



The National Association of County Administrators

Idea Exchange

NACo Annual Conference

Franklin County/Columbus, Ohio

Sunday, July 23, 2017

12:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Greater Columbus Convention Center, Room Union Station A

List of Attendees:

Jurisdiction/Organization	Name	Jurisdiction/Organization	Name
County of Alameda, California	Susan Muranishi	County of Minnehaha, South Dakota	Carol Muller
County of Brown, South Dakota	Gary Vetter	County of Palm Beach, Florida	Todd Bonlarron
County of Cabarrus, North Carolina	Mike Downs	County of Pottawatomie, Kansas	Lisa Kenworthy
County of Cass, North Dakota	Robert Wilson	County of Pottawatomie, Kansas	Robert E. Reece
County of Contra Costa, California	David Twa	County of Riverside, California	George Johnson
County of Dallas, Texas	Darryl Martin	County of Rowan, Kentucky	Dr. Walter Blevins
County of Delaware, Ohio	Ferzan Ahmed	County of Sonoma, California	Sheryl Bratton
County of Dorchester, Maryland	Jeremy Goldman	County of St. Clair	Tina Morgan
County of El Paso, Colorado	Brian Olson	County of Stearns, Minnesota	Michael Williams
County of El Paso, Colorado	Henry Yankowski	County of Waseca, Minnesota	Jessica Beyer
County of Franklin, Ohio	Kenneth Wilson	County of Wayne, Ohio	Patrick Herron
County of Franklin, Ohio	Kris Long	County of Williamson, Tennessee	Rogers Anderson
County of Hinds, Mississippi	Carmen Davis	County of Yates, New York	Robert Lawton
County of Inyo, California	Kevin Carunchio	eCivis	Ryan Baird
County of Iron, Michigan	Gene Smith	ICMA-RC	Gregory Dyson
County of Jefferson, Florida	Gene Hall	NACA/ICMA	Rita Soler Ossolinski
County of Johnson, Kansas	Hannes Zacharias	NACA/ICMA	Robert C. Donnan
County of King George, Virginia	Neiman Young	NACo	Dr. Emilia Istrate
County of Loudoun, Virginia	Tim Hemstreet	NACo	Tadas Pack
County of Marion, South Carolina	Tim Harper	NACo	Matthew Chase
County of Maui, Hawaii	Kelly T. King	The Ferguson Group	Bill Ferguson
County of McHenry, Illinois	Peter Austin	The Ferguson Group	Roger Gwinn

➤ Introduction & Guest Speakers:

- Peter Austin, outgoing NACA President, welcomed members and guests
- Friends of NACA are given the floor
 - ICMA-RC
 - Gregory Dyson, ICMA-RC, introduced ICMA-RC's strategic plan and highlighted ongoing research with the Center for State & Local Government Excellence (SLGE) and the National League of Cities (NLC).
 - With support from ICMA-RC, SLGE is developing a database for pension plans and benchmarking so that local governments can see how they are performing for retirement preparedness compared to other jurisdictions.
- Robert Reece, NACA Past President, reviewed the Nominating Committee's report and reviewed nominees for the NACA Executive Board.
 - Peter Austin made a motion to except the committee's nominees
 - David Twa, NACA Vice President, seconded the motion
 - The motion passed unanimously
- Newly elected NACA President, Hannes Zacharias, thanked Peter Austin for his support and enthusiasm for NACA and the profession, noting his focus and success in advancing NACA events at NACo and ICMA events and expanding corporate partnerships.
- Rita Soler Ossolinski, NACA staff, introduced the proposed NACA budget to the Executive Board and general membership.
 - Gene Smith, NACA Board Member, made a motion to pass the budget
 - Peter Austin seconded the motion
 - The motion passed unanimously
- Dr. Emilia Istrate, NACo, discussed NACo's intention to expand its target audience to all aspects of county government (i.e. not just elected officials) and commenced a live poll on performance measurements.
- Hannes Zacharias opened the floor for discussion.

Topics:

1) Preparing for Federal Changes

- Proposed healthcare legislation
 - County A
 - Currently premiums are going up, but uninsured rate in the county dropped by half due to the ACA. Insurance markets are hinting that premiums will be going up in preparation for an increase in uninsured rates based on current legislative proposals.
 - County B

- Medicaid cuts or state control complicates the funding of county-operated nursing homes, leaving them to consider relinquishing control of a nursing home to a third party.
 - County A – Given the issues with operating a nursing home, there do not seem to be many prospects for relinquishing control of county-operated nursing homes. Also, current legislative proposals may further dictate how funding can be used at the local level.
- County B
 - Many counties are anticipating the promised infrastructure bill that may include funding for fiber-optic projects that would allow counties to bring broadband to rural areas.

2) Grants Administration

- Representative, The Ferguson Group/eCivis
 - Reminds attendees that eCivis offers services to NACA members at a discounted rate.
 - Since 2008, many counties have eliminated grants services due to budget constraints. States distribute grant funds on a formula basis, now creating more competitive elements to the grant allocation process. Likely, this process will become increasingly complicated. Inquires as to how counties account for grant revenue in their budget process.
- County A
 - The main trouble with budgeting grant money is that the process is competitive. Also, local and federal budget processes are on different fiscal year schedules.
- Representative, The Ferguson Group/eCivis
 - Research indicates that local governments tend to get the same amount of revenue via grants, even if the grants vary from fiscal year to fiscal year due to the competitiveness.
 - Another issue counties may face is compliance issues, which may lead to audits and fund reimbursements.
- County B
 - Previously, their county had to repay a grant because compliance required contracts to be written in accessible language(s). A prominent language used in the county is Pennsylvania Dutch (a variant of the German language), which no grant writing or legal organization provides.
- County C
 - Experienced issues with grant-funded projects 35 years after initial funding due to FAA regulation and compliance variations.
- County D

- Grant requirements can oftentimes be unrealistic or unattainable. For example, special grant funding for disaster relief has time constraints that smaller communities cannot meet.
- County E
 - The feast and famine nature of grants can lead to sustainability issues. For example, larger communities can adapt but smaller communities can be left behind.

3) Replacement of Election Equipment

- County A
 - The county needs to replace \$2.5 million of election equipment. The equipment previously purchased is becoming unsustainable and replacement is now necessary. The county is contemplating whether it is worth the investment of replacing the equipment now or if waiting for a federal program that would support the purchase is worthwhile.
- County B
 - County is facing the same issue and recently held a meeting with neighboring counties to see if a joint purchase is possible.
- County C
 - Counties were promised refunds from the state government, then denied funds after purchase due to state-level changes.
- County D
 - Voting machines in the county are fine but they are having trouble keeping the software up to date. They are currently exploring the possibility of obtaining legal agreements from manufacturers to maintain the software.
- County E
 - Software maintenance agreements would be useful given the concerns over voter tampering via internet connections.

4) Other Issues and Concerns

- County A
 - The county is currently looking for ways to build grassroots campaigns to combat the opioid epidemic.
 - The county is having difficulty finishing the supply of access to broadband internet and is looking to push for the internet to be reclassified as a public utility.
- County B
 - The county is currently looking to spend ~\$100 million to add beds to jails for mental health needs.
 - The definition of sanctuary communities and potential implications are still up in the air.

- There is a persistent misconception that the legalization of marijuana will be a boon to local economies. Consumer counties do not see the benefits that grower counties do.
- County C
 - The county is currently experiencing issues with affordable housing and an agricultural downturn. They attract too many tourists, which drags down industries for residents.
- County D
 - Finding funding for mental health issues and disaster relief can be difficult, especially in rural areas.
- County E
 - Shifting markets have left indeterminate futures for industries like agriculture.
- County F
 - Population booms have put a massive strain on the county's infrastructure and the state control of major roadways has left the county dependent on state action to help resolve issues faced by the community.
- County G
 - Due to neighboring industries and housing costs, the rural county is expecting a boom in its retired population. They need to make infrastructure improvements and are currently looking to attract a private partner to develop the natural gas infrastructure. However, due to the small population and cost of the project, they are having trouble attracting a partner.
- County H
 - The county is having difficulty retaining employees due to the draw of larger, neighboring counties that can offer more competitive salaries. Also, strong employment has led to a smaller pool of candidates.
- County I
 - Working with neighboring counties and other jurisdictions is key to developing the economy and dealing with serious issues. For example, they recently started a comprehensive opioid task force and strategy to help combat the opioid epidemic in their region.