



Uniting the Alamo. Region



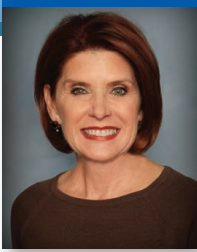
2014 ANNUAL REPORT

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2014 Management Team



Diane Rath
Executive
Director



Sherrie Huckabay
Senior Director
of Human
Resources



Marcela Medina
Public Safety
Director



**Jeri Rainey-
Hinojosa**
Chief Financial
Officer



Anthony Jalomo
Deputy Director
of Disability
Services



William Moseley
Regional
Transportation
Director



Tim Treviño
Senior Director of
Strategic Planning
and Agency
Communications



Blanca Tapia
Deputy Director
of Fiscal Services



Rose Ryan
Alamo Aging &
Interim Bexar
Aging Director



Joe Ramos
Senior Director
of Regional
Services



David Kruse
Regional
Data Center
Director



Brenda Williams
Interim Natural
Resources
Director



AACOG Members and residents of the Alamo Region:

As 2014 comes to a close, it is the time to thank our membership, the Board of Directors, our volunteer Advisory Committee members, and AACOG staff. Without their dedication and tireless commitment to serving the citizens of the Alamo Region, much of the successes AACOG has experienced this year would not have been realized.

Accomplishments of note include:

- The Bexar Aging program was honored with not one but three awards from the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging in the areas of:
 - Transportation/Mobility Options for the CARS: "Call a Ride for Seniors" program,
 - Community Planning/Liveable Communities – Transforming Community Streets into "Play Areas", and
 - The Caregiving Category for the Alamo Caregiver Empowerment Hands on Care Training for Family Caregivers
- Connect Seguin, a fixed route system in Seguin, which AACOG initiated with the City of Seguin in April of 2013, performed so well that it was recognized this year as the Regional Government Project of the Year.
- Anthony Jalomo, Senior Director of the Alamo Local Authority, received the 2014 Helen G. FitzSimmons Leadership Award from the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) Texas Chapter for outstanding leadership in the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) awarded AACOG's Natural Resources Department additional grant funding in the amount of \$66,758 to assist efforts to improve Air Quality in the Alamo Region. The funds will benefit the area by allowing AACOG to replace two non-functioning ozone pollution monitors and to conduct additional technical analyses that will enhance regional air quality planning.

These are but a few of the many successes achieved during a rather challenging year. A new Executive Director, Diane Rath, joined the staff at AACOG in December, 2014, and the agency is poised to chart a bold trajectory to build on past successes and embrace new and exciting challenges in 2015.

Kevin Wolff
Bexar County Judge
2014 Board Chairman

Jim Wolverton
Guadalupe County Commissioner
2014 Board Vice Chairman



2014 Regional Award Winners (L to R) – Broadway Bank (Corporate Steward); John & Debbie Southwell (Regional Citizen); Dr. Ruth Lofgren (Lifetime Achievement Award); Connect Seguin (Government Project); and Boys & Girls Club of Wilson County (Community Project)



Deputy Director of Disability Services, Anthony V. Jalomo (center) received the 2014 Helen G. FitzSimmons Leadership Award at AAIDD's 39th Annual Conference.

2014 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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Sergio "Chico" Rodriguez	Commissioner, Bexar County Precinct 1, Representing Bexar County
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Ruby Vera	Mayor, City of Natalia, Representing Area Cities (Group A)
Thomas G. Weaver	Board Member, San Antonio River Authority, Representing Special Districts
John Williams	Mayor, City of Universal City, Representing Suburban Cities (GBCCC)
Judith Zaffirini	Senator, State of Texas, District 21, Ex-Officio Member

Alamo Local Authority

The Alamo Local Authority (ALA) provides access to community safety net services and supports for individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) who reside in Bexar County. ALA works to improve service delivery to individuals enrolled in General Revenue funded services by developing and maintaining a network of public and private provider organizations that provide General Revenue services in 26 locations within Bexar County. The ALA provided community safety net services to 1,140 individuals during FY 2014.

The ALA provided out-of-home respite services to a significant number of individuals through Serenity House. Respite care allows temporary relief from the stress involved in caring for a loved one with an Intellectual or Developmental Disability. This service is an effort to avoid permanent out-of-home placements or institutionalization and to reduce the likelihood of abuse and neglect.

The ALA had several challenging initiatives; however FY 2014 proved to be a successful year:

- Intake and Eligibility completed more than 1,055 intake enrollments and successfully conducted 581 Determinations of Intellectual Disability (DID). In addition, ALA's consumer benefits office successfully completed 1,231 consumer benefit activities.
- Completed 144 Home and Community based Services (HCS) enrollments that included 17 individuals community placed from the State Supported Living Center's (SSLC), 7 diversions from SSLC's, 3 diversions from nursing facilities, and 2 community placements from nursing facilities.
- Completed 260 Preadmission Screening and Resident Reviews (PASRR) for skilled nursing facility residents seeking admission to Medicaid certified nursing facilities and provided ongoing Services Coordination to 222 individuals residing in nursing facilities throughout Bexar County.
- The Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) offered Texas Home Living (TxHmL) services to 480 new individuals. TxHmL provides selected essential services and supports to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities living in their family homes or their own homes.
- Provided Service Coordination to 1,869 individuals enrolled in the HCS program. The HCS program provides individualized services and supports to persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities (determined by a DID) who are living with their family, in their own home or in other community settings, such as small group homes or in a foster/companion care settings.

Alamo & Bexar Area Agencies on Aging

The Alamo and Bexar Area Agencies on Aging (AAA's) are dedicated to building "community supports" for older residents which allows them to "age in place" with dignity, security, and an enhanced quality of life. The range of services provided includes congregated meals, home-delivered meals, benefits counseling, care coordination, legal assistance, nutrition, caregiver support, wellness programs and transportation services. The Area Agencies on Aging served a combined 26,077 seniors in the Alamo Region in 2014.

The AAA's are designated recipients of the Older Americans Act of 1965 funding to the AACOG region for services provided to adults aged 60 and older, and include: persons 60 years and older, persons with disabilities, grandparents aged 55 and older caring for their grandchildren, and veterans in the 13-county AACOG region. With national statistics estimating 10,000 baby boomers turn 65 each day, the increase in older adults requiring health and human services is quickly mounting and will continue at a swift pace over time.

The Alamo & Bexar AAAs work with community partners such as Adult Protective Services, Healthcare agencies, local nutrition sites, senior centers, an array of service providers, and with counties and municipalities to coordinate outreach and service delivery to qualified seniors. Federal funding is very important to meeting the needs of seniors as our population ages. Continued efforts with key partners will help the AAA's expand current services to meet the needs of the community.



*Just Ask
Llámenos*

Alamo Service Connection

The Alamo Service Connection (ASC) is the gateway to the public's access to services from the AAA's, and is the comprehensive network of social services in the AACOG region. ASC is a designated Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) which evaluates the best assistance for callers through a "needs assessment" and "options counseling" framework. ASC helps seniors,

people with disabilities, veterans, and their family caregivers navigate the maze of available options to assure that they are receiving the services and supports that best fit their situation. ASC is also a major community resource for other service providers seeking services and supports for their clients. Alamo Service Connection offered assistance to 14,534 callers in FY 2014.

ASC Volunteer Ray Luevanos answers questions at the 10th Annual Health & Resource Fair hosted by State Representative Justin Rodriguez at Sul Ross Middle School on September 13, 2014.



Alamo & Bexar Area Agencies on Aging

Ruben and Juan Vela

Transportation & Veterans' Assistance

Currently Bexar AAA is the recipient of a \$300,000.00 grant from the Texas Veterans

Commission to improve mobility for Veterans. Bexar AAA was recognized by the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) with a 2014 Aging Achievement Award for its CARS - "Call-a-Ride for Seniors" program which links seniors to free, high quality, "door-through-door" transportation in all four quadrants of the City of San Antonio.

Reuben Vela has been caring for his 72-year-old father, Juan Vela, for more than four years, after a debilitating heart attack. As the elder Mr. Vela's needs grew, so did the need for Reuben to give up full-time employment and much of the personal life he enjoyed. Reuben is his Dad's paid provider two months of the year through a Bexar AAA vendor. Although Mr. Vela has Medicare, escalating medical and physical needs exceed those benefits. Reuben embodies changing family caregiving trends in the U.S. as a young, male family caregiver, whose own health issues are exacerbated by the physical, emotional and financial stresses of being a family caregiver. "I thank God I heard about Bexar AAA when I did. At that time in my life, it seemed everything was going out of control for me and my Dad, financially and emotionally—but having the services that Alamo Aging offers here to help families like us, is truly a Godsend," said Reuben.

Assistance for all Veterans

The AAAs Veteran Services staff has contacted many Veteran families, assessed their needs and current resources, and decided best options for Veteran families

utilizing local resources. The staff made a plan to address the needs of many veterans, and has reached out to the community for help. Ms. Susan Blevins, a Care Specialist with the AAA, and proud Veteran supporter, felt that these cases were something her church volunteers could accomplish to honor veterans for their service.

Many of us take for granted the daily tasks so simple that we tend to forget how hard it is for aging seniors and Veterans to accomplish them. Over 42% of Veterans in the region are age 60 and older, and are diagnosed with at least one disability. Alamo Service Connection receives hundreds of calls each week from Veterans, their family members, and other seniors trying to manage basic tasks, such as minor home repairs and getting to medical appointments. It is because of the Bexar AAA staff and volunteers, such as those at Journey Church, make us a generous and supportive community.



Journey Church Volunteers

Child Care Services

The Alamo Area Development Corporation (AADC) is contracted by the City of San Antonio (COSA) to provide Child Care Services (CCS) in the eleven rural counties of the Alamo Region. The CCS program helps parents pay for childcare while they work or attend school or training in approved target occupations. Families may be single parent households, or both parents may be in the home.

On average, 1,470 rural children receive CCS financial assistance for child care each month. This assistance not only allows parents to begin or continue employment or training, but also allows their children to receive quality childcare while the parents participate in eligible activities. CCS coordinates this subsidized service with 148 regulated childcare providers in the eleven rural counties, with 18 of these providers receiving the Texas Rising Star designation.

Not only does the CCS program benefit individual families, it also contributes to the economies of the local communities. In the program year 2014, CCS reimbursed regulated child care centers and homes approximately \$7 million in direct care for children in the rural Alamo area. With the target for enrollments increasing for 2015, CCS plans to assist even more rural children next year.



Vanessa Lopez with her children

Child Care Services Case Study

Vanessa Lopez is a Kerrville resident and mother of two children. Her son, Matthew, is 2 years old, and her daughter, Maya, was born in April 2014. Ms. Lopez was able to financially afford to

return to work as an LVN II at a local hospital, with the assistance she qualified for through CCS. Out-of-pocket daycare cost where her

children attend would be over \$1,000 per month for full-time care for two children. With the assistance she receives from CCS, her share of the cost of child care is only \$220 per month. She is now receiving care for both children for less than half the cost of daycare for one child, saving her \$780 per month. With CCS, she can now return to working a full 40-hour week, assured that her children are being cared for in a secure, nurturing environment.

Housing and Energy Conservation

Housing Choice Voucher Program

AACOG's Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program, formerly known as "Section 8", provides much needed rental assistance to eligible low-income households in the Alamo Region. Households served include seniors, persons with disabilities, families and all other eligible persons. As funding allows, applicants at the top of AACOG's waiting list are admitted to the HCV program. This year, program staff took steps to lay the foundation to be eligible to apply for additional funding from the Housing and Urban Development Department's Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) program, set preferences for selected target populations and administer Project-Based Vouchers for Veterans.

For 2015, housing staff is looking forward to pursuing additional funding to expand programs and services to the AACOG region.

Weatherization Assistance Program

The Weatherization Assistance Program is designed to help low-income families control their energy costs through the installation of weatherization materials and education on energy reducing behaviors and activities. Client education is an important complement to adding weatherization measures to the home as it helps children and adults alike understand the many sources of energy waste and easy ways to conserve energy in their home. Once a home is qualified to receive energy conservation measures (ECM's), a detailed energy analysis is performed to determine which ECM's such as attic, wall and floor insulation, whole house air sealing, water conservation devices, repair or replacement of heating and cooling systems, solar screens, water heaters, refrigerators or other energy saving items are best suited for the particular home to reduce the cost of utility bills and improve the health and comfort of the home. This no-cost program is open to both home owners and renters.

The program has been joining forces with Bexar County to provide assistance to customers already being assisted with payment of their utilities bills. The installation of weatherization measures and educating them how to reduce consumption through behavioral changes they are receiving a long term relieve in their monthly bills.

In 2014, 207 homes received weatherization assistance. In total \$1,311,391.00 was invested, improving the energy efficiency of housing stock within the AACOG Region.

Currently the program has a renewed focus on the improvement of residential air quality by the installation of a mechanical ventilation to reduce indoor pollutants, odors and moisture. In 2015, the program will be looking into expanding its partnership with the City of San Antonio Casa Verde Program.

Examples of WAP Energy Conservation Measures

Attic Insulation:



Before – Bare attic floor no protection from heat or cold.



After - Insulation added to create thermal barrier

Window Glass Repair:



Before – Broken window let hot/cold air through



After – New panes keep the home properly sealed

Thermostat replacement:

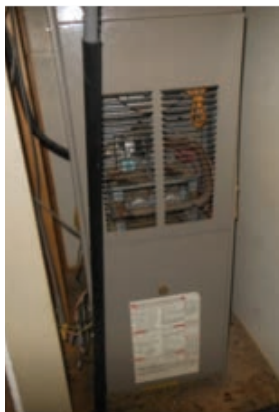


Before – Outdated manual thermostat



After – Digital Programmable Thermostat to set temperature to maximize energy efficiency

Central Heat and Air Conditioning Systems:



Before – Old poorly functioning unsafe unit



After – New Energy Efficient Heating System

Letter sent from Charles and Vira V. to ACOG Weatherization Program Staff

“On July 2014, we were fortunate to qualify for a free weatherization inspection of our home. We also qualified for a quality, professionally installed central A/C unit. From the very start we found everyone involved to be courteous and professional.

The installers were always respectful not to soil or damage our home. They were very neat and organized. I can't say enough good things about your staff-BRAVO!

To receive all these things at no cost was a blessing, but there was even more. We noticed immediately a reduction in our utility bills--a reduction of at least 50% lower. This savings has given our family a greater sense of both financial security and peace of mind.

In the past, both state and national governments have developed programs to assist those in need but they were not always a success-but if your program was created to reduce utility usage, reduce poison carbons in our atmosphere, and lower your customers' utility bills, then I can truly say that you have achieved success. I give you a rating of 5 stars.

In the future, if you need a spokesman to give a testimony of how great your program is then I'm your man. In closing, I thank you for your blessings and the new friendships we made along the way.”

Completion date: 9/8/2014 | Contractor: M&M Weatherization Company

Natural Resources

Air Quality

The air quality programs of AACOG's Natural Resources department provide outreach and technical services to the region that benefit the entire community. The department maintains a network of six air quality monitors that continuously measure ozone pollution and related data. Other technical work of the program includes identification and analysis of pollution sources and air modeling work that, together, contribute to an understanding of the factors that influence local pollution concentrations and the effectiveness of potential control strategies on regional air quality.

Among the important outreach efforts of the program are the multiple Air Improvement Resources (AIR) Committees, whose meetings are facilitated by Natural Resources staff. The AIR Executive Committee, whose membership includes elected officials from the San Antonio Metropolitan Statistical Area, is the local planning body for regional air quality and this committee guides much of the technical work done by the department.

During 2014, the department developed an updated "Conceptual Model" for the AACOG region, which characterizes the meteorological and atmospheric conditions most often associated with high concentrations of ground-level ozone pollution. Understanding conditions conducive to the formation of ozone equips air analysts to more accurately predict changes in ozone concentrations, and understand the impact of transported emissions and pollutants.

Clean Cities

The Alamo Area Clean Cities Coalition (AACCC) is part of a network of more than 87 communities within the US Department of Energy's Clean Cities Program. The mission of the AACCC is to advance the nation's economic, environmental, and energy security by supporting local actions to reduce petroleum consumption in transportation.

During its 15 years of existence in the Alamo Area, the Clean Cities program has assisted municipalities, energy utilities, businesses, school districts, and elected officials in education, outreach, and deployment of alternative and renewable fuels, idle-reduction measures, fuel economy improvements, and emerging transportation technologies. Past projects have included hosting first responder training on alternative fuel vehicles, ethanol workshops, biodiesel workshops, electric vehicle transportation conferences, and commercial propane mower events. On average, AACCC stakeholders have assisted in displacing gasoline and diesel by more than one million gallons per year.

Throughout 2014, AACCC worked with large businesses and other stakeholders to address their fleet needs. Through research, Department of Energy technical assistance, and one-on-one meetings, AACCC helped fleet operators reevaluate how vehicles are managed and prepare fleets to adopt advanced vehicle technology. In addition, AACCC partnered with the National Alternative Fuels Training Consortium to provide advanced vehicle technology training to emergency personnel in the Alamo region.

In 2015, AACCC will continue to work with fleet operators and grow the stakeholder membership by providing workshops, conducting educational outreach, and promoting the use of cleaner burning alternative fuel vehicles.



First responders getting an in-depth look at the Chevy Volt.



Natural Gas vehicles used during first responder training.

Case Study

In 2012, AACCC was awarded a grant under the Department of Energy in partnership with Austin Energy. As a result, AACCC was able to reach a

broader audience for outreach and education on alternative fuel vehicles. In 2014, AACCC created a Fleet Workgroup for stakeholders interested in working together to advance alternative fuel infrastructure and vehicles in the region. Through the Fleet Workgroup, AACCC assisted in the planning and implementation of the first ever AACCC natural gas workshop in San Marcos. AACCC and its partners also celebrated the grand opening of the first public Natural Gas station in San Antonio. The opening of this station marked a huge milestone for our region by officially connecting us to the Texas Triangle natural gas infrastructure.

“The AACCC has had a significant impact on building institutional ties across our Central Texas region, across electric and natural gas utilities, across fleets and policymakers, and across energy and transportation interests, and the result has been a number of articles and media mentions of alternative vehicles, a noticeable uptick in market adoption of new vehicles, doubling of CNG (Compressed Natural Gas) Infrastructure installed over the past year, (and more to come in 2015) and the phased deployment of EV (Electric Vehicle) charging infrastructure across the 10 counties surrounding Austin and San Antonio from now to 2015,” said Drew Johnston, Austin Energy.



Commute Solutions

The Commute Solutions program promotes forms of transportation other than single occupant vehicles as a means of alleviating traffic congestion and improving air quality. In addition to providing air quality outreach and education for schools, businesses, and community events, it features an online carpool matching service and an emergency ride home program for people who regularly commute by carpooling, biking, walking or taking a bus. The Commute Solutions program also manages four school programs: School Pool, a carpool matching service specifically for parents driving children to school; the Green Patrol, in which children are enlisted to ask their parents not to idle their vehicles on school campuses; Walking School Bus, in which groups of children walk to school with a parental chaperone; and Bike Buddies, in which groups of children bike to school with a parental chaperone. Finally, it conducts the Air Quality Health Alert Notification program, through which schools, businesses, news media, governmental agencies, and others receive an email message when the air quality is predicted to reach harmful levels the following day.

A leading source of ground-level ozone, the most serious form of air pollution in the Alamo region, is vehicle emissions. By encouraging and facilitating the voluntary adoption of alternative transportation and work schedules, the Commute Solutions program is able to help reduce the number of vehicles on our roadways and thus reduce such emissions. During the first half of 2014, for example, 3,107 users of NuRide, the Commute Solutions program's carpool matching and emissions tracking service, recorded 610,692 trips they had taken by alternative means that saved the equivalent of 12,056,802 vehicles miles traveled. This kept from our air nearly 8 tons of volatile organic compounds and 11 tons of nitrogen oxides, which are the two leading components of ground-level ozone, otherwise known as smog. Everyone in the region breathed a little easier as a result!

When an Ozone Action Alert has been issued by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, AACOG's Air Quality Health Alert (AQHA) program sends an email or a text message to all those in the Greater San Antonio area who are registered for this service that announces the alert, what it means, and how one best respond to avoid associated health risks and help reduce the likelihood that an exceedance will actually occur. The program actively recruits recipients and assists individuals in the registration process, particularly at environmental and health events. As of August 31, 2014, 1,536 individuals, media representatives, school nurses, city officials, and other interested parties were registered to receive these notices, while exactly one year previously, only 1,396 were signed up. In the coming year, the program plans to target the news media as an ally in assisting to build awareness of the service and increase the number of notification recipients. To increase the number of AQHA recipients by at least 200 within the next year is a program goal.

Public Safety

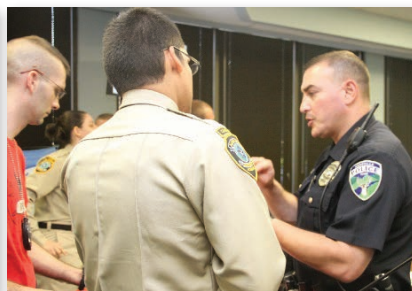
Alamo Area Regional Law Enforcement Academy

The Alamo Area Regional Law Enforcement Academy (AARLEA) provides state mandated licensing and in-service training for peace officers, corrections officers, and telecommunication specialists. It is also a community partner in the region; creating and building partnerships with area law enforcement agencies, federal and military agencies, and regional non-profits.

For the training period January 1 to December 31, 2014, the Academy reported over 128,900 training hours with more than 5,880 law enforcement, corrections, and telecommunications participants. The Academy consistently exceeds the minimum standards of training for basic peace officer certification and has a 98.63% pass rate on state peace officer exams and a 96.66% pass rate on corrections officer exams.

In 2014, the Academy was awarded a grant from the Violence Against Women's Act (VAWA) to provide free training to peace officers in Family Violence Investigations, Cyberstalking Investigations, and Investigations into Human Trafficking. The Academy is one of only two academies in Texas teaching the school marshal licensing course, and was awarded a grant from the Governor's Office in FY 2014 to train Texas School Marshals from around the state.

"Everything essential to becoming a well-rounded officer, from PT (physical training) to academics can be found here at AACOG." – Cadet from Class 2014 Bravo.



*"I am walking away with great knowledge and experience from this course."
- In-service student from New Supervisor's Course #3737 class.*

Criminal Justice Planning

Criminal Justice Planning Program conducts grant workshops, provides information about funding opportunities, and offers technical assistance in the grant process, including performing technical reviews for law enforcement and non-profit agencies seeking funding from the Office of the Governor – Criminal Justice Division. Staff completed 1,500 hours of technical assistance and provided grant management assistance to more than 60 funded projects. The projects funded, help support victim assistance, violence prevention, juvenile delinquency prevention, law enforcement equipment and other programs that meet a need in the community.

Homeland Security

AACOG Homeland Security provides guidance, coordination, development and implementation of programs pertaining to First Responders, Homeland Security or Emergency Preparedness. Some of the many programs include the First Responder Strategic Plan, the Alamo Area Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment Plan, Interoperability Communications, and Mutual Aid. These programs are dedicated to supporting the Alamo region's first responders through maximum preparedness and answering citizens' calls for emergency services.

The program facilitates the Regional Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee. AACOG's Homeland Security Department encourages efficiency in administering federal and state programs, promotes regional cooperation, eliminates service duplication by providing assistance to AACOG's member jurisdictions, and coordinates training programs related to first responders, homeland security, and emergency preparedness.

Establishing interoperable radio communication systems is a primary focus for the Alamo Region. Coordinated communications among first-responders of multiple jurisdictions is fundamental for effectively reacting to emergencies. Integrated communication is also important in performing the most routine and basic job functions on a daily basis. Homeland Security continues to work with law enforcement in all twelve counties of the Alamo Region to develop an integrated statewide public safety communications network that promotes interoperability between first-responders at the local, state, and federal levels.

Regional 9-1-1

The AACOG 9-1-1 Program purchases essential equipment and software that is necessary at each of the 9-1-1 emergency call centers for seven rural counties within the Alamo Region. These counties include Atascosa, Bandera, Frio, Gillespie, Karnes, Kendall, and Wilson Counties. Monitoring and maintenance of the 9-1-1 equipment and software are also some of the other responsibilities that are a part of AACOG's 9-1-1 Department. AACOG's emergency 9-1-1 call center system serves 74,746 landlines and represents 202,147 residents.

AACOG 911's Program and 911 Datamaster, Inc. are working together to get ready for Next Generation 9-1-1. The partnership includes comprehensive analytics run with 911 Datamaster's SpatialStation technology. Initially to identify all potential errors for downstream systems receiving AACOG's Spatial Data. These systems include: LVF (Location Validation Function, ECRF (Emergency Call Routing Function) and SIF (Spatial Integration Function). All errors are then remediated and data structures modified to improve operation efficiencies looking towards the future. In addition to maintaining data locally, all Spatial Data will be backed up and housed in a SIF (Spatial Integration Function) (SpatialCentral), also built by 911 Datamaster.



Nicholas Granado (left) presented the AACOG “Kid Hero Award” for his meritorious conduct during a 911 emergency call for assistance.

Additionally, this program provides Regional Strategic Planning and goals, working towards a “Next Generation 9-1-1” system. This system is an emergency call delivery and response system that will be able to use information and the latest technologies for better service to our communities. Some of these technologies include text, short message service (SMS), pictures, and video streaming.

Funding for the 9-1-1 Program are provided through state collected funds from telecommunications taxes, fees, and surcharges which are then distributed to AACOG through the Commission on State Emergency Communications (CSEC). These funds are then used to purchase equipment and supplies for the seven county public safety answering points (PSAP’s).

The 9-1-1 Program staff participates in campaigns to increase safety awareness by collaborating with the new “Kids Hero’s” program and the “Know Your Location” campaigns. These projects stem from collaboration with the Commission on State Emergency Communications (CSEC), Public Educators of Texas (PET), and the National Public Educators Forum. The 9-1-1 Department is committed to enhancing the 9-1-1 Public Education Program as well as reinforcing safety and technological awareness in the Alamo Region.

Regional Services

Regional Services coordinates with counties and municipalities with issues related to economic development, GIS mapping, strategic plans, Eagle Ford Shale and grant information and technical assistance. It is also responsible for administering the scoring of the Texas Community Development Block Grant (TxCDBG) applications and provides staff support to the Regional Review Committee responsible for developing the TxCDBG AACOG Guidebook. In 2014, nine communities from the Alamo Region were awarded TxCDBG totaling \$2,500,000.

The program annually hosts its summer series of training workshops. The Newly Elected Officials (NEO) workshop and the Planning and Zoning (P&Z) workshop inform local government officials about the requirements and duties associated with their respective positions as well as any new legislation that affects local municipal governments or P&Z commissions. In 2014, eighteen individuals participated in the NEO workshop and twenty one individuals participated in the P&Z workshop. The Basics of Economic Development workshop included fourteen individuals that participated in the half-day training that covered various economic development tools available in the state of Texas to Economic Development organizations. Collectively these workshops help improve regional collaboration and promote greater understanding of issues related to infrastructure, planning, zoning and economic development.

Central Texas
Technology Center



The City of New Braunfels was awarded a \$1.25 million grant by the US Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) at the beginning of 2014. The process we followed was made so much more efficient and complete because of the assistance received in the planning stages by the AACOG Regional Services staff in San Antonio. During completion of the grant application, AACOG staff provided feedback as we gathered information, answered questions and provided valuable demographics data. AACOG staff was also helpful with guiding our community volunteers working on the application through the contact procedures at the Austin EDA regional office. This assured the Community representatives who we should be working with at different stages of the application process. These efforts by AACOG staff were very important in helping us build a collaborative working relationship with EDA staff during the entire application process.

Regional Services Case Study

This is the second such EDA Grant awarded to the City of New Braunfels. AACOG played an important role in our first EDA grant, awarded to our community in 2002. We are most appreciative of their continued assistance and support and are thankful for their role in helping us build and expand our Central Texas Technology Center (CTTC) at the New Braunfels Regional Airport.

Regional Transportation

AACOG's transportation department, Alamo Regional Transit (ART), is the primary provider of low-cost transportation services for the 11,255 square miles of the 12 rural counties (Atascosa, Bandera, Comal, Frio, Gillespie, Guadalupe, Karnes, Kendall, Kerr, Medina, McMullen, and Wilson Counties) within AACOG's region. ART is the sole provider of demand response public transportation within that same service area. Though we serve all residents, we place particular emphasis on low-income residents, seniors, veterans, and individuals with disabilities.

Using a fleet of small buses, all equipped to transport wheelchairs and other mobility devices, ART transports customers between points within its service area and from that service area into Bexar County and back. Our fleet operates Monday through Friday all year long except for three holidays. Rides take customers from curb to curb for virtually any reason: medical appointments, pharmacy and shopping trips, meals at nutrition centers, work, school, personal errands, adult and child day care, social visits, voting, and the like. ART also ensures persons who receive Medicaid and have no other means of transportation to their medical appointments get to those appointments safely and on time. Altogether, ART provided 112,861 trips during Fiscal Year 2014.



Regional Transportation

ART's priority customer base – low-income households, persons with disabilities, senior citizens, and veterans – are often limited in their ability to travel around town or to surrounding areas, resulting in them often being homebound. ART's low fares provide rural citizens the means to get out into the community, carry out necessary tasks of daily living, and take part in social and other activities that provide a much more independent lifestyle. Additionally, ART partners with AACOG's Alamo Area Agency on Aging to provide seniors rides to meal facilities, social centers, and healthcare. We also afford veterans a way to get to their medical appointments. Further, ART is the primary provider of transportation for Medicaid patients to their appointments.

In the City of Seguin, ART operates a "deviated" fixed-route system that runs an hourly loop around town to designated stops. Whether at one of the designated stops or anywhere along the route, riders may wave down the bus to board or signal the driver to let a rider off. If necessary due to limited mobility of a rider, the bus will deviate from its established route to drop a rider at or closer to the intended destination.

Likewise, employees have a reliable way to get to and from work each day, and employers appreciate that their workers show up each day. Individuals seeking work have a way to get to workforce centers, visit potential employers, attend interviews, and travel to training programs. Also, local merchants benefit from the increased customer traffic ART brings to their businesses.

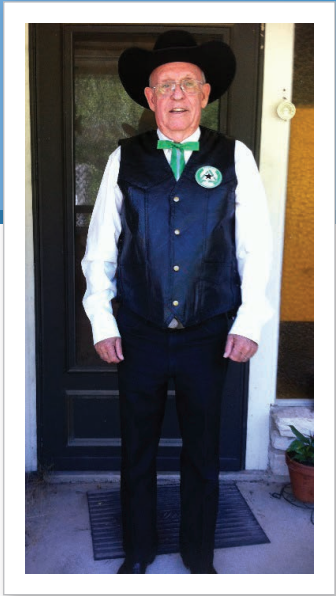


The City of Seguin recently voted to continue providing 50% of the funds along with Alamo Regional Transit providing the other 50% of the funds to provide low fare, regularly circulating bus service within the City offers its residents the ability to travel more on the spur of the moment. If an individual can't wait until tomorrow to use ART's normal service, she/he may walk during operating hours to a street on the bus route then either wait at a designated stop or "wave" the bus driver down at any spot along the route.

ART continues to provide demand-response service, on behalf of VIA Metropolitan Transit, to the cities of Cibolo, Garden Ridge, Marion, New Braunfels, Schertz, and Selma, as well as the McQueeney area. In 2010, these areas were absorbed into the San Antonio urbanized area which required Urban Transit Funds no longer Rural Transit funds to sustain. The result was VIA Metropolitan Transit Service will provide 50% of the Federal Funds and the Local Cities will provide the other 50% match required to fund this valuable service. However, agreements between ART, VIA, and the cities to share the cost of providing service to these areas ensures critical transportation service to the personnel in these areas will continue.

In 2015 ART seeks to become an even larger provider of Medicaid transportation. Alamo Regional Transit is continually striving to increase efficiencies and seek ways to increase service in order to provide transportation to more of the population throughout the 12 rural Counties in our service area.

Resource Recovery



"Recycle Ranger"
Ralph Gerhardt

Wilson County volunteers
celebrate opening of new
drop-off recycling program.



The Resource Recovery program provides solid waste planning in the AACOG region. The current emphasis of solid waste planning is the recovery of resources from the waste stream and good environmental stewardship. Preservation of landfill capacity for materials that have no further use remains a concern. The program helps local governments implement waste diversion

programs which include recycling, composting, proper handling of hazardous waste, stopping illegal dumping of waste materials, and educating the public on proper handling of waste. Funding for these activities comes from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) through AACOG to local governments seeking assistance for their waste diversion projects.

The Resource Recovery program monitors the implementation and completion of the funded waste diversion projects. Resource Recovery staff maintain an inventory of all equipment purchased through the program. The staff also offers educational outreach for schools and other public groups. Each year at least one training workshop is held for local enforcement officers on illegal dumping. The training helps both the enforcement officers and their local governments as it provides the necessary continuing education credits at no cost.



SAWS MedDrop Collection volunteers

The Resource Recovery program also maintains the Closed Landfill Inventory for the 13-county AACOG region. This historical information is useful to utility companies, realtors, and land developers.

Many local governments are hoping to expand their efforts on resource recovery with initial or expanded programs. Reduced legislative appropriations to TCEQ for the state-wide solid waste

grants program permitted the funding of six grants for 2014. Except for one-day special events, most projects produce great results a year after their initiation. Wilson County cut the ribbon on its first recycling drop-off site in August, 2013. With the help of the "Recycle Ranger", a volunteer who visited schools educating children on recycling, Wilson County averaged approximately 8.4 tons per month within the first year.

The San Antonio Water System (SAWS) saw a significant increase in the poundage of pharmaceuticals collected after a grant-funded media campaign. The publicized event netted 2,226 lbs. (1.2 tons) of pharmaceuticals. With its 2014 grant, the City of New Braunfels purchased an oil filter crusher which drains oil and crushes vehicle oil filters allowing the filters to be recycled as scrap metal. In nine days, 20 filters were processed for recycling. Each project aids the AACOG region in recovering resources, saving landfill space, keeping the waters clean and contributing to the healthy environment in our part of Texas.

2014 Member Governments & Strategic Partnerships

COUNTIES

- Atascosa County
- Bandera County
- Bexar County
- Comal County
- Frio County
- Gillespie County
- Guadalupe County
- Karnes County
- Kendall County
- Kerr County
- McMullen County
- Medina County
- Wilson County

CITIES

- Alamo Heights
- Balcones Heights
- Bandera
- Boerne
- Bulverde
- Castle Hills
- Castroville
- Charlotte
- China Grove
- Christine
- Cibolo
- Converse
- Devine
- Dilley
- Elmendorf
- Fair Oaks Ranch
- Falls City
- Floresville
- Fredericksburg
- Grey Forest
- Helotes
- Hill Country Village
- Hollywood Park
- Hondo
- Ingram
- Jourdanton
- Karnes City
- Kenedy
- Kerrville
- Kirby
- La Coste

- La Vernia
- Leon Valley
- Live Oak
- Lytle
- Marion
- Natalia
- New Berlin
- New Braunfels
- Olmos Park
- Pearsall
- Pleasanton
- Poteet
- Poth
- Runge
- San Antonio
- Schertz
- Seguin
- Selma
- Shavano Park
- Somerset
- Stockdale
- Terrell Hills
- Universal City
- Von Ormy
- Windcrest

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

- Alamo Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc.
- Brooks Development Authority
- Build San Antonio Green
- Coventry Health Care of Texas
- Free Trade Alliance
- Goodwill Industries
- Greater New Braunfels Chamber of Commerce
- McKamie Krueger LLP
- Mission Verde Alliance
- Perdue Brandon Fielder Collins & Mott LLP
- Pinnacle Propane
- San Antonio Chamber of Commerce
- San Antonio Mobility Coalition
- Solar San Antonio
- South Texas Regional Water Alliance

HOSPITAL, SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION, AND SPECIAL DISTRICTS

- Alamo Colleges
- Bandera County River Authority and Groundwater District
- Bexar County Emergency Services District No. 6
- Edwards Aquifer Authority
- Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority
- Kerrville Economic Development Corporation
- San Antonio River Authority
- University Health System
- VIA Metropolitan Transit

PUBLIC UTILITIES

- CPS Energy
- San Antonio Water System

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

- Boerne Independent School District
- Dilley Independent School District
- Floresville Independent School District
- North East Independent School District
- Northside Independent School District
- Pearsall Independent School District
- Southwest Independent School District

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

- Austin-San Antonio Corridor Council
- CI: Now
- Eagle Ford Consortium
- EPA's Good Neighbor Environmental Board
- International City/County Management Association
- Lone Star Rail District
- National Association of Area Agencies on Aging
- National Association of Regional Councils
- National Association of Development Organizations
- San Antonio Coalition for Veterans
- San Antonio Food Bank
- South Central Texas Natural Gas Vehicle Consortium
- South Texas Energy & Economic Roundtable
- Texas Association of Regional Councils
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
- Texas Department of Agriculture
- Texas Department of Transportation
- Texas Municipal League
- U.S. Economic Development Administration
- U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development
- University of Texas San Antonio
- Workforce Solutions Alamo

Alamo Area Council of Governments 2014-2015 Budget

	2014 Budget	2014 Revenues & Expenses	2015 Budget
REVENUES			
Federal	15,481,677	15,748,842	15,493,299
State	8,037,299	7,879,730	7,620,526
Local / Medicaid / MAC / UHS/UZA	8,532,520	7,106,188	8,981,862
Delegate Agency Match (Inkind,Cash,PI)	5,589,869	6,759,209	5,909,795
Program Income / Interest	389,410	440,124	390,967
AACOG Member Dues	300,472	318,186	327,136
AACOG Other Financing Sources	197,779	0	0
Total Revenues	\$38,529,026	\$38,252,279	\$38,723,585
EXPENDITURES			
Air Quality	370,990	339,764	338,573
Alamo AAA	3,629,490	4,135,196	3,816,168
Alamo AAA - Navigator*	105,511	143,598	0
Alamo Local Authority (ALA)	9,629,970	9,405,962	10,870,640
Austin Energy (DOE)	133,119	100,047	36,349
Bexar AAA	10,193,405	11,064,700	10,738,177
Bexar AAA Other-TVC-VDHCBS-Navigator*	1,313,090	869,402	505,652
Commission on State Emergency Communications	1,370,595	1,268,399	887,587
Commute Solutions / Clean Cities	238,600	220,660	229,689
Criminal Justice/DWI	878,220	1,084,414	1,016,813
Data Center	3,500	6,487	3,500
Government Services	89,259	103,294	96,387
Homeland Security	307,928	549,859	448,198
HUD Section 8	539,812	619,719	598,710
Local	76,458	231,451	85,256
Metropolitan Planning Org	261,412	226,561	251,201
Resource Recovery	379,270	220,726	476,008
Reduce Environmental Impact Gas Shale	0	28,830	15,000
Transportation/Regional Coordination/UZA	6,091,911	5,021,903	5,310,888
VIA - New Freedom	681,455	411,477	826,887
Weatherization	1,688,125	1,812,157	2,114,028
Workforce* / Child Care/TVC	427,581	1,082,826	638,524
Total Program Expenditures	\$38,409,701	\$38,947,432	\$39,304,235
Total Revenues/Expense	119,325	(695,153)	(580,650)
Beginning Fund Balance - AACOG & Programs	7,422,826	7,868,157	7,173,004
Ending Fund Balance - AACOG & Programs	7,542,151	7,173,004	6,592,354

*Not funded in 2015

