

Courthouse Journal

W W W . W A C O U N T I E S . O R G

Washington State Association of Counties
Washington Association of County Officials

November 3, 2000
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The Journal gets a new look

The *Courthouse Journal* may look a little different to you beginning with this edition. After several years of publishing in a column format both WACO and WSAC have teamed together to make some modern updates to the weekly publication. The nameplate has changed and includes the county web page address. It is also printed in color, teal green. An index is included on the front page and a window featuring stories of interest on inside pages.

There is a masthead on the second page indicating the frequency of publication and the address and phone numbers of both WACO and WSAC. Also included are the staff of both organizations with their titles so members may

contact them if there are questions about articles covering their program areas.

You will also notice that the format includes headlines and stories with a layout more similar to newspapers.

These changes are intended to make the *Courthouse Journal* easier to read and to allow more opportunity to use electronic data such as digital pictures, graphs and other aids that help tell a story. Our hope is to provide a timely, easy to read publication that will keep you informed on what is happening to counties and help provide information that will make your jobs easier.

We're excited about these changes, please let us know what you think.

WSAC Legislative Conference

Still time to register for conference

Don't miss the chance to register for the WSAC Fall Legislative Conference! The conference will take place November 15-17 at the Doubletree Hotel in Pasco. The registration form, draft agenda and hotel information are available on our website, <http://www.wacounties.org/wsac/legconf/>, or call WSAC staff member, Kim Zydek, if you need information or forms faxed to your office.

A highlight of the Legislative Conference program is a dialogue that will take place among governmental and private sector leaders exploring how we can all work together to affect long-term improvements for our communi-

ties. Barry Mitzman, host of "Serious Money" on KCTS-TV, will moderate this dialogue.

Participants in the Dialogue include Senator Alex Deccio, Kathy Wilcox, President and CEO of the Washington Software Alliance, DSHS Secretary Dennis Braddock and several other leaders representing public, private and community interests.

The Legislative Conference also will focus on transportation options for the 2001 Legislature and will include a discussion of the impacts of Initiative 722 – if it is enacted by the voters next week.

Election results on WACO web site November 8

The unofficial election results will be posted on WACO's web page for the November 7 state general election. The election returns will be collected from the county auditors on Wednesday morning, November 8, and will then be compiled by the WACO and WSAC staff in an easy to read format. To access the election returns simply go to www.wacounties.org/waco/

and click on the *Elections 2000 Information* button. The button will not be activated until November 8.

If you have any questions regarding the WACO web page, please contact Brenda Bamford at 360.753-7319 or e-mail her at bbamford@wacounties.org.

Large Task Force

SHB 2392 Task Force focus on Local Government financial reporting and criminal justice workload

The task force met at SeaTac on October 26th to hear presentations from the State Auditors Office, legislative data staff and the county and city associations. The Auditor's Office provided an overview of BARS. There was a discussion of the efforts to improve the quality of reporting and the consistency across jurisdictions. Legislators expressed frustration with the fact that BARS has emphasized financial reporting, not statewide local government programmatic or policy information.

Legislative staff from the Legislative Evaluation and Accountability Pro-

gram (LEAP) provided a demonstration of their local government data web page. You can view this site at <http://leap.leg.wa.gov/>. Click on Local Government Study Project on the left hand side of the page.

This system allows you to generate statewide total information for cities, counties and/or the state. The site uses State Auditor BARS data and eliminates double counts (such as county expenditures for jail costs funded by city payments for their misdemeanor prisoners). It also combines data into broad policy areas. For example the Auditor's site would report the courts under general government, but the LEAP site reports it as part of the Law and Justice area.

The WSAC and AWC presented information on criminal justice workload. We'd like to thank King and

Clark Counties for providing us with excellent graphic packages showing the growth of workloads in their counties. In addition, WSAC provided task force members with copies of the spreadsheet showing the combined impact of I-722 and unfunded I-695 on counties.

Several legislative task force members have asked to visit county jails to enrich their understanding of county jail issues. WSAC and WACO members should consider inviting their legislators to visit their jails. One point WSAC has tried to emphasize is the unique nature of jails and their booking operations.

If you arrange a legislative visit, you may want to consider arranging it for an evening shift when legislators can observe the intake operations of the jail in full operation.

If you have any questions, please contact Maureen Morris, WSAC staff.

The Courthouse Journal

The Courthouse Journal is published weekly by the Washington Association of County Officials (WACO) and the Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC).

We welcome your suggestions and contributions. The weekly deadline is noon Thursday.

Direct inquiries and correspondence to *The Courthouse Journal*, 206 Tenth Ave SE, Olympia, WA 98501-1131. Phone: (360) 753-1886. Fax: (360) 753-2842.

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Small Task Force

I-695 Backfill Funding Distribution

Task Force meets

This small task force including WSAC and AWC Executive Directors, Legislators (including the Budget Chairs), and the State Budget Director held it's final meeting at SeaTac on October 26th following the meeting of the SHB 2392 Task Force.

This task force was intended to review and improve, as needed, the funding distribution methods used in the 2000 Supplemental Budget.

WSAC has conveyed the county position as follows:

- We appreciate the assistance, but it covers barely half of county revenue losses. The total level of assistance needs to increase.
- In applying the 601 "fiscal growth factor" to future biennial, all counties should receive the inflation component of the factor. No county should lose funding as a result of the population factor. Counties with population growth should receive a proportional share of available growth dollars.

- Public Health backfill funding language should be amended so that the dollars cover 18 months beginning January 1, 2000 rather than July 1, 2000.
- Public Health funding should come from the Health Services Account if possible, but must be continued in any event, even if that means changing the fund source.

At its meeting the Task Force took a formal vote and endorsed the county and city positions on the distribution methods. The Legislative members had been very clear from the start that this task force would not consider any increase in the backfill funding beyond the 601 fiscal growth factor. That issue would be left to the SHB 2392 Task Force or the normal legislative process.

Legislative and executive members also warned that counties needed to stay flexible on the issue of the funding source for Public Health.

If you have any questions, please contact Bill Vogler, WSAC staff.

Project 2001 Committee issues final recommendations for Court Reform

The statewide Project 2001 committee, established by the state Board for Judicial Administration (BJA) to address court reform issues, has released its final recommendations for improving court services and efficiencies in Washington state. The BJA will forward to the 2001 Legislature those recommendations requiring legislative action. The full report and appendices may be accessed on the Web at <http://www.courts.wa.gov/projects/proj2001/>.

Among the group's 49 recommendations is one that urges against a complete merger of the existing levels of trial courts. A merger proposal was the focal point of a controversial court reform bill during the 2000 legislative session. Short of actual merger, Project 2001 recommends that all trial courts in each jurisdiction work together and with other stakeholders to develop a compre-

hensive system of "cooperation, coordination and collaboration." Project 2001 also recommends that the BJA seek legislative funding to help support local "trial court coordination councils," which would bring the stakeholders together to plan collaboratively.

The WSAC Legislative Steering Committee reviewed the Project 2001 recommendations at its October 27 meeting in Yakima. The steering committee took a position on 12 of the 49 recommendations and deferred action on three other recommendations. For the most part, the steering committee supported the court reform recommendations but took a position of concern about (1) proposed court rules that would increase the authority of presiding judges, and (2) a proposed study of the monetary levels that define certain property offenses. The steering committee

voted to oppose new qualification and training requirements for courthouse facilitators unless implementation of the new requirements is funded by the state.

WSAC participated in the five-month Project 2001 process at both the steering committee and workgroup levels. WSAC Vice-President Mike Shelton of Island County served on the steering committee and the trial court administration workgroup. WSAC Past-President Diane Oberquell of Thurston County served on the steering committee and the case management workgroup. King County Councilmember Larry Gossett served on the jurisdiction and portability workgroup, and Kitsap County Commissioner Tim Botkin served on the domestic relations workgroup.

If you have any questions, please contact Sophia Byrd, WSAC staff.

UW Fiscal Policy Center releases analysis of I-745

Many local officials have been working to understand the interaction of various ballot measures in their communities. The Fiscal Policy Center at the University of Washington has released an analysis looking at the interaction of I-695, I-722 and I-745 in each county and statewide.

The report includes a single page

summary for each county (combining all jurisdictions). The analysis tries to capture the impact of I-745's requirement that 90% of transportation expenditures be directed to roads and the shifts and reductions that would require in current expense budgets. The report uses the "worst case" scenario from the State Office of Financial Management

(OFM) impact analysis of I-745.

We sent the link out to Commissioners, Councilmembers, Executives and many others the day the report was released. If we missed you and you need the link, analysis can be found at <http://depts.washington.edu/fpc/>.

Training Opportunities

Avoiding Employment Liability

November 29, in Olympia or November 30, Wenatchee
For all county officials, department heads, and supervisors
Presented by WACO and the Washington Counties Risk Pool

Medicolegal Death Investigations Training

November 29-December 3 or Vancouver January 8-12, Port Angeles
For county coroners, medical examiners, and law enforcement
Presented by the Washington Association Of Coroners and Medical Examiners, Forensic Investigations Council, and Criminal Justice Training Commission

Registration Forms and Course Descriptions attached to the back of the Courthouse Journal.

NO REGISTRATION FEES!

DNR proposes huge increase in management fee for state trust lands

An increase of 59% proposed to the Governor and Legislature.

Facing a big bill for road maintenance due to the higher standards resulting from the Forest and Fish Agreement, the Department of Natural Resources is proposing to ask the Governor and Legislature for the authority to increase its management fee on state trust lands to up to 35 percent, effective July 1, 2001. The current fee is 22 percent; up to 25 percent is authorized by statute currently.

DNR estimates that the road work

required by the Forests and Fish Agreement will cost \$240 million over the 15 years in which the work must be completed. A 35 percent management fee would bring in approximately \$30 million for the 2001-03 biennium. The increase will reduce revenues for counties with DNR timber land and for school construction.

For Your Information

How the Electoral College works

There is often confusion surrounding the Electoral College and how it actually works. We found this on the Federal Election Commission website and thought it might be of interest to you. For more information on the Federal Election Commission visit www.fec.gov.

The current workings of the Electoral College are the result of both design and experience. As it now operates:

Electors chosen

Each State is allocated a number of Electors equal to the number of its U.S. Senators (always 2) plus the number of its U.S. Representatives (which may change each decade according to the size of each State's population as determined in the Census).

The political parties (or independent candidates) in each State submit to the State's chief election official a list of individuals pledged to their candidate for president and equal in number to the State's electoral vote. Usually, the major political parties select these individuals either in their State party conventions or through appointment by their State party leaders while third parties and independent candidates merely designate theirs.

Members of Congress and employees of the federal government are prohibited from serving as an Elector in order to maintain the balance between the legislative and executive branches of the federal government.

After their caucuses and primaries, the major parties nominate their candidates for president and vice president in their national conventions traditionally held in the summer preceding the election. (Third parties and independent candidates follow different procedures according to the individual State laws). The names of the duly nominated candi-

dates are then officially submitted to each State's chief election official so that they might appear on the general election ballot.

November

On the Tuesday following the first Monday of November in years divisible by four, the people in each State cast their ballots for the party slate of Electors representing their choice for president and vice president (although as a matter of practice, general election ballots normally say "Electors for" each set of candidates rather than list the individual Electors on each slate).

Whichever party slate wins the most popular votes in the State becomes that State's Electors-so that, in effect, whichever presidential ticket gets the most popular votes in a State wins all the Electors of that State. (The two exceptions to this are Maine and Nebraska where two Electors are chosen by statewide popular vote and the remainder by the popular vote within each Congressional district).

December

On the Monday following the second Wednesday of December (as established in federal law) each State's Electors meet in their respective State capitals and cast their electoral votes-one for president and one for vice president.

In order to prevent Electors from voting only for "favorite sons" of their home State, at least one of their votes must be for a person from outside their State (though this is seldom a problem since the parties have consistently nominated presidential and vice presidential candidates from different States).

January

The electoral votes are then sealed

and transmitted from each State to the President of the Senate who, on the following January 6, opens and reads them before both houses of the Congress.

The candidate for president with the most electoral votes, provided that it is an absolute majority (one over half of the total), is declared president. Similarly, the vice presidential candidate with the absolute majority of electoral votes is declared vice president.

In the event no one obtains an absolute majority of electoral votes for president, the U.S. House of Representatives (as the chamber closest to the people) selects the president from among the top three contenders with each State casting only one vote and an absolute majority of the States being required to elect. Similarly, if no one obtains an absolute majority for vice president, then the U.S. Senate makes the selection from among the top two contenders for that office.

At noon on January 20, the duly elected president and vice president are sworn into office.

But what if...?

Occasionally questions arise about what would happen if the presidential or vice presidential candidate died at some point in this process. For answers to these, as well as to a number of other "what if" questions, readers are advised to consult a small volume entitled *After the People Vote: Steps in Choosing the President* edited by Walter Berns and published in 1983 by the American Enterprise Institute. Similarly, further details on the history and current functioning of the Electoral College are available in the second edition of *Congressional Quarterly's Guide to U.S. Elections*, a real goldmine of information, maps, and statistics.

National News

President Clinton signs HR 2389, "Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000"

Monday morning President Clinton signed HR 2389, the "Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000," sponsored by the National Forest Counties and Schools Coalition and supported by Washington's Timber Counties.

With reductions in timber harvest over the last 10 years, overall payments to states and counties have dropped 36 percent. In addition, current payment amounts are highly variable since they are tied to fluctuating and controversial timber sales. For the last two years the Administration has proposed to increase, stabilize, and make permanent payments to States.

H.R. 2389, "Secure Rural Schools And Community Self-Determination Act of 2000" would provide the rural counties an increased and predictable level of funding for local schools and roads by providing approximately \$1.1 billion above current payments over the next five years.

The bill provides counties with the option to receive the current 25 percent payments and the 50 percent payments for O & C counties (based primarily on highly fluctuating receipts from timber sales) or H.R. 2389's dependable, predictable payment (full payment amount) based on the average of the State's high three payments between fiscal year 1986 and fiscal year 1999.

This bill would also strengthen the connection of communities to the land and water that sustains them. Counties that elect to receive H.R. 2389's full payment amount are required to allocate 15-20 percent of their funding for investments in county projects or for forest projects that implement stewardship objectives to enhance forest ecosystems, or both. The bill establishes resource advisory committees to recommend forest projects to the Secretary or to advise counties on county project proposals.

Every two years, counties will be allowed to choose to continue to receive a distribution under current law (25% fund and 50% O&C lands payment) or to receive a payment based on H.R. 2389's full payment amount. The full payment amount is adjusted annually by 50% of the consumer price index. Once

a county chooses the full payment amount, such election shall be effective for all subsequent years through FY 2006.

If counties choose to receive a distribution of the full payment amount, then all counties receiving more than

"Once a county chooses the full payment amount, such election shall be effective for all subsequent years through FY 2006."

\$100,000, are required to reserve 15-20 percent of their payment for special projects (federal land), county projects, or to return 15 percent of their portion of the State payment to the General Treasury.

The National Forest Counties and Schools Coalition intends to have information on the amount of funding available to each county on its website by Monday, November 6, 2000. Check www.forestco.tede.tehama.k12.ca.us.

County Projects

County projects include: search and rescue, community service work camps, easement purchases, forest related education opportunities, fire prevention and county planning, and community forestry.

Federal Land Projects

With federal land projects, at least 50 percent of the projects shall be road maintenance, decommissioning or obliteration; or restoration of streams and watersheds. There is also a pilot project that would begin in FY 2001 that requires the Secretary concerned to ensure that 15 percent of federal land projects involving merchantable material shall be implemented using separate contracts to harvest and sell material. This percentage of merchantable projects implemented using separate projects ramps up

to 25 percent in FY 2002 - FY 2003, and to 50 percent in FY 2004 - FY 2006.

Federal land projects can be on federal land, or on State or private lands, where projects would benefit federal land resources. Revenues generated from project funds are deposited in the general Treasury.

Advisory Committee

H.R. 2389 also requires the Secretary to establish resource advisory committees to review projects proposals and make recommendations to the appropriate Secretary and advise counties on county project proposals. The Secretary or the Secretary's designee will make the appointments. Balance of interests is ensured by requiring equal representation from industry, local schools and county representation, and from environmental groups. There will be two county commissioners on the advisory committee. Committee representation is patterned after BLM resource advisory councils. Committee project recommendations require two-thirds majority from each of the environmental, industry, and local categories of committee members. The committees would comply with requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA).

In addition, the FY 2001 Interior Appropriations bill establishes an advisory committee to develop recommendations to Congress regarding long-term solution to ensure States and counties receive adequate federal payments for the benefit of public education and other public purposes. The committee has 18 months to provide recommendations to Congress. This committee was part of H.R. 2389 as introduced.

If you have any questions, please contact Paul Parker, WSAC staff.

Ask MRSC: What is the MRSC Inquiry Service?

Some of you are new to county government and may not be familiar with the inquiry service provided by the Municipal Research and Services Center (MRSC). For others of you, this is a reminder that we are here to serve you. Our goal is to provide information and professional advice, which is timely, and responsive.

The Municipal Research & Services Center is a non-profit, independent organization created in 1969 to continue programs established in 1934 under the Bureau of Governmental Research at the University of Washington. Our programs are cooperatively funded out of a small portion of the cities' distributions of the Liquor Board profits and the counties' distribution of the Liquor Excise tax. Funding of the Center is provided through a biennial contract with the Municipal Research Council, a state agency.

One of MRSC's principal services is to respond to questions from counties on virtually every facet of local government. This program is called the MRSC Inquiry Service. Essentially, MRSC provides a "Help Desk" to any county elected official or employee seeking information and advice about a local government matter – hence our Court House Journal column, "Ask MRSC." You may request assistance by phone, mail, fax, or E-mail. MRSC's hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., but you may

also leave phone messages and send E-mail to MRSC after hours. There are no charges for MRSC's services. Because of the funding arrangement, all cities and counties have in essence already paid for using MRSC.

Staff experience includes budgeting and finance, municipal law, public management and administration, planning and growth management, public works and utilities, and local government policies. Our professional staff has access to extensive electronic databases, a record of previous research, and a special library collection which can be used to analyze your issues, give you advice, and provide useful information. If MRSC doesn't have the answers, we may be able to refer you to someone who does. MRSC serves 279 cities and 39 counties. An average inquiry (7857 last year) requires one to two hours of professional staff analysis and research. Consequently, MRSC does not have the capacity to take on long-term or extensive research projects for individual counties or cities.

MRSC takes pride in our rapid response to your inquiries. When you call or e-mail the Center, our receptionist will route your inquiry to the staff member best able to address your question. Be sure and let us know of your timing needs. Often your question will be answered the day of your call. If a consultant is not immediately available, you can

leave a detailed request on voice mail. A staff member will call you back as soon as possible -- generally the same day unless you call late in the afternoon.

Our Web site also contains extensive local government information, particularly on frequently requested or "hot topics." It is available 24 hours a day at <http://www.mrsc.org>.

To request assistance: Phone: (206)-625-1300 or (800)-933-6772 if a toll call. Fax: (206) 625- 1220. E-mail: mrsc@mrsc.org. Mail: Municipal Research & Services Center of Washington, 1200 5th Avenue, Suite. 1300, Seattle, WA 98101-1159

Public Health Seattle & King County posts restaurant closures

The Department of Public Health – Seattle & King County posts information on their website (www.metrokc.gov/health/foodsfty/) about restaurants that have been closed for violating food-safety rules.

The website also offers information about food safety for consumers and business owners. Dr. Alonzo Plough stated that the purpose in posting restaurant closures online is to keep the public informed about food safety problems at local restaurants. "Safe food handling practices – whether in restaurants or at home – are essential to preventing food-borne illness," Dr. Plough said. Restaurant closures are based on health risk, including high numbers of violation involving improper food-handling practices, or presence of imminent health hazards. Inspectors monitor approximately 10,000 food establishments and about 1500 temporary food booths throughout King County. They typically close about 100 food service operations each year until their food safety problems are corrected.

The Web page will be updated daily, Monday through Friday. Notices of closures will remain online for one week after the restaurant is reopened. The public health department plans to begin posting restaurant inspection reports online in early 2001.

Good Things

San Juan County website wins award

The San Juan County website was awarded a "Digital Government Award of Excellence" on November 1, 2000.

The award is made by GovNetworks.com (<http://www.govnetworks.com>), an organization dedicated to the mission "to reshape governance and help public sector organizations in the transformation that has begun with the advent of the Internet and e.Government based services".

The award and information about it can be found on the home page of the San Juan County web site: <http://www.co.san-juan.wa.us/>

The following is a portion of an e-mail sent throughout the county by

Bruce McDanold, IT Manager of San Juan County.

"Congratulations to All!

"Our home page now sports the certificate prominently. We are also featured on the home page of GovNetworks.com. See <http://www.govnetworks.com>.

"This achievement could not have happened without the dedication of each of the web content authors who regularly contribute material that keeps our site interesting and compelling to our citizens.

"Thank you all --- We Deserve It!"

*Bruce McDanold, IT Manager
San Juan County*

Highlights of the DSHS budget as it goes to the Governor

At the last Legislative Steering Committee, it was noted that it was sometimes difficult to make a decision on individual DSHS proposals that affect county social services without knowing their context within the full DSHS budget proposal as submitted to the Governor.

It is important to note that the Governor may choose to not take any of the proposed reductions, may take different reductions, or even choose to add funds in different areas.

The Governor requested 2% reductions from every agency in their budget submittals for the 2001 – 2003 biennium. Generally speaking, the proposed reductions from DSHS are not especially directly harmful to counties except in mental health. This is not to say there are not any that won't negatively impact our local communities.

The agency proposals for reduction are listed at the end of the article.

These proposed reductions total approximately \$121 million. When federal match is added, the total is approximately \$139.7 million.

On the plus side, DSHS is requesting a total of \$181 million in state funds in additional performance level and policy level packages. When federal match is added, the total is approximately \$277.3 million. Of particular interest to counties are packages in developmental disabilities to reduce case management ratios, increase community protection services and transi-

tion programs, expand transitional medical for working disabled and vocational rehabilitation programs. There are also packages to decrease caseloads for workers in children's programs and aging and adult services. The Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse was successful in having packages go forward in increased methadone funding, methamphetamine treatment, inpatient beds in Eastern Washington, and other service expansions. There are also packages to fund a secure residential treatment program for the Special Com-

mitment Center and improvements in foster care. And finally there are maintenance level caseload increases of \$1.6 billion in all funds which, include additional caseload funds for mental health non-medicaid inpatient services.

The next iteration of a DSHS budget will be as contained in the Governor's Proposed 2001-2003 Biennial Operating Budget which will be released in early to mid-December.

If you have any questions about the DSHS budget proposal as submitted to the Governor, please contact Jean Wessman, WSAC staff.

Proposed Reductions

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| 1. Eliminate non-emergent adult dental services and optical to adults on Medicaid | (\$41.1m) |
| 2. Expand the federal hospital Proshare program and replace state general funds with federal medicaid dollars | (\$41.4m) |
| 3. Implement a therapeutic substitution program for drugs and pilot project for disease management of high-risk cases | (\$ 3.3m) |
| 4. Reduce secure crisis residential center beds | (\$ 5.1m) |
| 5. Reduce family support services for families of persons with developmental disabilities | (\$ 1.6m) |
| 6. Expand estate recovery and change annuity requirements for state-paid long-term care clients | (\$ 5.9m) |
| 7. Reduce staff-secure group homes | (\$ 2.1m) |
| 8. Consolidate residential habilitation center cottages and administration at institutions for persons with developmental disabilities | (\$ 3.6m) |
| 9. Reduce non-care related costs in nursing homes | (\$ 6.3m) |
| 10. Eliminate mental health inpatient emergency pool | (\$ 4.7m) |
| 11. Reduce mental health non-medicaid funding | (\$ 3.9m) |
| 12. Make RSNs responsible for dual Medicare/Medicaid inpatient | (\$ 1.5m) |

Innovations in American Government Awards available

The Ford Foundation, the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, and the Council for Excellence in Government are announcing the availability of the yearly Innovations in American Government awards.

The Innovations Program has been a significant force in identifying and promoting excellence and creativity in the public sector. Through its annual awards, the Program provides concrete evidence that government deserves greater trust because it can and does work to improve the quality of life for citizens. Most of the award-winning

programs have been replicated and some have served as forerunners to state and federal legislation.

Winners in the 2001 competition will receive \$100,000 for replication activities. For additional information and application forms and requirements, contact Cathleen Sarkis or Kara O'Sullivan at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, 617-495-0557. Applications are due Friday, January 12, 2001 or by e-mail by January 19.

To be eligible, a program must involve a fresh approach to a problem of significant concern to a portion of the American people and:

- 1) be administered under the authority of one or more governmental entities;
- 2) be submitted by the government agency responsible for the innovation;
- 3) been implemented before January 1, 2000;
- 4) be able to document that government provides at least half the funding; and
- 5) demonstrate that the program has progressed significantly towards the achievement of its stated goals.

New web site funded by DSHS

DSHS has started up a new website called BrainNet in an effort to enhance early childhood learning and brain development. This fits in with the presentations we had at the Summer Convention in Chelan in 1999 especially

from Robin Karr-Morse.

The site was initiated in response to recent research that shows how responsive infants and toddlers are to mental stimulation. It offers tips to parents, teachers and other caregivers. Online

information includes the importance of playing, listening, talking and reading with preschoolers.

The web address is www.brainnet.wa.gov.

Pierce County's King Center launches Supportive Housing Project

The King Center, located in Tacoma, has launched the Supportive Housing Project this past October. The Center is a nonprofit organization helping homeless, unemployed and poor people. The Project provides affordable housing and services for 10 people experiencing mental health challenges. Federal and county grants fund the program.

The Project will support each individual for up to two years and provide rent support, case management, mental health programming, transportation assistance, and support services such as procuring basic household furnishings, life skills training and referral to other agencies as necessary.

Furnishing the 10 apartments with

basic utensils and furniture is the current project. Donors can help through a registry at Target Stores in Pierce County. The list of household essentials is available under the name Ki Sup in the bridal registry. For additional information, the King Center can be reached at 253-383-1585.

New NorthSound RSN administrator named

On October 5, the NorthSound Board of Directors announced the selection of Charles R. Benjamin as the Executive Director for the RSN. Chuck is now Director of the Whatcom County Health and Human Services Division. He will start at the RSN on November 13.

Chuck has a Master's Degree in Community Services Administration from Alfred University, New York, and

over 10 years experience in community services administration. He is not a newcomer to the RSN currently representing Whatcom County as an alternate member of the Board of Directors. He is also Chair of the RSN Quality Management Oversight Committee and a member of both the RSN Planning and Personnel Committees.

We're delighted to welcome Chuck to the ranks of RSN Administrators and

look forward to working with him over the next several years. He's accepted a challenging responsibility which, we feel confident he is capable of meeting.

We also want to thank Sharon Lucas for her excellent work as the Interim Director. Unfortunately we may be able to keep her employed in various RSNs as personnel moves on to meet different challenges and opportunities.

Coming Events

November 8

Conference 2000 Justice Information Network, sponsored by the Washington State Law and Justice Advisory Council and the Washington State Department of Information Systems, Bell Harbor International Conference Center, Seattle, www.wa.gov/dis/jin/jin2000.

November 13-16

WASPC (Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs) Annual Fall Conference, Cavanaugh's, Yakima.

November 14

WCRP (Washington Counties Risk Pool) Autumn Board Meeting, Doubletree Hotel Pasco.

November 15-17

WSAC (Washington State Association of Counties) Annual Legislative Confer-

ence, Doubletree Inn, Pasco. See www.wacounties.org/wsac/legconf/ for more information.

November 15

WSAC (Washington State Association of Counties) Legislative Steering Committee Meeting, Doubletree Hotel Pasco.

November 15

WCIF (Washington Counties Insurance Fund) Board of Trustees meeting, in conjunction with WSAC Legislative Conference, 10:00-noon.

November 15-17

ACHS Meeting, Tri-Cities.

November 28

Medicolegal Death Investigation Training, sponsored by the Forensic

Investigations Council, the Washington Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners, and the Criminal Justice Training Commission, www.wa.gov/cjt/regional.html.

December 7-8

WAPA (Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys) Annual Winter Meeting, Summerfield Suites, Seattle.

December 12-14

WSAC (Washington State Association of Counties) New Member Seminar, Phoenix Inn & Suites, Olympia.

January 4-5

WACO (Washington Association of County Officials) Board of Trustees Meeting, Washington Counties Building, Olympia

Employment Opportunities

THURSTON CO AUDITOR'S OFFICE is accepting applications for **INTERNAL AUDITOR**. The Internal Auditor is a management position, responsible for independently analyzing, evaluating, and reporting internally on Thurston County's systems of fund accounting, financial accountability, and internal financial controls. This position provides highly responsible analytical and system support, including contract and legal compliance auditing. This position is operationally part of the Auditor's Office, reporting to the Deputy Auditor of Finance, but receives its policy directions from the Internal Audit Committee.

Minimum Qualifications: Bachelor degree in Accounting or related field. Three years experience in auditing of financial accounting. Substitutions for the above qualifications include: Certified Internal Auditor (CIA) and/or Certified Public Accountant (CPA), knowledge of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles or Generally Accepted Auditing Standards, ability to work cooperatively and diplomatically with department and agency managers and staff. Successful candidates will have strong communication and interpersonal skills. Monthly starting salary is \$3,819 to \$5,092. (D.O.Q.)

Application Procedures: Applications will be accepted until November 10, 2000 at 5:00 p.m. Obtain and complete a Thurston County employment application form along with a resume and submit it to the Information Desk, Building #1, Thurston County Courthouse, 2000 Lakeridge Drive SW, Olympia, WA 98502-6090 by 5:00 pm, November 10, 2000. Applications are available both at the Information Desk in Building #1 of the Thurston County Courthouse and on line at www.co.thurston.wa.us/.

The Washington State **DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY'S WATER QUALITY PROGRAM** is filling a **SECTION MANAGER** position in the Northwest Regional Office located in Bellevue, Washington. This position manages a multidisciplinary staff of 40 and a biennial budget of ap-

proximately \$4.7 million directed toward water quality protection and restoration work throughout northwest Washington. The position directs a professional staff responsible for making regulatory decisions through permits and enforcement actions, delivery of educational programs, and providing technical assistance to businesses, local governments, and others. The salary range is between \$60,000 to \$66,000/year. If you are interested in this position, please contact Julie Ruster at 360-407-6448 (e-mail at jrus461@ecy.wa.gov to obtain an application packet. Application packets must be post-marked or received by close of business on November 30. Ecology is an equal opportunity agency. For special needs, call Department of Ecology at (360) 407-6186 or TDD (360) 407-6206.

GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY Public Health & Social Services has an opening for a **PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE MANAGER** for client and clinical services with a beginning monthly salary of \$4,019. Minimum qualifications with complete job description and application may be obtained from GHC Management Services, 3rd Floor Admin. Bldg., Suite 33, P.O. Box 790, Montesano, WA 98563, (360) 249-4144 or at www.co.grays-harbor.wa.us. Closing: November 15, 2000 at 5:00 pm or until filled. Grays Harbor County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

The **YAKIMA COUNTY PLANNING** Department has one opening for a **LONG RANGE PLANNING SUPERVISOR**. Annual Salary Range: \$38,408—\$54,761, salary currently under review.

This position offers unique and rewarding opportunities for professional growth. Yakima County offers merit based pay-for-performance incentives along with annual wage increases and a comprehensive benefits package.

Our rapidly growing SMSA is one of the largest in the state and includes Yakima County and

its fourteen cities and towns. Planning is accomplished under the 1990 Washington State Growth Management Act and Yakima County's adopted comprehensive plan. The selected candidate will perform a wide variety of professionally rewarding work including a mix of urban, rural and environmental planning issues, public contact and a real opportunity to positively influence the process of growth and development.

Requirements - (Education and/or Experience): Equivalent to a Bachelor's Degree in Planning or related field and five years of increasingly responsible professional planning experience including one year of supervisory experience. Experience with ARC/info, ARC/view and WA State land use and environmental law are desirable. Long-range planning experience is required; additional current and environmental planning experience is preferred. The successful candidate will have team building and extensive citizen involvement work experience, excellent computer, people, communication and organizational skills.

Description of duties: The Long Range Planning Supervisor will lead the Long Range Planning Section and perform professional planning, administrative and supervisory tasks related to special projects and comprehensive planning. This person will be involved with complex and highly visible long range projects, environmental policy, urban, resource and rural lands issues, neighborhood planning, regulatory reform, capital facilities and concurrency planning, housing and intergovernmental coordination.

Closes December 1, 2000. Apply to Yakima County Human Resources, 128 N. 2nd Street, Courthouse Room 412, Yakima, WA 98909, (509) 574-2210. E-mail: human.resources@co.yakima.wa.us

PIERCE COUNTY has an opening in the **CIVIL DIVISION, TORT LITIGATION SECTION** and is accepting applications from attorneys with more

than five (5) years civil trial experience. Municipal law experience preferred. Submit resume by Friday, November 10, 2000 to Prosecuting Attorney John W. Ladenburg, 930 Tacoma Avenue South, Room 946, Tacoma, WA 98402. FAX: (253) 798-6636.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SEEKS MANAGER, Tobacco Prevention & Control Program. The Department of Health seeks to hire a Program Manager for the Tobacco Prevention and Control Program. This position is responsible for managing the Tobacco Prevention and Control Program. Tobacco prevention and control is the Department's first priority. This position would manage a \$17 million budget and supervise 11 staff positions. Significant public scrutiny is focused on the program and there are high expectations for measurable outcomes. Demonstration of sound judgment in prioritizing issues and utilizing limited resources is essential. The position is ultimately responsible for developing goals and direction and assuming responsibility for effective implementation and evaluation of programs. Long range vision, critical thinking and political astuteness are position requirements. The salary range is \$47,616 – 60,936 and the position is located in Olympia. For more information should contact Crissi Ratzel at the Department of Health. Her e-mail address is: crissi.ratzel@doh.wa.gov.

CLALLAM COUNTY, SENIOR PLANNER. Salary Range: \$38,483.28 - \$46,776.60 (Hiring range to \$42,427.80)

The Clallam County Department of Community Development is seeking a candidate who has knowledge of principles and practices of local government planning; terminology, laws, rules, ordinances and regulations related to public planning; fundamental mathematics and statistical methods; presentation and meeting facilitation methods, and team building concepts.

This position requires a Bachelor's Degree in planning, environmental planning, public

(Continued on page 10)

Employment Opportunities

(Continued from page 9)

administration or related field and three years of progressively responsible planning experience, with one year of project management and/or supervisory responsibility. A Master's Degree in planning, natural resources, transportation planning or environmental science may be substituted for one year of general experience.

Applications and Supplemental Questionnaires will be evaluated on the basis of past experience and training. Those rating the highest on the evaluation screening will be scheduled for a personal interview.

Application packets may be obtained by contacting the Clallam County Department of Personnel and Risk Management at 360-417-2528. The deadline for applications is November 22, 2000 at 5:00 PM or until position is filled.

CLALLAM COUNTY, BUILDING OFFICIAL. Salary Range: \$44,670.00 – \$54,296.64 (Hiring range to \$49,248.72)

The Clallam County Department of Community Development is seeking a full time Building Official who has working knowledge of the field of assignment sufficient to perform thoroughly and accurately the full scope of responsibility as illustrated in the full County job description.

This position requires five years of increasingly responsible experience of a supervisory, administrative or professional nature in the design, construction, and inspection of public, commercial, industrial and residential buildings. Thorough competency and extensive knowledge of the principles and practices as applied to codes enforcement. A Bachelors Degree in construction technology, construction management, engineering or related field is preferred, but specific experience in the administration of Building Codes will be considered in lieu of a degree. Certification as plans examiner and building inspector is required. Additional certifications and work experience may be substituted for a portion of the education being asked for. Certi-

fication as a building official is required within one year of hire.

Applications and Supplemental Questionnaires will be evaluated on the basis of past experience and training. Those rating the highest on the evaluation screening will be scheduled for a personal interview.

Application packets may be obtained by contacting the Clallam County Department of Personnel and Risk Management at 360-417-2528. The deadline for applications is November 30, 2000 at 5:00 PM.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DIRECTOR, Whatcom County Health and Human Services Department, Bellingham, WA, seeks an individual to direct the administration of the Health and Human Services Department.

This position is accountable for the efficient and effective performance of four divisions - Administration, Community Health & Wellness, Environmental Health, and Human Services which form the Department. This position requires a master's degree in public health or public health administration or a related field AND 6 years progressively responsible related experience including 3 years of management/supervisory experience, OR equivalent. Hiring range: \$65,196 - \$73,236/annually, DOQ.

The application period for this position closes December 4, 2000. For required application packet contact Whatcom County Human Resources, 311 Grand Avenue, Suite 107, Bellingham, WA, or call (360) 676-6802. For detailed job announcement visit our website at www.co.whatcom.wa.us or call the jobline at (360) 738-4550. Equal Opportunity Employer.

The **TACOMA-PIERCE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT** is seeking an **EPIDEMIOLOGIST II**. Salary range: \$48,276 - \$61,796/Annually. They are seeking to fill an epidemiologist II/lead with qualitative and quantitative epidemiology experience, and skill in program impact evaluation.

The Epidemiologist II will work with a small group of colleagues in providing epidemiol-

ogical support, assessment, evaluation and analysis along with database consulting to a prevention focused health department with highly active source protection, communicable disease, family-based nursing, adolescent and population-based prevention efforts.

Supervisory experience is desired. A Master's degree in a health care related field, and five year's related experience. Refer to the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department's website for a full job description and qualifications at www.healthdept.co.pierce.wa.us or contact the Office of Human Resources at (253) 798-6486 for more information or to request application materials.

PROGRAM COORDINATOR, Community Assessment. Whatcom County Health & Human Services Department, Bellingham, WA. \$18.47-\$20.33/hr., DOQ. Conducts community needs assessments. Collects & analyzes health data. This position requires a BA or BS degree in nursing or environmental health, including coursework in epidemiology AND 3 years of progressively responsible experience conducting needs analysis, data analysis and report writing in a variety of public or community health service programs, or equivalent. **Closes 11/20/00.** Application available at (360) 676-6802, M-F 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Bellingham, WA. Call our Job Line: (360) 738-4550; or visit our website at: www.co.whatcom.wa.us for details. Equal Opportunity Employer.

THURSTON COUNTY, RISK MANAGER, Employee and Administrative Services. Closing date: November 24, 2000. Salary: \$3,868—\$5,157.

Supervises the Risk Management division of the department. Plans, directs, coordinates and provides advice on risk finance/insurance, claims management and risk control programs. Interfaces with department managers and elected officials in the process of designing ways to reduce exposure to loss, developing policies, procedures and processes for handling risk management functions, and supervising worker's compensation. Works closely with the Prosecuting Attorney's Office. Requires Bachelor's De-

gree in business, public administration, or closely related field. Five years of risk management experience, including experience with insurance, claims and risk control, including two years of significant supervisory experience.

Submit resume and letter of interest in addition to Thurston County Application. Applications are available online at www.co.thurston.wa.us/thurston, at Info Desk, Building 1, Thurston County Courthouse, 2000 Lak-eridge Drive SW, Olympia, WA 98502, or by calling (360) 754-3800 or TDD (360) 754-2933. Application must be submitted/postmarked by closing date.

THURSTON COUNTY, HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER, Employee and Administrative Services. Closing date: November 24, 2000. Salary: \$3,980—\$5,307.

Supervises the Human Resources division of the department. Provides services to the County including classification and compensation plans, benefits programs, performance management programs, development and interpretation of personnel policies and procedures, testing, recruitment and selection, and ensuring administration of Affirmative Action, Equal Employment Opportunity, Americans with Disability Act and other related laws and regulations. Requires Bachelor's Degree in business, psychology, public administration, or closely related field. Five years of Human Resource experience, including experience in benefits, compensation and classification, and recruitment and performance management, including two years of significant supervisory experience.

Submit resume and letter of interest in addition to Thurston County Application. Applications are available online at www.co.thurston.wa.us/thurston, at Info Desk, Building 1, Thurston County Courthouse, 2000 Lak-eridge Drive SW, Olympia, WA 98502, or by calling (360) 754-3800 or TDD (360) 754-2933. Application must be submitted/postmarked by closing date.