

# COUNTY NEWS



## Maine County Commissioners Association Newsletter



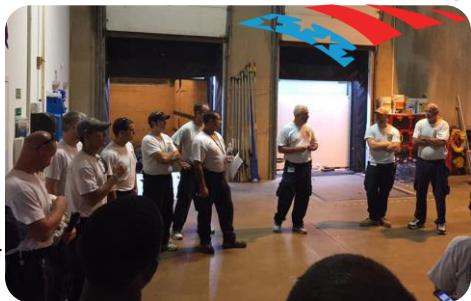
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### NACo Reports on Texas flooding: How Counties are Helping

Counties across the country are lending a hand – responding to the catastrophic flooding that began over the weekend in southeast Texas, after rain from Hurricane Harvey inundated Harris County and the surrounding area with 30 inches of rain in 72 hours, stranding thousands of residents. “We have not seen an event like this,” William ‘Brock’ Long, administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, said at a news briefing. “You could not dream this forecast up.”

Harris County had to evacuate a county jail, and a county hospital due to flooding, Harris County Francisco Sanchez said. The county is making use of social media during the disaster, getting a good response from the public when they put out a call for extra boats for rescues. Members of Fairfax County, VA’s Task Force One Swiftwater Team suited up Sunday to head to Houston. Fourteen members drove through the night, expecting to arrive Monday, according to Assistant Fire Chief Chuck Ryan with Fairfax County Fire & Rescue. Armed with several inflatable and flat-bottom boats, they’ll work out of Katy, Texas. Montgomery County, MD and Orange County, CA also sent a search and rescue team, including search and rescue dogs Wally and Jester, to Texas. The group of 45 includes personnel from the Orange County Fire Authority.



Fairfax County, Va. Virginia Taskforce one search and rescue team prepares to drive to Texas Sunday. ~ Photo courtesy of Fairfax County.

[~Click here for the full article by NACo writer Mary Anne Barton.](#)



York County now has a Child Advocacy Center in their courthouse building. An opening celebration was held in the law library of the York County courthouse on August 8<sup>th</sup>.

Melanie Sachs, Executive Director of Sexual Assault Response Services of Southern Maine, welcomed those present. York County District Attorney, Kathryn Slattery spoke of the importance of having a Child Advocacy Center in York County.

Molly Louison, Program Manager of the Child Advocacy Center of York County thanked the York County Commissioners and Manager for providing space in the courthouse for them. She explained that a Child Advocacy Center provides a safe place for a child to tell their story "once" as opposed to numerous times during the criminal justice process. This program is a huge asset to the residents of York County. It is only the fourth such center to operate in the State of Maine. ~Click on the picture below for more information.



### Senator King Visits York EMA



Senator Angus King toured York County’s Emergency Management Agency on Tuesday, August 15<sup>th</sup>. Local police and fire chiefs from around York County were present to discuss the importance of programs that support and fund local law enforcement as well the significance of comprehensive equipment and training initiatives for first responders.

Senator King had a “hands on” demonstration of York County EMA’s drone and toured the Emergency Operations Center as well.

### Layman Way Recovery Center



A Collaborative Effort of  
York County Government  
and York County  
Shelter Programs Inc.



Three entities, the York County Shelter Programs (YCSP), York County Government, and the York County District Attorney’s Office have spent multiple months collaborating and designing a pilot program unlike any other in the State of Maine. This pilot program is a unique, multifaceted approach designed to treat the person’s addiction with the goal of getting the low-level offender out of jail as soon as possible.

This will be accomplished by:

1. Implementing a diversionary program with the D.A. and judicial system.
2. An intensive detoxification and residential rehabilitation program

YCSP operates both programs with financial support from County Government, referrals from the DA’s office, law enforcement, the criminal defense bar and the jail system. In addition, clients currently within the YCSP continuum of care may also be found eligible for placement in either program.

### How Does All This Work?



These two distinct programs are housed in one building owned by the County of York. The building is located on the grounds that also houses the York County Jail. However, these programs are not a part of the York County Jail system.

The detoxification center has 12 beds, with an average length of stay in detox of three to seven days. The residential rehab program runs for three to six months in duration, and has 12 beds for women and 12 beds for men.

The programs are not meant to be utilized as a way to avoid jail per se, but instead, to alleviate overcrowding with a population of individuals who have been determined appropriate and eligible for treatment services. The focus is on providing the treatment not currently available in most jail settings, and offering individuals education and skills to arrest their substance use disorder and hopefully avoid re-offending.

There are individual program descriptions to refer to for more specific information about each portion of the program. Individuals in need of detox services may or may not also need residential rehabilitation services. The opposite is also true, where individuals in need of residential rehabilitation may or may not also need detoxification services first. For the ease of definition and outlining the procedures, assume at the point of contact the individual is in need of the specified service.

If the program(s) have openings, and neither legal system, nor YCSP have pending referrals for placement, beds will be available to the larger York County community. Individuals interested in making a referral for detox or residential rehab are asked to call the main number and seek placement.

[~Click here to read more about these programs.](#)

