

# THE BOARD BULLETIN

A Publication for the Information of the AACS Board of Directors

Amanda Lawson, Editor

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AACS World Wide Web Address: [www.audubon-area.com](http://www.audubon-area.com)

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## UPDATE ON AACS BOARD MEMBER

### Jerry Manning Doing Well

Mr. Jerry Manning is doing great after having total knee replacement on both knees on April 6, 2005. He was in the hospital for 4 days and spent eleven days in rehabilitation. Jerry is now home; he goes to outpatient rehabilitation three days a week, and will do so for at least one more month, he advised Rajen Shah by e-mail on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Jerry also stated that he is now walking with a walker and beginning to “graduate” to a cane.

“Two things I have experienced during this time are: patience and humility,” he says. “I am going through some learning experiences. For someone who has been independent and is now dependent, it takes care of your pride,” Mr. Manning said in his message to Mr. Shah. Mr. Manning also sends this message to all of those that receive his message: “Thanks for all of your prayers, and God Bless you.”

We here at Audubon wish Mr. Manning all the best — and a quick and complete recovery.

## COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

### Resolution Restores CSBG

Congress approved the FY 2006 Budget Resolutions late Thursday April 28<sup>th</sup>. The action specifically restores funding for the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) program to next year’s federal budget. Also, the other seventeen community and economic development programs the President wanted to combine into his proposed “Strengthening America’s Communities Initiative” were restored, but none with the same emphasis as CSBG. The House-Senate Budget Resolution Conference Report contained specific language which states that the CSBG program will not only be funded but it will receive an increase, though it’s still unsure as to what amount of increase. The “Function 500” language, though, specifically states that \$600 million of the \$1 billion the Congress added to Function 500 should be used to fund CSBG; the remaining \$400 million goes for Pell Scholarship grants.

The Budget resolution which passed in both the House and the Senate does *not* exceed the President’s requested cap of \$843 billion for the total *domestic discretionary* budget authority, which funds virtually *all* AACS programs. So it does appear that Congress was able to find “savings” elsewhere in the total budget that made it possible to fund CSBG, we hope not at the expense of other AACS programs.

## GREEN RIVER AREA PUBLIC OFFICIALS

### Open Discussion & Luncheon

On April 29, 2005, nine local officials from the seven-county Green River region met in the Audubon Area Board Room to discuss ways to enhance their understanding of and support for AACS. The apparent loss of GRITS’ HSTD “brokerage” and AACS’ appeal of the brokerage award to another provider was also discussed.

It was agreed after a lengthy discussion that Owensboro State Representative Joe Bowen would lead “point” on behalf of area local officials with the matter of AACS/GRITS’ appeal of the HSTD brokerage award. Representative Bowen and the other elected officials emphasized that there was surely no further recourse until the statutory appeal was completed. Also, they urged caution not to make the matter a “political” issue during the appeal process.

Should the appeal prove unsuccessful, Representative Bowen could then lead the bipartisan strategy to reverse that decision. Since no one understood exactly how the process would play out, Representative Bowen agreed to ascertain the nature and format of the appeals process within the Kentucky Finance and Administration Cabinet.

It was also discussed in length that AACS needed to coordinate more with the area’s chief elected officials on a regular basis. Judge Whitaker asked what AACS should do in “changing times” to better effect its services capacities and its message. *What are AACS’ best choices?* asked Judge Whitaker. From these questions came much discussion and from that discussion came three key suggestions:

- 1. Quarterly Gatherings.** Meet at least four times per year with the area’s chief elected officials; each gathering will have a specific issue, emphasis, or focus.
- 2. Expand the Gathering.** Expand the quarterly gathering to include *all* State Senators and State Representatives as well as county judge/executives and key mayors.
- 3. “AACS to the Counties”.** AACS should employ the “GRADD to the Counties” model, taking its program, key staff and publicity initiatives directly to the area’s seven Fiscal Courts and communities within each of the seven GRADD counties.

### GRITS HSTD “BROKERAGE” APPEAL

A 28-page formal protest and official appeal of the HSTD brokerage awards was made April 26th to the Finance and Administration Cabinet. The AACS Board will be kept apprised of the progress and status of the appeal.

# AACCS Current Events

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	<i>Memorial Day AACCS Offices Closed</i>	30	31	<b>JUNE 1ST</b> <i>Administrative Support Committee Meeting</i>	<b>May 2005</b>	

## Board Members' Financial Oversight Resources, Online Guides

**A** new online guide designed for members of Community Action Agency board of directors has been created. You are encouraged to visit the host Website and use this guide. To locate this new board member resource, point your Web browser to the following link:

[www.virtualcap.org/cmsSpecialapps/finhealthCAA/site/welcome.htm](http://www.virtualcap.org/cmsSpecialapps/finhealthCAA/site/welcome.htm)

This **“Financially Healthy Community Action Agency”** Website’s content is presented in Macromedia Breeze 5 and/or PowerPoint formats. If you have any trouble viewing this content, just call Amanda 270-686-1613; she will help you with this site or direct you to one of AACCS’ IT staff members for

additional support.

Also, you may want to visit and bookmark the DHHS/ Administration for Children and Families’ **“Fiscal Assistant”** Website at:

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/hsb/hsfa/index.jsp>

Fiscal Assistant is the authoritative source for information on the administration and management of Head Start and other ACF grants. It has *Key Topics*, a *Library*, a *Glossary*, *FAQs*, even a *Search* tool.

Both sites are easy to use, informative, and vital to your understanding and service as a member of the AACCS Board.

**Audubon Area Community Services, Inc.**  
**1800 West Fourth Street**  
**P.O. Box 20004**  
**Owensboro, KY 42304-0004**  
**(270) 686-1600**