

CAPCOG CONNECTIONS



A PUBLICATION OF THE CAPITAL AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Aging Division Kicks Off Medication Screening Program

According to the American Medical Association, U.S. adults older than 65 years make more than 175,000 emergency department visits annually for adverse drug events; commonly prescribed medications accounted for one-third of these events. The concurrent use of prescription and nonprescription medications in older adults remains a public health problem and could be an important focal point for further improvements in drug safety for seniors.



In response to this issue, CAPCOG's Area Agency on Aging began replication of an evidence-based model developed by **The Partners in Care Foundation** for screening client medications for drug interactions. Care coordinators offer the screening to their clients. If the client would like to participate, agency care coordinators enter the client's prescription and nonprescription medications into an integrated software product, Medication Management Improvement System (MMIS). If the software detects a possible drug interaction, it issues an alert to the care coordinator. Through a vendor agreement with an Austin-based pharmacist, possible drug interaction alerts are reviewed, and recommendations for medication adjustments, when indicated, are made to the client's physician.

MMIS was successfully piloted in three Southern California Multipurpose Senior Services Program (MSSP) sites, which serve functionally-impaired clients who are deemed to need a nursing home level of care. These clients, whose average age was 80, were provided with services to enable them to continue living safely at home. The results were impressive. There were alerts generated in 49% of the 615 clients for at least one potential problem, and the pharmacist review found that 29% of

clients had problems that warranted consulting the physician about a change in medication or dose. Three months later, 60% of the medications identified as problematic had been changed.

The Area Agency staff will be monitoring the success of this newly implemented (See *AGING*, p. 4)

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Summer Membership Meeting Scheduled for September

Senator Glenn Hegar will be the keynote speaker at CAPCOG's General Assembly Summer Membership Business Meeting and Luncheon on Wed., Sept. 9th, beginning at 11:30 a.m. at the Omni Southpark, 4140 Governor's Row; registration will begin at 11 a.m.

Senator Hegar, who serves on several committees including Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Criminal Justice, Natural Resources, and Government Organization, is Vice Chairman of the Sunset Advisory Commission, and played a critical role as the bill author for TxDOT's reauthorization legislation.

The business meeting will be called to order at 11:30 a.m. and will include approval of CAPCOG's 2010 budget and work plan and the election of a Nominating Committee which will be charged with recommending membership for the 2010 Executive Committee.

Senator Hegar's presentation will be preceded by the business meeting and lunch with adjournment scheduled for 1 p.m.

The General Assembly is composed of representatives from each of CAPCOG's member organizations; it votes each December on an Executive Committee that will oversee CAPCOG's program and administration operations for the upcoming year including budget and audit functions, approval of grant funding, expenditure and contractual obligations.

Any questions about the agenda items or meeting should be directed to Laura Steinbring, Office Manager for CAPCOG, tel. 916-6018.

CAPCOG Regional Training Academy News

CAPCOG Cadet Saves a Life

Cadet Molly Marie Davis of Bastrop saved a life at a local restaurant on June 24, 2009, as she sat with a group of CAPCOG cadets having lunch. When another patron in the restaurant began choking on his food, Molly quickly came to the man's aid and performed the life-saving technique known as the Heimlich Maneuver, restoring his ability to breathe normally. This is one of several techniques included in training.

Molly Davis is a police dispatcher with Bastrop County and is sponsored to the Regional Training Academy's Basic Peace Officer Course (BPOC) #53 by the Bastrop County Sheriff's Office. Molly is married and has a three-year-old daughter. She hopes to graduate from CAPCOG's BPOC program on Oct. 23, 2009.

Basic Jail Certification Course to Begin

CAPCOG's Regional Training Academy is sponsoring a Basic Jail Certification Course (BJCC) at Bastrop County Sheriff's Office beginning Aug. 3, 2009. The BJCC is three weeks of intensive instruction in the skills necessary to begin a career as a

corrections officer and includes classes in suicide prevention, communications skills, and jailer's license through the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education.

Peace Officer Training Cycle Ends August 31, 2009

Texas peace officers are required by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education (TCLEOSE) to acquire 40 hours of mandatory training every two years. Mandatory classes include Special Investigative Topics, Cultural Diversity, and Intermediate Crisis Intervention. CAPCOG's RTA continues to meet the needs of regional law enforcement officers by offering these classes regularly. The RTA has held 14 mandatory classes this year. Peace officers may sign up now for Special Investigative Topics and Intermediate Crisis Intervention on CAPCOG's Training website. The current training cycle will end on Aug. 31, 2009.



Target practice at the shooting range

2009 Ozone Season Update

How does the Capital Region measure up in the quest for cleaner air?

The 2009 ozone season (Apr. 1 – Oct.31) is a crucial time for air quality in the Austin-Round Rock Metropolitan Statistical Area (A-RR MSA) Counties of the CAPCOG Region. The ozone levels monitored during this time will determine whether the area will be considered in attainment of the federal standard for ground-level ozone. Attainment of the ozone standard, which was lowered to 75 parts per billion (ppb) in 2008, is based on the three-year average of the fourth highest 8-hour ozone reading at a given site. It is expected that the U.S. EPA will designate which areas are in attainment of the new standard based on 2007-2009 monitoring data by Mar. 2010.

CAPCOG, using grant funds from the TCEQ, operates six ozone monitoring stations in the CAPCOG region. Data from these monitors is used to determine the extent and variability of ozone concentrations within the region. The data also provides insight into possible sources of ozone transported into the area from other regions of the state.

With three months left in the ozone season, the A-RR MSA is not yet in the clear. So far this season, the highest ozone readings have been experienced at TCEQ's regulatory ozone monitor located in northwest Austin. Based on the 2006 – 08 average of 77 ppb at that (See *Ozone* p. 4)

9-1-1 Prepares for the Future

The Emergency Communications staff has been busy preparing the Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP) in the CAPCOG region for emerging technologies and advanced services coming to 9-1-1. Work is wrapping up on the completion of a new secure high-speed communications network to each PSAP in the region, which will eventually allow the PSAPs to exchange voice and data seamlessly between each other, and eventually statewide. Currently, limitations in the 9-1-1 system make these types of exchanges difficult, if not impossible. Plans are also underway to incorporate other emergency services and applications such as radio communications into the network thus enhancing interoperability in the region and beyond.

Every wireless phone carrier providing service in the region now delivers the 9-1-1 caller's location information (Phase II Wireless) to every CAPCOG PSAP. This greatly enhances the ability of each PSAP to locate and provide help to callers who may not be able to communicate their location for a variety of reasons. Within the next several weeks, OnStar will have the ability to deliver coordinate data to each PSAP when their subscribers are involved in an accident or other incident requiring intervention from OnStar. The coordinates, provided automatically into the 9-1-1 equipment at the PSAP, will plot the location of the incident on the operator's mapping equipment saving valuable (See *9-1-1*, p. 4)

Austin–Round Rock Region Still Growing

The U.S. Census Bureau recently released its annual population estimates for U.S. cities, and several cities within our region continue to gain recognition for having high rates of population growth.

Round Rock grew by 8.6% from July 2007 to July 2008 making it the second fastest-growing city in the nation with a population over 100,000 according to these estimates.

Although the percentage change for Austin was less at 2.5%, it added more people with a net gain of over 18,000, making it the ninth biggest population gainer nationwide and moving it ahead of Columbus, OH as the 15th largest city.

Five other cities in the Capital Area had significant population growth over the same study period. At 20.7% growth in one year's time, Buda was the 14th fastest growing city (percentage change) in the nation and third in

Texas while Hutto ranked 8th, Kyle 17th, Leander 22nd, and Manor 24th compared to other cities in Texas. The table accompanying this story highlights additional cities in the

region with notable population growth.

The recession is undoubtedly impacting growth here, but so far we're not seeing much effect on our population growth trajectory. Overall, annual growth in the Capital Area (See *REGION*, p. 4)

City	U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates for Fast Growing Cities in Capital Area						
	POP. 2000	POP. 2007	POP. 2008	Numeric Change 2000-2008	Numeric Change 2007-2008	Percent Change 2000-2008	Percent Change 2007-2008
Austin	663,673	739,227	757,688	94,015	18,461	14.2%	2.5%
Bastrop	5,439	7,844	8,378	2,939	534	54.0%	6.8%
Bee Cave	1,046	2,521	2,680	1,634	159	156.2%	6.3%
Buda	2,785	5,623	6,788	4,003	1,165	143.7%	20.7%
Cedar Park	26,977	57,802	62,308	35,331	4,506	131.0%	7.8%
Elgin	5,799	9,796	9,909	4,110	113	70.9%	1.2%
Georgetown	29,666	46,705	49,618	19,952	2,913	67.3%	6.2%
Hutto	1,511	11,852	13,599	12,088	1,747	800.0%	14.7%
Kyle	5,975	23,923	26,103	20,128	2,180	336.9%	9.1%
Lakeway	8,232	10,557	11,193	2,961	636	36.0%	6.0%
Leander	8,786	23,418	25,424	16,638	2,006	189.4%	8.6%
Manor	1,287	3,202	3,471	2,184	269	169.7%	8.4%
Pflugerville	21,919	38,104	39,653	17,734	1,549	80.9%	4.1%
Round Rock	62,955	96,569	104,446	41,491	7,877	65.9%	8.2%
Round Top	77	78	84	7	6	9.1%	7.7%
San Marcos	36,430	51,061	52,927	16,497	1,866	45.3%	3.7%

Note: Cities within this table ranked in the Top 50 in Texas for percent or numeric change between 2000-2008 or 2007-2008. Green Shading= Top 10; Blue= Top 20; Red= Top 50

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Population Program (Estimates as of July 1, 2008)

2009 GeoMap Orthoimagery Project Wrapping Up

It's Dry in Texas – FM 1980 West of Marble Falls

The Capital Area Council of Governments is wrapping up the acquisition of 2009 orthoimagery (i.e. aerial photography) for our urbanized area. The data is being purchased via the CAPCOG Geospatial Base Mapping (GeoMap) Program by Austin, Buda, La Grange, Marble Falls, San Marcos, Travis County, Travis Central Appraisal District, the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO), and the United States Geological Survey (USGS).

The 6-inch, true color orthoimagery was acquired in Feb. 2009 by M. J. Harden. The data covers an area that roughly extends from northern Round Rock to southern Georgetown; includ-

ing all of Travis County, Marble Falls, and La Grange. The imagery should be delivered to participating GeoMap clients by the end of August.

The GeoMap Program is a multi-year, cost-sharing initiative to produce and maintain current Geographic Information System (GIS) map data for the Capital Area.

Since 2006, GeoMap partici-



pants have purchased over \$4,500,000 in geospatial data via CAPCOG's GeoMap Program. The total cost for the (See *GeoMap*, p. 4)

AGING (cont'd from p. 1)
program in hopes of making a positive impact on possible drug interactions for the older adult population they serve in the region.

9-1-1 (cont'd from p. 2) time in providing help.

CAPCOG continues to work with companies providing Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) phone services. This ongoing effort ensures that each PSAP in the CAPCOG region is capable of receiving the caller's VoIP telephone and address information in the same manner as a wireline or wireless 9-1-1 call.

Staff expects to complete installation of CAPCOG's newest mapping and incident management software, ARIES, by the end of August. Training for call-takers, dispatchers, and administrators was completed in July. The new software provides functionality enhancements over the previous version and provides improved mapping capabilities to the PSAPs.

OZONE (cont'd from p. 2)
monitor, TCEQ has recommended to EPA that Travis County be designated as nonattainment of the 75 ppb standard. However, as

long as the fourth highest 8-hour average does not exceed 77 ppb, the 2007-2009 average will be 75 ppb, which is likely to result in TCEQ changing their recommendation to attainment.

As of the beginning of Aug. 2009, the highest 8-hour ozone concentrations measured this year at the controlling regulatory monitor in Travis County are 80, 77, 77, and 76 ppb. With the 76 ppb as the fourth highest 8-hour ozone concentration monitored, the 2007-2009 average currently sits on the edge of attainment at 75 ppb.

While the historic trend of high ozone days indicates greater probabilities of high ozone readings late in the season, peaking in September, there is reason to believe we can still be successful in reducing ozone levels over the remainder of the season. Measures included in the area's 8-hour Ozone Flex program coupled with the impacts of federal standards on lowering emissions from new cars and trucks will continue to provide emission reductions. In addition, local governments and other stakeholders have committed to the "Big Push" as a concerted regional effort with the common goal of reducing emissions during the 2009 ozone season and averting a nonattainment designation. Information on the "Big Push" and other regional air quality initiatives can be found at

<http://www.capcog.org/divisions/regional-planning/air-quality/>.

REGION (cont'd from p. 3)
cities between July 2007 and July 2008 was 3.8%, down only slightly from 4.4% during 2005 to 2007. Austin-Round Rock is still one of the fastest growing regions in the United States.

More on these latest estimates, including a map showing the population change for each city in our region, can be found on our *Data Points* blog located at <http://www.datapoints.org/2009/07/census-bureau-releases-city-population.html>.

For more information on census and other demographic data, please contact Chris Ramser at 512-916-6184.

GEOMAP (cont'd from p. 3) GeoMap 2009 Orthoimagery project is approximately \$500,000 with participants realizing an estimated \$185,000 in cost savings.

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