

Friday, May 20, 2022



VACo releases 2022 Legislative Summary



www.vaco.org

The <u>Legislative Summary</u> details the actions of the 2022 General Assembly. It also includes information on legislation of interest to counties.

This edition contains links to bills through the General Assembly's Legislative Information System and includes studies and statistics of importance to counties.

Read VACo's 2022 Legislative Summary

VACo Contact: Legislative Team



Enter the VACo 2022 Achievement Awards



Dear VACo Members -

It's time for the 2022 Achievement Awards Program. Any county department is eligible to compete so ENTER NOW!

Achievement Awards Submission Form

All entries are required to be submitted in electronic form. No paper copy submissions are necessary. The electronic copy should be a PDF or WORD file. Email entries to Gage Harter at <u>gharter@vaco.org</u>. Submissions must be received by July 1, 2022.

Last year, <u>we processed 102 entries</u> and selected 30 winners from 19 Counties. VACo presented awards at 19 Board of Supervisors Meetings, recognized winners at the 87th Annual Conference, and issued a news release to statewide media.

The judges for the 2022 Achievement Awards will be announced soon.

VACo has received close to 1,000 entries over the past decade. Last year's Best Achievement winner was Henrico County for its "Equity Ambassadors" program.

VACo encourages all Counties, big and small, to enter the 2022 Achievement Awards Program. Please contact **gharter@vaco.org** with questions or for more information.

Achievement Awards Submission Form | Achievement Awards Website | 2021 Achievement Awards Press Release | Browse all of the 2021 Entries | Past Achievement Award Winners

COUNTY NEWS

Prince Edward County mourns the loss of longtime Supervisor and public servant Bobby Jones



Robert M. Jones District 201 (Lockett) Supervisor

Bobby Jones was born at Southside Community Hospital on May 5, 1959. His family has resided in Prince Edward County since the 1700's. Jones graduated from Prince Edward Academy in 1977. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Dairy Science at Virginia Tech in 1981. That year, he returned to the family dairy farm and bought it from his parents. He had been the owner of Poor House Dairy since then. Jones' father served on the school board for 20 years and, like him, Jones also wanted to serve the county. In his free time, he enjoyed watching Virginia Tech sports and spending time with his family.

Statement on the Passing of Board of Supervisors Member Robert M. Jones, Lockett District

"Today (May 16), the Board of Supervisors and County staff are deeply saddened by the great loss we have experienced in Prince Edward County," said Odessa H. Pride, Ed.D., Chair of the Prince Edward County Board of Supervisors. "Supervisor Bobby Jones spent much of his adult life in service to the citizens of Prince Edward County. He will be missed by many, for many reasons. The loss of his unwavering love and support of the County of Prince Edward, his district and his constituents will be deeply felt."

Robert M. Jones will be remembered in Prince Edward County for over twenty-one years of service on the Prince Edward County Board of Supervisors and thirty-six years of service on the Prince Edward County Planning Commission. Jones was the longestserving, current member of the Board of Supervisors, having represented the Lockett District since January 2000. He was subsequently re-elected five times to the Board and served one term as chairman.

Statement from County Administrator Doug Stanley

"Supervisor Jones will be sorely missed by the Prince Edward County community that he dedicated his life to serving. He was an staunch advocate for the agricultural community as well as a valuable member of the County's Finance Committee. I want to thank him for his guidance and support in helping me transition to Prince Edward County. His historical knowledge of the County, particularly Planning Commission activities over the past 30+ years, cannot be replaced."

<u>Commission on Youth Begins Study of Juvenile</u> <u>Detention Centers</u>

As part of its 2022 work, the Commission on Youth is undertaking a study of the effectiveness and efficiency of Virginia's juvenile detention centers, an effort that was sparked by the declining numbers of children housed in juvenile detention centers as a result of recent reforms focused on diverting youth who are involved in the criminal justice system into less restrictive settings. The <u>study plan</u> adopted by the Commission earlier this year points out that the decline in youths committed to juvenile detention centers is expected to continue and that potential savings could be achieved by consolidating facilities. The Commission convened an Advisory Committee to assist with the study; VACo's Executive Director, Dean Lynch, is serving on the Committee, which held its first meeting on May 19.

Elizabeth Spinney, Policy Analyst for the Commission on Youth, provided an <u>overview</u> of the study plan and the current status of the juvenile detention system. Juvenile detention centers serve youth who are predisposition (awaiting resolution of their cases) and post-disposition. Some detention centers also contract with the state to house youth in Community Placement Programs or other contracted placements. The majority of youth in detention centers are pre-disposition, and the average length of stay for those youth is 27.8 days. Average daily population for all detention centers in 2021 was below capacity (JLARC noted in its 2021 study of the juvenile justice system that only about 30 percent of capacity is currently being used), although several juvenile detention center directors pointed out that true capacity, as measured by staffing levels, is lower than capacity as measured by the number of certified beds.

While total detainments as well as average daily population have fallen significantly between 2012 and 2021, state spending on juvenile detention (which funds educational services and a portion of operational costs) has not declined. JLARC estimated that \$7-14 million in state funds could be saved by consolidating facilities; however, a variety of factors, such as the age and remodeling needs of facilities, the availability of treatment space, and distance from the communities that would be served, required further exploration before recommendations could be made regarding which centers could be consolidated. Moreover, the detention centers are locally or regionally owned, and the operational costs are largely shouldered by localities.

A panel of juvenile detention center directors – Chesterfield County Superintendent Marilyn Brown, Fairfax County Superintendent Jason Houtz, and Rappahannock Juvenile Detention Center Superintendent Carla White -- provided their perspectives on the role of juvenile detention centers and the unique challenges they face in serving children in all phases of the juvenile justice system. Children are admitted into detention at any time of day, often with behavioral, educational, and medical challenges, such as a history of trauma, inconsistent school attendance, mental health conditions, and medical conditions requiring medication management, among other factors. Detention centers may house co-defendants (who must be separated) or juveniles awaiting transfer or a residential placement, and may house pre-dispositional juveniles for a few days, or post-dispositional youth for several years. Panelists pointed out that the complexity of the population served means that a ratio of staffed beds to average daily population may not be an accurate reflection of facility capacity. In addition, panelists pointed out that there are advantages to detention centers housing youth close to home, as the centers are embedded in their local communities and have partnerships with local law enforcement, Community Services Boards, schools, and social services, and are aware of other community resources to assist youth. Panelists discussed the importance of having flexible space that can accommodate changing facility needs, such as quarantine housing during the pandemic, for example. Lastly, panelists presented information on factors contributing to increases in operating costs for detention centers, including inflation and starting salary increases to assist in recruiting staff.

The Advisory Committee is scheduled to hold two meetings over the summer in advance of a planned report to the full Commission in early fall.

VACo Contacts: Dean A. Lynch, CAE, and Katie Boyle

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TOURISM



Visit Arlington County and the Arlington County Courthouse

Location: 1425 Courthouse Road / 14th Street North Built: 1991–1994 Style: Modern Architect: Hanson Lind Meyer Design Contractor: Ellinwood + Machado

Description: The two buildings face west and are thirteen story concrete and glass structures. The buildings are located in the center of Arlington. The buildings are a post-tensioned concrete flat slab design. The windows are vertical with panels between the stories. The west side of the courthouse section has a glass paneled center section. The roof lines are flat. On the south side is the Arlington County Courthouse with main entrance on the north side facing a plaza between the buildings. The building houses the County Circuit Court, County General District Court and County Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court of the 17th Judicial Circuit. On the north side of the plaza is the Arlington County Justice Center (Jail).

SOURCE: American Courthouses | Courthouses.co

IT'S TIME TO HIT THE ROAD FOR THE... VACO 2022 REGIONAL MEETINGS

IN-PERSON MEETING

REGIONS 2&3 - MAY 23 | HENRICO REGIONS 6&9 - JUNE 9 | AUGUSTA REGIONS 5&7 - JULY 12 | FLUVANNA REGIONS 1&4 - TBA | DINWIDDIE REGIONS 10&11 - TBA | FRANKLIN REGIONS 12&13 - TBA | RUSSELL

VIRTUAL MEETING

REGIONS 6&7&8 - TBA



VACo's Associate Membership Program is the most efficient and cost-effective way to showcase your company to decision makers from Virginia's 95 counties. This access can play a major role in your marketing efforts, and it benefits counties by identifying potential suppliers in a broad range of services. See how these four VACo Associate Members can help your county.



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nterprise

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Bobby Jocz Senior Developer Phone: 540.229.1116 Email: bobby.jocz@suntribesolar.com Website: www.suntribesolar.com VACo Page Link <u>Children's Services Act Workgroup on Special Education</u> <u>Discussing Recommendations for Potential Transfer of</u> <u>Private Placements to Department of Education</u>



Virginia Systems of Care Website

Scott Reiner, Executive Director

A stakeholder workgroup tasked with examining the use of Children's Services Act (CSA) funding to support special education needs met again on May 19. The group was created by legislation that passed in 2021; the bill directed the workgroup to develop a detailed plan for the transfer of CSA private day school and residential placement funding to the Department of Education, as well as to make recommendations on the use of CSA funding to support students with special educational needs within public school, to include the use of CSA funds to avoid out-of-school placements, as well as the most effective use of CSA funds to transition students from out-of-school placements back to public schools. The workgroup has been meeting since summer 2021 in advance of a November 1 report deadline.

At this week's meeting, the workgroup received a presentation from Montgomery County Public Schools on the school division's inclusive framework for serving children with disabilities. Through a set of supports developed over time, including a low student-teacher ratio, professional development to assist teachers and school staff in working with students with disabilities, family engagement efforts, and both in-house and contracted Board-Certified Behavior Analysts, the school division successfully serves most of its special education students within the school division. In FY 2021, Montgomery County placed only five children in private day placements out of approximately 1200 special education students.

Dr. Samantha Hollins, Assistant Superintendent at the Department of Education, and Tracie Coleman, Director of the Office of Special Education Finance and Budget, provided an overview of a funding

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mechanism housed at the Department of Education that supports special education services for students with high-level needs. The Students with Intensive Support Needs Application (SISNA) process has replaced the Regional Tuition Reimbursement Program, which was established in the 1970s to assist school divisions with serving children with certain disabilities that were not widespread at the time but required assistance that would stress some school divisions' resources. The Regional Tuition Reimbursement Program was restructured after a 2015 study so that each school division would have an opportunity to apply for funds. Under the new SISNA process, school divisions identify students who meet the eligibility requirements and apply for funds on a reimbursement basis; the Department of Education works with the school division to determine whether it would be more advantageous for the school division to receive a payment under SISNA instead of standard per-pupil funding (the Local Composite Index is also applied to SISNA payments). SISNA reimbursements are funded by a line-item allocation in the budget; although this allocation is capped, as of yet, the Department has not run out of funding.

The SISNA briefing was followed by group discussion of the presentations as well as discussion of a preliminary plan for the transfer of CSA private day and residential special education placement funding to the Department of Education, which was circulated to members earlier in the week. The plan proposes the following:

- The transfer of funding would be implemented beginning July 1, 2024.
- Sum-sufficiency for students with disabilities placed in private schools would be maintained.
- CSA match rates, not the local composite index, would continue to be used for these private placements.
- CSA funds would be transferred to VDOE at the highest amount expended in the last five years for private special education placements and the new special education transitional services.
- Special education wrap-around funding would remain with the Office of Children's Services (these funds support children's needs that extend beyond the school setting and threaten the student's ability to be maintained in the home, community, or school setting).
- VDOE would address procedures and staffing needs to support the new functions.

With respect to the use of CSA funding to support service delivery within public schools, the preliminary plan recommends exploration of expanding the disability categories covered by SISNA payments. The preliminary plan recommends collection of more data on the utilization of the new transition services funding. As the preliminary plan had been circulated two days before the meeting, work group members requested additional time to review its contents. The work group's next meeting is June 21.

VACo Contact: Katie Boyle

Gloucester County Appoints Carol Steele as New County Administrator



The Gloucester County Board of Supervisors is pleased to announce the appointment of Ms. Carol Steele as its new County Administrator. Ms. Steele, one of two Deputy County Administrators, has served as Acting County Administrator since April 2021 when then County Administrator Brent Fedors took a leave of absence. Mr. Fedors subsequently resigned in November 2021, citing a medical situation. At its meeting on May 17, the Board approved an employment agreement with Ms. Steele.

Board Chair, Dr. Robert "JJ" Orth said, "The Board of Supervisors is very pleased to appoint Carol as Gloucester County's next County Administrator. Carol has been serving in an acting role for a year and has faced many challenges with professionalism and initiative. She has demonstrated her dedication to the employees and citizens of Gloucester County, and we are glad that she will continue to provide her leadership to the organization and her support to the Board of Supervisors as we work on important County initiatives."

The Board of Supervisors conducted a national search for the new County Administrator, assisted by The Berkley Group, of Bridgewater, Virginia. The Berkley Group received applications and conducted initial interviews with the most qualified candidates. It then assisted with selecting finalists for interviews with the Board.

Ms. Steele has worked for Gloucester County for nearly thirty-six years. She was appointed Deputy County Administrator in 2018 after serving as the Director of the Gloucester County Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Department, a position that she assumed in 1986. Ms. Steele is a Credentialed Manager by the International City/County Management Association and is a member of the Virginia Local Government Management Association. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Recreation Administration from Radford University and a Master of Science degree in Leisure Services Administration from Virginia Commonwealth University. In addition to other advanced training, she attended the Senior Executive Institute at the University of Virginia's Weldon Cooper Center and has served as adjunct faculty at Old Dominion University, Rappahannock Community College, and Virginia Commonwealth University. Ms. Steele has also been active on civic and volunteer boards in state, regional, and local organizations.

Ms. Steele shared these thoughts about her appointment, "I am honored to have this opportunity to continue to be of service to Gloucester County as its Administrator. I am passionate about this community and the County employees who work to make Gloucester County such a great place to live, work, and play. I am excited about continuing to work with the Board of Supervisors in fulfilling its vision for the County and am deeply appreciative of the confidence that it has shown in me."

Ms. Steele will formally assume the role of Gloucester County Administrator on June 1.

COUNTY NEWS

HEADING HOME

Town Manager leaving Crewe for Southampton County

Reprinted with permission from the **Blackstone Courier Record**



Crewe Town Manager Brian Thrower is returning to his roots to serve as County Administrator in Southampton — where he will begin his new duties June 1st.

Thrower, 45, grew-up in Franklin. He informed Council officials about his new position last week. His last official day as Town Manager will be May 31st.

Crewe Mayor Phil Miskovic said Council will meet soon, possibly this week, to discuss recruitment and transition.

Thrower's starting salary in Southampton will be \$131,720. He's currently making \$84,273 in Crewe.

Thrower was praised by Crewe officials and citizens for efforts at cleaning up the Town and addressing blight issues.

Thrower began his Crewe duties in January 2020 at an annual salary of \$81,000 — considerably less than the \$128,500 he had been making as Smithfield's Town Manager.

Before serving in Smithfield, Thrower served in Emporia for a total of 10 years, first as Assistant Manager and then City Manager.

Thrower grew-up in Franklin and also worked previously as a Business Relations Manager in Lynchburg and a Management Assistant to the City in Charlotte, NC. He holds undergraduate and Master's Degrees from Virginia Tech.

Vic Carpenter named Goochland County Administrator



The Goochland County Board of Supervisors announced at its May 3rd meeting that Victor J. "Vic" Carpenter will be the county's next County Administrator.

Carpenter will begin his duties as County Administrator effective June 20, 2022, succeeding Manuel "Manny" Alvarez, Jr. who has served as Interim County Administrator since August 2021.

Carpenter is currently the County Administrator for Kershaw County, South Carolina with more than 25 years of local government experience. Carpenter has served as President of the SC Managers, Administrators and Supervisors Association and has been actively involved in his community through Rotary International, Kiwanis and as President of the Boys and Girls Club. He previously led his county to receive the All-America City Award, oversaw the construction of numerous buildings and managed record fund balances as well as effectively used excess fund balances to provide needed capital upgrades for the county.

Carpenter's career has taken him from urban counties along the I-85 corridor to small rural counties. He has developed a reputation of being community oriented. His endorsements range from the NAACP to the American Legion, and his legacy of community improvements range from new Humane Society animal shelters to new Farmers Markets. He has overseen construction of library buildings, upgrades to county courthouses, educational facilities, recreational complexes, and public works facilities.

In coming to Virginia, Carpenter returns to his family's roots which trace back several centuries. During a recent visit he noted that Kershaw County is very similar to Goochland in that it is a growing county with a rural agricultural history striving to retain its rural character.

Carpenter's selection by the Board was unanimous. "Vic's leadership and expertise will be a tremendous asset as Goochland moves forward implementing the Village Plans, constructing a new Courthouse and Fire Stations, and dealing with growth challenges," stated Neil Spoonhower, Chair of the Board of Supervisors.

Aaron Reidmiller to Lead Hanover County Parks & Recreation



County Administrator John A. Budesky is pleased to announce the hiring of Aaron Reidmiller as Director of Parks and Recreation. Reidmiller will start June 16 and replaces Derek Stamey who became the County Administrator in Cumberland County.

Aaron comes to Hanover County from the City of Hopewell, where he has served as the director since 2014. Prior to that position, he worked in Henrico County Recreation and Parks for six years. He has a bachelor's degree in Recreation, Parks, and Sports Management from Virginia Commonwealth University. He is recognized by the National Recreation and Park Association as a Certified Parks and Recreation Professional and has previously served as president of the Virginia Recreation and Park Society.

"We are extremely impressed with Aaron's skills and qualifications, and look forward to him joining our leadership team," said John Budesky, County Administrator. "Aaron will be joining a great Parks & Recreation department with some important projects coming up, including the parks and recreation master plan and the construction of a new recreation center and library in Montpelier. We believe he will bring great energy and enthusiasm to Hanover," added Budesky.

Jim Taylor, Deputy County Administrator, said "I am continuously impressed with the level of talent that we are able to attract here in Hanover. We are getting Aaron at a great point in his career, and we are expecting great things." He added, "we are lucky to have him."

The Hanover County Department of Parks & Recreation provides a wide variety of recreational and leisure activities for residents and visitors. The Department offers over 1,500 acres of parkland throughout Hanover County, with beautiful trails, historic landmarks, athletic fields, relaxing shelters as well as safe, accessible playgrounds. The Department boasts a wide range of yearlong events and programs for all ages and interests, including the Hanover Tomato Festival. Additionally, the Department oversees the Hanover County Museum of History & Culture. In the past, Hanover County has been designated as both a Playful City USA and as a 100 Best Communities for Young People.

"I am truly honored to be selected for this position in Hanover. I am very familiar with the work of the Hanover Parks and Recreation Department and admire the facilities and programs made available to County residents. It is apparent that Hanover County takes quality of life very seriously, and that was a major reason for my interest in this position," said Aaron Reidmiller. Aaron and his wife, Shannon, love to spend time outdoors exploring new trails, spending time on the water, and discovering new playgrounds with their daughter.

Get ready for NACo Annual Business Meeting, election



Calvin Newsom, Marion County, Miss. supervisor, takes the miorophone at a NACo annual business meeting. Photo by Hugh Clarke

NACo's 2022 annual business meeting and election will be held in-person in Adams County, CO, on Sunday, July 24. During the meeting, credentialed NACo members elect NACo officers, set our national policy agenda and conduct other association business.

Voting credentials verify a member county, parish or borough's eligibility to vote and the number of votes they can cast at the meeting. To be eligible to vote, NACo members should:

- Register for the 2022 Annual Conference
- Pay 2022 NACo membership dues in full, and
- Designate one voting delegate by Monday, July 18, 2022 at 5 p.m. EDT.

To facilitate the voting process, members should authorize only one primary voting delegate per county and must provide the cell phone number of the voting delegate.

The county's chief elected official, clerk to the county board and conference registrants can visit <u>NACo.org/VotingCredentials</u> to appoint their primary delegate or proxy online. A proxy voter can be another county attendee from the same state or your state association of counties.

Paper voting credential forms will not be mailed to member counties but can be accessed electronically by visiting <u>NACo.org/VotingCredentials</u>.

A member's vote total is determined by the amount of dues paid and dues are based on the population of the 2010 census.

Click here for more information.

Meet the Candidates: Phyllis Randall

Loudoun County, Va. Board of Supervisors Chair Phyllis Randall is running to be NACo's second vice president

Why are you interested in serving as a NACo officer?

As the COVID-19 pandemic becomes an ongoing endemic, my background makes me uniquely qualified to address the issues we will confront as a nation for many years in the wake of this historic challenge. A mental health/substance dependence crisis, or what I am referring to as the second pandemic, is likely to sweep our nation with immeasurable, long-term health impacts in the coming years. As a mental health/substance abuse therapist for over two decades, I have seen firsthand the lasting harm untreated mental health issues can have on individuals and families. National policy will be significantly shaped by this "invisible" health crisis over the next three to five years, and NACo will need to engage on this issue during that timeframe.

Secondly, as the Chair At-Large of a County with Urban, Suburban and Rural Policy Areas, I have in-depth, practical working knowledge of the diverse needs and challenges facing almost every county in the nation. For example, supply



chain disruptions have clarified for us the importance of supporting the farming and agriculture economies in our rural counties. At the same time, as local elected governing bodies have worked to sustain service delivery, enduring, equitable distribution of services to communities of color and poor communities has become a major issue for our Urban/Suburban counties.

What do you consider to have been your most important contribution to the National Association of Counties to date? What do you consider to have been your most important contribution to your state association of counties?

In just seven years as an elected official, I have become very involved in the National Association of Counties. To date, I would count my most important involvement as being a founding member of the NACo Economic Mobility Leadership Network (EMLN). In fact, the new Sister City relationship between Loudoun County, Virginia and Holmes County, Mississippi, and supported by NACo, has been key and very important as NACo has contended with economic and health equity throughout the nation.

In 2019, NACo asked me to testify before a Congressional Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives regarding how counties should conduct their 2020 census and how the Federal Government could support the efforts of the nation's Urban, Suburban, Rural and Frontier counties in completing the most accurate census counts possible.

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Finally, I have tried to incorporate my passion regarding the importance of treating mental health as we do every other health condition: de-stigmatizing the diseases of mental health and substance abuse. I have participated as an expert panelist or facilitator at numerous VACo and NACo conferences on the subject. In addition, in my state (commonwealth) organizations, I have been actively involved in writing legislation, serving and having leadership roles on various committee assignments.

- First Term in Office January 2016 December 2019
- 2016-2019 National Association of Counties Health and Human Services, member
- Loudoun County joins NACo Heath County initiative
- Loudoun County joins NACo Stepping Up initiative
- Loudoun County joins NACo Women in Government
- Loudoun County joins NACo Women in Leadership
- 2018 Founding member NACo Economic Mobility Leadership Network
- 2016 Virginia Association of Counties Board of Directors
- 2016 Virginia Association of Counties Health and Human Services Committee, member
- 2017 Virginia Association of Counties Health and Human Services Committee, member
- 2019 Virginia Association of Counties Health and Human Services Committee, Vice Chair
- Second Term in Office January 2020 Present
- 2020 Virginia Association of Counties Board of Directors
- 2020 Virginia Association of Counties Health and Human Services Committee, Chair
- 2021 National Association of Counties Healthy Counties Committee, Chair
- 2021 Behavioral Health Subcommittee of the National Association of Counties Health Steering Committee, Chair
- 2021 National Association of Counties Health Steering Committee, member
- NACo appointee to the Bipartisan Policy Center Public Heath Forward Task Force

What do you consider to be the two or three most important challenges facing NACo in the near future on which the Officers/Executive Committee/Board of Directors should focus? Why?

A. Counties are being inundated with unfunded mandates. Although I agree with some of these — increased funding for education, for example — federal and state governments need to ensure they can fully fund their own priorities without requiring counties to "match" federal/state program mandates. Many counties, especially smaller or rural counties with limited budgets, have neither the population nor the inclination to incur the added expenses of such programs and often simply cannot afford these federal/state budget mandates.

B. Across the nation, many state legislatures are introducing legislation to usurp power from local governing bodies. These initiatives include critical curtailments in areas such as taxing authority, zoning/land use issues, election management and the voting process. Many state legislatures are now aggressively attempting to legislate items that have historically been the purview of local governments. I believe local elected bodies, comprising elected officials closest to those they represent, should retain control of local issues without interference from state bodies.

C. Over the past two years, local elected officials have been required to not only perform our many "regular duties," but also to manage a 100-year pandemic and all its related community

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trauma. I never imagined a time when I would know the running count of my constituents who were hospitalized or died as a result of COVID-19. This, of course, touches on another aspect of our growing mental health crisis. Just as we have cared for our constituents, we must increasingly recognize the mental health toll these past two years have exacted on our local elected officials. Local elected officials cannot care for our constituents if we do not have the appropriate coping mechanisms, tools and resources to respond to our own mental health needs.

What measures would you recommend to increase and retain NACo membership and to encourage broad participation in NACo by elected officials and employees of NACo member counties? What specific role would you be willing to assume to help build and sustain membership in NACo?

Although Loudoun County has always been a member of NACo, our elected officials have largely not attended NACo conferences or been significantly involved in NACo activities. Shortly after taking office, I realized how beneficial NACo and the Virginia Association of Counties are in accomplishing many of our collective goals. NACo not only offers networking opportunities and support from other local elected officials, it provides invaluable materials, information and resources to foster better governance. I believe if county staff and elected officials more fully understood the obvious benefits of NACo and their state associations, they would be much more likely not only to become financial members, but also actively engaged participants in all NACo programs. Some ideas to increase membership are:

a. Offer a one-time membership discount to smaller counties that are not members.

b. Hold a NACo cohort meeting in an underrepresented area.

c. Offer to send a NACo representative or expert to an inactive county for consultations with the local elected bodies.

d. Have NACo officers and board members dedicate themselves to reach out and visit inactive/nonmember counties.

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Secretary of Finance Stephen Cummings provided a briefing on the state's finances to the Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee on May 17. Secretary Cummings told Committee members that the economy appears to be strong, but there is considerable "noise" in the economic indicators. A robust labor market and strong consumer demand are signs of health, but supply chain disruptions associated with the pandemic and continued high inflation create economic headwinds. Secretary Cummings noted that inflation is concentrated in certain sectors, including food, energy, and motor vehicles; although he expects inflation in vehicle values to recede in time with the resolution of supply chain problems, energy prices are not projected to decrease in the near term. Recent action by the Federal Reserve to increase interest rates, with an expectation of further increases in the future, reflects an effort to tame inflation without tipping the economy into a recession. Secretary Cummings stated that in his view, a recession is not imminent, given the large numbers of unfilled job openings; should a downturn be on the horizon, he suggested that job openings would be an early indicator.

A key theme of Secretary Cummings's remarks was that Virginia's recovery of jobs lost during the pandemic has lagged other states, although it is improving. Virginia ranks 14th nationally in employment growth between January and March 2022 (representing 42,010 jobs added over the period), and the state's labor force participation rate began to climb in 2022 after dropping in spring 2020 (Virginia's labor force participation was an average 66.3 percent before the pandemic, ranking 16th nationally, and 63.3 percent in March 2022, ranking 20th nationally). However, he pointed out that Virginia still lagged most states in the percentage of jobs recovered relative to pre-pandemic levels (as of March 2022, the state had recovered 60 percent of jobs lost, ranking 47th among states).

General Fund revenues year-to-date are up 12.1 percent when adjusted for changes in filing dates, ahead of the forecast of 9.2 percent growth. Individual income tax withholding collections have increased by

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9.5 percent on a year-to-date basis, slightly ahead of the forecast of 9 percent growth. Nonwithholding collections are up significantly relative to April of last year (an increase of 139.6 percent), but changes in filing deadlines mean that April and May collections need to be considered in tandem in order to present a true picture of this revenue source. Sales tax collections are up 14.4 percent on a year-to-date basis, relative to the forecast of 11.4 percent growth.

The Committee also received a presentation by Sarah Hatton, Deputy Director of Administration at the Department of Medical Assistance Services, who provided an update on planning for the end of the federal public health emergency, which will require redetermination of Medicaid eligibility for more than 2 million recipients. The Families First Coronavirus Response Act, passed in March 2020, provided an enhanced federal match rate for Medicaid in order to assist states in addressing the pandemic, subject to a requirement that individuals' Medicaid enrollment must be maintained during the public health emergency. Once the public health emergency ends, eligibility redeterminations will begin; this process will be spread over 12 months. It is anticipated that between 14 and 20 percent of individuals will no longer qualify for Medicaid coverage during this "unwinding" period. DMAS is working on outreach to Medicaid recipients to prepare them for the redetermination process, and is also working with the Department of Social Services to address workloads for local department staff, who will be processing many of these redeterminations, including contracting for additional staffing and seeking funds for overtime for local staff. The current public health emergency is set to expire July 15; however, federal officials have pledged to provide states a 60-day notice prior to the end of the public health emergency, and since that notice was not received this week (which would be 60 days before July 15), DMAS expects an additional extension to the public health emergency.

The final presentation of the day was a briefing by Jermiah Fitz, Corrections Operations Administrator and Legislative Liaison for the Department of Corrections, on the implementation of legislation from the 2020 special session providing for additional earned sentence credits for certain offenses. Due to the retroactive nature of the legislation, DOC staff expect to release 3,212 additional inmates between July and August 2022 (the legislation takes effect July 1), over and above the 1,396 inmates already planned for release during this time frame, and are working on release plans for these inmates, such as enrollment in Medicaid. As a result of space being freed up in DOC facilities, the Department expects to be able to accept more state-responsible inmates who are currently housed in local and regional jails.

Mr. Fitz's presentation is available at this link.

VACo Contact: Katie Boyle

STATE NEWS

Broadband conference highlights new tools and programs to expand internet access in Virginia



More than 130 attendees participated in the <u>Broadband Together 2022 conference</u> in Henrico County May 18 and 19. The conference was a partnership of VACo, the Virginia Municipal League and the <u>Broadband Association of Virginia</u> and included experts and leaders in industry, state and local government.

Topics included new federal funding programs such as the <u>Affordable Connectivity (ACP)</u> <u>Program</u> and the <u>Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program</u>, as well as the new Virginia <u>Line Extension Customer Assistance Program (LECAP)</u>. LECAP provides financial assistance to certain income qualifying households to connect to a roadway or easement containing telecommunications infrastructure when the distance exceeds standard connection drop of the internet service provider. The breadth of the new programs, combined with inpouring of state and federal dollars, presents both a great opportunity as well as logistical challenges to connecting Virginians to fast, affordable, and reliable internet access. Presenters and attendees engaged in interactive discussions of ways to collaborate on consumer education, workforce training, and the efficient deployment of infrastructure.

One new tool now available to citizens, local governments and internet providers alike is the online <u>Broadband Planning and Analysis Toolbox</u> created by the <u>Virginia Tech Center for</u> <u>Geospatial Information Technology</u>. A key asset in the toolbox is the <u>Virginia Broadband Map</u> <u>Book Portal</u> a dynamic viewer that enables users to explore current broadband availability and speeds across the Commonwealth. The data provided in the viewer provides a more accurate and granular view than that of federal mapping resources. The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) encourages localities to utilize the map as a valuable resource in developing applications for <u>Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI)</u> grants.

VACo Contacts: Joe Lerch, AICP and Jeremy Bennett

VACo EVENT



Let's meet in person at the VACo County Officials' Summit

AUGUST 18, 2022 | <u>REGISTRATION FORM</u> | <u>REGISTER ONLINE</u> <u>THE HOTEL ROANOKE AND CONFERENCE CENTER</u> | <u>DRAFT AGENDA</u>

The 2022 VACo County Officials' Summit hits the road this summer as we travel to Roanoke County. We're excited to invite Governor Glenn Youngkin and Lieutenant Governor Winsome Earle-Sears to speak about developing relationships with local governments and to share their vision for the future. We've also invited several cabinet members to talk about the issues and legislation for the 2023 General Assembly Session.

<u>Register today</u> to join your peers in Roanoke County on Thursday, August 18, 2022, for the VACo County Officials' Summit. Breakfast and lunch are provided with event registration.

Two time blocks of VACo Steering Committee Meetings will follow lunch on August 18. VACo's Board of Directors Meeting will take place at 9am on Friday, August 19.

There is a <u>special reservation link</u> for VACo Members at The Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center. We looking forward to seeing you at the County Officials' Summit on August 18!

Registration Form | Register Online | Book Your Hotel Room | Draft Agenda



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA Joint Commission on Health Care

Joint Commission on Health Care Refines Workplan, Receives Presentation on Administration's HHR Priorities

The Joint Commission on Health care met May 18 for further discussion of its proposed workplan for the remainder of the year. Commission members also received a briefing from staff on the Commission's Health Care Dashboard and a presentation by Secretary of Health and Human Resources John Littel about the Administration's priorities in his secretariat.

The Commission's 2022 workplan had been largely adopted at its December 2021 meeting, although several issues were subsequently referred to the Commission during the 2022 session. As directed at the Commission's April meeting, the Executive Committee discussed these new items and opted not to proceed with the majority of the proposals this year, as staff are unable to take on additional studies, although the referrals could be considered for studies in 2023. The Commission is required to undertake a study of potential addition of obesity prevention or treatment services to Virginia's Medicaid program, although this study's due date allows it to be completed in 2023. The other matters – local health department effectiveness and lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic, vertically integrated health insurance carriers, prescription drug price benchmarking, and eating disorders – will be under consideration for inclusion in the Commission's workplan for 2023.

Commission staff provided an overview of the four studies underway in 2022:

- Local health department structure and financing: This study is reviewing how programs and services compare across the state; whether the organization of local health departments is effective; and whether staffing and funding levels are commensurate with staff workload and community needs. Staff will be comparing Virginia's structure to those of other states and assessing whether services provided are aligned with recognized public health standards.
- Affordability of assisted living facilities: Key areas of focus will be examining factors contributing to auxiliary grant bed availability (as well as challenges for assisted living facilities in accepting auxiliary grant recipients), reviewing alternative ways that other states structure and finance assisted living facilities (including how other states use Medicaid to pay for services in assisted living facilities) and assessing the feasibility of those models. Staff will be considering licensing requirements as they relate to questions of affordability.
- **<u>Reducing unnecessary emergency department utilization</u>:** This study will attempt to answer questions regarding why patients seek care in emergency departments and what strategies could ensure the provision of care in less costly settings. Commission members encouraged staff to

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

examine issues related to the transition of patients from freestanding emergency departments to regular hospitals that may be operated by a different entity, as well as the effect of children and adults experiencing mental health crises whose admission to inpatient psychiatric care may be delayed for hours or even days.

• **Provider data sharing to improve quality of care:** This study will be cataloging existing provider-to-provider data sharing and assessing challenges that limit the effectiveness of existing data sharing. Members encouraged staff to examine how data sharing and connection between Community Services Boards and primary care providers could be improved, as well as data sharing between mental health providers and jails and prisons.

Commission members discussed the Health Care Dashboard, which was directed to be developed by the Commission as a way to track certain metrics to monitor trends and shape future Commission work. Some concerns were raised about which metrics were chosen and whether the dashboard duplicated work in other agencies; the Commission's Executive Committee will review the dashboard in more detail with staff.

Secretary Littel offered an overview of key areas of focus for the Administration, noting that priorities were evolving as the Administration responded to the ongoing pandemic and other critical needs. In the near term, the Secretary is working to prepare for redetermination of Medicaid eligibility with the expected end of the federal public health emergency later this year. The Safe and Sound Task Force, which is addressing the crisis in foster care placements for children with high-acuity needs, is another priority; the lack of inpatient treatment options for children dovetails with the related, ongoing pressures on the state hospital system and the downstream effects on law enforcement personnel who are waiting, sometimes for days, with individuals who are subject to temporary detention orders for beds to become available. The Administration is seeking to address workforce needs in state hospitals, as well as IT and security needs at the facilities, in addition to expanding capacity in private hospitals and enhancing alternative transportation options. Secretary Littel is also working with Secretary of Education Aimee Guidera on mental health in higher education as well as in K-12 settings. The Administration is working to assist the Opioid Abatement Authority with staffing in preparation for distributing settlement funding. Secretary Littel also addressed the baby formula shortage, noting that although the state's authority to speed production of formula is limited, the state is in contact with retailers to monitor supplies. He suggested that members encourage constituents who have concerns to contact their pediatrician; the Virginia Department of Health has provided additional information on its website.

The Commission's next meeting is scheduled for August 17.

VACo Contact: Katie Boyle

Behavioral Health Commission Plans Course



The Behavioral Health Commission met on April 26 and again on May 17 to receive updates from the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services and to discuss the Commission's plan of work for the year. The Commission was established as a permanent legislative entity in 2021, as a continuation of the Joint Subcommittee to Study Mental Health Services in the 21st Century, and now has an Executive Director and is in the process of hiring several staff members.

At the Commission's April meeting, Executive Director Nathalie Molliet-Ribet outlined a proposed work plan for the balance of the year. One of the major tasks included in the outline is the development of a five-year strategic plan, which is scheduled to be completed in October 2022; a companion project is the development of a report on key behavioral health system metrics, which is scheduled to be completed in December 2022.

In addition to these overarching projects, several bills were referred to the Commission for study of specific issues. HB 2047/SB 1315 were passed in 2021 and allow certain evidence of a defendant's mental condition at the time of an alleged offense to be admissible in court under certain circumstances. The bills directed the Commission's predecessor, the Joint Subcommittee, to provide recommendations regarding the standard of danger to self or others that would be appropriately applied to individuals who are found not guilty under the legislation with respect to the issuance of emergency custody or

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

temporary detention orders (TDOs), or other mandatory mental health treatment. A workgroup of the Joint Subcommittee considered the issue in 2021 and referred the matter to the new Commission for further study in 2022 due to the complexity of the issues involved. SB 198 (Mason), which was passed in 2022, allows courts to dismiss charges in certain misdemeanor cases for individuals found not competent to stand trial and to order the Community Services Board to evaluate the defendant for a possible TDO, instead of ordering treatment to restore competency. The Commission will be examining the extent to which the new law, which expires in 2023 if no further legislative action is taken, addresses the concerns that prompted its enactment.

Commission staff also plan to participate in two workgroups, assuming the final budget directs their creation. One study group would examine the overall structure of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) to determine whether its responsibilities should be divided into separate entities and if the current structure can be enhanced to improve service delivery. A second workgroup would examine the Problem Gambling Treatment and Support Fund to determine the most effective strategies in serving individuals with gambling addiction.

At the May 17 meeting, Commission staff presented options to address matters that Commission members had expressed interest in exploring at the April meeting, but which staff do not have capacity to study this year, as well as three additional bills that have been referred to the Commission:

- **Monitoring the implementation of STEP-VA:** Staff recommended requesting periodic updates from DBHDS, as well as from Community Services Boards, and determining whether additional oversight is needed. Senator Creigh Deeds, who chairs the Commission, emphasized the importance of receiving a comprehensive update from CSBs, since their resources and service areas vary widely.
- Legislation regarding arrests and prosecutions for assault and battery: HB 613 (Bourne) and SB 453 (Boysko) failed to pass in 2022. HB 613 would have barred arrest or prosecution for an assault or assault and battery against a law-enforcement officer if at the time of the offense the alleged assailant was experiencing a mental health emergency or met the criteria for issuance of an emergency custody order and the law-enforcement officer was responding to a call for service requesting assistance for the individual. SB 453 would have provided that any person charged with a simple assault and battery offense, when the offense was related to the individual's diagnosed autism spectrum disorder, intellectual disability, or serious mental illness, would not be subject to mandatory minimum punishment. Commission staff pointed out that estimating numbers of individuals who would meet the conditions in these bills would require extensive data collection and analysis, and instead recommended that the Commission receive a briefing at a future meeting regarding the academic research on this topic.
- <u>Certificates of public need and temporary detention orders</u>: HB 743 (Bell), which was continued to 2023, would have required the Commissioner of Health to impose certain conditions related to caring for individuals who are subject to TDOs when issuing certificates of public need for projects involving inpatient psychiatric services, and to disregard certain existing services when issuing certificates of public need if the existing services do not provide adequate services to individuals subject to TDOs. Commission staff recommended gaining a better understanding of historical trends for TDO admissions at private hospitals in order to understand current system capacity.

- **Improving collaboration between CSBs and the criminal justice system:** Staff recommended incorporating this complex issue into Commission's strategic plan, and noted that the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission will be examining this issue in its study of CSBs, which is scheduled to be completed this year.
- **Determining the net cost benefit of closing training centers:** Staff cautioned that this project would require extensive analysis; some members questioned whether the matter might extend beyond the Commission's purview.

DBHDS Commissioner Nelson Smith made presentations at both meetings. In April, Commissioner Smith focused his remarks on <u>the agency's "North Star" strategic plan</u>, which seeks to attain three major objectives by December 2025: strengthen the workforce; expand a comprehensive continuum of care for individuals with mental health disorders, substance use disorders, and developmental disabilities; and modernize systems and processes, especially IT systems.

In May, the Commissioner provided updates on state hospital utilization, as well as several agency initiatives. DBHDS's data for FY 2022 projects a decline in TDOs to a level below FY 2015, a departure from previous trends that is not fully understood by the Department and that sparked a series of inquiries among Commission members, who wanted to understand whether the decline is attributable to better availability of services in the community, such as mobile crisis, or to delayed admissions that discourage family members from seeking TDOs at all. Although TDO numbers are down, hospitals remain stressed due to staffing shortages, which limit the number of available beds. Commissioner Smith reported on a pilot program that is intended to address stresses on local law enforcement associated with delayed admissions to state hospitals by providing hourly payments to off-duty law enforcement to maintain custody of individuals under TDOs; the Department is awaiting approval of additional funding to expand alternative custody options, which is expected to be included in the state budget. The Department will be participating in a workgroup to examine ways to increase the use of alternative custody, which was directed by the General Assembly. The Department continues to try to free up beds at the state hospitals by reducing the numbers of individuals who are clinically ready for discharge but cannot be released for a variety of reasons, such as a lack of a placement in a willing assisted living facility. Commissioner Smith also reported on the Department's suicide prevention programming, and the upcoming rollout of the 988 system in July, which will be the new number for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

The Commission's next meeting is scheduled for June 14.

VACo Contact: Katie Boyle

Virginia's New Broadband Availability Map Launched!



commonwealth connect

The <u>Department of Housing and Community Development</u> (DHCD) recently announced the launch of the new broadband availability map, <u>Commonwealth</u> <u>Connection</u>. This mapping analysis tool will enable local governments to identify gaps in broadband service and develop solutions to reach unserved homes, businesses, and community anchor institutions with broadband infrastructure.

<u>Commonwealth Connection</u> is a partnership between DHCD and the <u>Virginia</u> <u>Tech Center for Geospatial Information Technology</u> (VT CGIT). This map includes integrated tools that generate reports for local governments and further analyze access to broadband.

Commonwealth Connection's mapping analysis will also assist local governments preparing applications for the <u>Virginia Telecommunication Initiative</u> (VATI), a broadband grant program administered through DHCD that is the Commonwealth's largest program to prepare communities to build, utilize and capitalize on telecommunication infrastructure.

USDOT Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Discretionary Grant Program

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) announced on May 16 that the application process is now open for communities of all sizes to apply for \$1 billion in Fiscal Year 2022 funding to help them ensure safe streets and roads for all and address the national roadway safety crisis. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's new Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) discretionary grant program provides dedicated funding to support regional, local, and Tribal plans, projects and strategies that will prevent roadway deaths and serious injuries. The SS4A program supports the Department's comprehensive approach, laid out in the National Roadway Safety Strategy, to significantly reduce serious injuries and deaths on our Nation's highways, roads, and streets and is part of our work toward an ambitious long-term goal of reaching zero roadway fatalities. This comes at a time when traffic fatalities are at the highest level they have been at in over a decade.

"We face a national crisis of fatalities and serious injuries on our roadways, and these tragedies are preventable – so as a nation we must work urgently and collaboratively to save lives," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg. "The funds we are making available today from President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law will help communities large and small take action to protect all Americans on our roads."

"The rise in deaths and serious injuries on our public roads affects people of every age, race and income level, in rural communities and big cities alike," said Deputy Federal Highway Administrator Stephanie Pollack. "This program will provide leaders in communities across the country with the resources they need to make roads safer for everyone."

The primary goal of the SS4A grants is to improve roadway safety by supporting communities in developing comprehensive safety action plans based on a <u>Safe System Approach</u>, and implementing projects and strategies that significantly reduce or eliminate transportation-related fatalities and serious injuries involving pedestrians; bicyclists; public transportation, personal conveyance, and micromobility users, commercial vehicle operators; and motorists. Funding can also be used to support robust stakeholder engagement in order to ensure that all community members have a voice in developing plans, projects and strategies.

The funding supports DOT's National Roadway Safety Strategy and collaborative efforts to advance the Safe System Approach and address safety by implementing redundant measures that lead to multiple types and layers of protection.

The SS4A Grant Program was created by Congress under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which directed the Department to support local initiatives to prevent death and serious injury on roads and streets. The law also directed the Department, when selecting projects under the program, to consider other factors in addition to safety, including equitable investment in the safety needs of underserved communities. The program also supports the Biden-Harris Administration's goals of promoting equity and fighting climate change.

Applications may come from individual communities, or groups of communities and may include Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), counties, cities, towns, other special districts that are subdivisions of a state, certain transit agencies, federally recognized Tribal governments, and multi-jurisdictional groups.

The Department has made the application process to receive funding to develop a comprehensive safety action plan as easy as possible to reduce administrative burden and encourage broad participation in this new funding program, especially for smaller communities, Tribal governments and new federal funding recipients.

The Safe Streets for All Notice of Funding Opportunity announced today can be found at <u>https://www.transportation.gov/SS4A</u>. Applications are due on or before Sept. 15, 2022.

The Department will convene a series of stakeholder webinars in June to help potential applicants learn about the SS4A Grant Program and what they need to know to prepare an application.

Monday, June 13: How to Apply for the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Opportunity

Wednesday, June 15: How to Apply for the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Opportunity: Focus on Action Plan Grants

Thursday, June 23: How to Apply for the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Opportunity: Focus on Implementation Grants

Additional information and resources about the SS4A Grant Program, including webinar links, also can be found at <u>https://www.transportation.gov/SS4A</u>.

County Official Kitty Crow: Understand Your Liquidity

Director of Finance, **Kitty Crow** discusses how cashVest® by three+one® helped her office truly understand their liquidity.



Being perfect is a high bar in any situation, let alone when it comes to the complexities of a municipal budget. That did not stop Chautauqua County, NY, from achieving a perfect 100 cashVest® score for the last three fiscal quarters.

Director of Finance, Kitty Crow discusses how cashVest® by three+one® helped her office truly understand their liquidity. Furthermore, the data and liquidity management provided became a vehicle of sharing information across departments and positions all for the betterment of their cash position and to the benefit of the taxpayer.

Understand your liquidity

STATE NEWS



2022 VIRGINIA GOVERNOR'S **VOLUNTEERSM** & COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT VIRGINIASERVICE.VIRGINIA.GOV



Virginia Ser Vice

Do you know an incredible kid who is already making the world a better place? How about a local business always involved in the community? The Governor's Volunteerism and Community Service Awards annually recognize the significant contributions of these amazing volunteers. Honorees will be celebrated at a special event in September 2022.

Award Categories: Senior, Adult, Young Adult, Youth, Independent Group, Community Organization, Faith-Based Organization, Educational Organization, Corporation, and Small Businesss.

STATE NEWS



We wanted to send along a reminder to please take the 2022 Chesapeake Bay Program partnership survey. As you probably know, the Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) is collecting data on the demographics of those who are involved in the program using a survey approach. It's vitally important that we get as many responses as we can.

At this time, we've heard from 15% of the potential respondents, but our goal is to hear from everyone!

The survey can be found here: Take the Survey

Or copy and paste the URL below into your internet browser: <u>https://erg.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6fHA6pA0ZQdklka?Q_DL=UuI2pIcFb8fdSgy_6fHA6pA0ZQdklka_CGC_TBgOj4L1BRIqppC&Q_CHL=email</u>

The survey should take no more 3-5 minutes to complete and your response will be extremely helpful in providing important information to shape our work in the next two years.

If you have questions on the content of the survey, please contact Allison Ng (<u>ng.allison@epa.gov</u>).

If you have technical questions on the survey, please contact Lou Nadeau (Lou.Nadeau@erg.com).

Please take the Survey

PREMIER PARTNERS





Leadership Development That Works

The Professional Development Academy is a transformational leadership program that has proven to be the most scalable, cost effective, and efficient way to make your leaders better. - *General Colin Powell*

Register today for the 2022 NACo Leadership Academy Dates

Visit naco.org/skills to register

Acknowledging State Graduates from NACo Leadership Academy

Nine Virginia County staff members participated in the NACo Leadership Academy, a 12-week online program that empowers front-line county government employees with fundamental leadership skills. Across the country over 4,600 county employees have participated.

Virginia County staff to complete the Academy this April are:

- Alfonzo Seward, Member-Board of Supervisors, Brunswick County
- Christopher Johnson, Economic Development Director, James City County
- Elizabeth Little, Captain/EMT-Intermediate, Northampton County
- Krista Kilmon, Deputy 9-1-1 Director, Northampton County
- Crystal Baker, Accounts Payable, Prince Edward County
- Chad Sweeney, Enterprise Services Manager, Roanoke County
- James Francis, Information Security Officer, Spotsylvania County
- Ed Dooley, Chief Information Officer, Spotsylvania County
- Alicia Roland, Executive Assistant / PIO, Washington County

Congratulations to all these individuals who completed the program. To learn more about the Academy, <u>visit</u> <u>the NACo website here</u>. Registration for the next cohort is now open.

PREMIER PARTNERS



senior could win \$2,500 for college!



Nationwide

Nationwide Retirement Solutions (Nationwide) partners with the National Association of Counties (NACo) to provide counties and their employees with a competitive deferred compensation program. As part of this partnership, Nationwide pays a fee to NACo in exchange for NACo's exclusive endorsement, marketing support and program oversight of Nationwide products made available under the program. For more information, including fees paid, Nationwide encourages you to visit NRSforu.com. Nationwide and the Nationwide N and Eagle are service marks of Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company. © 2022 Nationwide NRM-3181AO-NX.16 (03/22)

Submission period: April 1 - May 31, 2022

nrsforu.com/scholarship

Nationwide and NACo College Scholarship

The application period for the Nationwide and NACo College Scholarship is open through May 31. Are you the parent, grandparent or legal guardian of a high school senior? If you actively contribute to a 457(b) plan offered through the NACo Deferred Compensation Program, your student is eligible to apply for one of four \$2,500 college scholarships. Scholarships will be awarded in the fall of 2020.

In its 16th year of existence, the NACo/Nationwide scholarship essay contest is an educational opportunity for high school students transitioning into a new stage of their lives. Engaging young people in civic life and responsibilities is a great way to show high school students the valuable roles that counties play in the lives of their residents. The 2020 scholarship program's goal is to help ensure that young people get involved and stay involved in local government -- and understand the importance of being good stewards of their future finances.

To help students consider the importance of saving early and consistently, students are asked to write an essay that answers the following questions: Most high school students dream of the day when they will be on their own and no longer depend on their parents, but that kind of freedom requires financial independence. What does financial freedom mean to you? What is your plan to achieve financial freedom for yourself and how are you going to ensure that your financial freedom will continue through your retirement years?

Application process

Parents, grandparents or legal guardians should talk to their eligible high school seniors about applying right away. Applications can be completed online at <u>nrsforu.com/scholarship</u> beginning April 1. <u>Click here for more information</u>.

PLAN 2022-2023

As you plan your budget and build your Capital Improvement Plan for FY 2022-2023, the Berkley Group offers localities the following services:

ORGANIZATIONAL MANAGEMENT

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- Pay & Classification Studies
- Job Description & Employee Handbook Updates

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- Strategic Planning
- Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

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- Capital Improvement Planning
- Community & Stakeholder Engagement
- Public Meeting Facilitation

PLANNING

- Comprehensive Plans
- Zoning & Subdivision Ordinance Updates
- Historic Preservation Planning

- Mapping & GIS
- Project Planning, Development & Management

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

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- Hazard Mitigation Plans
- Envision Assessments

• Renewable Energy Diagnostics & Policy Updates

Solar & Wind Third-Party Application Reviews

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- Emergency Management

REQUEST ASSISTANCE

The Berkley Group is the go-to local government consultant for Virginia counties. Contact us at info@bgllc.net for any of your local government needs.





We are proud to be a member of the Virginia Promise Partnership, a coalition of 30+ leading organizations committed to quality, affordable child care for all Virginia families.

Please watch and share this video to show your support for child care! **#VaPromise #ChildCareIsEssential #MoreChildrenMoreChoices #WeNeedChildCareVA #InvestinChildCareVA**

<u>Virginia Promise in Action - Video Campaign</u> <u>Compilation - YouTube</u>

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Questions? Call 804.788.6652.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Virginia Association of Counties accepts employment ads in a PDF file or a link to a job site. Please include information for applying, and a link to other important information. Please do not fax your employment ad. VACo members are not charged for placing an employment ad. The cost is \$50 per ad for non-VACo members. VACo publishes the ad on its website and mobile app as well as the upcoming County Connections issue. If you have any questions or concerns, please email <u>Valerie Russell</u>.



Virginia Association of Counties
<u>GOVERNMENT</u>

<u>RELATIONS ADVOCATE</u> | Virginia Association of Counties | Posted May 19



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (PT or FT) | Middlesex County | Posted May 19



ANIMAL CONTROL

DEPUTY OFFICER | Gloucester County | Posted May 18



REVENUE TECHNICIAN | Gloucester County | Posted May 18



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR | King & Queen County | Posted May 18



SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER-TRANSPORTATION | Albemarle County | Posted May 18



HOUSING SPECIALIST | Albemarle County | Posted May 18



CONTROLLER | Albemarle County | Posted May 18



ADMINISTRATIVE

ASSISTANT – TOURISM | Montgomery County | Posted May 17



FAMILY SERVICES

SPECIALIST | **Montgomery County** | Posted May 17

Town of Ashland PLANNING & COMMUNITY DECELOPMENT POSITIONS | Town of Ashland | Posted May 17



TECHNICIAN II –

GROUNDS | City of Harrisonburg | Posted May 16



FIREFIGHTER-EMT |

Frederick County | Posted May 16



ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF | Frederick County | Posted May 16

Franklin County SPECIALIST II | Franklin County | Posted May 16





Franklin County PRINCIPAL PLANNER | Franklin County | Posted May 16



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES | Spotsylvania County | Posted May 16



PROBATION PRETRIAL

OFFICER | **Culpeper County** | Posted May 16



FIELDHOUSE MANAGER/

RECREATION MANAGER | Culpeper County | Posted May 16



SENIOR SCHOOL BUS TECHNICIAN | Chesterfield County | Posted May 16



CASHIER/GROUNDS

ATTENDANT (PT) | Chesterfield County | Posted May 16



PAINTER | Chesterfield County | Posted May 16



TOWN MANAGER | Town of Mineral | Posted May 16

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

PLANNER I | Loudoun

County | Posted May 16



ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR | Rappahannock County | Posted May 13



DEVELOPMENT REVIEW | Hanover County | Posted May 13



PLANNING ASSOCIATE | **Fauguier County** | Posted May 13



CUSTODIAN (PT) | Chesterfield County | Posted May 13



CUSTODIAN (FT) | Chesterfield County | Posted May 13



COMMUNITY & HUMAN SERVICES | City of Alexandria | Posted May 12



DIRECTOR OF PLANNING | Montgomery County | Posted May 12



DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY | Montgomery County | Posted May 12



MANAGER APPLICATION | Pasquotank County, NC | Posted May 11



COMMUNICATIONS CENTER (ECC/911) ADMINISTRATOR | Arlington County | Posted May 11



of Harrisonburg | Posted May 10



ADMINISTRATIVE

ASSISTANT | City of Harrisonburg | Posted May 10



ENGINEERING TECHNICIAN – EROSION & SEDIMENT CONTROL | Loudoun County | Posted May 10



WATER AUTHORITY ENGINEERING/GIS TECHNICIAN III | Western Virginia Water Authority | Posted May 10

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BUSINESS RETENTION & EXPANSION COORDINATOR | Shenandoah County | Posted May 10



COUNTY ENGINEER/

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR | Middlesex County – Middlesex Water Authority | Posted May 9



FINANCE DIRECTOR

Amelia County | Posted May 9



SPOTSYLVANIA COUNTY

JOB OPPORTUNITIES | Spotsylvania County | Posted May 9



CAPITAL PROJECTS

MANAGER | Chesterfield County |Posted May 9



CASHIER/GROUNDS

ATTENDANT | Chesterfield County | Posted May 9



WATER/WASTWATER OPERATORS I II III OR IV | Culpeper County | Posted May 9

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VALUE OF VACo



ADVOCACY

VACo's lobbying efforts have helped stem the tide of unfunded mandates and have saved Counties millions of dollars every year.



EDUCATION

Our educational programs offer County leaders and staff opportunities to become more effective in their communities.



MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT

Some of VACo's best moments are when members convene and work to improve communities all over the Commonwealth.



BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Our business development opportunities offer savings and innovative approaches to delivering services at the County level.

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First Vice President Ann H. Mallek Albemarle County



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President-Elect Jason D. Bellows Lancaster County



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VACo exists to support county officials and to effectively represent, promote and protect the interests of counties to better serve the people of Virginia.

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