

2009 ANNUAL REPORT



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Copies of this report are available free by e-mailing mail@aacog.com, calling AACOG Public Relations at (210) 832-5089, or faxing a request to (210) 225-5937. The report is also available online at www.aacog.com.



*A Region United*

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*Dear AACOG members and residents of the Alamo Area Region,*

*As the year comes to an end, it is our distinct honor and pleasure to present the 2009 AACOG Annual Report. It not only highlights the incredible and successful year we've had as an Agency, but more importantly as a region united.*

*AACOG continues to lead with its efforts to promote and strengthen the region through aid to the elderly and individuals with developmental challenges; economic and community development; homeland security and 9-1-1; housing and weatherization services; natural resources; rural transportation; technical assistance; training of law enforcement and first responders; and facilitating the training and placement of the workforce within the region. We report that we've successfully met our challenge of creating the organizational structure for a Rural Planning Organization. In addition, we have accomplished one of our Strategic Planning goals of creating a Public Relations department.*

*Our region is constantly evolving and AACOG continues to play a pivotal and vital role in maintaining the region united. As we look to begin a new year, we are excited and ever vigilant of the challenges and many opportunities ahead for all. Nonetheless, we recognize that success can not be attained without the sustained commitment of our more than 90 member governments; our partner organizations; numerous volunteers; and dedicated staff that work unselfishly for the residents of our 12-county Alamo Area region. Together, we look forward to making 2010 a stellar year.*

*Regionally Yours,*

Honorable Jay P. Millikin  
2009-2010 Board Chairman  
Comal County Commissioner

Honorable Marvin C. Quinney  
2009-2010 Vice Chairman  
Wilson County Judge

Gloria C. Arriaga  
Executive Director

## AACOG 2009 Board Members

**The Honorable Jay P. Millikin**, Board Chairman, Comal County Commissioner

**The Honorable Marvin C. Quinney**, Board Vice-Chairman, Wilson County Judge

**The Honorable Tommy F. Adkisson**  
County Commissioner, Bexar County

**The Honorable James E. Barden**  
County Judge, Medina County

**The Honorable Diana J. Bautista**  
County Judge, Atascosa County

**The Honorable Paul Elizondo**  
County Commissioner, Bexar County

**The Honorable Richard A. Evans**  
County Judge, Bandera County

**The Honorable Carlos A. Garcia**  
County Judge, Frio County

**The Honorable Dan Heckler**  
Mayor, City of Boerne

**The Honorable Alger H. Kendall, Jr.**  
County Judge, Karnes County

**The Honorable Michael D. Korus**  
Chairman, Atascosa County Soil  
& Water Conservation District

**The Honorable Ray Lopez**  
City Councilman, City of San Antonio

**The Honorable A. David Marne**  
Mayor, City of Shavano Park

**The Honorable David Medina, Jr.**  
City Councilman, City of San Antonio

**The Honorable Doug Miller**  
State Representative, State of Texas

**The Honorable Robert Puente**  
President/CEO, SAWS

**The Honorable Jennifer V. Ramos**  
City Councilwoman, City of San Antonio

**The Honorable Katie N. Reed**  
Board Member, Northside ISD

**The Honorable Linda G. Rivas**  
Board Member, University Health System

**The Honorable Tom Schoolcraft**  
Mayor, City of Helotes

**The Honorable Gaylan Schroeder**  
County Judge, Kendall County

**The Honorable Mark Stroehrer**  
County Judge, Gillespie County

**The Honorable Don J. Tymrak**  
Mayor, City of Karnes City

**The Honorable Leticia Van de Putte**  
State Senator, State of Texas

**The Honorable Ruby Vera**  
Mayor, City of Natalia

**The Honorable Thomas G. Weaver**  
Chairman, San Antonio River Authority

**The Honorable Mike Wiggins**  
County Judge, Guadalupe County

**The Honorable Bill Williams**  
County Commissioner, Kerr County

**The Honorable John Williams**  
Mayor, City of Universal City

**The Honorable Kevin Wolff**  
County Commissioner, Bexar County



2009 AACOG Board of Directors

## Area Agencies on Aging

The Area Agencies on Aging (Alamo and Bexar) serve the needs of older adults in our region. Bexar AAA is dedicated to the seniors of Bexar County, while Alamo AAA serves the seniors in the 11 counties that are contiguous with Bexar County. Alamo AAA and Bexar AAA deliver similar programs and services funded by the federal Older Americans Act through the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) as well as innovative programs or systems of delivery tailored to the needs of their diverse constituents.

### Alamo Area Agency on Aging

Alamo AAA is building a community that supports older residents of the Alamo Area Region and allows them to age in place with dignity, security, and enhanced quality of life. In State FY 2009, the Alamo AAA served almost 5,000 seniors with a variety of high quality services and programs, including the following: Benefits Counseling; Care Coordination; Information, Referral & Assistance; Legal Assistance; Nutrition; Ombudsman; and Transportation. The provision of these services allows many seniors to continue an independent lifestyle in their own homes and communities.

In the Alamo AAA counties, there are 45 licensed nursing facilities and 57 assisted living facilities. Thousands of visits to these facilities were made by Ombudsman staff and volunteers, who serve residents of these facilities by advocating for their interests and safeguarding resident rights.

The Alamo AAA successfully initiated several health promotion programs including falls prevention and chronic disease self management programs. Both of these programs enhance the self management skills of participants in leading a healthy lifestyle. Other successful projects included an outreach project for finding and enrolling seniors in assistance programs and other advocacy projects.

### Bexar Area Agency on Aging

In 2009, BAAA assisted 14,430 seniors, people with disabilities and their family caregivers with an array of services. The major services are detailed in the table on next page.



Funded through the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services  
Alamo Area Council of Governments



Congregate meals assure seniors a hot lunch



Celebration for grandparents raising their grandchildren



Falls Prevention Exercise Class



Caregiver helps father with medications



Jim Jonson, Volunteer Benefits Counselor



Senior Day at the Capitol



Personal Care/Homemaker is a service provided in the residence of a homebound elder who needs assistance with Activities of Daily Living (ADL), such as cooking, cleaning, bathing, shopping, etc. Care Coordinators are helping professionals—the glue that holds everything together—for seniors and their caregivers as they try to locate services, understand the complexities of Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, and make difficult decisions about living independently versus choosing a supportive environment for long term care.

**Statistical Summary: Selected Services Delivered by BAAA, 2009**

Personal Care/Homemaker Visits	5,338
Coordinating Care and Services	1,312
Home Delivered Meals	606,254
Hot Lunches at Congregate Meal Sites	785,125
Transportation/One-Way Rides	31,362
Legal Assistance	3,023
Information and Assistance	151,000
Nursing home complaints resolved by Ombudsmen	1,887
Visits to nursing home residents	21,593
Consultations with long term care facilities	5,111

Home delivered meals are provided for homebound seniors unable to shop and prepare their own meals; the volunteers who deliver those meals frequently are the only people the homebound have contact with, making the visit more than just delivering a meal. Hot lunches are served for seniors at 90 senior and community centers throughout Bexar County, and there, too, seniors receive more than nutrition: Asked why they come to a community center for lunch, the main reason given is "for the companionship of other people—and the food is good too."

The Ombudsman program is an advocacy program for residents of long term care facilities. Residents of long term care facilities or concerned friends and family can request assistance from the Ombudsman and the 60+ volunteers in the program to address concerns about the nursing home where the senior is residing. The Ombudsman serves as an advocate and an intermediary between the resident and the facility with the goal of resolving questions or concerns and maintaining the resident in a safe and pleasant environment.

Bexar AAA's Alamo Service Connection (ASC) is the face of the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC). More than information and referral, the ASC is one of a few call centers in the state where seniors, individuals with disabilities, or their caregivers can call or go to a specialized website to ask all their questions about Medicare, Medicaid, insurance, obtaining benefits or finding various types of assistance, including legal aid, housing, home repairs, in-home supportive services, assistance with expenses, and transportation. ASC can be accessed by telephone at (210) 477-3275 or through its website, [www.alamoserviceconnection.org](http://www.alamoserviceconnection.org).

## Joint Aging Initiative Success Story

### Digital TV: Keeping Seniors Connected Campaign

The Alamo and Bexar AAAs engaged in a successful outreach and assistance-campaign to aid seniors maintain television signals during the national analogue to digital conversion project. Under a grant funded by the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging, more than 640,000 individuals and households in the Alamo Area region were reached through media promotions and group presentations. Of particular importance to the agency was ensuring appropriate information and assistance was provided to the aged and disabled, to low income households and to those for whom English is not their primary language.

Through these efforts, more than 1,300 individuals were assisted with securing coupons redeemable for television signal converter boxes; including obtaining the appropriate converter box and television antenna and providing support and in-home assistance to trouble shoot equipment problems.

## Bexar Mental Retardation Authority

The Bexar Mental Retardation Authority (BMRA) is responsible for providing the implementation and expansion of a comprehensive plan of services to children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Bexar County. Approximately 40,000 citizens currently reside in Bexar County with some degree of mental retardation or related conditions. In Texas, 42,977 are on the *Home and Community Based Services* (HCS) interest list, of which Bexar County captures 3,001.

BMRA assists individuals in determining eligibility through a *Determination of Mental Retardation* (DMR) assessment; which designates priority population and subsequent eligibility for mental retardation services through the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS). Those eligible to receive services include individuals with Mental Retardation, Autism, Pervasive Developmental Disorder, and Related Conditions. Individuals who are eligible are offered an array of services through Service Coordination which includes: Respite; Supported Employment; Employment Assistance; Community Supports; Behavioral Supports; Day Habilitation; and specialized therapies.

In FY 2009, BMRA successfully provided 177,101 total client hours for services, while continuing to meet all of the DADS' *Performance Measures and Outcome* targets for all services in the community, state, and intermediate care facilities. As a result, it received outstanding recognition from the DADS' *Quality Assurance Authority Review*.

BMRA also enrolled 175 individuals into the HCS program and 7 individuals were successfully transitioned from State Supported Living Centers to homes within the community. BMRA expanded the provider network by seven, through our open enrollment process, thereby offering choice in providers to the 750+ adults and children that are served throughout the year. In addition, the program also received additional funding for the *In Home Family Support Program* which expanded the enrollment to provide services to over 260 families while they continue to wait on the interest list for other services.



DTV Press Conference



DTV Outreach Event



## Success Stories

"A Night with Shining Stars" is certainly the appropriate description for the two gentlemen who received "Achiever of the Year Awards" at the annual awards banquet held on October 7, 2009. Their stories are so remarkable, they simply must be told.

Paul Nunez, a twenty-four year old man, started receiving General Revenue (GR) Services through the BMRA in 2007. Paul, who has Autism, had difficulty attending day habilitation services, communication and being in group settings. As a result, he was deemed "impossible to place". Through the collaborative efforts of BMRA staff, Paul's parents and of course, Paul, we were able to secure funds for one-on-one staff in the day habilitation setting combined with intensive Behavioral Supports from a licensed Applied Behavioral Analyst. During the subsequent three months Paul adjusted to his surroundings, and gradually staff time was reduced. At the awards ceremony the awesome results of teamwork were evident—Paul not only received the "Achievement of the Year Award," but he was able to be on stage with fifty of his peers and 300 people in the room to receive it. Way to go, Paul!

Paul Stuebben is the second awardee. Paul has an equally compelling story. He is forty-three years young and came to the BMRA seeking services in February of 2008, after being displaced from Goodwill's workshop after eighteen years. Paul, who loves to socialize and always has a smile on his face, began attending the Unicorn Center, also funded by the GR program. He soon decided to experience work in the community. Today, he works in a janitorial position in the community with the support of Unicorn staff and is making many new friends. He also holds the honor of being the first graduate of the Head Start Program - a six weeks work readiness course, at Unicorn. Congratulations!

## Criminal Justice Planning & Regional Youth Education Programs

The Criminal Justice Planning Program operates through an Inter-agency Cooperation Contract with the Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division to provide funding recommendations for programs and services that are based on state strategies, and priorities identified within the AACOG Region. This is facilitated through each county-community plan, a process that identifies local needs, gaps in service, and resources available to find solutions in each county.

The Criminal Justice Planning team works to provide grant workshops, technical assistance, grant support and conduct monitoring site visits for programs operating under Victims of Crime Act (VOCA); Violence against Women (VAWA); State Criminal Justice Planning (421); Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities; and Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP). In addition, this program offers support and funding coordination for applications through the U.S. Department of Education; the U.S. Health and Human Services grants; the U.S. Department of Justice; and The Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS). During the 2008 and 2009 biennium, the Criminal Justice Planning team reviewed and provided technical assistance for 136 grant applications and has offered continued support for 90 awarded applications.

This year the Criminal Justice Planning team was tasked with reviewing and providing technical assistance for applications under the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act – Edward Byrne Memorial*; which included 21 applications.

In addition, the AACOG Regional Youth Education program collaborates with law enforcement educators to assist in providing quality, standard-based services to high-risk and rural high schools within the 12-county Alamo Area region and offers regional youth a multi-faceted look into the Criminal Justice System. These services include providing Criminal Justice electives in participating high schools with additional resources, supplies and assistance. The intent of the program is to promote the training and education offered through the criminal justice electives to help prevent crime and violence, deter students from underage drinking and substance abuse and help boost confidence and self esteem while fostering and encouraging greater community involvement and school participation. The program also offers juvenile based training topics to area law enforcement, juvenile justice professionals and school personnel in order to increase awareness of the issues and laws affecting youth and schools. AACOG Criminal Justice Programs support regional goals and assist in forming partnerships that yield innovative strategies. The Regional Youth Education Program currently has participation from 18 schools and has a potential to gain four additional schools in 2010.



From left:  
Michael Flores, Gordon Hartman,  
Paul Nunez, and his mother.



Gordon Hartman, Paul Stuebben,  
and Michael Flores.



Lanier Police Explorers  
practice for skills competition



Bexar County  
Community Planning Meeting



Pictured are students from the Lanier SAISD Police Explorers. Explorers are presented a certificate commending them for successfully completing a probation period that requires extensive community service hours, team building, tactical training, and demonstration of good academics and citizenship. Students also participate in skills competitions at area, state and national levels.

Dear Alamo Council of Governments,

On behalf of the Police Explorers we would like to thank you for all of your help. We appreciate all the materials you have given us because they will better prepare us for competitions. Also the handcuffs, tactical belts, and guns used for tactical training make learning about law enforcement more interesting. Without your assistance, we would not have some of the things you were able to provide. Thank you, members of the Alamo Council of Governments, for everything you have done to better our experience as Police Explorers and Criminal Justice Students at Lanier High School.

Sincerely,

Lanier H.S. Police Explorers

## Government Services

The Government Services program offers a wealth of services to the Alamo Area region including: economic development; community development; and leadership development through technical assistance and advocacy. Through our economic development efforts, staff provides technical assistance, research, and data to the public and private sectors in the development of projects. Our community development efforts assist cities and counties with developing public infrastructure projects, community facilities and recreational sites. Further to the efforts of Government Services, staff provides leadership development workshops and training to newly elected public officials and to planning and zoning officials and staff.

AACOG Government Services and CPS Energy hosted the 2009 Economic Development Professionals workshop. A panel comprised of professionals from CPS Energy, Lower Colorado River Authority, Guadalupe Valley Electric Cooperative and the Pedernales Electric Cooperative shared with the audience, their roles in partnering with communities and promoting the economic development efforts in those communities. Economic Development professionals throughout the Alamo Area region attended. In addition, CPS Energy presented their plans for seeking renewable energy sources. The 2010 Economic Development Professionals Workshop is currently being planned.

The Economic Development and Environmental Review Committee (EDERC)—with support from Government Services—reviewed more than 25 grant applications, submitted by communities in the region, having an aggregate value of \$27,064,297.

Government Services continued region-wide coordination efforts to publish the third edition of the *Business Images Alamo Area Magazine*, in coordination with Journal Communications. The magazine highlights the economic efforts of the region and various success stories. The publication is available on-line at [www.imagesalamoarea.com](http://www.imagesalamoarea.com).



Planning and Zoning Workshop



CPS Presentation at Economic Development Workshop



2009 Images Magazine

## Homeland Security & 9-1-1 Programs

Protection and safety of citizens in the Alamo region is paramount and provided through effective assessment, planning and implementation of Homeland Security and 9-1-1 initiatives. In 2009, AACOG offered training courses in *Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)* and *Communication Unit Leaders (COML)* to the area's first-responders. Of particular interest is the fact that AACOG is the State's first certified Agency to offer COML training. In addition, the programs have successfully identified and allocated more than \$2,300,000 to member governments of the Alamo Area region.

In continuing as the State's leader, AACOG has begun to address both state and federal requirements to have *Regional Interoperability Communication Plans (RICPs)*. It has taken the lead in developing its dynamic regional plan and can be constantly revised such that it improves the overall system and enhances the region and its capabilities. Furthermore, it has taken steps to develop and implement a Dialogic Communicator for the region. This system provides a uniform method of identifying the region's first-responders; as they are called to assist in emergency situations around the 12-county region. This is another step in securing a Regional Mutual Aid agreement, covering approximately 99% of the region's county and (incorporated and non-incorporated) municipal communities.

AACOG administers the 9-1-1 Program for seven South Central Texas counties: Atascosa, Bandera, Frio, Gillespie, Karnes, Kendall, and Wilson. This year, AACOG became one of three council of governments in Texas to begin implementation of Next-Generation IP-enabled call solutions for Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs). Two of the program's PSAPs have gone live after installation of Sentinel Patriot 3.0 equipment from industry-leader PlantCML.

With the AACOG Backup PSAP in San Antonio becoming operational in 2008 and the construction of the new Bandera County Jail & Justice Center in 2009, functioning on the IP-enabled architecture, this Patriot System will provide remote and redundant handling of 9-1-1 and administrative calls and will lay the foundation for future capabilities such as text messaging, picture mail, and streaming video. In mission-critical environments and where seconds count, flexible and reliable communications are paramount for effective emergency response and management.



WMD HazMat Training



Dispatcher at new Bandera County PSAP

## Housing & Weatherization

For more than 28 years, AACOG has been the lead agency in the region for the Weatherization Assistance Program, handling more than 5,000 homes under the U.S. Department of Energy's federal weatherization programs. This year, AACOG is the recipient of well over \$14 million in federal stimulus dollars, which will be used for the free professional installation of attic and wall insulation, Energy Star appliances, energy efficient heating & air conditioning systems, etc., in regional households. Weatherization has provided an average of 45% reduction in utility consumption translating in as much in savings in the region's bills.

For over 10 years, AACOG has provided rental assistance to over 980 tenants throughout the rural county areas through the Section 8 Program. This rental assistance has made it possible for senior citizens, families and others to afford decent housing, and in some cases, assist families through difficult times of unemployment and medical catastrophes. AACOG has been recognized by HUD, the grant-funding agency, as a high performer.

The Alamo Area Housing Finance Corporation's focus is to review and make recommendations regarding the development and construction of housing projects throughout the rural county area. Multi-family development projects designed to encourage rural development, as well as the provision of closing costs and down payment assistance for first-time homebuyers of single-family homes are chief among its goals.



*Weatherization Intake Staff  
Accepting Applications at  
AACOG Road Show in Floresville*



*Contractors install new  
energy efficient windows*



## Law Enforcement Academy

Since its inception in 1972, the Alamo Area Regional Law Enforcement Academy has grown exponentially, both in its mission and scope as well as its service to the citizens of the Alamo Area region and the Lone Star State.

Our licensing courses; Basic Peace Officer; and Basic County Corrections Officer Courses have gained popularity for the academy's innovative, creative, and comprehensive training program. The Academy's In-Service courses have also attracted peace officers from all over the State, specifically for intermediate, master, and advanced peace officer certifications training. As a result, the Academy has witnessed an increase in interest in its criminal investigator certification and law enforcement leadership development programs.

Our joint training efforts with Lackland Air Force Base have afforded increased recognition in our Texas Supplemental Peace Officer Course, which has increased its enrollment this year. The Academy has also seen an increase in additional out-of-state peace officers, former federal investigators, and military personnel (whether on active duty, reserve, or retired) with law enforcement background participating in its courses to obtain their Texas Peace Officer certification.

In the Alamo region alone, the Academy has conducted 713 courses, trained 7,018 law enforcement, corrections, and emergency telecommunications personnel. The total training hours conducted was 157,243. The cost of training these personnel has totaled more than \$2,900,000.

Our proudest achievement is the 100 percent first-time pass rate by our Basic Peace Officer Course training program cadets on their Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education (TCLEOSE) state exam. We continue to uphold the highest standards of training and education for our future Texas Peace Officers, Corrections Officers, and Emergency Telecommunications personnel throughout the state of Texas and beyond.

In May 2009, the Regional Law Enforcement Academy was presented with a unique training opportunity. The Territory of American Samoa requested that three of the Academy's instructors train, educate, and certify their law enforcement officers through our Criminal Investigator Certification Course. The course, which is 144 hours long and contains a total of 12 criminal investigation training topics, took place October 13 through November 20 in Pago Pago, American Samoa. While the opportunity to conduct this training in American Samoa was certainly exciting, the financial decision to participate was made all the easier, as all travel expenses

(including room and board; and expenses for course material and equipment) were paid for by the American Samoa Department of Public Safety.



*Participants in Criminal  
Investigator Certification  
Program in Samoa.*



*Cadets participating in  
Defensive Tactics training*



*Cadets participating in  
Firearms Training at Camp Bullis*



*Cadets participating in  
Courtroom Demeanor  
Training at Balcones  
Heights Municipal Court*

## Natural Resources

### Education & Outreach

While the concentrated use of gasoline-powered vehicles in San Antonio and its immediate surroundings contribute significantly to air pollution in those urban areas, the Agency views this issue as regional in nature because the health and environmental effects of air pollution can be far-reaching. The AACOG Natural Resources Department grapples with air pollution by promoting the adoption of pollution-reduction strategies that decrease fuel consumption, for example, through its ridesharing program, anti-idling initiative, and alternative fuel projects.

### Commute Solutions

During 2009, AACOG staff participated in more than 50 outreach events in which educational material on air quality and commuting solutions was presented, potentially reaching more over 39,000 event attendees. Educational messages distributed via mass media included television, radio, newspaper, digital billboards, and bus placards. Two challenges sponsored by AACOG, one aimed at corporations and the other at individuals, encouraged several thousand participants in the region to use methods of transportation other than single-vehicle occupancy, which together kept literally tons of pollution-producing components out of the air during June and September. In addition, AACOG continued to maintain a system in which nearly 1,000 schools, businesses, agencies, media outlets, and individuals are notified when air quality in the region is forecasted to be unhealthy for sensitive groups.

### Clean Cities

During 2009, the Alamo Area Clean Cities Coalition continued to develop public and private partnerships that promote initiatives aimed at securing regional economic, environmental, and energy security. The coalition provided support for local decisions to adopt practices that contribute to the reduction of petroleum consumption by promoting alternative fuels and vehicles, fuel blends, fuel economy, and idle reduction. The coalition accomplished this through numerous outreach events, educational workshops, grant partnerships with local schools, developing a strong stakeholder base, and through the 2009 Advancing the Choice Event that illustrated the compelling case of the alternative fuels to fleets throughout the region.

## Air Quality

During 2009 the department worked in collaboration with the Capitol Area Council of Governments and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to complete a base-case photochemical model using a June 2006 ozone episode. The photochemical model is a key analytical tool used to determine cost-effective methods for reducing ozone in central Texas. Completion of this, a second photochemical model, allows AACOG to provide important insight and technical guidance to member governments in their deliberation of ozone-fighting policy required by local jurisdictions under the federal Clean Air Act. To date, the Alamo region remains in compliance with all federal clean air standards.

Since the end of 2009 marks the end of the first review period by the EPA to determine clean air violations under the new, more stringent 2008 federal ozone standard, ozone concentrations recorded through the last day in 2009 must be considered. However, as the end of October marks the end of the ozone season in our region, our continued compliance through the often-difficult summer months might indicate our clean air record could remain intact in 2009.

Notably, on September 16, 2009, the US Environmental Protection Agency announced a stay in the implementation of the new 2008 ozone standard. According to EPA information, if a revised standard is proposed as a result of the review process, designations under the new standard would not be expected until August 2011. This is about one and a half years later than the March 2010 schedule for the issuance of designations under the 2008 ozone standard. This stay does not signal that the regions should relax vigilance in the ozone challenge. If the standard is tightened yet again, the challenge only becomes greater.



Fresh Air Friday 2009



Light Duty Alternative Fuel Vehicle powered by propane Clean Fuels USA



Alternative fuel propane mower at Advancing the Choice Event



Meeting with local cement industry to discuss Air Quality



## Regional Data Center

Since its inception, the Regional Data Center provides planning, research, and information services to member governments, business, and the general public.

In 2009, the Data Center staff assisted several counties with their Census preparation 2010 efforts by helping redraw their census tract and block groups and submitting the changes in electronic form. Staff also began implementing the latest version of a new demographic modeling system to prepare small area population and employment forecasts in Bexar, Comal, Wilson, Guadalupe and Kendall counties.

## Resource Recovery

Everyday each citizen and local government in the Alamo Area Region handles solid waste, which includes: newspaper; food wrappers; food scraps; bottles and cans; worn-out appliances; cell phones; and many other items. The Resource Recovery program provides information on management of this waste and programs for turning this waste into resources with a second life.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) funded the 2009 Resource Recovery program with an \$882,010 grant. A portion of those funds were used to finance two notable projects, a Household Waste (HHW) facility in Northeast San Antonio and a recycling collection center in Karnes County. The other grants provided HHW collection, E-Waste collection, recycling bins, and recycling education and outreach.

Other activities for 2009 included offering local enforcement workshops; providing recycling information to schools, at Earth Day and Texas Recycles Day events, and at industry and environmental fairs; and maintaining the Closed Landfill Inventory for the Alamo region.

The Resource Recovery program was one of the sponsors of the city of Leon Valley's 20th *Earthwise Living Event* on February 28, 2009. The event, primarily staffed by volunteers with the assistance of city staff, attracted 1,200 visitors from across the region. Numerous businesses and non-profits participated.



*Kitchen Recycle Bins at Work*



*AACOG Reusable Bags were a highlight at the Earthwise Living Event*



*E-Waste Collection at Earthwise Living Event*

## Rural Public Transportation (Alamo Regional Transit)

Need a Ride? Alamo Regional Transit (ART) provides general public transportation and Medicaid transportation to the residents of the 11-rural counties in the Alamo Area region. Public transportation is an important service for many county residents who need assistance with transportation to lead a normal and active lifestyle. During 2009, ART provided 95,370 rides, driving over 1.2 million miles in the rural communities and Bexar County. Transportation to medical appointments such as dialysis is the reason many people use ART, but transportation is open to anyone in the rural areas for convenient and safe transportation to school, work, senior centers, workforce centers, the grocery store, or anywhere people need a ride. Utilizing federal stimulus dollars, ART recently purchased new buses and new dispatching technology to provide more efficient and effective service to the Alamo region.

### *Pearsall Flex Route*

In 2009, ART began providing a daily flex route system for the residents of Pearsall, transporting children to and from school and residents to key locations all over town. Government Services staff was instrumental in coordinating the flex route that was initially funded through a Texas Department of Transportation Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) grant. JARC funding provides for transportation options to qualified citizens that are in need of transportation to jobs, schools, and training or workforce centers. After the route was successfully implemented the city of Pearsall, Frio County and ART agreed to fund the bus route for 2010. Other JARC funded flex routes are planned for additional counties in the Alamo Area region starting in 2010.



*Frio County Judge Carlos Garcia cuts ribbon at Grand Opening of ART Pearsall Route*

## Workforce

Located in our eleven rural county Career Centers, Workforce staff assisted 2,780 employers with labor market information, job postings, employer incentives, and applicant referral and screening services. A total of 17,158 customers received career counseling; case management; resume writing assistance; job search assistance; and other employment services. Of the aforementioned, a total of 14,472 job seekers found successful employment.

An average of 2,126 rural children and their families received financial assistance for child care each month, supporting their parents to work or further their education and training goals. Our local Workforce Development Board was recognized as the Best Performing Large Workforce Board by the Texas Workforce Commission for the third time in the past seven years. We had two rural employers receive the Workforce Solutions-Alamo "Employer Award of Excellence", Bandera Electric Cooperative, Inc. and Mission Pharmacal. We also had two customers, Ashleigh Retz and Guy Bender; receive the Workforce Solutions-Alamo "Excellence through Individual Achievement" award.



AACOG Staff and Workforce Solutions-Alamo Executive Director receive Best Performing Large Workforce Board Award



Kerrville Workforce Solutions-Alamo Career Center Grand Opening

## Summer Youth Work Experience Program

Workforce operated a summer youth work experience program for at-risk youth with multiple barriers to employment for 70 youth in the eleven rural counties of the Alamo Area region.

James Graham is a 23-year-old high school dropout who began working on July 20, 2009 at Central Texas Technology Center, as a Welding Lab Technician. A Career Counselor initially described James as, "When James first came to us in search of work, he had limited work experience and he told us he thought he would like to learn a trade skill...he was lost in the job world and having no direction in his life." His supervisor, CTTC Center Director Chester Jenke, described him as "eager, but without a vision...he lacked self esteem, had no problem-solving skills and poor communication skills." In addition, Mr. Jenke further described him by stating that James initially "needed someone to explain what work ethics were and how to implement them in his daily life."

After two months of employment, Mr. Jenke reports that "James is confident and has grown and matured. He comes to me now with solutions rather than problems." James was quick to state "This workforce employment program was different because it took someone like me who was stuck in a dead-end job and proved that I can learn new skills and then use that training and excel with it." Today James is optimistic and excited about his future with the confidence to pursue his goals.

Triet Nguyen is enrolled in the Workforce Solutions-Alamo Summer Youth program and working at Peterson Regional Medical Center as a Radiology Technician making \$10 an hour. Six months ago, Triet and his family moved to the United States in search of the American dream. He has been successful in his endeavors so far and is gaining skills to pursue a career in Radiology. Triet will begin college with Alamo Colleges and study Radiology. Lori, Triet's supervisor, has been very impressed with his progress and hopes he will have the opportunity to be hired permanently after the conclusion of the youth program.



James Graham at work at the Central Texas Technology Center



Triet Nguyen with Supervisor Lori Ayala at Peterson Regional Medical Center

## AACOG Member Governments

### COUNTIES

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

### 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  
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

### CITIES

Runge  
San Antonio  
Schertz  
Selma  
Seguin  
Shavano Park  
Somerset  
Stockdale  
Terrell Hills  
Universal City  
Von Ormy  
Windcrest

### SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Dilley ISD  
East Central ISD  
Fredericksburg ISD  
Kerrville ISD  
Northeast ISD  
Northside ISD  
Southwest ISD

### SPECIAL DISTRICTS & AUTHORITIES

Alamo Community College District  
Alamo RC&D Area Inc.  
Alamo Regional Mobility Authority  
Alamo Soil & Water Conservation District  
Atascosa County Soil & Water Conservation District  
Bexar County ESD, No. 6  
Bexar Metropolitan Water District  
Brooks Development Authority  
CPS Energy  
Edwards Aquifer Authority  
El Oso Water Supply  
Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority  
Kendall County Soil & Water Conservation District  
Kerr County Economic Development Foundation  
Kerr County Soil & Water Conservation District  
San Antonio River Authority  
San Antonio Water System  
South Texas Regional Water Alliance  
University Health System  
VIA Metropolitan Transit Authority

## Alamo Area Council of Governments 2010 Annual Budget Effective January 1 - December 31, 2010

### Revenues

Federal Funds	447,442
Federal Funds through State	25,955,353
State	10,681,883
State Planning Assistance Funds	164,006
Local / Medicaid / MAC / UHS	5,370,230
Delegate Agency Match (Inkind,Cash,PI)	4,815,761
Program Income / Interest	226,239
AACOG Member Dues	245,458
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$47,906,372</b>

### Expenditures By Programs

AADC-Workforce / Child Care	3,410,374
Air Quality	611,347
Alamo Aging	4,166,933
Alamo Aging Local	8,000
Bexar Aging	9,832,996
Bexar Special Projects (Alamo Ser. Connections / Tx Healthy Lifestyles	434,113
Bexar Mental Retardation Authority	8,685,955
Commission on State Emergency Communications	1,074,819
Commute Solutions / Clean Cities	451,157
Criminal Justice	1,613,115
Data Center	17,015
Government Services	106,813
Health and Human Services (Local)	16,000
Homeland Security	1,557,833
Hud Section 8	387,253
Job Access Reverse Commute	244,938
Local	74,214
Metropolitan Planning Organization	292,500
Transportation Special Projects (Business Plan / Regional Coordination Planning)	82,453
Resource Recovery	882,010
Rural Public Transportation	5,610,959
Ryan White	0
Weatherization	8,275,219
Projected Fund Balance Increase	70,356
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$47,906,372</b>

## AACOG Directors



**Gloria Arriaga**  
Executive Director



**Susan Lodge**  
Deputy Director  
Human Services



**Dean Danos**  
Deputy Director  
Government  
Services



**Mario Gutierrez**  
General Counsel



**Debbie Billa**  
Alamo Aging  
Director



**Peter Bella**  
Natural Resources  
Director



**Blanca Tapia**  
Controller



**Martha Spinks**  
Bexar Aging  
Director



**Don McFarland**  
Homeland  
Security Director



**Cindy Krueger**  
Administrative  
Services Director



**Anthony Jalomo**  
Bexar Mental  
Retardation  
Authority Director



**David Kruse**  
Regional Data  
Center Director



**Grant Gaul**  
Quality Assurance  
Director



**Rose Jackson**  
Housing Director



**Ben Herr**  
Regional  
Transportation  
Director



**Tim Treviño**  
Public Relations  
Director



**Mike Kohler**  
Workforce  
Director



**Daniel Watford**  
Assistant to the  
Executive Director

## ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

