



A research and advocacy association, supporting efficient, responsive county government in Arizona.



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County Managers and Administrators Meet

Today, at the County Managers and Administrators monthly meeting, Northern Arizona Regional Behavioral Health Authority (NARBHA) Community Advisor Kerry Blume shared information about the Stronger as One Coalition (Coalition). The Coalition is a collaboration of local leaders, elected officials, and representatives from public agencies that work together to increase awareness of and resources for mental health. Ms. Blume noted that in Arizona the suicide rate is higher than the national average with 17.1 deaths per 100,000 people compared to 12.6 per 100,000 people nationwide. She also noted that suicide is the second leading cause of death among individuals between the ages of 10 and 34 years old. The Coalition has a goal to train 50,000 people in Mental Health First Aid in five counties over the next five years. So far the Coalition has made good progress working with some of the major employers in the northern counties to provide this effective, evidenced based training.



CSA staff briefed the county managers and administrators on updates in the Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS). On Wednesday, PSPRS published its annual consolidated actuarial valuations that determine the minimum contributions employers will need to make into the system in FY 2021. Additionally, to assist employers in determining what the impact of changing various actuarial assumptions would be, the PSPRS actuarial firm Foster & Foster will be providing a modeling tool for all PSPRS employers by the end of the month, and for CORP and EORP employers by the end of January. Training on how to use the modeling tool will be available at the PSPRS Annual Meeting and the ACMA Winter Conference in January.

To access the most recent consolidated actuarial valuations for PSPRS, CORP and EORP please, click [here](#). For information on the PSPRS Annual Conference, including a link to register please, click [here](#).

The county managers and administrators were also given an update on the progress of county fiscal and legislative priorities, including eliminating the county fee paid to the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections, the need for additional funding for the Presidential Preference Election, increasing investment in transportation infrastructure and containing mandatory county contributions to the state's Arizona Long Term Care System.

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ACDESHA

On Wednesday, the Arizona County Directors of Environmental Health Services Association (ACDEHSA) met with state agency partners at the Arizona Department of Health Services and the Arizona Department of Environmental Services regarding a variety of functions delegated to counties by the state. CSA staff provided an update on the county submitted legislative proposals currently under consideration for the 2020 Legislative Session.

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County Spotlight – Maricopa County Animal Care and Control

The Maricopa County Animal Care and Control (MCAC) provides care to vulnerable and neglected animals. To reduce the stress of animals in MCAC care they have implemented a number of programs including a Calming the Canines event on the 4th of July and New Year's Eve, as the loud noises from fireworks can increase anxiety and stress of the dogs in MCAC facilities. The program encourages members of the community to volunteer to read, sing, provide treats, toys or blow bubbles to provide enrichment and a calmer environment for the dogs.

To learn more about volunteering and community service events please, click [here](#).

To learn about their upcoming Empty the Shelter event December 13th & 14th please, click [here](#).

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Interim Legislative Meetings

Committee on Towing Safety Task Force



On Monday, November 25, 2019 the 8-member Towing Safety Task Force (Task Force) met. The Task Force is charged with the review of safety issues and concerns related to the towing industry.

The Task Force recommended introducing legislation that would require defensive driving curriculum to include instruction for "move over" laws. The Task Force also made a recommendation that would require ADOT to include information and instruction on the "move over" laws in their educational materials as well as on their examinations. The recommendation was approved by a unanimous vote.

Joint Ad Hoc Committee on Earned Release Credits for Prisoners

On Monday, December 2, 2019 the 9-member Joint Ad Hoc Committee on Earned Release Credits for Prisoners (Committee) met. The Committee is charged with studying, gathering input and establishing recommendations regarding the earned release credit system for prisoners.



The Committee heard presentations from several agencies focusing on probation services and reentry programs for offenders. The Committee also heard from victims' rights advocates who provided their concerns with early release programs. The Committee made several recommendations including: 1) increase public/private options for reentry programs; 2) start to utilize online technological academies to fully staff G.E.D. programs; 3) expand earned release credits to three for every five days served for Class 4, 5, and 6 felonies; 4) expand deferred prosecution; and 5) provide funding to increase capacity for drug treatment and education programs.

Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Minimizing Risk and Exposure for 1st Responders



On Thursday December 5th the Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Minimizing Risk and Exposure for 1st Responders (Committee), chaired by Senator Paul Boyer, met to hear testimony and make recommendations. The Committee was established to research and make recommendations on best practices for cancer screening and prevention for first responders, and evaluate the effectiveness of interventions to reduce fire service carcinogen exposure.

City of Phoenix Safety Supervisor, Mr. David Mathews provided an overview of the range of treatment cost estimates the city created to ensure there was proper funding for first responders to receive care in the event that a firefighter was diagnosed with cancer. The city evaluated the different types of cancer, treatment options, range of treatment, potential supportive care, estimated time-off work and potential death benefits to establish their estimated reserves and forecasted future costs.

The Committee made a group motion to adopt recommendations regarding cancer prevention best practices, increased cancer screenings, and other report recommendations that can be found [here](#).

To view an archived recording of any of the committee meetings please click [here](#).

Upcoming Legislative Committee hearings:

- [Mohave County Water Basin Users Study Committee](#) Monday, December 9, 2019, at 1:30 P.M. in House Hearing Room 1
- [La Paz County West Basin Water Users Study Committee](#) Tuesday, December 10, 2019, at 1:30 P.M., in House Hearing Room 1
- [Joint Committee on Capital Review](#) Wednesday, December 11, 2019 10:00 A.M. Senate Appropriations, Room 109
- [Senate Appropriations and House Appropriations Committee of Reference for The Joint Legislative Budget Committee](#) Wednesday, December 11, 2019, at 1:00 P.M. in House Hearing Room 1
- [Joint Legislative Budget Committee](#) Wednesday, December 11, 2019 at 1:15 P.M. Or Upon Adjournment of the Joint Appropriations Committee of Reference in House Hearing Room 1

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NACo Webinar: Public Health Benefits of Parks

On Wednesday, December 18, 2019 from 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m., the National Association of Counties (NACo) is hosting a webinar titled, The Public Health Benefits of Parks.

The Energy, Environment and Land Use Steering Committee and Healthy Counties Initiative—Parks, Open Space and Trails group will come together for a joint learning opportunity and discussion on the public health benefits of parks. Parks are often a cultural and community hub for counties that help preserve land and build community. The benefits to public safety, clean air and healthy behaviors cannot be understated. Those in attendance will hear from a national organization, a medical provider and a county leader on how parks in 2019 and beyond are making individuals, families and counties healthier places to live, work or play. Other speakers will be announced closer to the time of the webinar.

To register for the webinar please, click [here](#).

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