



COUNTY NEWS

Maine County Commissioners Association Newsletter

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2016 NACo Annual Conference

~by Rosemary Kulow, MCCA Executive Director

Last month I attended the Annual NACo Conference in beautiful Long Beach, California, along with Franklin County Commissioner and NACo board member, Gary McGrane. We both found the conference to be very educational and enlightening, as it provided many opportunities to learn about county government initiatives in other parts of the country, as well as how other county officials deal with the problems and challenges county governments face. The conference venue provided opportunities, both educational and entertaining, for participants to learn how California counties and others deal with their own peculiar challenges.

I highly recommend attendance at NACo's annual and legislative conferences to all county government officials. The benefits realized from interactions with county government officials from around the country and education about relevant issues are an investment in the future of county government and well worth the cost of attendance.

~Please click here to read the full article.



Fun Facts about Hancock County

Hancock was incorporated on June 25, 1789 and named for John Hancock, the first governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Hancock County maintains one local airport, aka BHB, conveniently situated half way between the city of Ellsworth and the town of Bar Harbor. The county has a total area of 2,345 square miles of which 1,587 square miles is land and 758 square miles is water. With the expansive shorefront and the prominence of Cadillac Mountain in the background, the area offers spectacular views. The recreational possibilities within a short distance are almost unlimited including scenic Acadia National Park which is celebrating its 100th birthday this year. In the early 1900's the wealthy philanthropist John Rockefeller, Jr. helped with the construction of a network of carriage trails throughout the park that are still used today. Hancock County is the home of Jackson Laboratory, noted for genetics and cancer research, and two institutions of higher education, Maine Maritime Academy at Castine and the College of the Atlantic at Bar Harbor.



Hancock County Administrator Scott Adkins

The new Hancock County Administrator, Scott Adkins says his goal is, "to bring some stability to Hancock County, help it grown in the areas that are needed. Personally, I believe that consolidation is coming and the best way to adapt is to be ready with a game plan. Ellsworth is the hub for Hancock County and the downeast area. I would like to see us continue to be the central services area for Hancock and surrounding counties if need be."

Mr. Adkins joined the Hancock County team in May after a short stint with the Town of Milford where he was serving as the interim town manager. However, Scott was no stranger to county government having worked for eight years in Penobscot County first as Deputy Treasurer, then as Finance Director which had oversight of the entire financial picture for the County. These jobs took full advantage of the degrees he earned in business administration and accounting. When the Jail situation developed over the Department of Corrections consolidation, he was asked to serve on the Board of Corrections sub-committees including the pivotal final Finance Committee.

Scott lives in Charleston with his wife of 20 years, Lori. They have two beautiful daughters, Brittany who is 18 and off to college, and Brianna who is a 17-year-old senior at Foxcroft Academy. Scott loves to play golf when he can find time and says he has tried or coached almost all sports. He's also been known to do some woodworking, more like "tinkering", but his passion is camping with his family particularly at their favorite spot in Lamoine State Park right there in Hancock County. Camping and vacationing in Hancock County are major reasons why he and his wife would like to relocate to the area and take advantage of the plentiful opportunities available to enjoy even more of its beautiful surroundings.

Reducing The Carbon Footprint

Hancock County's conversion to propane, and the installation of 11 heat pumps in 2014 has reduced their carbon footprint by nearly 60% over the last two years. An efficiency Maine project to replace obsolete lighting technology in 2012 has further reduced their energy consumption and heat load throughout the campus.

~Facilities Director Dennis Walls

New Information and Cooperation in Hancock County

The Hancock County Sheriff's Office has been utilizing the Spillman software reporting system since 1988. The program later grew to accommodate information and reporting sharing between the Sheriff's Office, the City of Ellsworth and ultimately the Hancock County Regional Communications Center.

In early 2015, the Sheriff saw an opportunity to grow the system county wide by sharing the software and its capabilities with the Towns of Bar Harbor, Mount Desert, Southwest Harbor and Bucksport. All of these municipalities were running independent software with information and data that could not be shared with other agencies.

With this vision in mind, and knowing the benefit to all law enforcement, the Sheriff reached out to these communities and began the building process. With cooperation and a shared vision by the municipal police chiefs, a funding source was identified through Hancock County EMA director Andrew Sankey. Director Sankey produced a grant proposal through Maine Emergency Management which was approved and the majority of the funding was obtained by spreading the cost over a three-year period.

After the completion of the project, it can be seen as nothing but a success. By having the vision, cooperation and sharing of resources, the public is seeing the success of this program. This program would not have been possible without the ability to successfully navigate the needs of every municipality in Hancock County that employs its own police force. The municipalities also had a hand showing their support as every community providing local support and the initial funding for licensing for the software. Together a much higher level of emergency response is being provided to the citizens of Hancock County.

~Click here to read the full article by Chief Deputy Patrick Kane.

Hancock County's Adult Drug Treatment Court



The Hancock County Adult Drug Treatment Court (ADTC) began its odyssey in January of 2005 as a community-based program called the Deferred Sentencing Project. It was inspired and founded by Dr. Richard Dimond, District Attorney Michael Povich, Detective Dotty Small, Sheriff Bill Clark, Barbara Royal, retired Justice Ted Pierson and others. When the project began, it was funded by grants and was so successful at achieving the objectives that the state decided to transform the program into an official drug court during a period of fiscal austerity. Thus it became an ADTC in the summer of 2009.

ADTC has been a successful largely because of the talented and highly dedicated team that discusses all the clients' progress every other week with case management and treatment. Although there have been differences among team members on how to confront client difficulties or how to implement the ten key components of the drug court model, they have functioned as a highly motivated cohesive team. In addition, Open Door Recovery Center, who is their contracted substance abuse treatment provider, has provided over the years many programs and enhancements to drug testing that most drug courts in other jurisdictions are not receiving from their treatment provider.

The members of the program acknowledge D.A. Matthew Foster as a great addition to the team. His support of the program significantly contributed to the rise in their census and the ability of many applicants to become part of the program. Last year they were number one in clients served, addicts referred to the program and the number of clients that graduated from drug court. They presently have 30 clients, the most in the state. Their success in producing graduates has also been remarkable considering the lack of supportive resources that exist. There are very few residential programs in the state that are viable options for clients, and many clients are without health insurance despite the passage of the Affordable Care act.

"I have been the case manager since our inception and have seen the program prevail through difficult times and revel in moments of great triumph. Throughout it all, we have been supported by the community." *~Rick Otto, Maine Pretrial Services*

