



Behavioral Health

Mono County Behavioral Health Professional development effort - Team Mono spent two days in San Diego with the California Institute of Mental Health continuing their work on the Advancing Recovery Collaborative. Bertha Jimenez, Ellen Thompson, Shirley Martin, Debra Stewart, Annie Linaweaver and Robin Roberts represent the Behavioral Health department to further our integration with physical health and promote wellness and recovery for county residents. Health Care Reform is alive and well in Mono County and our work on this project allows us to continue to meet our mandates while providing connection, treatment and care in our communities.

CONTACT: Robin Roberts, (760) 924-1729

Clerk-Recorder-Elections

Elections Update - A follow up on our February mailing of 6,000 address confirmation postcards to all active registered voters in Mono County shows:

- ✓ 802 cards returned with corrections – these have been entered into the election database.
- ✓ Voters did not have to return their cards if all information was correct.

Registered voters will be receiving, in the near future, a copy of the Secretary of State's Official Voter Information Guide. This publication will give the voter an overview of voting in California, voter-nominated offices, non-partisan offices and a detailed review of the two propositions that will appear on the June 3rd ballot.

CONTACT: Linda Romero, Assistant Clerk/Recorder/Registrar, (760) 932-5534

Community Development

Tucker Sno-Cats – On Tuesday morning 30-some invitees from agencies, legislative offices, and the military arrived at Mountain Warfare Training Center along Sonora Pass for a Marine base tour set up by Doug Power, community plans and liaison officer.

From Mono County were Humboldt-Toiyabe District Ranger Jeff Ulrich and CDD staffers Wendy Sugimura and CD Ritter. After a command brief and buffet lunch, attendees clambered aboard three colorful Tucker Sno-Cats to travel high above the base via USFS road to observe trainees in action. Troops came from as far away as United Arab Emirate, and some had never even seen snow much less been on skis. A battalion from Hawaii in a "scout skier" course slowly ascended a long slope using herringbone technique, and then skied down one by one. Some did well, while others would need practice before eventually hefting 100-lb packs to train on steeper terrain. By midafternoon, winds picked up and clouds built toward much-anticipated snowfall. Later, troops returned to four-person tents on snowpack.



Hasta la Vista – A well-attended Wednesday meeting of the Long Valley Hydrologic Advisory Committee (HAC), known as Long Valley “Hack,” included representatives from Ormat, US Geological Survey, BLM, State Mines & Geology, Mammoth Community Water District, Sierra Nevada Aquatic Research Lab, Great Basin Air Pollution Control District, and Mono County, with Dan Lyster, Nick Criss, and Brent Calloway present. Details of the proposed groundwater monitoring plan were discussed, and a follow-up meeting was set for June. There was also discussion about the committee’s succession, as Dan Lyster presided at his final meeting prior to mid-April retirement as Mono County’s economic development director. He has served as chair ever since organizing Long Valley HAC 26 years ago. Best to Dan in his retirement!

Long Valley RPAC – The RPAC met Wednesday for a review of the Inyo Forest Plan update by Leeann Murphy, and John Helm of ESTA requested input on the community’s unmet transit needs. Brent Calloway reviewed the latest Housing Element update, Jim Leddy provided a budget brief, Garrett Higerd reviewed progress on the Rock Creek Road project, Courtney Weiche presented a planning update, and Supervisor Stump provided an update on BOS matters.

CONTACT: CD Ritter, (760) 924-1804

County Administrator’s Office

State Association of Counties asks for Conference presentations – The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) has extended to Mono County the chance to spotlight one its programs. Although CSAC’s Annual Meeting is still eight months away, CSAC is beginning to plan their program for the conference. They are currently accepting workshop proposals and requests for the 120th Annual Meeting set for November for Orange County.

If you have an idea you would like to share with us, please do so by Friday, May 16, by clicking on the link below and submitting the workshop proposal request form.

[Call for Workshop Proposals Form](#)

CONTACT: David Liebler, Deputy Director of Public Affairs & Member Services, (916) 327-7500 Ext 530 - California State Association of Counties (CSAC)

Toiyabe Health Clinic Dedication has banner turn out! –The Toiyabe Clinic had over 60 people attend to open to the facility in Coleville. The County had members of several departments in attendance including folks from Social Service, probation, Behavioral Health, Public Health, Paramedics and CAO to show our commitment to partnering. In addition, the Mountain Warfare Training Center leadership was present.

The New Clinic is a state of the art health center and community facility for all and is a great resource. Tribal Elders from across the region ranging from Bridgeport to Lone Pine were present and Tribal Chairman John Glazier welcomed the overflow crowd.

CONTACT: Jim Leddy, (707) 529-4510



Changing of the Sgt. Majors at Pickel Meadows – Along with Supervisor Fesko, I had opportunity to attend the transition ceremony for the changing of Sgt. Majors at the US Marine Mountain Warfare Training Facility. Nearly 200 people were present as Sgt. Major Jim Kirkland, who has 29 years in the Corps, handed duties over to Sgt. Major Steve Brunner.

Beautiful day up near Sonoma Pass and we welcome the newest member of the Mono County Community, Sgt. Major Brunner!

CONTACT: Jim Leddy, (707) 529-4510

Mammoth Health Care Alliance meeting – I attended the Mammoth Community Health Care Alliance meeting along with Lynda Salcido, Bill Van Lente and Shirley Martin and Robin Roberts. The group represents representatives of many large employers seeing to address growing issues in our community. Thank you to Melanie Van Winkle for inviting all of us to have this needed conversation about stronger coordination of services.

Contact: Jim Leddy, (707) 529-4510

Next month's Coffee with the CAO times set! – Thank you again to the employees who attended both coffees. The meetings are a great opportunity to receive feedback and share ideas about improving the organization. April Coffees will be:

North County Coffee with CAO

Thursday April 3rd, 8:00am to 9:00 or 9:30am
Bridgeport Memorial Hall, Bridgeport.

South County Coffee with CAO

Thursday April 10th, 8:30 am to 9:30am
CAO Conference Room at the Sierra Center Mall

CONTACT: Jim Leddy, (707) 529-4510

Next Strategic Planning Steering Committee April 3rd at Lee Vining Community Center

– Thank you to the 22 employees who participated in the Strategic Planning Steering Committee last night in Bridgeport!. Yet again, we had new faces at the meeting and their attendance is truly appreciated. We are getting ready for our all employee Strategic Planning Launch.



Tentative

SAVE the DATE – MAY 1st!

Tentative

Our tentative day for an all employee Strategic Planning Session – Stay Tuned as we will have this event and other opportunities for everyone to be involved. If you can't make May 1st we will have a great volunteer Strategic Plan Ambassadors' meeting with folks who can't attend!

The next meeting will be on April 3rd at 4:00pm to 6:30pm at the Lee Vining Community Center. Next meeting we are asking folks to attend and bring a fellow employee.

CONTACT: Jim Leddy, (707) 529-4510

Mono Innovation groups collecting ideas from across the organization – Attached to this Board Update is the compiled list of all of the ideas offered at those meeting as well as those received through the web address Innovationideas@mono.ca.gov.

Working with departments, we will start to review these ideas, and ultimately bring to the Board the ideas that can help address ongoing challenges. Take a look and send in your ideas as well or if you can, please attend our next meeting.



North County Mono Innovation Group

Wednesday, April 16th, 8:00 am to 9:00am
Bridgeport Memorial Hall

South County Mono Innovation Group

Thursday, April 17th, 8:30 am to 9:30 am
CAO Conference Room at Sierra Center,
Mammoth Lakes

CONTACT: Jim Leddy (707) 529-4510

Forest Services delays meetings on Forest Plan work – US Forest Services has sent out the following in a press release. The full release is attached to Board Update email.

“VALLEJO, Calif., March 27, 2014 – The U.S. Forest Service is postponing a series of public meetings scheduled for forest plan revisions on the Sierra, Sequoia and Inyo National Forests. These meetings were originally scheduled for April 7, 8 and 10.

The meeting for the Inyo National Forest was scheduled for April 10.

The Notice of Intent to prepare an environmental impact statement, which was previously scheduled to be published in early April, will be postponed as well. The Notice of Intent marks the beginning of the National Environmental Policy Act process.

Dates for the rescheduled meetings and Notice of Intent have not yet been set.

These meetings would have followed workshops the Forest Service hosted in January. At those workshops, the public provided feedback on the Forest Service’s preliminary Need to Change, Draft Roles and Contributions, and example Desired Condition statements. Those comments are being considered as we update these documents and move forward with plan revision work.

“We have heard from the public and our partners that they need more time to understand and engage with us on the Need to Change,” said Regional Forester Randy Moore. “By postponing these meetings we will provide more time to do so. We are committed to ensuring that the public remains engaged as we move forward with revising these three forest plans.”

For more information regarding forest plan revisions and new meeting dates, visit the Pacific Southwest Region's planning website at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/r5/landmanagement/planning>.

The Sierra, Sequoia and Inyo are three of eight national forests that were selected as "early adopters," meaning they will be the first to revise their land management plans using the new National Forest System Planning Rule, completed in 2012. The planning rule provides the framework for Forest Service land management plans across the nation.

CONTACT: Deb Schweizer, (760) 873-2427, debraaschweizer@fs.fed.us

Inyo County Service redesign continues at Inyo Board on March 25th – Thank you to Inyo County CAO Kevin Carunchio for his invitation to attend and be part of Inyo's Service re-design effort. On March 25th, the Inyo Board received a report on their efforts. Many of our departments have been participating since December in conversation on service redesign focused on maintaining and enhancing public services while cutting costs. Inyo's efforts although different than Mono's Strategic Planning work do offer us insight as to the many a challenge we face as governments as well as how we must recreate the services we provide.

The Tuesday Board meeting was a great check in and the Board Item was included with last week's Board Update. The times are a changing for all governments and we must embrace the opportunities they provide.

CONTACT: Jim Leddy, (707) 529-4510

Economic Development

Public Relations: Staff drafted and issued a press release yesterday regarding the upcoming Fishing Opener, emphasizing the county's commitment to stocking Alpers trout. Please see attached.

Mammoth Lakes Tourism also issued a separate press release regarding stocking:

<http://www.visitmammoth.com/articles/view/Desert-Springs-Trout-Farm-to-Stock-Trout-in-Mammoth-Lakes-this-Year/73/>

Media Coverage: Mono County received excellent Italian national television coverage March 23th on the Italian TV show "Kilimangiaro: com'è piccolo il mondo." Total viewership: 1,121,000. The media visit was coordinated by Visit California, and Bodie, Mono Lake, Mammoth Lakes and Death Valley were all covered extensively. Even if your Italian is rusty, you will enjoy seeing this! Our portion begins at minute 1.03.49:

<http://www.rai.tv/dl/RaiTV/programmi/media/ContentItem-4a93167e-3af4-4fa8-a2d5-212a1cecdf10.html>.

Consumer Travel Trade Shows: Jeff Simpson is at the **Fred Hall Fishing Show** in Del Mar this week and Dan Lyster is at the **San Diego Travel & Adventure Show**. Volunteers Chris Long and Pam Hamic represented Mono County at the **Reno Outdoor Expo** and said the show was slow on Friday but very steady throughout the weekend. Alicia Vennos represented the High Sierra Visitors Council at Visit California's **New York Media Event** – 88 qualified media attended. Staff is currently beginning work on the **California State Fair** exhibit design for July, but essentially the 2014 Trade show season will be over

after this weekend! We will have a report on total leads generated. Many thanks to local businesses who offered wonderful prizes which helped motivate folks at the shows to sign up to win at the Mono County booth – Whispering Pines Resort, Double Eagle Resort & Spa, West Walker Motel, and the Eastern Sierra ATV/UTV Jamboree.

Advertising/ENews: Spring fishing campaign is underway with ads in Western Outdoor News, Sierra Fisherman, and California Sportsman Magazine. The March E-Newsletter scored a 21.4% “open rate,” higher than industry average, with the most click-thrus/interest in the announcement of the West Walker being open for year-round fishing, and Air Service.

NPS Grant: Mono County Tourism was just awarded a \$3000 National Park Service grant to update the Yosemite East map/brochure which promotes Mono County attractions and activities as well as YARTS bus service to Tuolumne Meadows and the Valley. An additional \$13,000 was awarded to the Yosemite Gateway Partners as a group, of which Mono County is a member, to promote RV travel in the gateway communities around Yosemite.

The **Mono County Tourism & Film Commission** met on March 25 at the under-construction Antelope Valley Community Center in Walker. Along with many topics, the Commission discussed the Spring Open House for Tourism partners which will be held in May; details to follow.

Long Valley Hydrologic Advisory Committee: Dan Lyster attended his final Long Valley HAC meeting this week before retirement! Dan created the LVHAC 26 years ago and he has been the Chair throughout – the group will definitely feel Dan’s absence, but Brent Calloway from Community Development also attended and will step up to take over the reins.

Final Merced and Tuolumne River Plans: The Final Merced (MRP) and the Tuolumne (TRP) River Plans and EIS have been posted on the Yosemite website. MRP - http://www.nps.gov/yose/parkmgmt/mrp_finalplan.htm and TRP - http://www.nps.gov/yose/parkmgmt/trp_feis.htm.

CONTACT: Alicia Vennos, (760) 924-1743

Information Technology

New Exchange email server - A huge thank you goes out to Cameron Cary for all his work on transitioning the County to a new Exchange email server this past week. The server move was necessary to provide a more stable and modern email platform, and resolve some issues that were present with our old email server. The IT would also like to thank County staff for being understanding and patient over this past week as the mailboxes were being transferred to the new system.

Digital 395 site turn-up -Thanks to the diligent effort of Kirk Hartstrom, all of our Medic offices are now online with Digital 395. Next up will be the June Lake and Crowley Lake Sheriff Sub-stations, which we hope to get online in the next week or so.

June Lake monument sign - Steve Connett and Ryan Goode-Belli have been working with Supervisor Alpers and local June Lake community member Alice Suszynski on locating viable sites for a new June Lake gateway sign along Highway 395 near the June Lake Junction. Steve and Ryan have been working to

gather location information and produce maps for the effort that are facilitating discussions with CalTrans and the Forest Service.

CONTACT: Nate Greenberg, (760) 924-1819

Public Health

For those of you who do not know me, my name is Sandra Pearce, and I am the Maternal, Child & Adolescent Health (MCAH) Director at the Mono County Health Department. Every 5 years, the MCAH program is required to complete a community needs assessment, reviewing the health and wellness of women, children, and families in Mono County. Below you will find a link to a short survey. I hope you will take 10 minutes to complete this important survey, as your responses will help guide the future work of the MCAH program and improve the health of local residents. Please feel free to forward this survey to anyone you think may be interested in completing it, or work on it with a team, council, or collaborative. Thank you so much!

Sincerely,
Sandra Pearce

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MonoCountyHealthSurvey>

Or by going to:

<http://monohealth.com/mcah>

CONTACT: Sandra Pearce, (760) 924-1818

Would You Leave A Loaded Gun on the Floor? - If you have children in your home, hopefully you would not! However, a new threat to the health of our children is emerging. These are e-liquids, sold legally in stores and online in small bottles that may be carelessly and casually left around the house, used for the regular re-filling of e-cigarettes.

The danger is from the nicotine content in these vials of "juice". Children can happen upon a vial and ingest it. These fluids come in flavors and bright colors that are attractive for kids – cotton candy, cherry, chocolate, and bubble gum among others. In addition, nicotine is absorbed through the skin, presenting a risk from a broken vial.

Electronic cigarettes, called e-cigarettes, are drug delivery devices originally designed to look like regular tobacco cigarettes. Now they are larger reusable gadgets that can be refilled with liquid, generally a mixture of nicotine, flavorings, and solvents. It is estimated that roughly four million Americans use these battery powered devices. They have been hailed by proponents as a way for addicted smokers to get their nicotine fix without sucking in the thousands of carcinogens found in traditional cigarettes. However, the evidence of their effectiveness in assisting persons in weaning off their nicotine addiction is less than stellar. In addition, evidence is rapidly mounting that they are serving as a "gateway" for young teens into the world of nicotine addiction. A recent study found nearly 1.8 million youth had tried e-cigarettes, and the number of middle and high school e-smokers doubled in one year. No wonder the



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

industry targets the young who will be potential customers for decades to come! Their goal – to have the number of e-smokers quadruple in the next few years.

So how bad is the risk of exposure? Nicotine is a naturally occurring powerful neurotoxin, and in its potent liquid form, can be ingested or absorbed through the skin. Tiny amounts can cause vomiting, seizures, and even death. A teaspoon of even the highly diluted liquid can kill a small child.

A dose of 50 to 60 milligrams (mg) is potentially fatal for an adult; a 30 pound child could die from 1.36 mg. A vial of e-juice as commonly sold in retail stores is 17 milliliters, and with a 2.4% concentration would have 408 mg of nicotine. This year it is estimated that 1 to 2 million LITERS of liquid will be sold, much of it on the Internet. A liter of 10% concentration costs about \$110, a gallon \$195, and one company even offers a 55 gallon drum!

Nationwide, reports of accidental poisonings linked to e-liquids in 2013 jumped 300% from 2012, and is on pace to double again this year. Most cases are under the age of 4. A shop owner says that “We tell them that this stuff is poisonous. We do everything we can to protect the consumers, but at the end of the day, you leave a loaded gun on the floor, and your child gets hold of it, it’s not going to be the gun maker’s responsibility.” A CEO of e-cigarette franchises says ‘It’s the wild, wild west right now.’ There is no FDA regulation so far. So at the moment, if you are a user, your child has to go no farther than your own home to find a lethal dose of poison. Be aware of the risks, and keep vials out of reach. You are responsible for the safety of your children.

CONTACT: Richard O. Johnson, M.D., MPH, (760) 914-0496 or (760) 924-1828

Public Works

Crowley Community Center in Hot Water! - The Solar Hot Water portion of solar install at the Crowley Lake Community Center has been complete for 5 weeks and we were pleasantly surprised by the propane usage, thus far, which has been essentially zero. The system has produced enough hot water to supply both the domestic hot water needs as well as the hot water for the boiler.

According to the hour meter on the boiler it hasn’t needed to start once since the solar install! So, thanks to the ingenious work performed by our skilled boiler tech, Jason Davenport, who was able to devise a control system that fed hot water to both the storage tank as well as the boiler which allowed for this impressive result. The average propane use for a winter month is normally 225 Gallons. We will continue to monitor both the photovoltaic (electric) as well as the solar hot water (propane) and keep everyone apprised of the results.

CONTACT: Joe Blanchard, (760) 932-5443

Social Services

Only a Few Days Left to Enroll in a Covered California Health Insurance Plan - Covered California has confirmed that the State of California *will* stick with next Monday, March 31st as the deadline for open enrollment in its health insurance exchange. However, Covered California is committed to helping all those who started an online application to cross the finish line. While Covered California is not

extending its deadline for applying for a health plan, individuals who start an online application by 11:59 p.m. on March 31, 2014, will have until 11:59 p.m. on April 15, 2014, to complete their application and select a plan. Individuals may also visit their Social Services office in Mammoth, Bridgeport, or Walker to receive one-on-one help with applying.

We urge Mono County consumers to sign up before the deadline if they want to get affordable health care coverage *and* avoid a tax penalty. Next Monday, March 31st is a County Holiday (Cesar Chavez Day), however a small crew of Social Services staff members will stand ready at our offices from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm to help individuals sign up on this last day of open enrollment. Call 760/924-1770 for more information.

CONTACT: Francie Avitia, 760/924-1770

Senior Services Volunteer Program Launched - The Mono County Senior Program successfully launched a volunteer program to aid in the delivery of home delivered meals to seniors in Antelope Valley. Volunteers will deliver hot, nutritious lunch-time meals to the homes of homebound elderly or disabled clients who can no longer prepare balanced meals for themselves. Volunteers help deliver meals for approximately two hours every other Tuesday.



Antelope Valley resident Ned Welsh not only generously volunteers his time, he is generous with his praise for Senior Center Cook, Moises Cornejo! “Big props to Moises who performs this work with great attention, affability, and care to his clients. He’s a thorough and detailed (volunteer) trainer.”

Thank you volunteers! We are grateful for your time and talents in support of your community. If you are interested in volunteering to deliver meals to local residents, please call Megan Foster at 530-495-1262.

CONTACT: Megan Foster, 530-495-1262

Foster Parent Recruitment - The quest to recruit new foster care homes in Mono County continues! The next Foster Parent Orientation meeting will occur in Mammoth at the end of this month. Foster Parents are needed for long-term, as well as short-term care. Short-term care can consist of emergency overnight placement of a child, or just a few days, until alternative arrangements can be made. As the Foster Parent, you get to determine the level of support you are able to provide.



Make a difference in the life of a child!

Learn more by attending the upcoming Foster Parent Orientation Meeting, Tuesday, **April 29, 2014, 5:30 – 7:00pm Sierra Center Mall in Mammoth.**

CONTACT: Marlo Preis, 760/924-1793

March is Social Worker Appreciation Month - We are so grateful for the hard work and tireless dedication of all our Mono County social workers. These are the people holding the hands of children in our care who may be sad and going through hard times, helping families make ends meet through unstable times, and connecting individuals with community-based support services. Social workers encourage families and individuals to do better, even when they feel the weight of the world on their shoulders. In short, Social workers are a lifeline for so many children and families who have no one else to turn to. This day and every day, we thank our Social Workers!



CONTACT: Marlo Preis, 760-924-1793

Sheriff's Office

Weekend Hoops to support Coleville students – The weekend is almost here! Are you still trying to figure out the perfect plans, especially when the weather forecast is calling for another storm?

Here's an idea! On Saturday, March 29th, 2014, at 5:00 pm, join the Mono County Sheriff's Office and the California Highway Patrol as deputies and officers take on the Coleville High School boys' basketball team. That's right! It's cops versus kids in a friendly competition to raise money for the Coleville High School Booster Club.

Bring the family, have some fun, cheer for your "team," and support your local school. Remember, the game starts at 5:00 pm at Coleville High School (111591 Hwy 395). Come on out and support a great cause! We will see you on the courts!

CONTACT: Jennifer M. Hansen, MPS, (760) 932-5279