Samuel “Sam” Montoya, a native of Ranchos de Taos, was a former county manager in both Santa Fe and Taos counties. He was Taos County manager three different times, most recently from 1993 to 1999. From 1999 to 2002, he became the Santa Fe County manager before leaving for the New Mexico Association of Counties Executive Director position. Montoya helped form a relationship with the Bureau of Land Management and foster the County College program at New Mexico State University to train newly elected county officials. He was a visionary and will be missed by all those who knew and worked with him.

LOOK WHO WAS IN DC ATTENDING NCCAE…

Front row L to R: Steve Kopelman, Sharon Stover
Please visit the NMAC website affiliate pages for updates on agendas, handouts from meetings, etc. at http://www.nmcounties.org/members/affiliates/. Also, check out the policy committee pages at http://www.nmcounties.org/legislation/policy-committees/.

**REMINDERS! UPCOMING EVENTS NEXT WEEK**

- **Rooms** still available at the Drury Plaza Hotel in Santa Fe, 828 Paseo de Peralta, 505-424-2175, $99/night + tax

- **Mon.-Wed. Jan. 18-20, NM EDGE Classes**, Hilton Hotel

- **Tues. Jan. 19, Multi-Line Pool Membership** meeting, 8:00 a.m., Eldorado Hotel Ballroom

- **Tues. Jan. 19, NMAC Board of Directors** meeting, 2:00 p.m., Eldorado Hotel Ballroom

- **Tues. Jan. 19, NMAC Sponsors/Exhibitors Reception**, 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., Santa Fe Community Convention Center (SFCCC)

- **Wed. Jan. 20, NMAC Symposium #1-Connecting the Courthouse to the Roundhouse: County Issues and Legislative Process**, 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m., SFCCC; **Symposium #2-Counties At the Breaking Point: County Detention Center Reform and People With Behavioral Health Issues in Jails**, 10:15 a.m.-11:30 a.m., SFCCC

- **Wed. Jan. 20, NMAC Legislative Conference Opening Session**, 1:00 p.m., SFCCC

- **Wed. Jan. 20, NMAC Affiliate** meetings, 2:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m., SFCCC, Eldorado Hotel, Hilton Hotel

- **Wed. Jan. 20, NMAC Legislative Reception/Dance**, 5:30 p.m.-10:30 p.m., Eldorado Hotel Ballroom

- **Thurs. Jan. 21, NMAC Legislative Breakfast**, 7:15 a.m.-8:30 a.m., SFCCC

- **Thurs. Jan. 21, NMAC Affiliate** meetings, 8:45 a.m.-11:45 a.m., SFCCC, Eldorado Hotel, Hilton

- **Thurs. Jan. 21, NMAC Closing Luncheon**, 12:00 p.m.-1:30 p.m., SFCCC

- **Fri. Jan. 22, NMAC County Lobbyist Breakfast, by invitation**, 8:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m., NMAC Santa office, 444 Galisteo Street

**DID YOU KNOW…**

- **Colfax County Manager** Patricia Gonzales is leaving the county February 15th to move back home to Rio Rancho after 8 years with the county. She will be missed. We wish her well!

- More than half of **Otero County’s** population lives in Alamogordo, one of the first examples of a “planned community”

• Link to webinar: Form 1095-C Smart Strategies for ACA Reporting Compliance - a recording of the webinar is now available online.

• Link to 2016 NMAC Meetings Calendar

• NMAC requests board members to present 2016 NMAC legislative priorities to commissions for support and report to the NMAC Board on January 19, 2016. Email support resolutions to smayes@nmcounties.org

Calendar of Events, Trainings, and Conferences:
2016
Mon. Jan. 18-20  NM EDGE Classes, Hilton Hotel Santa Fe
Tues. Jan. 19   Multi-Line Membership Meeting, Eldorado Hotel, 8:00am
Tues. Jan. 19   Legislative Session Opens, Capitol, Noon
Tues. Jan. 19   NMAC Board of Directors meeting, Eldorado Hotel, 2:00pm
Tues. Jan. 19-21 NMAC Legislative Conference, Santa Fe Convention Center, Eldorado Hotel, and Hilton Hotel
Fri. Jan. 22   NMAC County Lobbyist Breakfast, by invitation, 8:30am-10:00am NMAC office
Thurs. Jan. 28  NMAC Executive Committee teleconference, NMAC office, 11:00am
Wed. Feb. 3    Deadline for Bill Introduction
Sat. Feb. 6    NMAC Board of Directors meeting, Santa Fe, 8:30am, TBD
Thurs. Feb. 11  NMAC Executive Committee teleconference, NMAC office, 11:00am
Thurs. Feb. 18  Legislative Session Ends Noon
Wed. March 9  Actions by the Governor
Mon. March 14-18 NM EDGE Classes, Albuquerque
Tues. March 22 Legislative District 1 Meeting, San Juan County-Azetec, 10am-2pm
Wed. March 23 Legislative District 3 Meeting, Bernalillo County-Albuquerque, 10am-2pm
Thurs. March 24 Legislative District 5 Meeting, Hidalgo County-Lordsburg, 10am-2pm
Tues. March 29 Legislative District 6 Meeting, Chaves County-Roswell, 10am-2pm
Wed. March 30 Legislative District 4 Meeting, Curry County-Clovis, 10am-2pm
Thurs. March 31 Legislative District 2 Meeting, Colfax County-Raton, 10am-2pm
Thurs. March 31-2 WUI Summit, Grant County-Silver City

National Events:
2016
Sat. Feb. 20-24  NACo Legislative Conference, Washington, DC, Marriott Wardman

Closes Friday! Fiscal Year 2015 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Agency’s Fiscal Year 2015 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFG) will open on Monday, December 7, 2015 at 8:00 am eastern time. The application period for the FY 2015 AFG Program closes on January 15, 2015 at 5:00 pm eastern time.

The Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, (Pub. L. 113-76) provides $306,000,000 in AFG Program funding to assist fire departments and nonaffiliated ambulance and emergency medical service organizations meet their firefighting and emergency response needs. The AFG Program enables these organizations to obtain the tools and resources necessary to more effectively protect the health and safety of the public and emergency response personnel.
Grant guidance for this program will be available at www.grants.gov, and at http://www.fema.gov/firegrants/afggrants/index.shtm. Further, the “Get Ready Guide”, available at http://www.fema.gov/pdf/firegrants/Get_Ready_Guide.pdf, may also be useful for potential applicants and is provided to answer questions and to help prepare grant applications.

Contact Information: For fire departments / applicants requiring assistance please visit www.fema.gov/grants, or contact the AFG Help Desk at firegrants@fema.gov or 1.866.274.0960.

**BREAKING NEWS! $5M IN GRANTS AVAILABLE TO CREATE JAIL-BASED EMPLOYMENT CENTERS TO READY INMATES FOR JOB MARKET BEFORE RELEASE, REDUCE RECIDIVISM**

The U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration today announced the availability of approximately $5 million for 10 grants of up to $500,000 each to put specialized American Job Centers within county, municipal or regional correctional facilities. By doing so, the grants will support an integrated approach that links pre-release services directly to post-release services. The “Linking to Employment Activities Pre-Release” (LEAP) initiative will fund the grants.

Every year, the U.S. Department of Justice reports, the nation’s more than 3,000 county and local jails release more than 9 million people. Many of these individuals have few job skills and face difficult barriers to stable employment. Without a strong support system or a steady job, many once incarcerated people are likely to commit new crimes and return to jail: a cycle of recidivism that recurs nationally.

In June of 2015, the department awarded $10 million in grants for demonstration projects in 20 communities in 14 states to provide inmates with comprehensive services before release and ongoing support as they regain their place in the community when their incarceration ends.

The LEAP initiative seeks to break down silos and help integrate two services already offered by local governments – correctional facilities and workforce development programs. For additional information and to apply, read the full Funding Opportunity Announcement online on Grants.gov.

**NEW! FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR WILDFIRE COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS DAY – SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2016**

Funding for 125 projects in the amount of $500 each is being made available for community wildfire projects implemented on May 7. Activities can be coordinated by anyone (individuals, a small group, an entire neighborhood or a community-based organization) working to reduce wildfire risk, advance general wildfire preparedness, or minimize post-fire impacts from a recent wildfire. Visit the website for all the resources you need to promote your activity, including flyers, postcards, banners, logos and more. Easy-to-do project ideas are available to get you started in planning your activity, or customize one to meet your local area's needs. Your actions will contribute to increasing the safety of both residents and wildland firefighters. Commit a couple of hours or an entire day to helping your community and accomplish something great! Applications will be accepted until February 28. To apply, visit www.wildfirepreday.org.

**REGISTRATION OPEN! 2016 WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE (WUI) SUMMIT**

This year's WUI Summit will be held March 31st through April 2nd in Silver City, New Mexico at the Besse-Forward Global Resource Center on the Western New Mexico University Campus. Advance registration is $65.00. Onsite registration is $85.00. A limited number of scholarships are available for non-federally employed individuals who wish to attend the WUI Summit. Financial assistance is offered through the Northern Arizona University's Southwest Fire Consortium. For more information, to register, and to view the preliminary Summit schedule, please click here 2016 Wildland Urban Interface Summit.
NEW YEAR WELLNESS PLAN! 3 KEYS TO GOOD HEALTH

1. DIET – Eat Right
   Make half your plate fruits and veggies; Make half the grains you eat whole grains; Drink water
   instead of soda; If possible, eat seafood at least once a week; Reduce your portion size

2. EXERCISE – Keep Moving
   Take a brisk walk at lunch; Go for a bike ride after work; Work in the yard; Clean the house

3. SLEEP – Get Sleep
   Have a set bedtime; Do the same “sleep rituals” every night; Keep your bedroom dark, cool, and
   quiet; Remove TVs, computers, and work material from the sleep area
   23% of Americans have potentially serious sleep problems*

*©2014 National Safety Council

*****NM EDGE*****

NM EDGE classes are January 18-20, 2016 are at the Hilton de Santa Fe
Some useful information for students enrolled or planning to enroll in January classes and those graduating:

- Come to the Hilton (100 Sandoval) for all NM EDGE classes on Monday (3 sessions), Tuesday
  (2 sessions), and Wednesday (1 session).
- The NM EDGE Student Services Desk is located in the Promenade at the Hilton de Santa Fe.
  - Our NM EDGE Student Services and Class Enrollment Desk hours are 8 am – 8 pm on
    Monday, 8 am – 4 pm on Tuesday, and 8 am – 11:00 am on Wednesday morning.
  - Parking is across the street from the Hilton at the City of Santa Fe Parking Garage
    (Sandoval and San Francisco)
- On-site class enrollment is available at the NM EDGE Student Services Desk (please come 20-
  30 minutes prior to the start of the class you wish to take). Classes may fill and on-site
  enrollments may be restricted. Please share with those who plan to enroll on-site.
  - Over 30 classes have room for walk-in enrollment, on a first come first seated basis!
- Class sign-in is required prior to each class. Sign-in sheets are available 30 minutes prior to
  each class at the NM EDGE Student Service Desk. You will be directed to your classroom
  from there.
- NMAC Conference Registration is at the Santa Fe Community Convention Center.
  - Please note that NMAC conference registration is not the same as class enrollment or
    sign-in for NM EDGE County College or CPM classes.
- We are partners and our separate organizations require separate enrollment/registration.
- Graduation will be held Thursday, January 21 during the NMAC’s Legislative Conference
  Closing Session Luncheon at the Santa Fe Community Convention Center.
If you are registered for the NMAC Conference, please attend the graduation and show your support for these graduates and their accomplishments.

Graduation Rehearsal will be held Tuesday, January 20 at 4:15 pm in the Mesa D Ballroom at the Hilton.

*****NACo NEWS*****

NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The House Judiciary Committee approved the following 2 bills which NACo has heavily supported and directly helped counties improve health services for justice-involved individuals:

The Comprehensive Justice and Mental Health Act (CJMHA) (H.R. 1854) would extend Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act (MIOTCRA) programs and continue support for local mental health courts, veterans treatment courts and crisis intervention teams. The bill would also support state and local implementation of the sequential intercept model, which aims to identify people with mental health conditions at each point in the criminal justice system in order to appropriately direct them to mental health services. To view NACo’s policy brief on H.R. 1854, click here. (Note: we are in the process of updating our policy briefs for the Legislative Conference, but the policy positions in current versions are accurate, although some dates are off).

The Second Chance Reauthorization Act (H.R. 3406) provides resources to states, local governments and nonprofit organizations to improve outcomes for individuals returning to communities from prisons, jails and juvenile facilities. Specifically, the program improves the coordination of reentry services and policies at the state, tribal and local levels. It funds local demonstration grants, reentry courts, family-centered programs, mental health and addiction treatment, employment, mentoring and other services needed to improve the transition from prison, jail or juvenile detention centers. To read NACo’s policy brief on H.R. 3406, click here.

RESOLUTION PROCESS! NACo LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 20-24, 2016 IN DC

In preparation for the National Association of Counties (NACo) Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. on February 20-24, we invite NACo members to submit interim policy resolutions.

The NACo resolutions process provides members with the ability to participate in national policy decisions affecting county governments. During the Legislative Conference, NACo’s ten policy steering committees and Board of Directors consider legislative and policy resolutions that will guide NACo advocacy until the NACo Annual Conference in July 2016.

All resolutions must be submitted electronically (preferably as a Word document) via email to resolutions@naco.org by January 20, 2015. Submissions MUST identify the title and issue area in the email subject line (e.g. Social Services Block Grant, Human Services and Education). Click here for a sample resolution.

To learn more about NACo’s policy resolution process, click on the link: NACo’s Policy Resolution Process. Please contact Legislative Director Deborah Cox at dcox@naco.org for more information.
A new in-depth analysis reveals that economic recovery accelerated on the ground over the past year, but challenges remain. 2015 was a year of strong growth; however, most county economies have not recovered to pre-recession levels on jobs and unemployment. Additionally, between 2009 and 2014, real wage growth has not always kept pace with productivity gains.

*County Economies 2015: Opportunities and Challenges*, released today by the National Association of Counties (NACo), tracks annual changes in 2015 in four key economic performance indicators across the nation's 3,069 county economies. The performance indicators are: economic output (GDP), employment, unemployment rates and home prices. The new analysis also explores wage dynamics in 2014 and between 2009 and 2014.

"Despite the economic rebound in some areas across the country, the majority of our counties' families are still struggling financially," said NACo President Sallie Clark. "Counties are the foundation and the building blocks of our community, regional, statewide and national economies. Strong county economies help to create healthy, vibrant and safe neighborhoods by providing vital services for our citizens."

**NEW UPDATES! NACo COUNTY EXPLORER – MAPPING COUNTY DATA**

The NACo County Explorer tool is a one-stop-shop for county data and profiles for each of the country’s 3,069 counties. Information is updated regularly. It also incorporates find-a-county searches and other queries. Users can map an indicator–such as finance, energy & environment or public safety–and view all counties ranked against that indicator. County profiles are available for a variety of legislative priorities such as Community Development Block Grants, MAP-21 and Secure Rural Schools. Access this interactive tool at [http://explorer.naco.org/](http://explorer.naco.org/)

**** NACo WEBINARS****

**Making the Most of 2016 Grant Funding in Rural Counties**

**JANUARY 20, 2016 12PM-1PM MT REGISTER**
Small and rural counties are eligible for many of the same grant opportunities as more populous counties, and in some cases, being rural is an advantage in the competition for an award. In order to maximize the grant funding coming into your county, though, you need to know what's out there and how to compete for it successfully.

Maximizing 2016 Grant Funding in Urban Counties  
**FEBRUARY 11, 2016 12PM-1PM MT**  
REGISTER  
As an urban county, you already receive a good amount of funding to address a wide range of issues from economic and community development to public health and transportation.

Effective Cross-Systems Information Sharing in Juvenile Justice  
**FEBRUARY 18, 2016 12PM-1PM MT**  
Youth who become involved in the juvenile justice system often are in contact with other child-serving systems, like child welfare, health or human services agencies.

The Importance of Legal Counsel in Pretrial Justice  
**MARCH 3, 2016 12PM-1PM MT**  
Individuals who are held in jail before trial have been shown to have worse outcomes, from higher risk of unemployment to greater risk of reoffending.

Defining Measurable Goals and Outcomes for Juvenile Justice Reform  
**MARCH 21, 2016 12PM-1PM MT**  
Just as important as implementing effective juvenile justice programs and policies is tracking the results of those efforts.

****NMAC JOB POSTINGS****

NMAC website has a sidebar linking to County Job Boards at Employment Opportunities

NEW! COLFAX COUNTY OPEN POSITION

The Board of County Commissioners for Colfax County New Mexico is seeking an energetic person with strong leadership skills for the position of County Manager. Minimum qualifications include a Bachelor’s degree in public administration, finance, accounting, business, or closely related field; three years of progressive supervision and management in a similar government organization. A Master’s Degree is preferred. A combination of education and experience may be substituted. Please visit our website at [www.co.colfax.nm.us](http://www.co.colfax.nm.us) for a more detailed description.

NEW! EDDY COUNTY OPEN POSITIONS

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<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Rate per hour DOE</th>
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<th>DOE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Detention Case Management Officer</td>
<td>$17.68 - $19.51</td>
<td>$17.68 - $19.51</td>
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<tr>
<td>Detention Maintenance Tech II Officer</td>
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<td>$17.68 - $19.51</td>
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<tr>
<td>Detention Nurse Full-Time</td>
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<tr>
<td>Detention Nurse Part-Time</td>
<td>$29.65 - $32.72</td>
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<tr>
<td>Detention Nurse PRN</td>
<td>$29.65 - $32.72</td>
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<tr>
<td>Detention Officers</td>
<td>$17.68 - $19.51</td>
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<td>Detention Transport Officer</td>
<td>$17.68 - $19.51</td>
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<tr>
<td>Detention Transport Sergeant</td>
<td>$23.75</td>
<td>$23.75</td>
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<tr>
<td>Light Equipment Operators</td>
<td>$17.25 - $19.03</td>
<td>$17.25 - $19.03</td>
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Sign Shop Supervisor - $17.68 - $19.51 per hour DOE

Open Until Filled
Fire Captain-Training Officer - $34.38 per hour Certified

Excellent Benefits – paid vacation, sick leave and holiday pay; PERA retirement plans; health insurance paid at 100% for full-time employees and at 60% for their dependents. Detailed job specifications and applications may be obtained at the Department of Workforce Connections, on the Internet at www.eddycounty.org or from the Eddy County Human Resources Department located on the 3rd floor of the Eddy County Administration Complex at 101 W. Greene Street in Carlsbad. Updated job position openings from counties and the NMAC organization are posted on the NMAC website at the following link: Employment Opportunities. Please email any listings to be included on the NMAC website to: info@nmcounties.org

NMAC News Briefs: If you know of anyone in your county or in your office who would like to receive these email briefs, have them email smayes@nmcounties.org to be added to the distribution list. OR Affiliate Chairs, you may want to pass on information to your affiliate through this email brief.