



RUBEN SOTELLO
Ombudsman Supervisor

EMPLOYEE KILLED IN ACCIDENT

Ombudsman Supervisor **RUBEN SOTELLO** was killed in a traffic accident at Medicine Park on May 5 as he returned from making his assigned rounds in Caddo County. Ruben was an outstanding employee for ASCOG. He cared deeply for those less fortunate than himself and worked diligently to recruit volunteers to advocate for residents of nursing homes and assisted living centers. Ruben was a retired Army MSG and had been with ASCOG since February of 2005. In the 11 years he worked here, he touched many people. He is missed by all who knew him.

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NEW ASCOG EMPLOYEES



LAHOMA HORSE
Managed Care Case Worker

Lahoma is a welcome addition to ASCOG's staff. She has spent much of her career working with Native American projects including with the Delaware Nation, Wichita and Affiliated Tribes, and Kiowa Tribe. Her unique experiences are already opening doors where ASCOG can better serve the Native American citizens in our area.



SHANNON BALDWIN
Managed Care Case Worker

Shannon worked for ASCOG as a WDD counselor and Managed Care case worker leaving in 2006. Since that time she has gained considerable experience in Managed Care and has been hired to continue in that field. We are happy to have Shannon back on board and look forward to working with her again.

AREA AGENCY ON AGING ADVISORY COUNCIL TO MEET

The ASCOG Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council will meet 10:00 a.m., June 14 at the Red River Technology Business Center in **Duncan**. The executive committee of the advisory council will also meet 9:00 a.m. June 1 at the ASCOG board room. For more information, contact Ken Jones at 580.736.7972.

Title III Project Staff Training June 23

ASCOG Area Agency on Aging staff will provide administrative staff training for all Title III projects. The training will start 9:00 a.m. June 23 at the Red River Technology Center Business Building in **Duncan**. For more information, contact Ken Jones

FORMER ASCOG TRUSTEE DIES

We are saddened to announce the death of **Richard Morton**, former ASCOG president and long-time trustee. **Richard** was a founding ASCOG director and represented **Tillman County** as the conservation district director. He was an active volunteer and well respected in his community. He will be missed.



MOST TITLE III NUTRITION SITES TO CLOSE FOR TWO WEEKS FOR TRANSITION

During the transition from Delta to Maddie Luke, some sites may close for up to two weeks to allow for staff training, site cleanout, inventory checks and site maintenance. Here are the details:

On June 24, 2016 Delta will provide a one-week package of shelf-stable meals for any participant who requests one as a provision of meals for the week of June 27-July 1. Please have these participants contact your local site manager to reserve the one-week, shelf-stable meal package. All Delta sites will be closed effective June 27, 2016.

All MaddieLuke sites will open Monday July 11, 2016. Effective immediately, any new applicants for the Title III congregate and home-delivered meal program will be placed on a waiting list until we are certain there is enough funding to provide additional meals. To refer a new participant to the congregate or home-delivered meals program, call 1.855.962.3343. Unfortunately, some sites may not reopen due to budget shortfalls. As of the posting of this newsletters we know that the Pleasant Valley site in **Lawton** will not continue as a Title III Nutrition site after June 24.

The **Temple** and **Cyril** sites are expected to remain unaffected by this change. However, the **Walters** site will close as of June 30 and will not reopen until July 11 for MaddieLuke to take over management of that site.

For additional information, please contact your local site manager.

PUBLIC SAFETY



There are a few departments still working on expenditure sheets for last year's operational funding. Completion of the sheets will help close the gap for getting ALL departments ready for certification. Forestry is still working on getting titles for a few trucks that have been completed.

Funding for the rural fire defense program funded thru the Department of Agriculture is still uncertain. It is clear that a budget cut is looming but the amount has not been determined.

REAP

REAP applications will soon be due. If you want to apply for a REAP grant but need assistance with the application, ASCOG CED staff can write an application for you for a \$150 fee. If the application is not funded, there is no charge for writing subsequent grants the following year for the same project. This fee must be paid for by the applicant and not out of REAP funds. There is no requirement to have the application prepared by a grant writer, however, if you don't want to do your own, \$150 is a good investment for a grant that averages over \$40,000. Having ASCOG CED staff write your grants does not guarantee approval, but it does ensure that your grant is well-written where the scorers can fully understand the importance of the project to your community/county. **2017 REAP grants will have the same time requirements. Projects must begin within 6 months and be completed by June 30, 2018.**

Between now and August 16, 2016, applicants must: (1) select an eligible project that can be fully funded including leveraged dollars, (2) get

cost estimates from an eligible source and (3) take formal board action including approving making the application for the project, approving a 5-year Capital Improvement Plan, and approving any cash or in-kind leverage from the applicant agency. Keep in mind that these matches are not required, but do figure into the scoring system.

One change has been added to the application. Applicants who have paid their dues and are paid up on projects performed by ASCOG will receive an additional 20 points on their application.

PLEASE call CED staff if you have any questions.

Workforce Development



After June 30, 2016, ASCOG will no longer be the service provider for WDD or the fiscal agent for WDD activities. ASCOG staff will no longer provide services in the area's three Workforce Centers—**Chickasha, Duncan, and Lawton**. ASCOG will have a representative in those locations through June 30. Other organizations will begin performing those services on July 1.

ASCOG has performed both of these services for several decades under a variety of name changes. Most of the employees in WDD have spent their entire ASCOG careers in the same division. The employees affected by the program changes and their nearest year of service are indicated by their respective photos.



Phyllis Lokey
33 years



Paul Brown
10 years



Janice Boswell
1 year



Darlene Williams
33 years



Keosha Richie
3 years



LaFonda Crowder
31 years



Wendy Lamb
3 Years

Changes Are Coming

In addition to losing the WDD programs, anticipated large budget cuts at both the federal and state levels, and the new Department of Labor ruling that lowers the minimum an employee can earn before qualifying as an exempt employee regardless of position or title (some exceptions but they don't affect ASCOG), something has to give. To make up for some the lost revenue, all options are on the table including such things as suspension of the annual banquet, reduction in training expenses, etc. Keep reading the newsletters for updates as they come into play.

Questions or Concerns?

Call Ronnie Ward (580) 736-7970 or Nancy English (580) 736-7019. We'd love to hear from you.