

Courthouse Journal

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Washington State Association of Counties
Washington Association of County Officials

March 8, 2002
Issue No. 9

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County Assistance Hangs in the Balance in Last Week of Legislature

As we enter the last week of the regular session, the two top WSAC priority issues, transportation funding and assistance for criminal justice and public health, are still hanging in the balance. The Legislature is trying to complete its work by the end of the regular session, which is next Thursday, March 14. However, legislators are facing the most contentious issues in these final days, and it is still unclear whether there are enough votes for either the operating budget or the transportation funding package.

The WSAC position on a funding solution for the loss of criminal justice and public health is now incorporated in **HB 2950** and was pulled to the House floor Thursday night. The bill is scheduled for a vote this Saturday. WSAC will be e-mailing messages to all members with details of the bill today urging each of you to contact your representatives immediately. It is best to e-mail messages to the Legislature, because at this late date they will be on the floor and unable to take phone calls.

HB 2950 will provide \$9.1 million for the most severely impacted counties and \$7.2

million for cities. The counties receiving assistance are those losing over 10% of their budget from MVET and include: Garfield, Columbia, Wahkiakum, Asotin, Ferry, Lincoln, Adams, Pend Oreille, Douglas, Walla Walla, Stevens, Mason, Pacific, and Okanogan. Representative Grant will be offering a striking amendment to provide a mix of cash and revenue powers to counties. The striker will also be the only real chance for failing cities to get assistance from the Legislature.

The Senate budget has only \$2.6 million for eight counties; the House has even less—a total of \$1.4 million for eight counties. Both budgets contain nothing for cities. The Senate budget retains the original budget adopted last year for public health. The House budget reduces public health assistance for the 2002–03 state fiscal year from \$24.5 million to \$12.2 million.

The Legislature is making a real effort to adjourn on time. Things are moving fast. Watch your e-mail and fax machine. We will be needing your help.

**AGAIN - PLEASE WATCH YOUR E-MAIL
AND FAX!
WE NEED YOUR HELP**

State Board of Tax Appeals Bill Dies in Senate Ways & Means Committee

Thanks to Patricia Costello, Thurston County Assessor, Ken Madsen, Pierce County Assessor/Treasurer, and Richard Virant, Executive Director of the State Board of Tax Appeals (SBTA), for their testimony opposing **SHB 2486** in a hearing held Friday, March 1 in the Senate Ways & Means Committee (SWM). Mrs. Costello discussed the equalization issues surrounding an arbitrary decision as well as the expense to the taxpayer of

assessors appealing poor decisions to Superior Court. Mr. Madsen presented local taxing districts revenue loss statistics based on the Pierce County v. Boeing appeal, had the decision been made under this legislation. Mr. Virant explained the problems he foresaw with the reasonable cause portion of the bill, as well as the problems surrounding complex property tax appeals. While the bill passed the floor in the House of Representatives February 18, it appears to have died in SWM.

The bill stated if the SBTA did not issue an initial or final order within 90 days after the conclusion of the hearing the result would be judgment for the taxpayer. In addition, the bill allowed property tax appeals to the SBTA to be filed within 90 days rather than the current 30 days, and it allowed the deadline to be waived or extended for good cause.

Property Tax Bills Still Moving

2SHB 1477, allowing counties to impose taxes for emergency communication systems, is in the Senate Rules Committee. This bill would authorize counties to put to a vote an additional sale and use tax for emergency communications systems. **SHB 2015** is an act relating to protecting personal information. This bill would require governmental entities and others to take reasonable steps to destroy personal information in records when they are disposing of records they no longer need. The bill also specifies damages for violations and has passed both floors. **SHB 2301** authorizes electronic notice and other communications under the Washington Business Corporation Act. This is good news for assessors. The more electronic information becomes common place, the easier it will be for you to do business the same way. This bill has also passed both floors. **HB 2329** allows a trustee to donate a conservation easement in real property of the trust in order to qualify for federal estate tax exclusions and deductions. The bill is currently in the Senate Rules Committee. **HB 2358** revises provisions relating to annexation of unincorporated territory with boundaries contiguous to two municipal corporations. The bill has passed both floors.

HB 2375 requires a DNR public hearing prior to transfer or disposal of trust land

and is currently in the Senate Rules Committee. **SHB 2466** reduces the minimum city population cap from 50,000 to 30,000 for the multifamily housing property tax exemption program. It would also count the cost of rehab or construction as new construction when calculating the highest lawful levy, and allows cities to limit the tax exemption to individual dwelling units that meet the city guidelines for program participation. The bill is in the Senate Rules Committee. **HB 2495** authorizes a fire district that contracts with another district that has at least one full-time, paid employee to utilize the additional 50 cents per thousand levy. It also allows other taxing districts to release dollar rates of their authorized levies to the fire districts. This bill has passed both floors. **HB 2496** authorizes fire protection district levies for periods not to exceed four years. The bill is in the Senate Rules Committee but will require a constitutional amendment if it is approved. **EHB 2498** establishes a pilot program authorizing designation of industrial land banks outside urban growth areas under certain circumstances. This bill has also passed both floors. **SHB 2557** allows metropolitan park districts (MPDs) to be formed by cities, counties, combinations of cities or counties, and combinations of cities and counties. As amended, the bill also changes the 1% proration schedule so that new MPD levies are prorated or eliminated before fire districts, libraries, or the first 50 cents of the public hospital levy are affected. The bill has passed both floors. **SHB 2592** allows a fire district to elect to participate or opt-out of a community revitalization project. It authorizes a local government to issue nonrecourse revenue bonds to fund revenue-generating public improvements and repeals the Community Revitalization Financing Program's July 1, 2010 expiration date. This bill has passed both floors and has been signed by the president of the Senate. **SHB 2758** establishes the agricultural conservation easements program and has passed both floors. **SHB 2765** provides a forest land owner at least 60 days to file a timber management plan with the assessor. The bill has passed both floors. Thanks to all the assessors

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The Courthouse Journal

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

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

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who helped make this bill right! **HJR 4220** amends the Constitution to restrict the number of years excess levies by fire protection districts can be made. **2ESB 5872** allows cities to limit the multifamily housing property tax exemption to low income or moderate income condominiums or townhouses. The bill is currently in the House Rules Committee. Also in the House Rules Committee, **SB 6484** will authorize additional trust authority to take advantage of federal estate tax benefits for conservation easements. **SB 6578** exempts land leases for personal wireless communication facilities from the subdivision act. The bill is in the House Rules Committee. **SSB 6660** protects personal information about law enforcement officers and their families. This bill is currently in the House Rules Committee and has been amended to reflect Assessor concerns.

Of Interest to Treasurers

SB 6466, the Treasurers' Association cleanup bill, passed the House on Wednesday. Section 9 of the bill was removed because of some controversy; this section would prohibit personal property from being moved or sold until all property taxes have been satisfied. The bill will go back to the Senate for concurrence.

SHB 2169, relating to fire districts' options for issuing warrants, passed the Senate Wednesday. The bill had been amended in the Senate State and Local Government Committee to add a \$1 million dollar minimum above which the option to pay funds by warrants is permitted. However, Senator Gardner was successful with a floor amendment to lower the threshold from \$1 million to \$250,000. The bill will go back to the House for concurrence.

HB 2571, authorizing port districts that have their own treasurer to pay claims or other obligations by check or warrant, passed the Senate Wednesday. The bill has not been amended, so the next stop is the Governor's desk.

HB 2467, requiring the county treasurer to remit to a taxing district with its own treasurer that district's pro rata share of the previous month's taxes by the 10th of the next month, passed the Senate and is on its way to the Governor's office.

Tax Increment Measures on Way to Governor

A measure modifying the tax increment finance legislation enacted last session is on the Governor's desk. **Substitute HB 2592** clarifies that fire districts may veto

establishment of a tax increment area, allows for sale of revenue bonds to finance improvements, and eliminates the sunset date. Also on the Governor's desk is **Substitute HB 2437**, which allows cities over 100,000 population to direct increments of sales tax increase within a downtown or neighborhood commercial district to "community revitalization projects" in that area. The increment available to the city is limited to that portion of the local sales tax to which the city is entitled.

Improved CERB Funding Dies with Budget Crunch

Bills to permanently fund the Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB) have died in Committee. Interest earnings from CERB loans and a portion of interest from the Public Works Trust Fund—up to \$1.9 million annually—were the proposed permanent fund source for CERB. Interest from both accounts currently accrues to the General Fund.

Malicious Mischief

SSB 6422, which includes a definition of "property of another" covering jointly owned property, passed the House on Tuesday. This bill is a WACO/Prosecutors' Association recommendation. A recent Washington Court of Appeals case, *State v. Coria*, overturned a conviction for malicious mischief and held that an estranged spouse who destroyed community property could not be convicted for maliciously destroying property. This bill allows that conviction to stand if the person maliciously and knowingly destroys community property without consent of the other person. The statute being amended has been used primarily in domestic violence situations.

Felons/Restoration of Voting Rights

SSB 6240, felons voting rights, passed the House this week. The bill was amended from its original form stating that an offender's voting rights can be restored at the completion of all requirements of the sentence, *including any and all legal financial obligations, and while under the custody and supervision of the department*. The court will send a copy of every signed certificate of discharge to the auditor for the county in which the court resides and to the Department of Corrections (DOC); however, the DOC must create and maintain a database which will include all felons who have been issued certificates of discharge, the date of discharge, and the date of conviction and offense.

Offender Supervision

HB 2712 and **SB 6499**, offender supervision, both sit in the House Judiciary Committee, and if they were ordinary bills, would be considered past saving. Both bills are necessary to implement the budget cuts to the Department of Corrections in both the House and Senate budgets, so consider them dormant, not dead.

County Clerks Have Another Good Year!

SSB 6402, collection of inmate legal financial obligations, was the last of the county clerks' legislative package to pass out of the House last evening. It was slightly preceded by the passage of **ESSB 5692**, youth courts. **ESSB 5692** has been a WACO priority for the past two years. **SB 6401**, county clerks' cleanup, passed the House on Tuesday, and **SB 6417**, filing of wills, passed the House on Wednesday. The next stop is the Governor's desk and regrouping of the troops to pass **SB 6458**, jury fees, in the 2003 session. **SB 6458** died in the House Judiciary Committee.

Update

ESSB 5692, youth courts, passed the House.

SHB 1444, the anti-bullying bill, passed the Senate on Thursday.

SHB 2406, sex offender web site, is on the Senate Floor Calendar.

SSB 6488, sex offender web site, passed the House.

HB 2407, regional jails, passed the Senate.

SHB 2468, offender DNA database, passed the Senate.

SHB 2477, DOC filing of satisfactions of judgment, is on the Senate Floor Calendar.

SB 5253 and **SB 6458**, jury fee increases, both died in committee.

SB 5426, law library funding, is in the House Rules Committee (Thursday a.m.).

SB 5591, caregiver jury exemption, died in the House Judiciary Committee.

E2SSB 5827, enforcement of judgments, passed the House.

SSB 6404, sheriff deputies at district court, died in the Senate.

Statewide Emergency Management Summit Scheduled

Local elected officials, emergency management professionals, and public health leaders are among those encouraged to attend the "Washington State E-Safety Summit" on Tuesday, March 26, in Olympia. WSAC is one of the sponsors, which include government entities, emergency service providers, and numerous private industries.

The summit, billed as "Emergency Solutions for the 21st Century," is a day-long meeting intended to raise awareness and understanding of emergency management and response in the state of Washington. It is designed to help public officials and private leaders close the gaps in mitigation, response, and emergency communications for accidents, dangerous conditions, natural disasters, and terrorism. The program will include detailed discussions on national, state, and local programs, strategic planning to advance safety and security, and technology demonstrations.

Invited guests include U.S. Senator Patty Murray, U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell, and Governor Gary Locke.

The program begins at 8:45 a.m. in the auditorium of the Washington State

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Online Legislative Information

If you're interested in finding out what's going on in the legislature, the following online resources are available to track bills, research fiscal notes, and listen to hearings.

Legislative Information. To track legislation and review Washington laws, go to www.leg.wa.gov. The site also contains point-of-contact information for your representatives and senators.

Fiscal Notes. For published information on the fiscal impacts of a bill, check out the Office of Financial Management's Fiscal Notes site. You can access that site by going to www.ofm.wa.gov/fns/.

TVW. To listen to a public hearing, log onto www.tvw.org. TVW's site also offers live television broadcasts of some of the hearings.

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Labor and Industries Building in Olympia. Lunch will be provided for a \$15 fee, collected at the door.

For more information visit www.comcare.org. To register, e-mail your name, title, organization, and contact information by March 16 to register@comcare.org, or call Nikki Smirl at (202) 429-0574 ext. 234.

Learn Tips on Effective Advocacy During Agency Rulemaking

The Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) is offering a five-hour course designed for private and public-sector attorneys representing clients regulated or affected by state agency rules. Topics include the basics of agency rulemaking procedures (including the APA and specific agency processes), effective advocacy techniques at rulemaking hearings, current case law, and legislative oversight of agency rulemaking.

Presenters include representatives from the state Attorney General's office, the Department of Ecology, the Department of Social and Health Services, the Utilities and Transportation Commission, the Department of Labor and Industries, and Columbia Legal Services.

The program is set for 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Friday, March 22, at the Tacoma Rhoades Center at 950 Broadway in Tacoma. Bar members may receive four CLE credits. The program is open to non-attorneys. Registration is \$70 for members of the WSBA Administrative Law Section and \$80 for all others. To register, contact Michelle Kramer of the WSBA at (206) 727-8258 or michellek@wsba.org.

E-911 Wireless Bill Heading to the Governor

Following a very helpful flurry of e-mails and calls from county officials, the Senate passed—without amendment—**HB 2595**, the E-911 wireless bill, early Tuesday, March 5. The 42-6 bipartisan vote sends the cell-phone tax increase to Governor Gary Locke, who has indicated that he will sign the bill.

This bill will increase the E-911 tax on cell phones to a total of 70 cents per month, equal to the existing E-911 tax on wireline phones. It has been a

WSAC legislative priority and is necessary to improve E-911 service for calls made from cell phones. It will double each county's current revenue from its cell phone tax and will provide more than \$5 million in new state E-911 revenue.

HB 2595 was sponsored by Representative Jeff Morris of Skagit County. It previously passed the House 86-11. A Senate companion measure, **2SSB 6034**, was sponsored by Senator Karen Fraser of Thurston County. Both Senator Fraser and Senator Sid Snyder of Pacific County were very helpful in ensuring final passage of the legislation. Do not hesitate to offer thanks to these legislators for their leadership on this issue.

Soliciting Your Ideas for Tribal/County Law and Justice Summit

The committee planning a tribal/county criminal justice summit is looking for suggestions from county officials for issues to be considered at the late-summer summit. Yakima County Commissioner Jim Lewis and Clallam County Commissioner Mike Doherty represent WSAC on the planning committee and want to hear ideas from other commissioners.

Issues already on the table include: mutual aid agreements, domestic violence, sex offender notification, recognition of "foreign" warrants, cross commissioning, cultural education, and drug task forces.

To add to that list, please contact Commissioner Lewis, Commissioner Doherty, or WSAC staff Sophia Byrd.

Governor Gary Locke and Attorney General Christine Gregoire last fall established the Tribal-County Criminal Justice Task Force to plan the upcoming statewide summit, with the goal of "working together to make our communities safer."

Local Government Organizations Present Terrorism Broadcast

On March 21, 2002, seven local-government organizations will present a satellite and Internet broadcast on combating bioterrorism. Among the presenters are the National Association of Counties (NACo) and the National As-

sociation of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO).

The broadcast, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Eastern Time, will describe regional approaches to preventing and preparing for bioterrorism events, and will discuss how counties, cities, states, and the federal government can coordinate their efforts to safeguard citizens. It will also feature a tabletop exercise designed around a potential cataclysmic bioterrorist situation.

To register for the broadcast or obtain more information, county officials may e-mail NACo's Education Division at education@naco.org, or call Phyllis Pines at (202) 942-4299. WSAC staff will monitor the satellite broadcast.

WSAC also plans to expand on the broadcast program with a three-hour training event in June that will be tailored to local officials in Washington state. The training is being developed in cooperation with the WSAC Certified Public Official training program and the Washington state Division of Emergency Management. To offer observations on the satellite broadcast and/or suggestions for the WSAC training program, please contact WSAC staff Sophia Byrd (sbyrd@wacounties.org) or Dema Harris (dharris@wacounties.org).

Transportation Overview

Last week the House swiftly adopted a statewide revenue package (**SHB 2969**) with only four republican votes and sent the package to the Senate. The next day, Saturday, the Senate Transportation Committee heard this bill, and in its place adopted their preferred version of nine-cent gas tax proposal that raises \$8.2 billion dollars of new revenue (bonded) over 10 years. Instead of a direct distribution of one penny to be distributed evenly between counties, cities, and the Transportation Improvement Board, the Senate package contained local grant programs of \$289 million over 10 years for both cities and counties, and \$250 million for transit. Since the Senate Transportation Committee adopted this plan, key legislators have been negotiating between the two packages. Association staff has met with key legislators and has been told that the final package will contain a combination of direct distribution and grant programs for counties. The major negotiation points are public transportation, local programs, freight mobility, and whether the Legislature or the people will vote the proposal.

On Thursday, March 7, the Senate adopted a regional transportation proposal (**ESHB 2359**) with a 35-14 vote and sent the bill back to the House. The Senate regional proposal authorizes King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties to

form a region in order to impose a variety of taxes for primarily “highways of statewide significance.” The major change in the Senate’s original proposal to this one, is that this proposal now allows “non-highways of statewide significance” to be considered for participation. However, the projects would have to meet strict cost benefits criteria and could only participate in 10% of the total amount of revenue up to one billion dollars. The major negotiation points between the House and the Senate are:

- Should other counties be eligible?
- Should a region be created, or allow a single-county option?
- Should other projects be considered other than “highways of statewide significance”?

Because we do not have clean copies of worksheets with the additional details to scan into this *Courthouse Journal*, we are faxing copies to each commissioner/council/executive office. If you would like us to fax you a copy please call the Association office at (360) 753-1886.

Bills of Note:

SB 6643, and its companion **HB 2700**, the Local Transportation funding option bill, still await action by both houses. (Please refer to last week’s *Courthouse*

Journal for details.) We are told that these bills will be part of the final discussion on the transportation revenue package.

SSB 6350, allowing counties to use the county road fund in order to participate in state projects, passed the House and is now on its way to the Governor’s desk for his consideration. *Please write letters of support to the Governor in support of this bill.*

Please contact WSAC staff member Jackie White for additional information.

House Budget has More Reductions Overall in Human Services than Senate

The House Budget was released late at night on March 6. The hard copy was available at 8 a.m. on March 7 at the same time as the public hearing occurred. Many people didn't have a copy in hand until moments before they testified, as the Committee ran out of copies quite quickly. Human services and health care took the brunt of the reductions as the Chair and Vice-Chair made it quite clear that their priority was to ensure the mitigation of reductions to higher education. Many of the human services reductions reverted to the cuts taken by the Governor, especially in the Department of Social and Health Services' Children's Administration, Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration (JRA), and the Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse.

In the Children's Administration, nearly all the prevention programs were eliminated or significantly reduced, as were the Family Policy Council and the Community Networks. The HOPE beds were also reduced in the House budget. In the Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration, most of BECCA was defunded. The Children in Need of Services and At-risk Youth petitions were retained, but the truancy petitions were eliminated. There were also multiple changes to the institutional population and community services through reducing sentences served, restructuring parole services, and a reduction to the diagnostic services rate for counties. Additional dollars were appropriated for mental health services to the JRA population.

The House's Mental Health budget is quite similar to the Senate's. The biggest items for the Regional Support Networks (RSNs) are the reduction in inpatient rates and the cut to the reserves. These cuts are not offset by the caseload increases and increased ability to obtain federal match through the use of local dollars. Some differences from the Senate are the retention of the prevalence and longitudinal studies, no cut to administrative expenses, and a requirement to come up with an independent mental health ombuds system over the interim. There are also items of concern within the Special Commitment Center budget item, as the Senate cuts county reim-

bursement for civil commitment and the House does not. The House needs to hear counties' support for the restoration of these funds. However, the mitigation funds for the McNeil Island facility are reduced significantly, and no funds are put in the House budget to implement **SB 6594**.

The House budget for Developmental Disabilities is also relatively similar to the Senate budget in many respects. The greatest difference is that the House does not include funding for the ARC lawsuit. They also take a small—but significant to counties—reduction to professional services, which may include technical assistance and the Washington Initiative for Supported Employment. In the Aging and Adult Services Administration, the increase to the Area Agencies on Aging is not appropriated, nor is the enhancement of federal Older Americans Act monies. However, there is no reduction to Medicaid personal care in the House budget. The House budget takes aim at the General Assistance-Unemployable (GA-U) Program in the Economic Services Administration. Program efficiencies are anticipated to save \$16.986 million, and increased attention to getting GA-U clients on SSI is expected to save an additional \$2.67 million.

The Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse (DASA) takes similar cuts in the House budget to those proposed in the Governor's budget. Treatment Alternatives to Street Crimes is eliminated, along with the funds for the gravely disabled and 24% of the recovery beds. They do add \$75,000 to the King County juvenile drug court. The Medical Assistance Administration budget is similar to the Governor's budget and the Senate's. The major differences are a required cost savings of \$21 million, a reduction to the Medically Indigent Program of \$11 million (though there appears to be some cost-shifting here), and the freezing of enrollment in the Special Children's Health Insurance Program. A positive addition to the House budget is \$8 million to settle the St. Peter Hospital lawsuit against the state for reimbursement for psychiatric beds.

There are several reductions to programs of interest to counties in the human services and housing area in the Department of Community, Trade and

Economic Development—Office of Community Development. These include the Community Connections program in Walla Walla, a reduction to the Community Services Block Grant, and a fund transfer for emergency shelter to the Housing Trust Fund. There is an anticipation that funds from **HB 2060**, the affordable housing bill, will assist in providing funds both for emergency shelters and youth shelters as well as other affordable housing projects.

Mental Health Ombuds Bill Dies in the House Appropriations Committee

SB 5522, the mental health ombuds bill, died in the House Appropriations Committee in the last hours of cut-off for bills from the opposite house to get out of the fiscal committees. WSAC testified in opposition to the bill because of the unrecognized costs to the Regional Support Networks (RSNs) and local correctional facilities. The bill included intent statements that the new system could be funded with the current appropriation that the RSNs were receiving. However, the RSNs do not receive a separate funding stream for the ombuds and quality review teams. While they currently expend about \$1.3 million across the state, the amount varies dramatically from zero in Southwest RSN to a couple hundred thousand in some of the other RSNs. The funds come directly out of the capitated payments the RSNs receive for all their functions. The bill would require new functions from the RSNs in terms of negotiating agreements with the new ombuds office, adding information systems and data elements to track information not currently tracked, additional reporting requirements, and designating one liaison per RSN for the new office. All these functions would cost money. The bill also requires nearly unlimited access to both local jails and juvenile detention facilities, with accompanying requirements for private facilities for meetings between the inmate and the ombuds. Thus there would be additional expenses in our criminal justice system to accommodate these new visitors. The question of who would pay for background investigations for these personnel is also not

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accounted for in the bill.

In addition, there are additional costs for the Office of Community Development to set up the new office and for both the Department of Corrections and the Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration to allow access to their facilities for the ombuds. WSAC wants to particularly thank Rep. Kip Tokuda for recognizing these costs and urging the delay in moving this bill to the House floor.

The House budget does include a proviso requiring the RSNs and the Mental Health Division to come up with a system for a separate ombuds from the existing mental health system and report back by November 2002.

Senate Supplemental Budget Fully Funds Public Health

Of the three proposed supplemental budgets, the Senate budget is, by far, the best budget for local public health. The Senate budget provides for public health assistance through the biennium (June 30, 2003). Both the Governor's and House's budgets provide for only six months of public health assistance in FY 2003 and would eliminate the assistance effective January 1, 2003. Additionally, the Senate budget funds the Early Intervention Program and the Alternative Response System.

All three budget proposals increase spending for implementation of the tobacco prevention and control plan to bring the total appropriation to the level required in I-773. Both the House and Senate budgets include securitization of a portion of the future tobacco settlement funding in order to balance the budget and to avoid deeper cuts and general tax increases.

By now you have received a summary document comparing the budgets of the Governor, House, and Senate. The House needs to hear from you about the importance of fully funding public health assistance as the Senate has done in their budget. In another article is a history of public health funding and the general impacts of proposed budget reductions.

History of Local Public Health Funding in Washington

Before 1996

RCW 70.05 mandated that cities and counties shall provide and pay for public health services. Local responsibility and local funding shared by counties and cities.

Counties had property tax millage dedicated to public health—specifically for TB Control, TB Hospital, and General Public Health. Dedication to public health was removed by the Legislature in late 1970s.

1993 Study & 1995 Law

Change occurred in Chapter 492, Laws of 1993, removing statutory responsibility for cities to provide public health and directing AWC and WSAC to conduct a study on implementation of change.

Funding mechanism identified in statute was a shift of 2.95% of MVET from cities to local public health jurisdictions. AWC and WSAC met to develop recommendations on the implementation.

Prior to 1996, cities/towns contributed about \$27 million to local public health departments for public health protection for their citizens.

2.95% of MVET was projected to raise about \$19.8 million, leaving a hole of more than \$7 million.

1996

MVET fund shift implemented. A portion of the "hole" was addressed by continued funding from the City of Seattle to Public Health-Seattle & King County, by a special appropriation from the Legislature, with the balance to be made up over time through growth in the MVET revenues.

1999

I-695 passed. Later struck down by Supreme Court.

2000

The Legislature and Governor eliminated MVET and committed to permanently backfill lost MVET funding.

2002

Governor's Proposed Supplemental Budget would eliminate backfill for public health effective January 1, 2003. Annual loss to local public health departments is \$24.5 million.

Elimination of funding for public health does not eliminate the mandate to provide public health protection to all citizens within your local health jurisdiction—including cities and towns.

Potential Impacts of State Budget Reductions

- Public Health Assistance to replace MVET loss equals an average of 30%–50% of local health departments' unrestricted funds.
- Grants, fees, licenses, permits are restricted.
- Unrestricted funds support Communicable Disease Control and Response (the most fundamental of public health responsibilities), provide grant match, subsidize fees in programs that do not recover 100% of the cost, fund local board of health public health priorities, etc.
- Loss of grant match and Medicaid match, as well as loss of ability to support WIC caseloads can have an economic impact on small communities:
- Example: Reduced WIC caseload means, in addition to poor nutrition and poor health outcomes, there is reduced revenue in communities being spent at local grocery stores. In rural communities with high WIC eligibility and caseloads, this can negatively impact the local economy.
- Cumulative effect of public health and DSHS cuts is greater than the impacts of the cuts individually.
- Other cuts to public health programs reduce the "surge capacity" within local health departments because employees supported by those other program funds are pulled in to respond to disease outbreaks such as

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those experienced in recent years with E-coli, pertussis, meningococcal, the anthrax scare, etc.

Public Health in Washington Post 9/11/01 and Anthrax Scares

☐ Anthrax scares in the Fall of 2001 stretched local public health departments beyond capacity—and this was a non-event.

☐ Current local public health capacity is under-prepared to handle a major disease outbreak whether by natural occurrence or by an act of bioterrorism. The anthrax scares in Washington demonstrated the current capacity deficiencies in public health.

☐ D.A. Henderson, federal coordinator for bioterrorism, states that the issue of

an act of bioterrorism is not one of “when”, but one of “how soon”.

☐ Public expectation is that their public health system will respond to protect them. Much of the response system is devoted to risk communication and calming fears created in a disease event—over and above the responsibility to investigate and contain the disease.

☐ Loss of public health assistance WILL reduce capacity to respond to any disease event. Federal bioterrorism funding is intended to enhance current capacity to respond to a bioterrorism event, NOT to supplant existing resources supporting current capacity. Not every local health department is assured of receiving federal bioterrorism funding. One cannot add a third floor to a building while at the same time dismantling the foundation.

☐ Ongoing state funding for public health backfill or an ongoing alternative revenue source is critical to meeting basic public health mandates and public expectations.

GMA Timeline Extension Passes the House

The compromise reached last week to extend the deadlines for local growth management plans was passed 92-0 by the House this week. **ESSB 5841** staggers the timeline for counties and their cities from December 2004 thru 2007 and requires the plans to be updated every seven years thereafter. The bill clarifies that when a review or update must occur, a city or county shall take legislative action. Such action may change or retain existing ordinances. There are no new requirements and no new sanctions for non-compliance stipulated in the bill; "best available science" language is not addressed or changed.

HB 2846

HB 2846, a bill removing the requirement to comply with the buildable lands provisions unless the state funds at least \$2.5 million, still awaits action by the House Appropriations Committee. This bill is exempt from the policy cut-off.

Please contact WSAC staff member Jackie White for questions or comments.

New Water Conservation Account Bill in Legislature

A new bill to help property owners and conservation was introduced in the House last week and would create a Water Conservation account under the State Treasurer's office. Co-sponsored by Representatives Linville, Chandler, and Skinner, **HB 3001** has already passed the House Appropriations Committee. This account would receive federal funds for water conservation infrastructure, and although the Legislature would be able to appropriate additional money to the Water Conservation account, only the Department of Community Trade and Economic Development's Public Works Board would be able to make expenditures from it.

The Public Works Board makes low-interest and interest-free loans to finance the repair, replacement, or improvement of public works systems in order to restore hydrology and improve habitats. Under federal law, landowners can get assistance to conserve and improve soil and water resources. A farm bill currently being considered in Congress may include \$300 million for wa-

ter conservation, and this new account would receive those funds.

In a press release on March 4, Rep. Chandler said that "Storage is an essential component if we are to do a better job of managing water throughout central Washington... Setting up this account will ensure that any monies received will be reserved for water storage infrastructure." **HB 3001** is now before the House Rules Committee.

Parks Management Bill Almost Through the Process

Legislation to amend Chapter 35.61, governing Metropolitan Park Districts (MPDs) to make it practical for cities and counties (or a combination of them) to create MPDs, has passed the Senate in amended form. Senate Committee amendments to **Substitute HB 2557** revise the taxing authority of future metropolitan park districts. The House can concur in the Senate amendments or negotiate over the differences.

Fate of Water Reform Bill Still Uncertain

HB 2993, sponsored by Representative Kelli Linville (D-Whatcom County), continues to be revised and reworked in attempts to find a compromise with which all parties are comfortable. As time goes on, it seems that fewer and fewer are: the agricultural community, business community, the municipalities, and the environmental community continue to read different things into the bill language, and because of distrust of the Department of Ecology, any language changes that are unclear are suspect.

The biggest problem with the proposal is that it provides no funding to implement locally crafted solutions for healthy watersheds and water supply. WSAC testified that small changes to state statutes alone cannot get the state out of its water mess. The answer may be greater flexibility for local solutions and money to implement them.

Shorelines Bills Move Ahead

Engrossed Substitute HB 2305, which clearly exempts from shoreline management legislation ongoing agricultural activities, is on the Senate floor poised for passage. **Engrossed HB 2623** has passed the Senate and requires only

House concurrence. It raises to \$5,000 the dollar threshold for what constitutes development requiring a "substantial development permit" and requires an adjustment to the threshold for inflation every five years. The current dollar amount is \$2,500.

Land Use and GMA Economic Development Bills Move Ahead

Engrossed HB 2498 has passed the Senate. It expands a pilot program allowing counties to create industrial land banks outside of their urban growth areas and extends the time frame from 2002 out to 2007. This bill adds more counties to the list of those authorized to plan for these industrial areas; the original counties included Clark, Whatcom, Lewis, Grant, and Clallam. Now Benton, Columbia, Franklin, Garfield, Mason, and Walla Walla counties are included as well.

Substitute House Bill 1395, clarifying "small-scale businesses" allowed to locate in limited areas of more intensive rural development in Growth Management planning counties, is awaiting Senate passage.

HB 2697, legislation adding economic development as well as parks and recreation as required elements of county and city comprehensive plans under the Growth Management Act, died in the Senate Ways and Means Committee.

Ecology Begins Rulemaking on Floodway Reconstruction

Two recent legislative changes—**ESHB 1963** (1999 session), amended by **ESHB 2934** (2000 session)—allow for certain reconstruction projects within a designated floodway. Because existing WAC does not allow substantial repair, reconstruction, or improvement to a residential structure in a designated floodway, the Department of Ecology is proposing a rule change to allow a variance to be authorized to allow such reconstruction of farmhouses and other residential structures.

Hearings on the proposed amendments to the Floodplain Management

(Continued on page 11)

Environment, Land Use and Resources

(Continued from page 10)

Regulations, Chapter 173-158 WAC, are scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on April 17, 2002, at Walter Hall, 1226 West Casino Road, Everett, and 6:30 p.m. on April 18, 2002, at the Yakima Valley Doubletree Hotel, 1507 N. 1st Street, Yakima. Written comments should be sent by April 25, 2002, to Scott McKinney, SEA Program, P.O. Box 47600, Olympia, WA 98504-7600 or smck461@ecy.wa.gov.

New Salmon Tools Available

The Governor's Salmon Recovery Office and the Joint Natural Resources Cabinet have announced the availability

of two additional tools for local groups who are working on watershed planning and salmon recovery. These tools—the *Reference Guide to Salmon Recovery* and *Roadmap for Salmon Habitat Conservation at the Watershed Level*—are intended to help local and regional groups coordinate their work and contribute to salmon habitat conservation and salmon recovery at the watershed and regional levels. Along with the previously developed *Guidance on Watershed Assessment for Salmon* (May 2001), these tools can be accessed and downloaded from the GSRO website: <http://www.governor.wa.gov/esa/index.htm>

Hard copies of these documents are also available upon request from Kathryn Horwath of the GSRO at (360) 902-2216 or Kathryn.Horwath@esa.wa.gov

Elections, Recording and Licensing

Filing for Vacancies

SB 6529, modifying the time period for holding elections to fill vacancies (Auditors' Association recommendation), has passed the House and is on its way to the Governor.

Conservation District Supervisors

SSB 6572, which specifies that elections of conservation district supervisors are

to be conducted according to the conservation district chapter election process, passed the House and will be on the Governor's desk shortly.

Secretary of State Bills

SB 6321, allowing candidates to file electronically, has passed the House; **SB 6323**, revising initiative filing fee procedures, is still in the House Rules Committee; **SB 6324**, directing a statewide voter registration database, is on its way

to the Governor; and **HB 2336**, modifying the administration of elections, is on the Senate calendar.

Felons/Restoration of Voting Rights

See a review of **SSB 6240** under the Courts, Law and Justice heading in this issue.

Blanket Primary Back in Court

Remember the big flak over our State's blanket primary last summer when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the similar primary system in California was unconstitutional? Federal District Court Judge Frank Burgess refused to throw out the Washington State blanket primary, saying that the Democratic and Republican party leaders (who want to get rid of the blanket primary) had not proven that the Washington system was like that of California's. Friday, March 8, the issue will again be back before Judge Burgess as attorneys on both sides of the issue present oral arguments trying to convince Burgess to issue a summary judgment in their favor. If that does not happen, the case is scheduled to go to trial on March 25. Stay tuned.

National County Government Week

The National Association of Counties (NACo) has sent booklets to all counties outlining the 2002 National County Government week, April 7-13. This year's theme is "Counties Secure America," and NACo President Javier Gonzales (Santa Fe County, NM) is encouraging everyone to participate this year. "Counties bear the burden of protecting our communities and it is time to show citizens what you have done to safeguard their way of life," he said. "Use County Government Week to educate your citizens about the emergency response plans the county has developed and honor local heroes such as county firefighters and law enforcers."

NACo suggests establishing a National County Government Week (NCGW) working committee to initiate and coordinate all activities and to contact the media. They suggest highlighting the hard work your county is doing to stay prepared for a crisis situation (mock disasters, emergency preparedness fact sheets, town hall meetings, etc.); holding open houses and tours of county facilities; setting up informational displays in malls, libraries or at fairs; making presentations in schools explaining how county government is organized, how county elections are run, crime prevention, fire prevention and drug/alcohol abuse; and implementing other innovative programs.

NACo will be celebrating NCGW in a number of ways, from highlighting the recommendations of its Homeland Security Task Force and promoting its Expand Democracy campaign, to recruiting poll workers across the country.

Brickert May Ride Harley

Chelan County Sheriff Mike Brickert is proposing turning his unmarked car over to a deputy in April as part of a test traffic cop program. He would like to run the test for six months to see if hiring a full-time traffic officer would generate much-needed extra revenue for the county, estimated to be about \$60,000 a year in traffic ticket fines. The best thing about the program, Brickert told county commissioners, is that he won't have to spend a dime on a new car. Harley Davidson will loan him a bike through a program the company offers to law enforcement agencies at a minimal cost, including interest, insurance and

licensing. Sheriff Brickert used to ride motorcycles for the State Patrol, and began with a 1966 Harley Electra-Glide. We suggest a new VRSCA V-Rod. Freedom, Adventure, Pavement...

Update

SSB 6660, personal information of law enforcement officers, according to the *Daily Olympian*, is dead despite an amendment removing property and tax records. We cannot determine that status until after Friday's cutoff.

ESSB 6700, personal information of law enforcement officers, passed the House. It deals with posting of personal information on web sites and gives injured parties a cause of action.

SB 6465, Clark County's bill to allow one-stop shopping, passed the House on Wednesday with only the committee amendment that stripped all language after the first sentence of the bill. Following the explanation of the bill by Representative Joyce Mulliken, there was no discussion and no attempt to restore **SB 6465** to its original state.

Upcoming Events and Training

Basic Contract Training for Public Officials

The Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (WAPA) is sponsoring a one-day seminar on Contracting for Public Officials, April 23, at the Rodeway Inn in Leavenworth, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The training is for individuals who deal with contracts in any capacity for a county, including elected officials, public works and road department officials, human service personnel, prosecutors and their deputies, and any county official who would benefit from the expertise of those who deal in the land of contracts on a routine basis. The agenda was designed to cover several general subjects of contracting for counties, and includes several speakers focusing specifically on public works and human services contracts. Seven hours of Continuing Legal Education (CLE) and Certified Public Officials (CPO) credits have been requested.

There is no charge for this training, but you must call WAPA to register at (360) 753-2175. For lodging, call the Rodeway Inn at (509) 548-7992 (\$65

single, \$85 double). To get this special rate, be sure to tell them you are with the WAPA conference. Alternative lodging is at the Icicle Inn (where the WAPA Spring Training begins on the 24th) at (509) 548-7000 (\$80 single, \$90 double).

Please contact WAPA for a list of the complete program and speakers.

Register Now for WSAC Spring District Meetings

Registrations have been sent out for the WSAC Spring District meetings. Be sure to register soon for a great hotel room and to take advantage of WSAC early registration rates.

Both meetings will begin with a wrap-up of the legislative activity (hopefully the Legislature will have adjourned) and with a roundtable discussion of county budgets in the legislative aftermath.

The Western District meeting will be held at the Rosario Resort in San Juan County on April 11 and 12 and will include a field trip to an affordable housing project on Orcas Island—one of our state's costliest addresses. The meeting

will also include in-depth presentations on stormwater management developments, how counties protect riparian habitat, and recent salmon and watershed restoration activity.

The Eastern District meeting, to be held on April 25 and 26 at Sun Mountain Lodge in Okanogan County, will include an expert presentation on the Columbia River Watershed by Dr. Dan Ogden and a briefing on the removal of the Condit Dam in Klickitat County.

At the business meeting for each district, the membership will select a site for the 2002 fall meeting and the 2003 spring meeting. If your county is interested in hosting a district meeting, you will need to provide the following: a hotel with about 75 guest rooms, one meeting room large enough for 100 people, and one meeting room to hold 35 people. Please notify Kim Zydek, Association staff, for more information.

Courthouse Ramblings

Former WACO employee, **Barbara Sandahl**, who just took a position as chief deputy for the Thurston County Auditor last month, broke her elbow

playing tennis last weekend and underwent surgery on Wednesday. She was rather mum on exactly how she fell, so WACO staff has come to the conclusion

that she was practicing jumping over the net in the event that she actually wins a tennis match someday. Hope you recover soon, B.G. We miss you!

D.A.R.E. Car for Sale

Lincoln County has available for purchase a 1999 Pontiac Firebird convertible used for its DARE program. The car has 14,522 miles on it, is white with unique DARE logos and designs and has custom tires and wheels. If you are interested in a real "show stopper" for your DARE program, contact Sheriff John Coley at (509) 725-9263 for more details.

Calendar of Events

March 14
WCIF/WCIP Boards/Insurance Advisory Committee, (All Day Meeting), SeaTac

March 15
WSAC Board of Directors meeting, Washington Counties Bldg, Olympia

March 18-19
Certified Public Official (CPO) WSU Sponsored 2- Day Course: *Decision-Making in the Workplace*, Puyallup – Cost: \$120 CPO Credits: 4 (Elective Course) Contact: Lassie Tompkins, WSU Pierce County (email: tompkins@wsu.edu)

March 20-22
ACHS, Tacoma, Pierce County

March 21
WA Counties Risk Pool Meeting

April 4
Retro Pool Meeting, Best Inn/RV Park, Ellensburg

April 11-12
WSAC Western District Meeting, Rosario Resort, San Juan County

April 23
Basic Contract Training, sponsored by the Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (WAPA), Rodeway Inn, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

April 25-26
WSAC Eastern District Meeting, Sun Mountain Lodge, Winthrop

May 1
Certified Public Official (CPO) *Public Meetings, Public Information and More: Do You Know the Rules?* Ellensburg – Cost: \$50 CPO Credits: 2 (Elective Course)

May 2
Certified Public Official (CPO) *Public Meetings, Public Information and More: Do You Know the Rules?* Davenport – Cost: \$50 CPO Credits: 2 (Elective Course)

May 3
Certified Public Official (CPO) *Public Meetings, Public Information and More:*

Do You Know the Rules? Richland – Cost: \$50 CPO Credits: 2 (Elective Course)

May 6-10
Washington State Association of County Auditors' Annual Conference, Red Lion, Port Angeles

May 8
Certified Public Official (CPO) *Public Meetings, Public Information and More: Do You Know the Rules?* Mt. Vernon – Cost: \$50 CPO Credits: 2 (Elective Course)

May 9
Certified Public Official (CPO) *Public Meetings, Public Information and More: Do You Know the Rules?* Tacoma – Cost: \$50 CPO Credits: 2 (Elective Course)

May 10
Certified Public Official (CPO) *Public Meetings, Public Information and More: Do You Know the Rules?* Kelso – Cost: \$50 CPO Credits: 2 (Elective Course)

May 15-17
ACHS, Spokane

May 20-23
Washington State Association of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs' (WASPC) Spring Conference, WestCoast Wenatchee Center Hotel, Wenatchee

May 22-24
WIR, Yellowstone County, Billings MT

June 16-19
Government Finance Officers' Association (GFOA) Annual Conference, Denver, Colorado

June 17
WSALPHO Meeting in conjunction with WSAC Summer Convention, Bellevue

June 17-20
Washington State Association of County Assessors' Annual Conference, Rosario Resort, Orcas Island

June 18
WCIF Board in conjunction with WSAC Summer Conference, 10:00 a.m. – noon, Bellevue

June 18
Certified Public Official (CPO) *Financial Management: Understanding County Government Financing*, Bellevue – Cost: \$120, CPO Credits: 4 (Core Course). An additional elective course will also be offered at the Summer Convention, topic TBD

June 18-21
WSAC Summer Convention, Bellevue

June 18-21
Association of Washington Cities (AWC) Annual Conference, Yakima

June 19–21
Washington State Association of Prosecuting Attorneys' (WAPA) Summer Training Program, Campbell's Lodge, Chelan

June 22–26
National Sheriffs Association's Annual Conference, Tulsa, Oklahoma

June 24–28
Washington State Association of County Clerks' Annual Conference, Best Western Suites, Walla Walla

June 24–28
Washington State Association of County Treasurers' Annual Conference, Lakeway Inn, Bellingham

July 9-12
Northwest Regional Election Conference 2002, Jantzen Beach Doubletree Hotel, Portland

July 12-16
NACo Annual Conference, New Orleans Parish, New Orleans, LA

July 17-19
ACHS, Clark County

July 24
Certified Public Official (CPO) *Washington Counties Risk Pool – Leadership Skills in Response to Current Issues*, Spokane – Cost: Free to Risk Pool Members, \$50 non-members, CPO Credits: 4 (Elective Course)

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Calendar of Events

(Continued from page 14)

August 22

WCIP Board/Rate Setting Session, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. SeaTac

September 10-13

City/County Planning Directors, Lake Chelan

September 12

WSALPHO Meeting, Spokane

September 18-20

ACHS, Leavenworth

September 19

WCIF/WCIP Boards/Insurance Advisory Committee (All Day Meeting), SeaTac

September 30 - October 4

WACO/WSAC Annual Conference, WestCoast Wenatchee Hotel, Wenatchee

October 1

Certified Public Official (CPO) *Personnel/Human Resources – Understand the Laws; Maximize Your Personnel System*, Wenatchee – Cost: \$120, CPO Credits: 4 (Core Course)

October 2

Certified Public Official (CPO) *The Class-*

Act County Government Official – Building Courthouse Partnerships, Wenatchee – Cost TBD, CPO Credits: 2 (Elective Course)

November 14

WCIF Board Meeting, 9:00 a.m. – noon, Eastern Washington Location

November 18–21

Washington Association of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs' (WASPC) Annual Fall Conference, Red Lion Hotel at the Quay, Vancouver

November 20-22

ACHS, Seattle

December 5

WSALPHO Meeting, SeaTac

December 10-13

Certified Public Official (CPO) *Newly Elected Officials Training – Understanding Your New Job at the Courthouse*, Olympia – Cost: TBD, CPO Credits: All newly elected officials **must** attend to become certified

2003 MEETINGS

June 24-27, 2003

WSAC Summer Convention, Spokane

July 11-15, 2003

NACo Annual Conference, Milwaukee County, Milwaukee, WI

September 29 - October 3, 2003

Joint WACO/WSAC Conference, Doubletree Hotel Seattle Airport

2004 MEETINGS

June 22-25, 2004

WSAC Summer Convention, Sheraton Tacoma, Pierce County

July 16-20, 2004

NACo Annual Conference Maricopa County, Phoenix, AZ

October 4-8, 2004

WACO/WSAC Joint Legislative Conference, WestCoast Grand Hotel at the Park, Spokane

2005 MEETINGS

July 15-19, 2005

NACo Annual Conference, City & County of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI

Employment Opportunities

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES is seeking a qualified IT candidate to fill an exempt IT Division Manager position. This position will help to strategically guide the agency's technology infrastructure in support of agency business needs. The incumbent will play a key role in helping the organization achieve its mission. Initial screening will begin March 18, 2002. For qualifications and application information please see the DNR job page at <http://www.wa.gov/dnr/jobs/3.2002itdivmgr.doc>. The Department of Natural Resources is supporting the Governor's request to impose hiring restrictions (a.k.a. Hiring Freeze). In doing so we are operating in a controlled hiring period and filling only "mission critical" positions. This position has been identified as essential for the agency to fill.

BUILDING, PLANNING AND SOLID WASTE MANAGER. The Adams County Department of Public Works is seeking a professional with strong leadership and team-building skills to manage our Building, Planning and Solid Waste Division of Public Works. Salary: Starting Pay \$37,252-\$42,868 (DOQ) and benefits, Pay Range \$27,252-\$56,867. Closing Date: Open until filled. Initial screening will begin March 29, 2002. (faxed materials not suitable for submittal). Minimum Qualifications: Bachelor of Arts degree in planning or closely related field and four years of work experience with two years being at a supervisory level, or a combination of education and experience deemed equivalent. A valid Washington state drivers license is required. For additional information and an application packet please call (509) 659-3276, visit www.co.adams.wa.us or write to Adams County Department of Public Works, 210 West Alder, Ritzville, Washington 99169.

KITSAP COUNTY, PARKS PROJECT COORDINATOR. This is professional park planning and development work for the Kitsap County Parks and Recreation Department. Requires a bachelors degree in architecture, park administration, landscape architecture, urban planning or related field and two years experience in park planning or

park project construction or management; or an equivalent combination of experience and education which provides the applicant with the desired skills, knowledge and ability required to perform the work. Washington State Professional Landscape Architect License desirable. Salary: \$20.84 to \$26.60/hr. Closes: 3/15/02. Call (360) 337-7185 for an application packet or download from our website: www.kitsapgov.com.

KITSAP COUNTY, SENIOR DEPUTY CORONER. Performs technical work to investigate all deaths within the County, determine cause of death and locate and notify next-of-kin. Requires two years of college courses in anatomy and physiology, bachelors degree desirable; and two years experience in quasi law enforcement, emergency services, medicine, health services, or related field involving investigative work; or any equivalent combination of experience and education that provides the applicant with the desired skills, knowledge and ability required to perform the work. Previous supervisory experience is preferred. This is an at-will position that serves at the pleasure of the Kitsap County Coroner. Salary: \$21.55 to \$27.51/hr. Closes: 3/29/02. Call (360) 337-7185 for an application packet or download from our website: www.kitsapgov.com.

SPOKANE COUNTY CIVIL SERVICE ENTRANCE EXAMINATION CLASSIFICATION: COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER. Notice is hereby given that a competitive examination for Communications Officer (Radio Dispatcher) in the Spokane County Sheriff's Office, subject to the rules of the Spokane County Civil Service Commission, will be conducted as follows: Written and performance tests will be given March 29, 2002, in Spokane, WA. Keyboarding test will be given at a later date to those who qualify on above testing. This is pass/fail.

Said examination will include tests of proficiency in such matters only as will fairly determine the ability of the person examined to discharge the duties of Communications Officer in the Sheriff's Office. This test will establish the two-year eligible list from which appli-

cants will be called in order of their standing, as positions become available. When called, applicants must satisfactorily complete the background interview, polygraph screening and medical test before being qualified for certification. Starting salary is \$2,460.38 per month.

Eligibility:

1. A citizen of the United States, must be at least 18, who can read and write the English language.
2. Vision correctable to 20/20 in the good eye and 20/30 in the lesser eye. Normal color vision. Normal hearing.
3. Must show proof of age and high school diploma (or equivalent) or college degree and transcript.
4. Must be able to type at 30 words per minute accurately. Test will be given.
5. Veteran's preference granted in accordance with Washington State Law.
6. Any criminal conviction or falsification on application may disqualify applicant.
7. Applicant must qualify through background review and medical test, and will be required to take polygraph covering background and character.

Application Blanks may be obtained at the Spokane County Civil Service office, 1229 West Mallon, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Closing Time: Applications must be received in the Civil Service office no later than 4:30 p.m. Friday, March 22, 2002.

Example Of Duties: Rotating shifts and days off. Receive radio and telephone communications of the Sheriff's Office. Record requests for assistance and complaints of law violations, determine name and address of complainant, nature and urgency of problem; dispatch patrol cars and alert and dispatch other officers, if needed. Ability to multi-task. Ability to learn Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD); make data entries on computer terminals in accordance with governing rules and regulations; responsible for maintaining cleanliness in the workplace. (Refer to list of "Primary and Essential Tasks" on reverse side.)

Requirements Of Work: Must have ability to communicate clearly and distinctly; hear well. Skill in keyboarding. Knowledge of and ability to use computer aided dispatch. Ability to think clearly and act quickly, exercising sound

(Continued on page 17)

Employment Opportunities

(Continued from page 16)

judgment under conditions of emergency and confusion. Ability to learn and satisfactorily carry out established procedures for operating communication equipment, dispatching patrol units and tracking calls in CAD. Comprehensive knowledge of geographical locations within Spokane County or ability to rapidly learn the area. Applicant must be neat and clean in person and dress. Ability to build and maintain good working relations in small working environment, to be a team player; ability to earn respect and confidence of and be compatible with fellow officers. Requires shift work, mandatory overtime, and rotating schedules. Obey the orders of the Sheriff and of superior officers. Any person meeting the requirements of this classification may apply without regard for race, creed, color, sex, national origin, or disability unless in accordance with a bona fide occupational qualification.

SPOKANE COUNTY CIVIL SERVICE ENTRANCE EXAMINATION CLASSIFICATION: JAIL NURSE, RN. Notice is hereby given that a competitive examination for Jail Nurse-RN in the Spokane County Sheriff's Department, subject to the Rules of the Spokane County Civil Service Commission, will be conducted as follows: Written test will be scheduled as needed. Applicants meeting the requirements will be notified of time and place. Oral test will be scheduled as needed to those who achieve a qualifying grade on the written test. Said examination will include tests of proficiency in such matters only as will fairly determine the ability of the person examined to discharge the duties of Jail Nurse-RN in the Spokane County Sheriff's Department. This test will establish the eligible list from which applicants will be called in order of their standing to complete their background interview, polygraph, and medical test before being qualified for certification. Salary Range: Beginning Monthly Salary to 3-1/2 years—\$3,489.96 to \$4,261.58. Fringe benefits include medical, dental and vision plan, free \$10,000 life insurance, sick leave, vacation pay, holiday pay, and membership in Washington State Public Employees' Retirement System.

Eligibility:

1. A citizen of the United States must be at least 21 years of age.
2. Height and weight proportional and adequate for physical requirements of job.

3. Vision must be correctable to 20/20–20/30.
 4. Must provide proof of current valid Washington State R.M. License.
 5. Must show proof of age and provide a copy of college transcript showing degree and date awarded.
 6. Any criminal conviction or falsification on application may disqualify applicant.
 7. A high rate of traffic violations and/or accidents, or failure to pass the Washington State examination for driver's license may disqualify.
 8. Candidate must qualify through background review and medical test and will be required to take polygraph covering background and character.
 9. Minimum of two years experience with assessment skills in acute and specialty nursing.
- Application blanks may be obtained from the Spokane County Civil Service office, 1229 West Mallon between 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Closing Date: Open until further notice.

Examples of Duties: Assess and treat inmate health problems under direction of jail physician, jail dentist and independently up to limits of licensure. This includes injuries, illnesses and chronic health problems including medical, dental and mental health conditions. Assist the physician during clinical visits. Administer medications; obtain blood and other laboratory specimens. Develop and maintain inmate medical records. Instruct staff and inmates regarding health care and infection control. Performs other duties as required. May be rotating shifts.

Requirements of Work: The jail nurse works within the criminal justice system and the correctional setting to provide appropriate health care to pre and post-trial detainees. Must have strong assessment skills and the ability to initiate treatment, often in a setting where no other health care providers are present. Good communication skills are required. Good judgment is a must. Must be able to work without prejudice. Must be able to respond appropriately to manipulative behavior and to remain calm and effective under pressure. Physical requirements include: ability to traverse stairs, push a medication cart, move an adult human body, perform CPR and be mobile for a full work day.

ASSET/LIABILITY MANAGER—CLARK COUNTY, WA. (\$4,296–\$6,070/mo). Supervises and coordinates

the Treasurer's Office cash management, investment and debt management programs. Manages the cash flow liquidity needs of the County and its junior taxing districts; monitors and analyzes potential bond calls; prepares financial schedules, presentations, and reports. Coordinates the customer service effort toward the county departments and junior taxing districts for cash management, investment and debt services; monitors internal controls around investment purchases, sales, and safekeeping. Prepares County financial schedules and notes; monitors and reports debt service activity requirements. Bachelor's degree in accounting, business or public administration, or related field *and* four years increasingly responsible accounting, banking, investment and debt management experience. Detailed position information and applications available at www.clark.wa.gov and from Clark County HR, 1013 Franklin Street, Vancouver, WA., (360) 397-6018; TDD (360) 397-6032. Equal Opportunity Employer

MANAGEMENT, BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE. Executive Director at rural Community MH & CD Outpatient Center in northeast Washington State. Prefer Masters in social/behavioral sciences with 3 yrs. management experience or Bachelors in related field with 5 years experience in behavioral healthcare management. 2 offices, 57 staff, \$3.3 million annual budget; County pop. 40K; Salary \$52–\$58.6K DOE + benefits. Stevens County Counseling, Colville, WA, 1-866-708-4597 (WA. toll free) or (509) 684-4597, Fax (509) 684-5286, e-mail: ghankins@co.stevens.wa.us; area info. at www.colville.com or www.co.stevens.wa.us, deadline 3/31/02; position open 7/1/02.

COWLITZ COUNTY DIRECTOR OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES, salary: \$6,056 including full benefits. This position directs and oversees the planning and administrative functions of the Health and Human Services departments pertaining to mental health, substance abuse, developmental disabilities programs, public health policy development, surveillance and compliance enforcement efforts. It supervises managers and other staff to carry the goals and objectives of each department and ensures the efficient administration of each department. It researches, develops and implements services and strategies to ensure compliance with laws,

Employment Opportunities

(Continued from page 17)

regulations and contractual obligations, and fosters constructive partnerships to achieve effective planning and implementation of each department's goals, strategies and programs. Requirements: Bachelor's degree in Social Science, Public Health, Public Administration, or a related field; a master's degree is desired. 7 years of experience in human services and/or public health administration, which must include budget administration, developing and managing human services and/or public health services, public speaking, grant writing and administration, and full supervisory responsibilities. Or, a combination of education, experience, and skills that would ensure the successful performance of the duties of this position. Possess, develop and maintain a comprehensive knowledge of the laws, regulations and program trends pertaining to human services and public health. Possess and maintain a valid driver's license. Application Information: The application, job an-

nouncement and job description can be obtained by visiting Administrative Services at 207 Fourth Ave. North, Kelso, WA; by calling (360) 577-3065 or TDD (360) 577-3061; by faxing your request to (360) 423-9987; or by sending an e-mail through the link in our website: www.co.cowlitz.wa.us. The application and job announcement can be downloaded from our website. Applications must be returned to Administrative Services by March 25, 2002. EOE

WHATCOM COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT—Drug Court, Substance Abuse Specialist II (Chemical Dependency). The Drug Court Program in Bellingham, WA, is seeking an energetic individual to work collaboratively in a challenging position within the growing adult drug court movement. Hiring range is \$17.46–\$18.84/hour, DOQ. (Top salary: \$22.77/hr.) Requires a BA in Human Services, Psychology, Sociology, or related field, current CDP status, and 4 yrs. recent experience providing

chemical dependency assessments, treatment/discharge planning, group & case management skills. MSW/MA and experience with co-occurring disorders preferred. Whatcom County offers excellent employer-paid medical, dental & vision benefits for employee and family, generous vacation, sick & holiday leave. WA State Retirement system. Optional deferred comp & Flex 125 available. Application period closes 3/19/02. For required application packet contact Whatcom County Human Resources, 311 Grand Ave., Suite 107, Bellingham, WA, or call (360) 676-6802. For detailed job announcement visit our website at www.co.whatcom.wa.us or call the jobline at (360) 738-4550. Equal Opportunity Employer.

News Clippings

Jail Staff Can't Medicate Prisoners

By Julie McCormick
Sun Staff
3/6/02

Kitsap County has been at risk of a big lawsuit for years because it does not use licensed medical professionals to dispense medication to prisoners.

That was the bad news presented to the Bremerton-Kitsap County Health District board Tuesday by district administrators.

Worse, the county will have to spend about \$160,000 per year to hire licensed people to do the job.

The county adult jail and juvenile detention facility contract with the district to provide legally required medical care to prisoners.

But when Dr. Scott Lindquist took over and learned unlicensed staffers were giving out required medications, he

began asking questions.

He learned that the practice is a technical violation of a law that isn't enforced, Lindquist said. But it's also a lawsuit waiting to happen.

Pierce and Jefferson county jails each face civil rights lawsuits over similar practices, Lindquist said.

If a staffer makes a mistake that causes injury or death to a prisoner, the county's insurance will not cover it. "This is a huge liability ... we are certainly at risk here for a bad outcome," Lindquist said.

Jail Superintendent Larry Bertholf estimated about 60 percent of prisoners require some medication. Staffers make rounds three times a day to dispense them.

At juvenile detention, a staff nurse dispenses medication during the week, but there is no nurse for weekends and evenings.

One solution is to hire licensed nurses, Lindquist said.

A study of the hours and shifts needed showed it would cost about \$161,000 unplanned in this year's budget.

Health district administrators also will check to see if off-duty paramedics under the direction of a doctor could be hired at a lower cost than nurses.

Because of the shortage of nurses, Lindquist said it will probably be a couple of months before the gap can be filled.