

Patrick Wussow

From: Becky Pizinger <Pizinger@mncounties.org>
Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2014 7:39 AM
To: ALL AMC BUILDING
Subject: AMC UPDATE: Pre-Session Legislative News and More



January 22, 2014

Legislative Session Officially Starts February 25

While the 2014 Legislative Session does not start until late February, there are a number of items already taking place that are of interest to counties.

Below you will find brief overviews of meetings that have taken place on issues of county interest. Also included are a number of pre-filed bills that could impact counties during the session.

MoveMN Public Launch Tomorrow

The **MoveMN** Transportation campaign will publically launch tomorrow (Thursday, January 23) at the State Office Building. AMC will have representation at the event. [Read more.](#)

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!
LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE
FEBRUARY 26 -27, 2014
CROWNE PLAZA ST. PAUL RIVERFRONT

Conference Registration & Lodging Details Now Available!

Register today and be part of this conference where you'll hear legislative updates, have a chance to connect with your legislators, and get in depth information on legislative topics, such as: Water Permitting, Transportation Finance Reform, the new Office of Broadband Development, and Health and Human Services 101.

Governor Dayton meets with AMC Executive Committee

Last Friday, Gov. Mark Dayton and the AMC Executive Committee met to discuss ways to work together to make government work better for Minnesotans. The meeting was prompted by the governor's offer at the AMC Annual Conference to sit down with a small group of AMC officials and discuss county issues in more depth.

The meeting included discussion of **AMC's legislative priorities**, county ideas for streamlining and improving government services, and discussion of ways to work together during and beyond the legislative session. The governor indicated that AMC support of increased transportation funding would be important to the debate at the Capitol, and noted that county officials should also reach out to their constituents on this issue. He also expressed interest in learning more about AMC's priority to streamline county probation funding. The governor asked his staff to follow up on several ideas generated during the discussion.

The AMC Executive Committee was pleased to host this meeting with the governor at the AMC Office in Saint Paul.



Federal Update

Omnibus Spending Package Awaits Presidential Approval

On Thursday, January 16, Congress cleared a \$1.012 trillion FY 2014 omnibus spending bill (H.R. 3547) that will fund the federal government through the remainder of FY 2014. Congress will now send the measure to the White House for President Obama's signature, averting any threat of a government shutdown through September 30.

The nearly 1,600-page spending plan, which combines all 12 FY 2014 appropriations bills, provides an overall 2.6 percent increase in discretionary spending from the FY 2013 levels. Although spending was scheduled to fall to \$967 billion under the Budget Control Act (P.L. 112-25) which included the sequester, the omnibus adopts the new caps on defense and domestic discretionary spending set by last month's budget deal (P.L. 113-67), of \$520.5 billion and \$491.8 billion, respectively.

Funding for federal Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) was stripped from the omnibus as part of the compromise deal. House leadership has expressed a commitment to fund PILT through the Farm Bill and ranking member Congressman Collin Peterson has expressed support. Minnesota is well represented on the Farm Bill conference committee by Sen. Amy Klobuchar and Congressmen Tim Walz and Collin Peterson. AMC's federal lobbying team is reaching out to members of the Minnesota delegation and will continue to work to secure federal PILT funding.

To read a special NACo report on the omnibus, [click here.](#)

The **report** provides highlights on programs including:

- Federal transportation and infrastructure programs
- FEMA state and local grant programs
- Department of Justice programs including Byrne JAG grants and the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP)
- Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)
- The HOME Investment Partnerships program

- DOL's workforce programs
- Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)
- The Prevention and Public Health Fund
- Administration on Aging programs
- The Census Bureau's American Community Survey

Environment & Natural Resources

For more information, please contact: **Annalee Garletz, Policy Analyst**

Counties, MPCA Discuss Solid Waste and Beverage Container Recycling

On January 14, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) held a meeting to discuss a recommendations report that was created for the Legislature on recycling beverage containers. To view the report click [here](#). Comments on the report will be accepted through January 22. On the afternoon of the 14th, House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee met to discuss solid waste and recycling topics. The committee discussed draft bill language that Rep. Hornstein has put forward, but has not been introduced yet. Ramsey County Commissioner Victoria Reinhardt was in attendance and testified on behalf of the Solid Waste Management Coordinating Board (SWMCB). John Helmers, Olmsted County Environmental Services Director and SWAA Vice President, was also at the hearing to testify about the role of counties in solid waste activities and about the costs to counties to carry out those activities.

Other News...

- Rep. Erickson's bill (**H.F. 2021**) regarding **wetlands** was introduced this past week.
- On January 8, the MN Department of Natural Resources held a kick-off meeting in conjunction with the League of MN Cities and the MN Chamber of Commerce to discuss the **North and East Metro Groundwater Management Area**. More information about the Groundwater Management Areas can be found [here](#).
- On January 15, the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) held the second of two meetings to discuss **wetland siting and mitigation in Northeast Minnesota**. Comments on the plan will be accepted through January 31. More information can be found here: [Concept Paper](#) | [Powerpoint Presentation](#)

General Government

For more information, please contact: **Beau Berentson, Policy Analyst**

Workers' Compensation Changes Heard

In 2013, the Minnesota Legislature passed legislation that expanded workers' compensation coverage to include post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) arising in the course and scope of an employee's duties. As the bill was being debated, AMC assisted MCIT in raising concerns about the impact of this change on public employers and taxpayers, as these changes are expected to increase workers' compensation insurance costs.

Heading into the 2014 Legislative Session, AMC has made partnering with MCIT to modify these recent workers' compensation changes one of our top legislative priorities. On Wednesday, Jan. 8, AMC joined MCIT and other local government groups in asking the state's Workers' Compensation Advisory Council (WCAC) to support one of these proposed changes: clarifying state law to treat PTSD workers' compensation claims as a personal injury, as opposed to an occupational disease. This change would prevent employers and insurers from having to pay multiple retentions for claims arising from a single occurrence.

The request was well-received by the WCAC, which consists equally of representatives from the state's business and labor communities, and the Department of Labor and Industry (DOLI). There are strong indications that DOLI will include this

provision in the department's technical "housekeeping" bill for 2014. The Department will present their housekeeping bill for final approval by the WCAC at their Feb. 12 meeting. If approved, the bill will head to the Legislature.

House Schedules Hearing to Review Online Voter Registration, New Disclosure Rules

The House Elections Committee has scheduled a hearing on Tuesday, Jan. 28, to discuss two bills of interest to counties:

H.F. 2096, authored by Rep. Steve Simon, which would authorize the Secretary of State to collect online voter registration and absentee ballot applications. Secretary of State Mark Ritchie introduced online voter registration this past fall, an action that was quickly challenged by critics who argued that the Secretary of State did not have clear statutory authority to implement the system. While a lawsuit on that issue is currently pending, the Chair of the House Elections Committee is proposing giving clear statutory authority to the Secretary of State when the Legislature convenes. The Minnesota Association of County Officers (MACO) is planning on testifying in support of the bill, as online voter registration will likely reduce costs and workload for county elections staff.

H.F. 1961, authored by Rep. Halverson, expands disclosure requirements for "public officials" in Minnesota. As members will remember, county commissioners elected after Jan. 1, 2014 were added to the list of "public officials" in Minnesota Statute last session.

Under Rep. Halverson's bill, public officials would be required to disclose potential conflicts of interest when taking actions that may affect their spouse's financial interests (currently the requirement of disclosure only relates to actions that may affect the public officials financial interests).

In addition, public officials would also need to provide additional information on their economic interest statements: certain property and investments held by their spouse, as well as a listing of "the business or professional activity codes from which the individual or spouse receives compensation of more than \$50 in any month as a consultant or independent contractor."

Both bills will be up for discussion on January 28, though no official action can be taken on either bill until the Legislature officially convenes in late February.

Notable Early Bill Introductions

- **H. F. 1884**, which eliminates certain minor property tax classifications.
- **H. F. 1892**, which would grant cities and counties the same Motor Vehicles Sales Tax Exemption for purchases of road maintenance vehicles currently afforded to townships.
- **H. F. 2102**, which would undo a controversial law change from last session that prohibited assessors from reducing a property's value based on its enrollment in a conservation easement (except in certain circumstances).

Health & Human Services

For more information, please contact: Rochelle Westlund, Policy Analyst

Administrative Simplification

AMC, along with affiliates the Minnesota Association of County Social Service Administrators (MACCSA) and the Local Public Health Association of Minnesota (LPHA), met with Rep. Liebling to discuss upcoming legislative priorities. Administrative Simplification was discussed at length as a top priority of AMC and MACCSA is currently working on local impact statements to further support this legislation.

E-Cigarettes

Representatives Halvorson, Freiberg and Liebling pre-filed **H.F. 1931** last week that regulates electronic cigarettes. This legislation is included in AMC's legislative platform as something AMC supports. Additionally, Representatives Kahn, Liebling,

Wagenius, Murphy, M., Ward, J.A., and Halvorson pre-filed **H.F. 1974**, which would expand the definition of smoking under the Clean Indoor Air Act to include e-cigarettes.

Other Pre-Filed Bills to Watch

- **H.F. 1987** modifies MFIP and general assistance requirements so that counties may choose whether to conduct random drug testing for aid recipients. Currently counties are required to conduct this testing.
- **H.F. 1996** reduces human services appropriations due to payment errors from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

Committee Meetings

Health and Human Service committees began to meet last week, and will continue to meet intermittently until the beginning of session. The next meetings are scheduled for the week of January 27, 2014.

Public Safety

For more information, please contact: Ryan Erdmann, Policy Analyst

Senate Committees Review Sex Offender Civil Commitment Task Force Recommendations

On January 15, a joint meeting of the Senate Judiciary Committee and the Senate Health, Human Services and Housing Committee, reviewed the recommendations of the court ordered task force on sex offender civil commitment.

The recommendations, [available here](#), provide a wide range of changes to the program, including how offenders are committed and how they are reviewed for release. The reception of the report at this hearing was generally positive with the senators noting that inaction on this issue could lead to adverse action from the federal judge considering the constitutionality of the program.

Transportation & Infrastructure

For more information, please contact: Abbey Bryduck, Policy Analyst

Governor Releases \$986 Bonding Proposal

Gov. Mark Dayton introduced a bonding proposal last week that would invest \$986 million in statewide projects. The money would be heavily invested in improvements to cities' downtowns, higher education, transportation infrastructure, state Capitol restoration, and clean water investments.

Highlights of the governor's proposal include:

- \$126M to complete the restoration of the State Capitol Building
- \$56M for renovations at the Minnesota Security Hospital in St Peter
- \$7M for the Sex Offender Treatment Facility in St Peter
- \$14.5M and \$37M for the Mankato (\$14.5M) and Rochester (\$27M) Civic Centers
- \$80M for asset preservation and replacement at MnSCU and U of M campuses

Transportation Recommendations:

For MnDOT:

- Local Bridge Program - \$30 million

- Local Road Improvement Program - \$10 million
- Greater MN Transit - \$1.1 million
- Highway/Rail Grade Crossing Warning Systems - \$2 million
- Willmar Headquarters - \$4.37 million (trunk highway bonds)
- Little Falls truck station - \$3.58 million (trunk highway bonds)
- Safe Routes to School - \$2 million
- Port Development Assistance - \$400,000.

For the Metropolitan Council:

- Arterial BRT (line A – Snelling/Ford and line B – W. 7th St.) - \$10 million
- Metro Orange Line (I-35W South BRT) - \$7 million

For Local Governments:

- Chisholm-Hibbing Airport - \$5 million
- Fosston reconstruction of 2nd St. - \$400,000
- International Falls – Koochiching County Airport - \$2 million
- Nicollet Mall Revitalization, Minneapolis - \$20 million
- TCAAP Redevelopment Transportation Funding, Ramsey County - \$29 million

MoveMN Public Launch Tomorrow

The **MoveMN** Transportation campaign will publically launch tomorrow (Thursday, January 23) at the State Office Building. AMC will have representation at the event. The campaign website went live this week, and can be accessed at <http://movemn.org/>

The **Move MN** campaign is dedicated to starting to erase Minnesota's transportation deficit by requiring that our current funding be more transparent and securing a comprehensive transportation funding package during the 2014 legislative session. AMC serves on the steering committee.

For any questions about this campaign, please contact Abbey Bryduck. If your county has not passed a resolution in support of the campaign, please consider doing so!

If you do not want to receive the UPDATE, please reply to this email with the word "REMOVE" in the subject line. Thank you.

**Association of Minnesota Counties | 125 Charles Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55103-2108 | Main Line: 651-224-3344, Fax: 651-224-6540
www.mncounties.org**

BOARD AND EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER

October, November and December 2013

Is it Over?

In 1988 President Reagan declared the "War on Poverty" over and the victor was poverty. At that time and even today at times, it may seem so. Poverty has shown itself to be a rather formidable opponent. One does not have to travel far, either in an urban or rural area, within our state to see the effects (if you don't see them, then you either aren't looking or just don't care to see) of those with limited resources and the consequences for all of us.

As we enter the 50th year of this battle to assure access for all to the bounty that this country has to offer, it would be easy to be discouraged to see that, despite the great efforts of so many, the doors to prosperity remain closed to so many. But I can tell you that despair is not in the make-up of those that I have had the pleasure to work with over the past 30 years. Quit is just not in us. And to say the cause is lost to those that see victory every day is just simply not seeing things for what they are. One cannot help but call to mind a more recent declaration of victory that was woefully premature. The war is far from over and a battle won is always just around the corner.

So, what does one do with this war that seems to have no end? It seems to me you continue to battle. There are certainly enough (never as many as we would like) victories to keep us moving forward. Forward is the direction we want to be going. Even in the darkest of times Lakes and Pines never went anywhere but forward. It is what we owe ourselves, what we owe those that fund us and certainly what we owe those within our community for whom we work.

Mission Statement

To build prosperous communities by serving local families and individuals in their pursuit of self-reliance.

Bob Benes
Executive Director



JAN 24 2014

Head Start Column

In early September, the Lakes and Pines Head Start Program was asked to use its Staff's expertise and begin writing a parenting column for the Isanti - Chisago County Star. The intent was to offer parenting advice but within an anecdote type format. This column is a compilation of stories from the parents who work within the Head Start Department. Using real life events can help all parents understand that some of the challenges of parenting are actually felt by most parents, and those who are in the field of Early Childhood are not immune to the adventures children can take us on. This column has expanded now to include the Kanabec County Times paper, and it runs monthly in both papers.

Here is a copy of the November column:

"My dad tells the story that on the first snow fall every year Grandma would make a chicken dinner. While my family didn't follow this tradition with the first snow fall, I still think of my Grandma in a very heartwarming way when the white wintery snowflakes begin to fall. Traditions are found around holidays, birthdays or even something as simple as the first snow fall of the season. Often families go through the traditions without even thinking what this might mean to their child. For some, it can become a burden as we rush children from event to event or possibly family to family. Traditions though, are what links us to our family. It tells children a story about who they are and what is important to this group of people. Traditions help children draw their identity of who they are and the place they hold within their family. Helping children understand your traditions in the midst of the chaos is important to their identity. So the next time you head out for a traditional family gathering or event, try some of these ideas to help lessen the burden and chaos. Offer transitioning time for your children. Give them enough lead time by setting a timer and giving verbal reminders that you are leaving in ten minutes. Bring snacks if your tradition includes outings where it may be lengthy time between meals. Try to, if at all possible, hold to your child's nap time. A tired, hungry child can make for a stressful family tradition. And lastly, take time for yourself. Especially this time of year when families are deep in tradition. If you aren't rested and renewed, it will take a toll on the whole family."

It is such an honor for Lakes and Pines' Head Start to be looked at as experts in the field. We hope the parents find this column as useful and entertaining to read, as we find it fun to write.



Head Start Annual Report

The Lakes and Pines' Head Start Annual Report for 2012-2013 consists of information regarding Head Start funding sources, recruitment and enrollment, monitoring reports, medical and dental services, parent involvement activities, and activities to prepare children for kindergarten.

This report is available to the public and can be obtained from the Lakes and Pines website (www.lakesandpines.org), or by contacting Becky Hanson at (320) 679-1800 ext. 138.

Energy Assistance Program (EAP) 2013-2014

The Energy Assistance Program (EAP) helps low-income Minnesotans receive assistance with their heating and light bills throughout the winter months in a dignified and respectful manner. EAP also works with households to build their self-sufficiency skills by referring them to other programs that can help them become more self-sufficient, which in turn helps to build prosperous communities.

This season's Energy Assistance Program opened October 1st, and runs through May 30th, 2014. As of January 4th, Lakes and Pines has received 6,255 EAP applications. EAP Certifiers are working hard to get all of the EAP applications processed in a timely and accurate manner. We have approved 4,443 applications, denied 268, and have 1,812 applications logged and waiting to be processed. Lakes and Pines has awarded \$3,019,222 to households in need with an average Primary Heat Benefit of \$678. Households can request that EAP applications be mailed to them directly or they can print them off of the Lakes and Pines website. Applications are also available at each county's Family Services Department within the seven county service area.



Crisis Program 2013-2014

When an eligible household is experiencing a heating emergency, crisis funds may be able to help. Crisis funds may be used if a household has a disconnect notice, is disconnected, is out of fuel or low on fuel. These funds help with emergencies up to a total of \$500, or four crisis events; whichever comes first. This quarter, Lakes and Pines has served 524 households in crisis with a total of \$154,812.

Energy Related Repair Program (ERR) 2013-2014



The Energy Related Repair (ERR) Program helps EAP qualified households who own their home with furnace repairs. If homeowners are eligible for Energy Assistance and are having furnace problems, this program may be able to help. If the homeowner is experiencing a no heat situation, ERR can fund a local contractor to repair or replace the furnace. As of December 28th, we have served 207 households with ERR services for a total of \$287,770.

ECE Caring Members

Caring Members is a program started by East Central Energy (ECE) in 1993, and administered by Lakes and Pines on their behalf. Caring Members funds are provided through donations by ECE customers. East Central Energy matches funds donated, doubling the amount available to help families in need. Caring Members funds help households with up to \$200 to resolve an energy crisis on their ECE account. Households do not have to qualify for Energy Assistance to receive Caring Members funds, but are responsible for a co-payment amount, which is 10% of the bill or what is needed over \$200, to pay the bill, whichever is greater. Caring Members funds are not used until the co-pay has been made.

Reach Out For Warmth

The Reach Out For Warmth Program continues to be an important resource for households experiencing an energy related crisis. Up to \$400 in Reach Out For Warmth funds are available once per lifetime to qualifying households.



To qualify, households must meet the following guidelines:

- Have an income at or below 60% of the state median income
- Have a current disconnect notice, be out or low on fuel (20% or less), or be disconnected
- Have a denial from their county Social Services Department
- Have a denial from Salvation Army Heat Share
- A completed Energy Assistance Program (EAP) application
- Income verification within three months
- Have an extenuating circumstance (*only needed if household has exhausted all EAP Benefits*)

The Reach Out For Warmth Program is funded solely through private donations. In December, Hope Lutheran Church of Moose Lake generously donated \$2243. We encourage anyone who is interested in donating to the Reach Out For Warmth Program to contact the Energy/Housing Department for more details.

Christmas Families

The Energy/Housing Department continued a tradition of “adopting” households that have been hit hard by unforeseen circumstances. Staff members donated gifts for the children, food, gift cards, clothing, blankets and more to four families within the Lakes and Pines service area. Staff members drew names to see who would deliver the gifts to households near McGregor, Cloquet, Pine City, and Princeton. Energy Housing staff worked hard to not only make Christmas better for these families, but to lessen their burden, even if only for a day.





Lakes and Pines Head Start Alumni Receives National Award

Each year the National Head Start Association (NHSA) sponsors scholarships and awards that are made available to Head Start staff and current and past Head Start participants. These scholarships and awards recognize achievements that parents, staff, and Head Start alumni have made throughout their life. First, nominations are received at the local program level. The nominations are then sent to the Minnesota Head Start Association Scholarships and Awards Committee for review. After selecting one nomination from each category, the applications are submitted to the regional level in Chicago. Minnesota Head Start is one of six states within Region V. Once all 12 Head Start Regions throughout the country make their selections, the nominations are sent to NHSA for consideration.

Lakes and Pines' Head Start is overjoyed to have a Head Start alumni be chosen at the local, state, regional, and national levels to receive the Helen Hollingshed Taylor Memorial Scholarship for Head Start Alumni. This scholarship targets individuals who reflect the values of hard work, educational determination, leadership, and who have graduated from high school and advancing to post secondary education. Tyler Zbytovsky, of Mora, Minnesota was chosen to receive this important scholarship and recognition. He received a commemorative plaque as well as financial assistance for his pursuit of higher education. Tyler started attending classes at Pine Technical College in the summer of 2013 in pursuit of his Associates in Applied Science degree in Automotive Technology. After receiving this degree, his future plans include completing the Diesel Mechanic A.A.S. degree at Alexandria Technical College.

Tyler attributes his success, in part, to the learning experiences, dedication, and consistency a Head Start Home Visitor provided during a time when his life was turned upside down due to a traumatic life-altering event. His story is shared below:

(Written May, 2013)

"I would like to share with you how Head Start made a difference in my life. I was like any other kid, my mom and dad signed me up for the Head Start Program and I was so excited to start school. I loved having my teacher Lori come to my house every week and enjoyed playing with other kids at the times when we all got together. Lori would come to my house and teach me things and we would have so much fun. Part way through the school year my mom died unexpectedly. My world was turned upside down. I was going through so many changes in my life. I had lost my mom and had gone from living with my mom and dad to living with my aunt, who became my legal guardian and raised me. There was nothing in my life that didn't change except my teacher Lori. She was the only thing that I knew as normal in my life at this point. I was able to continue on with Head Start and Lori was not only able to continue to come to my new house and teach me all kinds of fun things but she also helped me adjust to all of the new things that were happening in my life. At this point Lori was not only my teacher and friend, but she was the one thing in my life that did not change. She helped me through a very difficult time in my life and I will never forget that. Lori was more than just my teacher. The Head Start Program did not only help me get ready for Kindergarten but it taught me how to get through the tough things in life.

As I prepare to graduate from Mora High School in a few weeks and move onto college at Pine Tech, I reflect back to my experience in the Head Start Program and know that it has helped me in so many ways. I will never forget how the Head Start Program made such a difference in my life."

Congratulations to Tyler for receiving this scholarship! More importantly, congratulations on his school and life success, despite experiencing a very difficult life event.

To learn more about National Head Start Association Scholarships and Awards, please visit http://www.nhsa.org/scholarships_and_awards_2014.

For more information about the Lakes and Pines' Head Start Program, visit www.lakesandpines.org or call (320) 679-1800 ext. 138.

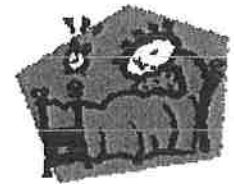
Hunger Free Minnesota

Hunger-Free Minnesota awarded the Lakes and Pines Area Food Resource Collaborative a grant to fight hunger in our communities. The Food Resource Collaborative is made up of representatives from local soup kitchens and food shelves, senior dining sites and senior service providers, county human services, churches, school food service directors, hospital dietitians, University of Minnesota Extension, farmers and Lakes and Pines Head Start and Community Services Departments.

The Food Resource Collaborative's intent is to make use of already existing but underutilized food programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Women Infant Children (WIC), school lunch programs, food distributions and community meals. The Collaborative's first effort will be collecting accurate information of all available food resources in Aitkin, Kanabec, Mille Lacs and Pine counties and have that information available on a user friendly website which will be regularly updated.

An additional effort will be reducing the stigma that sometimes goes along with using existing food programs. Too many times people in desperate need of food refuse to apply for existing food programs because they don't want family, friends or others to think badly of them. No one should embarrass someone because they're going through hard times and use available food resources for themselves or their children. If you are willing to fight hunger and help reduce area food insecurity, please contact the Community Services Department at 800.832.6082 option 4.

Programming Available for Homeless Youth



Recently, the Community Services Department was granted Homeless Youth Act (HYA) funds through the State of Minnesota's Department of Human Services Office of Economic Opportunity, to work with at-risk and or homeless youth. These funds have made it possible to work with youth and help them address their needs and locate and maintain affordable housing. This program will help provide these at risk and homeless youth with the resources and life skills that they need to become productive members of our communities.

One of Lakes and Pines' Advocates has had the opportunity to work with a young married youth couple who recently had a baby and moved into an apartment with only one income to pay the rent and other bills. Although money was tight, they were making ends meet, but barely getting by. Then, the husband decided to switch jobs to be closer to home and increase their income. By doing this however, they fell behind in their rent and they contacted Lakes and Pines for help. Lakes and Pines helped get them caught up on their past rent as well as being able to provide them with ongoing rental assistance which they reported has lessened the financial stress that they have been under. They reported, "Thanks to the help that we have received, we have been able to not feel so stressed financially." Through working with this youth family over the past two months, they have been able to get back on their feet financially little by little. They continue to make great strides in setting financial goals for themselves, for example paying off old debts and beginning to save each month. They also are working with Head Start, a recommendation of the HYA program and they report that is a great program for their son as well as for the mother, learning the basics to be the best mother she can be. They also have been working on a variety of goals such as paying rent on time, developing a bill payment calendar, developing a variety of ways to meal plan to save money, developing a savings and setting long term goals of one day owning their own home.

This program will grow and develop with each at risk or homeless youth that we can reach and serve. If you or someone you know is at risk or homeless youth please call the Community Services Department, Megan B @320-679-1800 Ext 161.



Like Us? Then please do, on **facebook**

Lakes & Pines Community Action Council is now on **facebook**! Become a fan and "like us"!

Worried about compromising your privacy?

You can adjust your privacy and page settings so the only thing we know about you is that you "like" us.

So what's the incentive?

Lakes & Pines plans to utilize **facebook** as an outreach source to spread the word about what we do, what resources are available and new programs, projects or events that are on the horizon. It will be a great way to receive updates, without having to do anything but "like" us.

How?

You first have to be a member of **facebook**. We're not encouraging anyone to join **facebook**, but if you already have, it's easy to become a fan. Just do a search for Lakes & Pines Community Action Council and then click "Like", it's that simple. Once you have "liked us", you will receive updates whenever something new is posted on our site, in your news feed.



Lakes and Pines & MNsure

As of December 1, 2013, Lakes and Pines is a MNsure grantee. Funding was awarded in the second round of MNsure funding in partnership with Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency and Kootasca Community Action. As a MNsure grantee and Consumer Assistance Partner the Community Services Department provides MNsure outreach, navigation and in-person application assistance throughout the seven county service area.

Three staff members are certified MNsure navigators and are available to assist with applications and for presentations to local businesses and civic organizations. Contact the Community Services Department for more information or to schedule a MNsure presentation.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) does help...

A Lakes and Pines staff member was at the Milaca Area Food Pantry doing SNAP outreach. She approached a woman who looked familiar and introduced herself, then asked if she currently received SNAP benefits. A big smile appeared on her face and she responded "Yes! I learned about it here a few months back. It did go down a bit this last month because of the stimulus ending." Her husband had been unemployed for a few months and she said "It's been great, and really helped our family immensely. Thank you so much helping me with the application and for all Lakes and Pines does!"

Community Services staff are available to provide SNAP outreach and application assistance. Staff can travel to area food shelves, senior dining sites, health fairs, community meals and are available at the Mora office too. Contact the Community Services Department to schedule a time we can bring SNAP information to you.



Volunteers Still Needed

Lakes and Pines Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program is again getting into the training mode and started on Thursday January 2nd, here at Lakes and Pines at 5:00pm – 8:00pm and Saturdays from 9:00am – 12:00pm. then continuing through the month.

We've gotten a few new hard working volunteers but we still are looking for more to assist in interviewing and preparing over 700 taxes this year.

If you or anyone you know would be interested in volunteering with an awesome group of folks bringing over a million dollars back into our local communities please contact Pam D. in the Community Services Department. You may call us at 800-832-6082 ext. # 185 or email: pamd@lakesandpines.org for more information.

Lakes and Pines Community Action Council Inc. 2014 Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program

Site Schedule

Day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Hours	No tax sites open	Milaca 11-3pm	Pine City 5-8pm	Mora 5-8pm	Pine City 12-4pm	Mora 9-1pm	Closed
Location	No tax sites open	Trinity Lutheran 735 2ND Street SE Milaca, MN	Pine City Library 300 5th Street SE Pine City, MN	1700 Maple Avenue E Mora, MN	Pine City Library 300 5th Street SE Pine City, MN	1700 Maple Avenue E Mora, MN	Closed

Applying for help can feel overwhelming.

Lakes and Pines Community Services staff can help you apply for SNAP-Food Support and health insurance through MNsure.

For more information, contact Lakes and Pines.

Community Services staff can help with pre-screening and application assistance.

**Contact Lakes & Pines Community Services
Department at 800-832-6082 Dial #4
www.lakesandpines.org
Self-sufficiency tab**



Head Start receives generous donations of winter clothing

Over the past couple of months, the Lakes and Pines Head Start Program received numerous donations of winter wear, both children's and adult, which will be passed on to families in need of coats, mittens, gloves, hats, and scarves. ~~Thank you to Anytime Fitness in Mora and Peoples National Bank of Mora who organized the winter clothing drives and donated the items to Head Start.~~ Also, a big thank you to Vern Heineman from Braham for knitting hats, mittens, and socks that he donated to Head Start. Especially during this frigid cold winter, coats, mittens, gloves, hats, and scarves are much needed! In total, 14 coats, 88 hats, 99 gloves and mittens, 15 scarves, 3 pairs of snow pants/bibs, 1 pair of boots, and 3 pairs of socks were donated. These donations are greatly appreciated and will keep Head Start children and parents just a little warmer this winter!



Left: Mariah Riedl from Anytime Fitness in Mora (right) presented the donation of winter clothing to Becky Hanson, Early Childhood & Family Development Department Director (left).

Right: Jodi Shultz from Peoples National Bank of Mora (right) presented the donation of winter clothing to Becky Hanson, Early Childhood & Family Development Department Director (left).





stands for "FOR YOUR INFORMATION." It is a quarterly newsletter provided to the area's seven county officials and personnel of Lakes and Pines CAC, Inc.

We hope our Newsletter will present you with timely, interesting, and sometimes lighthearted information. In turn, we hope that you will present us with your thoughts and suggestions.

For further information, please contact:

LAKES AND PINES CAC INC
1700 MAPLE AVE E
MORA MN 55051
320-679-1800
Toll Free 1-800-832-6082

Visit Lakes and Pines on the web:

www.lakesandpines.org

Like us on Facebook



For the Agency to continue this savings in postage, it is important to maintain current addresses on file. Please take a moment to review your address label and notify Lakes and Pines of any appropriate corrections.

If you are interested in receiving the FYI electronically in the future, please email: lap@lakesandpines.org.

CORRECTION IN MAILING ADDRESS

PLEASE PRINT:

NAME:

ORGANIZATION:

ADDRESS:

CITY, STATE, ZIP+4 DIGITS

Mail to: Agency Administration, Lakes and Pines CAC, Inc., 1700 Maple Ave E., Mora MN 55051-1227



564318566 0001

PATRICK MUSSOW
ADMINISTRATOR
AITKIN CO COURT HOUSE
217 2ND ST NE RM 130
AITKIN MN 56431

NONPROFIT STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
MORA MN
PERMIT NO. 29

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

LAKES AND PINES CAC INC

1700 MAPLE AVE E
MORA MN 55051

Handout
(Part of 4C)

Jefferson County, Wisconsin

County Administrator

Ms. Terri Palm, Human Resources Director
920-674-7103

Sibley County, Minnesota

County Administrator

Mr. Bill Pinske, County Commissioner
507-964-2250

Polk County, Minnesota

County Administrator

Mr. Chuck Whiting, County Administrator
218-281-5408

Comprehensive List of Public Sector Clients

A comprehensive listing of all Executive Searches from 2005 to present is available upon request.

6. Cost

Springsted's professional fee to provide all of the search services outlined above, including the guarantee, is \$12,500. This is the set fee and will not change unless additional services are requested by the County.

Out-of-pocket costs for this project, for such things including, but not limited to, advertising; background records checks; overnight messenger deliveries; and travel for what is expected to be four on-site visits, will-not-exceed \$1,500. The individual out-of-pocket costs will vary per search and our intent is to keep them to a minimum. All of these costs will be itemized within the invoice. The *not-to-exceed overall price* for the fee and out-of-pocket costs is \$14,000.

Handout
Add Item
4E

Attachment 8A

REQUEST TO ATTEND A CONFERENCE OR SEMINAR

(Please attach a copy of the conference or seminar description)

EMPLOYEE: SCOTT RIAN

DEPARTMENT: CLCC 1

SESSION TITLE: PICK UP CLIMBING WALL FOR ILLC

DATE(S): 1-28 FES depending on weather

LOCATION: OPP/ALABAMA NICEVILLE

CITY: _____

STATE: ALABAMA

ESTIMATED COSTS: 40 HRS WAGES - NO OTHER

DISCRETIONARY or REQUIRED: Recommended by the Health Fund Administrator, this conference will assist in my gaining an understanding of the Fund and Trustee responsibilities.

SIGNATURE: [Signature] 1-27-14
Employee Date

APPROVAL: [Signature]
Department Head Date

Copy of the certificate of training should be sent to the Human Resources Department to be placed in the employee's personnel file.



