt it was a good time to share some of the growth and changes we are experiencing. As

the new fiscal year began July 1, over 300 individuals were being served through one of our In-Home Service Programs along with countless other individuals being provided support through Information & Referral Services, Outreach, Options Counseling, Training and Preventative Health Services. The 13 County-operated senior citizens centers in the Five County area continue to do an excellent job in providing Nutrition Services (Congregate & Meals on Wheels) along with transportation and a variety of other supportive services, recreational, exercise and health prevention programs. We now have 2 accredited Veterans Services Operators (VSOs) on Staff: Janeil Esplin and Megan McCourt; along with 8 other case managers assisting our frail elderly, disabled adults and their caregivers. As highlighted above, Linda Sawchenko joined our team as an administrative assistant and account technician; replacing Carolyn Moss who retired the end of May.

We are providing services and support to help educate, train and assist informal caregivers. The RCI- Reach Program is a 12-week intervention over 6 months to help the caregiver adapt to a loved one with memory loss.

We have 6 staff certified as coaches. We recently certified 3 staff as Dementia Dialogue Trainers who will be putting together a five-week workshop in both Iron and Washington Counties to help professionals and caregivers understand dementia and help them as caregivers. Our Preventive Health Programs continue to remain active in the community which includes: the Chronic Disease Self-Management program along with the Diabetes Self-Management Program and Stepping On (fall prevention). We are currently in the process of certifying Master Leaders in the Chronic Pain Self-Management and will be holding classes at the local senior centers.

Our Senior Companion and Foster Grandparents programs have gone through some changes with Sheryl Gardner leaving the 1st of May. She was replaced by Joanne Lyman who came with experience working with the Senior Companion Program in Utah County. She is doing a great job and has already recruited several new volunteers. Our Senior Health Insurance and Senior Medicare Patrol programs continue to provide support by assisting our seniors with enrollment and questions regarding Medicare & Medicaid; including supplemental plans and educating them regarding abuse and fraud. They are preparing for Medicare Open Enrollment which starts in October. They have also increased coordination with the case management staff as well as the senior centers in outreach efforts. Finally, our Long Term Care Ombudsmen are doing a great job advocating for the rights of residents of Long Term Care facilities; especially given the limited funding and large number of facilities in our service area, and with changes in Federal Regulations which expanded the population to be served through the program with no increase in funding. Tracy HeavyRunner, Program Director, Home & Community Based Aging Services

16th Annual Early Childhood Collaboration Conference September 9th -10th in Cedar City- Mission Possible: Incorporating STEAM into Early Childhood Education



The Care About Childcare program at Five County AOG, in Collaboration with the Southern Utah Early

Childhood Council is proud to present their 16th Annual Early Childhood Collaboration Conference Friday and Saturday, September 9th and 10th, 2016, in Cedar City. The Theme this year is "Mission Possible: Incorporating STEAM into Early Childhood Education." This conference is designed to provide a quality training experience

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that brings together the many partners in our early childhood community. Our goal is to educate each other on who we are and how we all fit together. It is our hope that we can provide opportunities to establish connections and highlight the resources available in our communities so we can work together more effectively to improve the quality of life for our youngest citizens.

This year, Hedda Sharapan will be our Keynote speaker. Hedda worked with Fred Rogers of Mister Rogers' Neighborhood for nearly 50 years. Continuing to carry on Fred's legacy, Hedda is a script consultant for the company's popular PBS children's series Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood and serves as Senior Fellow at The Fred Rogers Center. She is known as "the ambassador on the road" for The Fred Rogers Company, because she's a highly sought-after speaker at national and statewide education conferences. Friday Night she will present at SUU Head Start "What Do You Do With the Mad That You Feel Inside?" Saturday, you don't want to miss her Keynote on "Let's Find Ways to Make STEAM Concepts Meaningful and Engaging for Young Children (And for Us!)", Building on Developmentally Appropriate Principles and Fred Rogers' Approach to Children's View of the World Around Us!"

Along with Hedda, the DrumBus will bring their self-contained "Mobile Music Room" fully equipped with world percussion instruments allowing participants to enjoy drumming and making music.

Many workshop sessions will feature some of the best presenters coming from many areas of the state including right here in the Five County area. **For more information and to download the registration form go to <http://www.childcarehelp.org>** or call our Care About Childcare Director, Carrie Sigler, at 888-344-4896.

Iron County Rural Planning Organization



Organized in 2010, the Iron County Rural Planning Organization (ICRPO) is a transportation planning organization made up of local and

state participants who focus on regional transportation issues and planning. The organization consists of a rural Transportation Executive Council (RTEC) made up of local elected officials and a rural Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) made up of local appointed officials, along with UDOT, Iron County and is staffed by FCAOG personnel. The local entities involved in the ICRPO are Brian Head, Cedar City, Enoch, Kanarrville, Parowan, Paragonah and Iron County.

The RTEC and the RTAC continue to meet every other month at member locations for the purpose of coordinating and planning regional transportation as well as reviewing related issues. The group has developed an Iron County Regional Transportation Plan that identifies transportation needs throughout the area. It contains a Project List that identifies roadway projects as well as safety, bicycle, pedestrian, transit and other similar projects and studies and presents them in a prioritized list. This list is then used to assist in identifying potential funding options and to coordinate with other transportation entities, such as UDOT, to document needs and create partnerships to complete the projects. Many of the area's completed projects have been identified on the Prioritized List including; The Parowan Main Street Project, the Cedar South Interchange Project, the South Leg of the Belt Route, Coal Creek Roadway Improvements, I-15 Improvements and others. The Regional Transportation Plan and the Project Priority List can be found online at: <https://fcaogtpo.wordpress.com/iron-county-rpo>

Dave Demas, Transportation Planner

Matched Savings Account Can Help With First-Time Home Purchase, Small Business Startup or Secondary Education

Earn It!
Keep It!
Save It!

The Earn It! Keep It! Save It! grant sponsors our Volunteer Income Tax Preparation (VITA) program that helps individuals and families receive their maximum tax refund. Another important aspect of the EKS grant is its focus on financial literacy and asset building. One

of the most powerful tools our state has to help people utilize their money and build assets is the Individual Development Account. Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) are a matched savings program that encourages savers to practice setting aside a specific amount of money each month towards a savings goal. Through the Utah Individual Development Account Network (UIDAN) and the Community Reinvestment Act, companies provide the capital to match savings on a 3:1 basis. For every dollar the client saves, three dollars is matched. To qualify for an IDA, the client must fall within certain income criteria based on household size, complete an 8-hour financial literacy course, and commit to saving a minimum of \$15 per month for at least twelve months. The maximum amount a client can save is \$62.50 per month for 36 months, which totals \$1,500 contributed by the client and \$4,500 contributed by the program. That money can then be used as a down payment for a first-time home purchase, a small business startup, or an accredited college or university. Another option is to use the money for the purchase of an assistive technology device that will assist the client at work.

Find more information on IDAs go on the web to: <http://www.uidan.org> or you can call 1-877-787-0727.

Becky Hurd, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Regional Coordinator

Sunset Boulevard in St. George near Lin's Marketplace Gets New Bus Shelter



Many people are at greater risk than others in our southern Utah climate. People with disabilities and seniors are often less able to moderate their body temperatures in extreme weather situations. FCAOG assists communities in improving and setting up their bus stops to provide greater level of shelter from the elements to assist those people dealing with these problems. The availability of shelter means that more people will be likely to

use the transit systems which also reduces single occupancy vehicles and traffic congestion on the roads. In cooperation with the City of St. George/Sun Tran, local property and business owners, and the Regional Mobility Council, FCAOG is able to help facilitate the installation of these shelters in key locations. The shelter at Lin's in the third shelter to be installed as a result of these efforts.



Jay Aguilar, Mobility Manager

Our newsletter is published 6 times each year.

Please submit event information and article suggestions to the Newsletter Editor via e-mail: newsletter@fivecounty.utah.gov or in writing to: Five County AOG Newsletter Editor; P.O. Box 1550; St. George, Utah 84771-1550.

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

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