



# Board of Supervisors Update

November 2016



# Department News:

## **Behavioral Health:**

**Mono County: Breaking Down Barriers, Building Relationships:**

<http://www.counties.org/blog>

By David Liebler

At the junction of Highways 120 and 6 in eastern Mono County -- 37 miles from Bishop and 51 from Lee Vining -- sits the isolated, rural community of Benton. There is little evidence left of Benton's rich mining history. The town is now home to either 164 or 282 residents -- depending on which state sign you believe when you enter the town. The Benton Paiute Reservation is just a few miles away. The surrounding region, sitting more than 5,700 feet above sea level under the towering Mt. Montgomery, is desolate yet beautiful.

For those accustomed to the hustle and bustle of city life, the silence can be almost frightening. You have to be a special type of person to live in this community that has a long history of both poverty and resilience.

Frankly, it's easy to overlook Benton. But not for the Mono County Behavioral Health staff. Department Director Robin Roberts and her team accepted the challenge to see what they could do to engage residents living in desolate, outlying areas. They asked: How do we best get to know these residents -- and perhaps more importantly, provide them the opportunity to get to know us? How do we break down the stereotypes people have of government? How do we provide them with the services desperately needed by people who are apprehensive to come forward?

The residents of Benton can be slow to trust; most live out there for a reason. There is also a reported ongoing alcohol and substance abuse problem in the community -- much due to the fact that there is simply not much to do. As one resident simply put it, if you don't like fishing, there is nothing.

And so in 2013 the Behavioral Health staff traveled to Benton to get input from community residents on what type of activity the community needed. The answer was a regular event that featured food, activities an opportunity for the community to come together. Thus was born a social event that has carried on to this day -- and it's the only game in town.

Each month the Behavioral Health staff provides the main course and entertainment; the community brings potluck dishes. The cost to the county? About \$100 a month of Prop. 63 funds, as well as some staff time. The last Friday of the month was decided upon because it's when some of the residents could really use a hot meal.

"This is the only event we can say that the whole community can get involved. This is it," community member Cristina Marquez said. "If it wasn't for (the County), we would have nothing."

Marquez sums up the sentiment of many resident: "They don't act like 'government.' They are just ordinary people trying to help."

In September, "the Benton Social" as it is called featured Asian wraps for dinner and the Disney film Zootopia for entertainment. But while dinner and a movie are on the agenda, the success comes from the discussion and breaking down of barriers. As local Pastor Jim Copeland says, it's the talk over dinner that can make a difference.

"Getting them to get to know people in casual, friendly, supportive way allowed them to feel some trust and comfort and allowed them to open up a little bit about other things bothering them," explained Ellen Thompson, a retired Behavioral Health case manager who lives in Benton. "Shortly after we started doing these out here, my caseload skyrocketed."

Attendance at the monthly social can vary, but the building of relationships continues to grow.

"We have relationships with people based on us being here to provide the community with an opportunity, not coming out here looking for people that might not behavioral health services," Roberts said. "It's not about having an issue; it's more about feeling that we are approachable."

Case Manager Salvador Montanez is the staff member who makes the events happen each month. "It really pays off to spend time with the community, let them know who you are and let them come to their own terms on whether they might benefit from some of the other programs we provide."

Breaking down barriers, building relationships; it's working in Benton, California.

On Wednesday, November 2, 2016, Mono County Behavioral Health Cultural Outreach Committee hosted a very successful free/no charge “**Foro Latino**”. The event was held in the Social Services conference room on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Sierra Center Mall and was conducted entirely in Spanish (*with the exception of a few times when translating was needed*).

Shortly before the forum began, participants were treated to a very special dance performance. Our very own Sofia Flores was one of the dancers along with Bertha Jimenez’s two daughters. In total, 2 adults and 3 children delighted observers with a Ballet Folklorico (Folkloric Ballet). Songs were played over a speaker and were known as La Raspa, son de la Negra, and Guadalajara. The dancers had on gorgeous brightly colored dresses with flowing, amazing skirts and the dance was presented in the lobby area outside of the Social Services conference room. The decision to dance in the lobby was a perfect choice! The space proved to beautifully reflect the sound of the dancers’ shoes and was very cozy, warm and friendly. It didn’t take long before most of the event participants either clapped to the music or to enthusiastically start cheering the dancers! That, of course, was in-between all of the “paparazzi” either taking videos or photos on their phones! It was very lovely to watch and lots of fun. The dances/dancers were super special and a big treat for all of those that were privileged to be in attendance.



After the dances, the adults stepped into the conference room to begin the forum and the children (with adults supervising) went to the Wellness Center. There were several minutes of socializing all while enjoying Giovanni’s pizza and Mexican breads from the Meat Market. Of course, the children had pizza and Mexican breads as well.

Some of the topics covered at the Foro included:

- Positive Discipline
- Domestic Violence
- Stress/Daily Stressors
- Parenting
- Quality Time vs. Quantity Time
- Community Support (a place where people can share)
- Acculturation
- Local Resources
- Breaking the stereotype of our department (Mono County Behavioral Health)

Dancers:

- Abigail Prieto
- Rocio Prieto
- Corina Jimenez
- Gaby Jimenez
- Sofia Flores

Mono County Behavioral Health representatives included:

- Bertha Jimenez
- Lourdes Gonzalez
- Sofia Flores

Representatives also presenting information included:

- Lily Fregoso, Wild Iris
- Sandra Villalpando, Mono County Social Service, Child Protective Services
- Pedro Figueroa, Mono County Social Service, Child Protective Services
- Megan Mahaffey, Mono County Community Development



Discussion amongst the participants included:

More forums!

The participants loved the Ballet Folklorico and the connection that was felt with that. Having this part of future forums will be a definite plus.

Suggestions for outreach

Outreach through employers

Physically going to places of employment to get the word out about upcoming forums

Word of mouth

Possible potluck events

Participants liked that there was a Facebook page in Spanish for Salud Mental Mono County (Mono County Behavioral Health)

Facebook page is: <https://www.facebook.com/saludmentalmonocounty/>

**Thank you to all of those that participated and/or helped with the event!** We appreciate all the team effort and support!

So stay tuned, Mono County! Mono County Behavioral Health will continue to offer “Foro Latino”!



Mono County Behavioral Health Prevention is working with MLP and Mammoth Taxi bringing the 3<sup>rd</sup> "Know Your Limit" Event to Rafters in Mammoth on Saturday, November 26<sup>th</sup> 2016. This program is designed to raise awareness of how little alcohol it takes to blow 0.08. That's what would get you arrested for driving under the influence. We approach patrons walking into the bar, Have you started drinking tonight? We soon attract a crowd of drunk and sober people, interested in blowing into the breathalyzer. It's on a volunteer basis and no one is arrested if they blow 0.08 or over. (This fosters engagement vs enforcement), instead the volunteers are handed a card listing DUI penalties if they were to be caught driving impaired, the volunteers also get a token for a free taxi ride, (tokens provided by MCBH Prevention funds). On the night the "Know Your Limit" Program hits the streets we make contact with 100+ people.

The goal is to keep the roadway safe, and raise awareness to alternatives before even getting in their cars.

Debra Stewart, CADC-CAS

Mono County Behavioral Health





# KNOW YOUR LIMIT

First offense penalties include:

- Fines, fees, and legal cost may exceed \$10,000
- License suspension
- Probation
- Up to six months in jail
- Mandatory DUI classes
- Vehicle impound

Common Drinks	Standard Drinks	Max BAC	Time to Burnoff
Beer (12 oz)	1	0.03%	2 hours
Wine (8 oz)	2	0.06%	4 hours
Margarita	2	0.06%	4 hours
Rum and Coke	3	0.09%	6 hours
Long Island Iced Tea	4	0.12%	8 hours

**buzzed**  
driving is  
**drunk**  
driving

designate a sober driver



**CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF TRAFFIC SAFETY**

## CAO

FBI Special Agent Glenn Norling conducted two incredibly informative 'Active Shooter' Trainings in Mammoth Lakes and Bridgeport. SA Norling is a consummate presenter, and he is able to convey important information about how to respond to an active shooter incident while keeping the audience engaged. These presentations were well attended, and they received excellent feedback. This email includes an attachment titled 'Active Shooter Awareness Guide' for those who are interested in more information.



## Bridgeport Visitor Center:

The Bridgeport Elementary School 7th/8th grade class would like to work on the Bridgeport Visitor Center as their Service Learning Project. Service learning is a teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities. (definition by Fayetteville State University).

The students feel that the visitor center is an essential need for tourism in our community. We have the support of the Bridgeport Chamber of Commerce and have been working closely with them on all ideas and concepts. The students are looking to get support from many agencies and businesses in our community to help develop our visitor center to become a major resource for local information and activities in our area.

We are here to present to the board a list of our ideas and activities that we are planning on completing for the visitor center. We feel that this will start as a 7th/8th grade project but will expand to all grades at Bridgeport Elementary School.

See the attached PowerPoint Presentation for further clarification on the elementary school's ideas.



## **Economic Development**

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:**

- News to be thankful for – Transient Occupancy Tax revenues for the first Quarter (July-September) are up by 14% over Q-1 in 2015, representing an increase in room revenues year over year of almost \$1.6 million.
- Check it out! Just launched the fourth video in our “small business testimonial” series featuring The Mountain Lab and local Mammoth Lakes resident, Scott McGuire: <https://www.facebook.com/VisitEasternSierra/videos/1444013198943978/>

### **FILMING:**

- Alicia represented the Mono County Film Commission at the California On Location Awards event held in LA on Nov. 13th. She also attended the Film Liaisons in California Statewide board meeting on Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Recent filming in Mammoth Lakes, June Lake, Mono Lake, Hot Creek and surrounding area - HGTV's Log Cabin Living and Science Channel.

### **TOURISM:**

- Jeff and Liz were co-presenters on a Collaborative Marketing Efforts presentation, along with the other Yosemite Gateway DMO's (destination marketing organizations) at the Yosemite Gateway Partners quarterly meeting on October 13<sup>th</sup>. Roughly 100 stakeholders from the communities surrounding Yosemite were in attendance.

Alicia attended the CalTravel Board Meeting in Oakland, Nov. 1-2.

- Community Event Marketing Fund (CEMF) – Applications are in and we received 15 CEMF applications with a total request of \$53,140. Applications will be reviewed and grant funds allocated during the Economic Development, Tourism & Film Commission meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 29<sup>th</sup> at the Mammoth BOS Conference Room at 10am. All are welcome.
- Staff is working hard to get three 2017 visitor publications off to the printers in the next few weeks – the annual 68-page Mono County Visitor Guide (thank you to all our advertisers!), the condensed Map Guide, and the revised Backroads Guide to Mono County (Motor Touring Guide).
- Social Media – Our Instagram page now has 10,500 followers (millennial and younger demographic). Visit California shared our post of the super moon over Mono Lake (by local photographer Jeff Sullivan) on both their Facebook and Instagram pages and received 10,700 likes on Instagram. Our Mono Our Mono County Tourism Facebook page has eclipsed 115,000 fans and we are reaching 93,000 people per day.





Mono County/California's Eastern Sierra have been getting significant coverage in various media publications and outlets. Read all about us!

**-Sunset Magazine**

<http://www.sunset.com/travel/california/fall-california-trips?kui=ehIFld6Nks8PFnuSDrK3dA>

**-L.A. Times**

<http://www.latimes.com/travel/deals/la-tr-jetsuite-burbank-mammoth-flights-20161102-story.html>

**-NBC Bay Area**

<http://www.nbcbayarea.com/blogs/worth-the-trip/Bodie-State-Historic-Park-Winter-Hours-Begin-399956091.html>

**-Daily Mail UK**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3905064/A-real-ghost-town-Inside-abandoned-Wild-West-community-Bodie-sprung-Gold-Rush-died-just-quickly.html>

**-Trekaroo**

<https://blog.trekaroo.com/family-ski-safety-overcoming-fear/>

**-Only in Your State**

<http://www.onlyinyourstate.com/northern-california/mountain-towns-in-norcal/>

**-Marmot**

[https://marmot.com/love-the-outside/10-of-the-best-fall-hikes-in-america?utm\\_source=facebook&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_campaign=rr\\_story&utm\\_expid=1002275-10.R-MH27JdTdiWkhyenbgniw.0&utm\\_referrer=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2F](https://marmot.com/love-the-outside/10-of-the-best-fall-hikes-in-america?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=rr_story&utm_expid=1002275-10.R-MH27JdTdiWkhyenbgniw.0&utm_referrer=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2F)

**-US News**

<http://travel.usnews.com/gallery/10-family-friendly-resorts-for-fall-foliage-trips-across-america/>

**-MSN.com**

<http://www.msn.com/en-us/travel/tripideas/inside-an-eerie-california-gold-rush-town-that-lay-abandoned-for-70-years/ss-AAjeP5F?ocid=spartanntp#image=5>

**-Mercury News**

<http://www.mercurynews.com/2016/10/17/travel-top-ten-leaf-peeping-destinations/>

**-Cookies and Clogs**

<http://www.cookiesandclogs.com/things-to-do-in-mono-county-california-with-kids/>

**-Rough Guides**

<https://www.roughguides.com/special-features/bodie-california-ghost-town/>

**-L.A. Times**

<http://www.latimes.com/travel/deals/la-tr-california-eastern-sierra-fall-colors-20161006-snap-story.html>

**-Travel and Leisure**

<http://www.travelandleisure.com/slideshows/americas-best-fall-foliage-drives/14>

**-Alaska Airlines**

[https://blog.alaskaair.com/destinations/weekend-wanderer-lax-mmh/?\\_\\_prclt=mV5dmEQw](https://blog.alaskaair.com/destinations/weekend-wanderer-lax-mmh/?__prclt=mV5dmEQw)

**-Smithsonian.com**

<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/ist/?next=/travel/20-best-small-towns-visit-2016-180958799/?page=2>

**FISHERIES:**

The Mono County Fisheries Commission will be giving an overview presentation to the Board of Supervisors at the regular BOS meeting of December 20, 2016. All are welcome.

## **Probation**

Jazmin and Orlando led a team building workshop with the probation staff called Real Colors. Real Colors is a dynamic workshop experience using a personality type test. The goal is to provide participants with the skills to:

- understand human behavior
- uncover motivators specific to each temperament
- improve communication with others

The basis of this workshop is the Real Colors Personality Type Test: a user-friendly, intuitive tool that identifies four personality types common to all people—Gold, Green, Blue, and Orange.

It all begins with the Real Colors workshop, in which participants:

- gain an understanding of the four colors (each corresponding to a personality type)
- discover where they fall as an individual on the Real Colors spectrum
- learn to recognize characteristics of each of the four colors
- discuss with fellow workshop participants what it's like to be each color

From the very beginning, participants begin to see the world from a new perspective.

The Fundamentals workshop is the foundation for advanced workshops designed to address common organizational topics such as stress, workplace issues, teams, and leadership.

**Without a doubt, Real Colors works.**

Since 1993, over 1.5 million people in businesses, professional organizations, universities, and government agencies throughout North America have used Real Colors and its principles to improve and enhance their personal and professional relationships. The techniques learned through Real Colors can help bring about lasting, positive change, resulting in higher levels of success for all.



## Public Health

# 2016 STATEWIDE MEDICAL AND HEALTH EXERCISE

## Mono County Public Health TABLETOP

### Multi-Casualty Incident (MCI)

Thursday, October 27, 2016

9:00am – 1:00pm

Mammoth Lakes Fire Station I

Mono County Health Department (MCPH) and other partnering agencies participated in a stimulating table-top exercise involving a scenario with multiple casualties somewhere in Mono County. We worked through evolution of three different events including a bus accident, starting with the first 911 call. We discussed and examined various plans to see if we think they will work in reality. With the findings from our strengths and weaknesses, MCPH will put together an improvement plan for our county to better serve our community population.

We want to thank the multiple agencies that attended: Mono County Sheriff's Office, Mono County Social Services, Mono County Behavioral Health, Mono County Paramedic Program, Mono County Environmental Health, Town of Mammoth Lakes and Police Department, Mammoth Lakes Fire Department, Community Emergency Response Team (TOML & Antelope Valley CERT), Mammoth Hospital, Eastern Sierra Disabled Sports, California Highway Patrol, Toiyabe Indian Colony, Bishop Amateur Radio Club, Eastern Sierra Transit Authority, and Cerro Coso Community College.



## **Public Works**

The Facilities division has been scrambling to complete many weather dependent projects prior to winter weather.

- The Memorial Hall roofing project is complete and it looks great!
- Gull Lake Park CDBG Accessibility project is complete.
- Benton Park CDBG Accessibility project all of the concrete work is complete pre-winter.
- Crowley Lake Park Accessibility project all of the concrete work is complete pre-winter.



- Bridgeport Road shop Biomass Boiler Project is nearing completion with approximately 2 weeks of construction remaining. The manufacturer is tentatively scheduled for the second week in January for startup, training, and field inspection by the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District.

Contact: Joe Blanchard 760-932-5443



## **Recology Basket: The Gift that Keeps Giving**

As mentioned briefly in the last Board of Supervisor's email, Mono County's basket raffle at the RCRC event received the top bid for \$3250 by **Recology** Corporation! Recology works in both Yuba and Glenn Counties thus Yuba Supervisors Abe and Fletcher, and Glenn County Supervisor John Viegas, who is also RCRC Chairman, plus yours truly (Supervisor Alpers), are all in the representative picture. Ed Farwell, representing Recology, rounds out the picture

Last year (2015) the raffle/auction raised \$25,000 for charity. This year, the event raised \$41,400! Quite awesome wouldn't you say? The \$41,400 will be donated to 3 charities that Chair Viegas has selected in Glenn County.

Recology, who purchased the Mono Basket, will be re-gifting the basket to raise funds for the Yuba County homeless program called 14 Forward. Recology will be selling 300 tickets for \$100 each to then pay it forward. Stay tuned for the winner's name in December. Our basket is the gift that keeps on giving! Unbelievable turn of generous events wouldn't you say?

Supervisor Alpers would like to personally thank on behalf of Mono County the individuals and businesses that contributed so generously to our basket:

- Dr. Don and Tracey Harrell - Mammoth Hospital
- Mammoth Resorts
- The Resort and Restaurant at Convict Lake
- The Mono Lake Committee
- Ernie's Tackle and Ski Shop
- The Double Eagle Resort and Spa
- The June Lake Brewery
- Alpers Trout LLC
- County of Mono



If you need further information on Recology, call Jackie Sillman, Community Relations Manager, 530-749-4220. More information on Chairman Viegas' charities can be obtained by calling Sarah Bolnik at RCRC 916-447-4806.

## Social Services:

**Affordable Care Act Repeal?** The recent election has numerous implications for the programs we operate and the people we serve. Perhaps the only Health and Human Services-related policy that President-elect Trump touted in his campaign was to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Go to the last section of this Social Services update for an in-depth discussion on this topic.

**Open Enrollment!** Amidst all the chatter, here are **3 things Covered California** wants you to know:

Your coverage will remain intact for 2017.

Your financial assistance (subsidies, APTC/CSR, small business tax credits) are provided under current state and federal law.

The rates for 2017 will not change.

Nearly 80 percent of Covered California consumers will either be able to *pay less* than they are paying now for health insurance, or see their rates go up by no more than 5 percent if they shop and switch to another plan. Source: [www.coveredca.com/news](http://www.coveredca.com/news)

## Antelope Valley Senior Center

Residents had a frightfully good time at the Halloween party last month!



## Spice Girls

Sherrie James, RD, Inyo County Health and Human Services, offered seniors a class on making healthy seasoning blends at the Antelope Valley Senior Center. Participants were provided the ingredients and instruction on creating healthy seasoning blends with an individual twist.



## Save the Date!

For Prospective and Current Foster Parents!

## Foster Parent Social

December 8, 2016

5:30-7:00pm

Sierra Center Mall 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

Mammoth Lakes

BOS Conference Room

Snacks Provided

Please RSVP

Childcare Available upon request

Questions & RSVP:

Marlo Preis

760-924-1793

[mpreis@mono.ca.gov](mailto:mpreis@mono.ca.gov)



## Professional Development: Social Services Employees Engage!

### Child Welfare Coaching

Social workers must constantly use critical decision-making skills as they face a multiplicity of needs and issues when working with families. Implementation science researchers claim that “human services are far more complex than any other industry” (Fixsen, Blasé, Naoom, & Wallace, 2009, p. 531).

Child welfare staff need advanced critical decision-making skills that cannot be taught in a one-time training. Mono County Social Services takes advantage of no-cost, on-site coaching provided by the UC Davis Center for Human Services. Staff work with Peggi Cooney, MSW, Child Welfare coach, on a quarterly basis. Peggi models and coaches on safety planning and family team meetings with families in which children are at risk or have been victims of child abuse.

Professional development coaching leads to improvements in practice, quality of work, and the department’s success in working with children and families in the following ways:

- Improving systemic implementation of practice
- Creating positive changes in behavior
- Embedding professional development

*Pictured left to right: Michelle Raust, Krista Cooper, Mitch Cyr, Rose Martin, Ray Gaffney, Sandra Villalpando, Peggi Cooney (Child Welfare Coach), and Pedro Figueroa*



### Resource Family Approval (RFA)

RFA is a method of approving care providers for the care and supervision of children, youth, and non-minor dependents (NMD) in the child welfare and probation foster care system. Mandated by California State Statute, RFA creates a platform for all Resource Families to receive the same information, training and opportunity for support.



Mono Probation Staff and Child Welfare staff from Mono, Inyo, and Alpine gathered in Mammoth to learn from Patrick Considine, Supervisor for Resource Family Approval (RFA), in San Luis Obispo County.

Patrick provided information and wisdom on RFA processes and lessons learned. SLO County was an early implementing county and has been providing RFA since 2013.

Thank you, Patrick!

## Mono Hosts Inyo & Alpine Eligibility Workers for Trainings



County eligibility workers are key to enrollment of Eastern Sierra residents in low cost health insurance, CalFresh programs, CalWORKs, Welfare to Work, and Workforce programs. These programs are highly regulation driven. Eligibility requirements, program rules, and associated policies and procedures are constantly changing.

The number and rate of social service program changes will undoubtedly increase under changes sought by President-elect Trump and Congress!

The UC Davis Center for Human Services provides most staff trainings to Mono, Inyo and Alpine staff. The Center is continuously revamping and expanding training programs to support new skills. Courses on the technical aspects of eligibility work support new workers in their initial training and experienced workers in keeping current on legislative and regulatory changes.

Following are the trainings Eligibility Workers in Mono, Inyo, and Alpine Counties have or will attend this fall:

- **Introduction to Welfare Fraud Prevention and Detection** (October 31<sup>st</sup>). The California Department of Social Services recommends that new employees receive at least eight hours of initial training in welfare fraud prevention and detection. This workshop introduces the new eligibility worker or fraud investigator to the challenge of protecting the welfare system from fraud and abuse.
- **Fraud Detection and Prevention Techniques** (October 31). Techniques that can help workers prevent fraud by educating clients, conducting thorough interviews, completing legal forms and following standard procedures.
- **Fraud Confrontation Interviewing** (November 1). This workshop presents techniques for interviewing clients in cases of suspected fraud. The relationship and responsibilities of investigators and eligibility workers are discussed.
- **Identifying and Calculating Overpayments** (November 8). This workshop focuses on the regulations defining the various types of overpayments as well as the eligibility worker's role in avoiding and correcting overpayments in the CalWORKs program.

- **Identifying and Calculating CalFresh Overissuances** (November 8). Techniques and forms used in avoiding, determining, computing and adjusting overissuances in the food stamp program.
- **Establishing the Medi-Cal Family Budget Unit** (November 9). Determining the composition of the MFBU is an important step in establishing the Medi-Cal case.
- **Sneede v Kizer: Applications in Medi-Cal Eligibility** (November 9). Impact and significance of the court decision Sneede v. Kizer in determining Medi-Cal eligibility. Case examples are used, and participants have an opportunity to practice identifying cases and computing budgets.
- **Introduction to CalWORKs** (November 10). Overview of the fundamentals of CalWORKs eligibility. The one-day session is intended for staff with experience in determining eligibility for food stamps, Medi-Cal or general assistance. The two-day session is for less experienced staff.

**Fiscal Staff Fall Trainings at UC Davis: Fiscal Essentials Institute** (September 7-9).

This institute provided two of our fiscal staff with an opportunity to learn and update their professional practices and connect with their peers who can share hands-on experience. The training covered key concepts, practices and tools, and provided access to professionals who will contribute the academic and practical guidance required for a good fiscal manager.

**DSS Training Corner**



The American Red Cross will be in Mono County in December offering more community trainings. Twenty -nine of our In Home Supportive Services Providers have pledged to enroll in these classes. Help spread the word to people in your area to take advantage of this opportunity to get trained and certified in Adult CPR and First Aid. The registration fee is \$5.00 to be paid by cash or check when you check-in.

**Monday December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

12:30 pm to 5:30 pm

Antelope Valley Community Center, 442 Mule Deer Road, Walker

**Tuesday December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

1:00 pm to 6:00 pm

At the Department of Social Services Conference Room, 452 Old Mammoth Road, Mammoth Lakes

RSVP TODAY Space is limited.

Call 760-924-1780



**95% of Pillowcase Project students feel more prepared for disasters.**

**#PillowcaseProject**

### **Pillow Case Project comes to Lee Vining Elementary on December 6, 2016**

The Pillowcase Project, sponsored by Disney, is a preparedness education program for grades 3 – 5 that teaches students about personal and family preparedness and safety skills, local hazards, and basic coping skills. Red Cross volunteers lead students through a “learn, practice, share” framework to engage them in disaster preparedness and survival skills. Upon completion, students receive a sturdy pillowcase in which to build their personal emergency supplies kit.

### **Affordable Care Act Repeal? Continued from above . . .**

Below is an excerpt from the federal update by Tom Joseph, CWDA’s man in Washington:

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) announced yesterday that ACA repeal is at the top of his agenda. Earlier this year, after dozens of failed House attempts, the GOP was able to pass a bill repealing ACA’s Medicaid expansion, premium subsidies, and the employer and individual mandates, among other provisions. In January 2016, President Obama vetoed the measure.

The House and Senate could use a special legislative vehicle called reconciliation to repeal portions of the ACA as they did earlier this year. That process begins with the House and Senate adopting a very broad budget blueprint that would include reconciliation instructions to committees to find revenues and/or cut entitlements. The budget resolution does not go to the President for his signature, but it does set the path for a future omnibus bill containing an ACA repeal and changes to other entitlements. Given the time it takes to draft and adopt a budget resolution and the deliberations within the committees of jurisdiction which would follow, a reconciliation bill is not likely to be enacted quickly. And, without enacting so-far elusive or unspecified policy options to replace ACA provisions, 20 million individuals risk losing coverage that a number of Republicans acknowledge will be a problem politically.

Clearly at risk is the enhanced funding for Medicaid expansion, premium subsidies and individual and employer mandates – all of which would be germane under reconciliation. There is already some discussion about phasing out the premium subsidies over two years to allow individuals and families to transition to a new federal plan which could include full tax deductibility for purchasing private insurance and/or more robust, tax-advantaged health savings accounts. Clearly, such tax approaches assume that lower- to moderate-income families have the financial ability to purchase a private plan.

At the same time, Congress will likely try to retain popular provisions such as the prohibition on denying insurance coverage due to pre-existing health conditions, no lifetime dollar limits on coverage and extending family coverage to young adults to age 26, including emancipated foster youth. How these more popular health care policies would be financed and maintained by insurance companies without individual or employer mandates and subsidies is difficult at this time to say.

## Bridgeport Gym Improvement:

The Bridgeport Employee Gym had a couple of very worn pieces of equipment that were recently replaced. Additionally, the layout of the gym has been greatly improved so it is less cluttered. Please thank Jason Davenport, Bryan Bullock, Sean Macedonio, Kim Bunn, and Jami Jerret for their hard work!

