



# UNITING THE ALAMO REGION



2012 ANNUAL REPORT

# Table of Contents

	<b>Page</b>
Letter From Executive Director	3
Letter From 2012 Board Chair and Vice-Chair	4
AACOG 2012 Board of Directors	5
ALAMO LOCAL AUTHORITY	6
AREA AGENCIES ON AGING	7-8
Alamo Area Agency on Aging	7
Bexar Area Agency on Aging	8
COLLABORATIVE AAA INITIATIVES	9
Alamo Caregiver Empowerment (ACE) Project	9
PUBLIC SAFETY	10-12
Alamo Area Regional	10
Law Enforcement Academy	
Criminal Justice Planning	10-11
Homeland Security	11
9-1-1	12
REGIONAL SERVICES	12-21
Air Quality	12-13
Alamo Area Clean Cities Coalition	14
Commute Solutions	15
Economic and Community Development	16
Eagle Ford Shale	17
Regional Data Center	18
Alamo Regional Transit	19
Resource Recovery	20
Weatherization Assistance	21
WORKFORCE & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	22-23
Career Centers	22
Child Care Services	23
Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8)	23
AACOG Membership	24
Financials / Budget	25
AACOG Directors	26
Organizational Structure	27



Dear AACOG members and residents of the Alamo Region:

AACOG is committed to achieving the highest standards of performance in serving its member governments, affiliates, and program beneficiaries. We recognize that these are challenging times, but our dedicated staff continues to work together to find new funding sources, additional methods of collaboration, and improved efficiencies for meeting our goals and responsibilities.

With the discovery of large amounts of oil and natural gas in the Eagle Ford Shale play, AACOG is working to maximize the benefits of resource extraction by promoting business and infrastructure development. The Clean Cities program was instrumental in establishing the South Central Texas Natural Gas Consortium, which is a collaboration of the public and the private sectors to expand natural gas transportation infrastructure. The Economic Development Department improved regional business opportunities by facilitating meetings between business owners and major oil and gas companies. The Alamo Area Development Corporation, AACOG's nonprofit arm, promoted workforce training to prepare local workers for new employment opportunities and held job fairs to assist new companies with finding skilled labor.

Along with new economic opportunities, exploration and drilling also created significant pressure from the rapid growth in south-central Texas communities. AACOG's departments are working to assist member governments in coping with issues resulting from Eagle Ford Shale activities. AACOG is addressing topics such as air quality, criminal justice planning, economic instability, emergency communications, homeland security planning, housing availability, and roads.

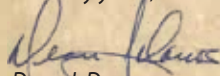
AACOG is continuing to provide an important leadership role for the Alamo Region on other issues, too. The AIR Executive Committee petitioned the Environmental Protection Agency for inclusion in the Ozone Advance program. The application was accepted within a few weeks. This proved to be a fortunate occurrence because less than a month later air quality monitors recorded ozone values above the national ambient air quality standards. Applicants are not eligible for Ozone Advance if they have exceeded air quality limits. So, our timing was critical.

AACOG's Alamo Area Agency on Aging played a pivotal role in creating the Alamo Regional Food Security Network (ARFSN). It is a partnership between state, regional, and local organizations that is dedicated to eliminating food insecurity and improving nutritional values for residents of the Alamo Region. In 2012, the U.S. Department of State contacted ARFSN asking that we host a professional from Malawi. Mr. Ishmael Kumwenda worked with ARFSN from August 3rd until December 3rd assisting with establishing food policy councils/food security networks in our counties. Mr. Kumwenda gained practical experience that will assist him in implementing the same framework for local collaboration upon his return to Malawi.

Mr. Tim Treviño, AACOG's Sr. Director of Strategic Planning and Agency Communications, was appointed to EPA's Good Neighbor Environmental Board. It was established in 1992 under Section 6 of the Enterprise for the Americas Initiative Act. The Good Neighbor Environmental Board advises the President on environmental and infrastructure issues along the U.S. border with Mexico. As a representative member, Mr. Treviño provides independent advice that represents the views and interests of AACOG and south-central Texas.

In 2012, AACOG embraced several new opportunities for furthering the advancement of the Alamo Region. I am proud of the accomplishments AACOG has achieved during challenging circumstances. With perseverance and devotion to duty, I am confident that AACOG will continue to make a positive difference in the lives of those who reside in the Alamo Region.

Sincerely yours,



Dean J. Danos  
AACOG Executive Director





From Left:  
Vice-Chair Diana  
J. Bautista, and  
Chair Katie N.  
Reed



Dear AACOG members and residents of the Alamo Region:

*In 2012, AACOG demonstrated both continuity in the face of change and successful adaptation to changing circumstances. Most funding sources were drastically reduced. Yet, our dedicated and talented staff continued to fulfill our responsibilities to the Alamo Region.*

*One of the ways that AACOG responded was developing partnerships to continue the delivery of services to program clients and constituents. Collaboration and cooperation are the most vital components in meeting the needs of the Alamo Region. In fact, this financial pinch may be a blessing in disguise because it has motivated organizations to coordinate action and search for meaningful partnerships to resolve the problems that face the Alamo Region. Forging these partnerships during challenging economic times will pay dividends well into the future as the economy rebounds. Highlights of the partnerships with other organizations include:*

- the Alamo Area Agency on Aging working with the Retired Senior Volunteer Program at Texas Lutheran University to expand avenues for informing seniors about available benefits, providing counseling about the challenges that face them, and informing them about potential dangers,*
- the Alamo Local Authority providing applied behavioral analysis services for its clients in cooperation with the special education department at the University of Texas at San Antonio,*
- Alamo Regional Transit and VIA Metropolitan Transit entering into an interlocal agreement to improve ridership opportunities,*
- the Bexar Area Agency on Aging forming the Alamo Area Accessible Transportation Coalition Initiative and creating a transportation information collective,*
- the Natural Resources Department collaborating with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to develop an emissions inventory to measure the air quality impact of Eagle Ford Shale activities,*
- the Natural Resources Department establishing the South Central Texas Natural Gas Vehicle Consortium, and*
- Weatherization Assistance joining the Cottonwood Creek Energy and Waste Water Reduction Group in Guadalupe County.*

*Of course, AACOG's departments also collaborate with each other to improve benefits and service delivery. For example, the Regional Data Center is creating service area maps in support of an Alamo Regional Transit project that will also be used in the transportation information collective that is spearheaded by the Bexar Area Agency on Aging. The Regional Data Center is also working with Criminal Justice Planning to map changes in law enforcement infractions related to Eagle Ford Shale development.*

*AACOG will continue to be the place where regional leaders meet to discuss the challenges that face the Alamo Region and develop strategies for solving the demands that confront us. It is our pleasure to thank each of you for the part you play in meeting the needs of the Alamo Region. We are honored to be counted with you in providing the important leadership to solve the issues facing the region so that our communities remain at the vanguard of policy development and program implementation. Thanks to everyone for taking time to work for those who are vulnerable, to promote public safety, and to enhance community development in the Alamo Region.*

*Sincerely yours,*  
*Katie Reed*  
Katie N. Reed  
2012 Board Chair  
Northside ISD Board Member

*Diana J. Bautista*  
Diana J. Bautista  
2012 Board Vice-Chair  
Atascosa County Judge



# AACOG 2012 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Katie N. Reed, Chair, Northside ISD Board Member  
Diana J. Bautista, Vice-Chair, County Judge, Atascosa County

Tommy F. Adkisson  
Commissioner, Bexar County

Tom Schoolcraft  
Mayor, City of Helotes

James E. Barden  
County Judge, Medina County

Gaylan Schroeder  
County Judge, Kendall County

Richard A. Evans  
County Judge, Bandera County

Mike Schultz  
Mayor, City of Boerne

Richard Hernandez  
County Commissioner, Frio County

Barbara Shaw  
County Judge, Karnes County

Michael D. Korus  
Chairman, Atascosa County Soil  
and Water Conservation District

Carlton Soules  
Councilman, City of San Antonio

Sherman Krause  
County Judge, Comal County

Mark Stroehrer  
County Judge, Gillespie County

Ray Lopez  
Councilman, City of San Antonio

Pat Tinley  
County Judge, Kerr County

A. David Marne  
Mayor, City of Shavano Park

Don J. Tymrak  
Mayor, City of Karnes City

Doug Miller  
Texas State Representative

Leticia Van de Putte  
Texas State Senator

Leticia Ozuna  
Councilwoman, City of San Antonio

Ruby Vera  
Mayor, City of Natalia

Robert R. Puente  
President/CEO, San Antonio Water System

Thomas G. Weaver  
Board Member, San Antonio River Authority

Marvin C. Quinney  
County Judge, Wilson County

John Williams  
Mayor, City of Universal City

Linda Rivas  
Board Member, University Health System

Jim Wolverton  
Commissioner, Guadalupe County

Sergio "Chico" Rodriguez  
Commissioner, Bexar County

Kevin Wolff  
Commissioner, Bexar County



AACOG Board of Directors and Senior Staff





## Alamo Local Authority

The Alamo Local Authority (ALA) provides access to community services and supports for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities who live in Bexar County. ALA works to improve service delivery to individuals on its community interest list by developing meaningful partnerships. Most recently, ALA worked with the University of Texas at San Antonio Special Education Department to collaborate on providing Applied Behavioral Analysis services for ALA clients.

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 and to reduce the likelihood of abuse and neglect.

Despite budgetary setbacks, program year 2012 proved to be quite successful:

- ALA's Intake and Eligibility program completed more than 415 intake enrollments and successfully conducted 469 determinations of an intellectual disability. In addition, ALA's General Revenue program provided service coordination for 1,017 persons.
- Community Living Options Information Process staff successfully assisted six individuals in transitioning from the State Supported Living Center into community placement.
- The Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) offered Texas Home Living (TxHmL) services to 159 new individuals served by ALA. TxHmL provides selected essential services and supports to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities living in their family homes or their own homes.
- Home and Community-Based Services (HCS) provided service coordination for 1,775 individuals. DADS authorized ALA to offer entry into the HCS program to 100 new individuals. HCS provides service coordination and more intensive residential assistance than TxHmL.



Service  
Coordination  
home visit



Determination  
of an Intellectual  
Disability

## Area Agencies on Aging

AACOG is fortunate to have two Area Agencies on Aging. One is responsible for Bexar County and the other is responsible for the 11 rural counties of the Alamo Region – Atascosa, Bandera, Comal, Frio, Gillespie, Guadalupe, Karnes, Kendall, Kerr, Medina, and Wilson Counties. Both agencies manage federal Older Americans Act funding to deliver an array of services:

benefits counseling,	health maintenance training,	long-term care ombudsman,
care coordination,	home-delivered meals,	mental health services,
caregiver support,	income support,	nutrition counseling,
congregate meals,	information and referral assistance,	respite care, and
health and wellness education,	legal assistance,	transportation services.

## Alamo Area Agency on Aging

The Alamo Area Agency on Aging (Alamo AAA) is dedicated to building a community network that safeguards older residents by allowing them to age in place with dignity, security, and enhanced quality of life. In addition to providing traditional services, Alamo AAA also addresses food insecurity and improved nutrition in the Alamo Region. Alamo AAA is the host department for the Alamo Regional Food Security Network (ARFSN), which is a partnership of agencies, individuals, and organizations. During 2012, it established food policy councils / food security networks at the county level to promote greater collaboration and communication.

The U.S. Department of State invited ARFSN to participate in the Community Solutions Program by hosting Ishmael Kumwenda, a professional from Malawi. Mr. Kumwenda is employed by Better Life for All, a community action group in Mzimba, Malawi that works on a wide range of issues, including climate change, HIV/AIDS, water, sanitation, and resource management. He worked with ARFSN from August 3<sup>rd</sup> until December 3<sup>rd</sup> assisting with organizational development.

Alamo AAA began working with the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) unit at Texas Lutheran University (TLU) in the summer of 2012 to expand the capacity of the Senior Medicare Patrol project. The TLU RSVP unit uses its 1,900 members to promote community development and social services throughout Comal, Guadalupe, Hays, and Wilson Counties. It is working with Alamo AAA to provide information to seniors about public benefits, health insurance, advance directives, client rights, and consumer protection issues. By September 2012, all of RSVP's highly qualified volunteers were trained to conduct outreach and make public presentations, thereby creating another collaborative partnership in the Alamo Region.



Ishmael Kumwenda addresses the AACOG Board of Directors.

Building a community  
that safeguards its older residents



An opportunity to live independently  
with dignity for as long as possible



## Bexar Area Agency on Aging and the Alamo Service Connection

The mission of the Bexar Area Agency on Aging (Bexar AAA) is to assure that everyone has an opportunity to live independently with dignity for as long as possible. Bexar AAA's approach is identifying available resources in the community and developing partnerships to optimize the identified resources. The result is a collaborative environment where government, nonprofit, and for-profit entities can coordinate and innovate.

The Alamo Service Connection (ASC) is the gateway to Bexar AAA, as well as other social services in the Alamo Region. ASC is an Aging and Disability Resource Center, which evaluates how best to help callers through a needs assessment and options counseling framework. ASC helps seniors and their caregivers navigate the maze of available options to assure that they are receiving the services and supports that best fit their situation.

Bexar AAA also receives competitive grants to develop innovative programs. Bexar AAA received a grant from Easter Seals Project Action to bring a training team to San Antonio to develop an accessible transportation coalition. Thirty agencies attended a two-day workshop at which the assembled group committed to forming the Alamo Area Accessible Transportation Coalition Initiative (AAATCI). AAATCI collaborated on a successful application to the Federal Transit Administration to create a One-Call/One-Click Telephone and Website Center which will provide an advanced search system to match the particular needs of veterans, seniors, people with disabilities, or any other resident of the Alamo Region with available transportation resources.

Bexar AAA was recognized by the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging with 2012 Aging Innovations and Achievement Awards for two innovative programs. AAATCI received an award for creating mobility improvements and the second award was presented to ASC for the Warm Hearts, Warm Homes and Cool Neighbor projects.



Aging Innovations and Achievement Awardees recognized at AACOG Board Meeting. From left: Bexar County Commissioner Kevin Wolff, Elena Hernandez (Cool Neighbor), George Losoya (Warm Hearts), Siena Lindemann (ASC Manager), COSA Councilwoman Leticia Ozuna, Isa Fernández (AAATCI), COSA Councilman Ray Lopez, Board Chair Katie Reed.



Creating better trained and informed caregivers  
enhances the quality of care provided

## Collaborative AAA Initiatives Alamo Caregiver Empowerment Project

The Alamo Local Authority, Alamo AAA, and Bexar AAA recently partnered with Respite Care San Antonio and Department of Aging and Disability Services Regional Local Services to submit an application for the Lifespan Respite Caregiver Program. The collaborative project will expand the availability of respite services and caregiver training in the Alamo Region.

The emerging project, called Alamo Caregiver Empowerment (ACE), provides training and respite services for unpaid primary caregivers, usually relatives. It makes respite care available for those who are not eligible through other public and private programs. ACE will consider respite care for individuals irrespective of age, the type of disability, or the chronic illness. ACE has led to additional collaborations with the Alamo Community College District, the Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Association, CentroMed, Close to Home Adult Day Care Center in New Braunfels, Edgewater Care Center in Kerrville, Frio County Inter-agency Council, Huntington's Disease Society of America, Karnes County Interagency Council, Metro Health, Otto Kaiser Memorial Hospital in Kenedy, Pearsall Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Presa Community Center, and Project MEND (Medical Equipment Network for those with Disabilities).

ACE provides education and training to all caregivers to help them obtain and improve the knowledge and skills that will assist with their individual circumstances. Increased levels of understanding and competency help to reduce stress and improve coping skills. Having better trained and informed caregivers enhances the quality of care provided to the loved one. ACE strives to help those caring for a loved one by increasing knowledge and awareness across the community about the need to also take care of the caregiver.



Family caregivers provide 85-90% of home health care in the U.S. Their dedication enables loved ones to remain in their home, but may take a toll on the caregiver's health and well-being. The Lifespan Respite Caregiver Program supports caregivers caring for anyone of any age with a disability or chronic illness, so that they can continue to fulfill the important role of caregiving.

The typical caregiver raises children, works full-time, and cares for their aging parent. These demands put caregivers at greater risk for depression and chronic health problems. The Lifespan Respite Caregiver Program provides family caregivers with respite, training, and other support.

About one in 14 U.S. children live in a household headed by a grandparent. The Lifespan Respite Caregiver Program provides support to grandparents who find themselves faced with this challenging task as they enter what they thought would be their retirement years.



AARLEA 40th Anniversary Celebration



Former AARLEA Cadet and current Shavano Park PD Officer Emily Gomez (third from left) was recognized during the celebration.

## 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. AARLEA works with local and regional nonprofit agencies to develop stronger networks of communication and sharing of resources between law enforcement officers and the communities they serve. AARLEA annually conducts over 100,000 training hours for more than 5,700 law enforcement, corrections, and telecommunications professionals. With the goal of exceeding the minimum state standards that are required for training, AARLEA's Basic Peace Officer Licensing Course is one of the top programs in Texas for first time pass rates on the state exam.

In 2012, the Academy celebrated its 40th Anniversary of being licensed by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education. Community leaders, local area law enforcement officers, former AACOG directors, and former AARLEA coordinators and managers attended the recognition ceremony. The guest of honor, State Senator Leticia Van De Putte, presented AARLEA with a Letter of Proclamation from the Texas Senate.

## Criminal Justice Planning

Criminal Justice Planning assists regional law enforcement departments with submitting reports to the Governor's Office and provides technical assistance with revising each county's Community Plan. In addition, the department holds grant workshops, provides information about funding opportunities, and offers technical assistance in the grant process, including performing technical reviews. Criminal Justice Planning successfully completed 1,500 hours of technical assistance and provided grant management assistance to more than 40 funded projects.

The Regional Youth Criminal Justice Education Program is offered in 13 high schools in the Alamo Region with funding from the Governor's Office. In order to provide more training and supplies to the participating schools and to save money on administration costs, the Criminal Justice Planning Program and the Regional Youth Criminal Justice Education Program consolidated personnel.



Academy Criminal Justice Career and Education Fair



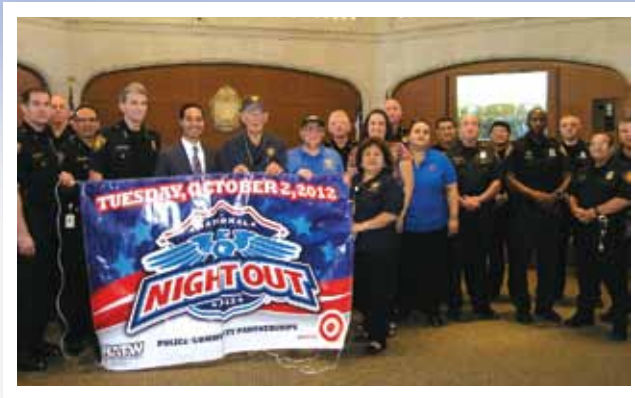
Criminal Justice Planning is working with the Regional Data Center to conduct crime mapping for Atascosa, Frio, Karnes, and Wilson Counties to measure any increase in infractions associated with oil and gas extraction in the Eagle Ford Shale section of the Alamo Region. Once these four counties are mapped, the effort will expand into the other counties that AACOG serves. The intent is to track the impact of Eagle Ford Shale activities on criminal activity and public safety in preparation for future funding opportunities.

### Homeland Security

The 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. It provides communities with planning assistance for both natural and man-made disasters by identifying potential safety threats and security weaknesses. Once the threats and weaknesses are identified, Homeland Security assists with developing local emergency management plans that address the designated needs. Proactive emergency planning reduces the likelihood of injuries, loss of life, and property damage during an event.

In July 2012, after three years of collaboration, the Alamo Area Regional Emergency Mitigation Action Plan was approved by the Texas Department of Emergency Management. The partners in this project included eleven of the twelve counties in the Alamo Region – Atascosa, Bandera, Bexar, Comal, Frio, Gillespie, Guadalupe, Karnes, Kerr, Medina, and Wilson Counties – and the San Antonio River Authority. (Kendall County was excluded because it is assigned to a different emergency preparedness planning region.) Emergency mitigation action plans are updated every five years. However, this is the last time that a regional mitigation plan will be accepted because the Federal Emergency Management Agency has determined that a maximum of two counties may collaborate in preparing future emergency mitigation plans.

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.



AACOG 9-1-1  
Program participates  
in Public Safety  
National Night Out  
Proclamation at City  
of San Antonio  
Council Chambers

## 9-1-1

AACOG equips and administers the 9-1-1 emergency call centers for seven rural counties in the Alamo Region – Atascosa, Bandera, Frio, Gillespie, Karnes, Kendall, and Wilson Counties. State funds collected from telecommunications taxes, fees, and surcharges are distributed to AACOG, which then uses the funds to purchase equipment and supplies for the seven county public safety answering points. The AACOG emergency 9-1-1 call center system serves 74,746 landlines and represents 202,147 residents.

Funding for the 9-1-1 Department was reduced 25% for 2012. Despite this obstacle, 9-1-1 staff devised a plan to increase safety awareness through a new *Kids Hero's* program and the *Know Your Location* campaign. These projects stem from collaboration over the last year with the Commission on State Emergency Communications, Public Educators of Texas, 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

### Air Quality

The Natural Resources Department receives funding from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to organize and facilitate meetings of the various Air Improvement Resources (AIR) Committees. At its meeting on July 25, the AIR Executive Committee determined to petition the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for inclusion in the Ozone Advance Program. Being admitted would allow the Alamo Region a fresh opportunity for investigating additional voluntary ozone reduction measures and provide advantages in applying for federal funding. By July 31, the EPA had accepted the AIR Executive Committee's application. The timing proved to be important because on August 21, regulatory air quality monitors recorded ozone values that exceeded the national ambient air quality standards.





# The AIR Committee was accepted into the EPA's Ozone Advance program

Natural Resources  
Director Peter Bella  
provides an air  
quality update to the  
Guadalupe County  
Commissioners Court.  
Photo courtesy of  
Forrest M. Mims III



Violating the federal air quality standard for ground-level ozone places the Alamo Region at risk for being designated as a non-attainment area by the EPA. In addition to the health and environmental risks associated with high amounts of ground-level ozone, a non-attainment designation can have severe economic repercussions, including:

- Additional Requirements for Highway and Transit Projects – one year from the date of a non-attainment designation, federally funded highway and transit projects will not be allowed to proceed unless there will be no net increase in emissions;
- Restrictive Permitting Requirements – all new facilities and facility improvement projects will be required to install the most effective emissions reduction technologies without consideration of cost. Operators of existing facilities may be required to install more restrictive emission controls than are required for similar facilities in an attainment area; and
- Mandatory Emissions Offsetting – prior to permitting the construction of new facilities, any emissions increases must be offset by achieving emissions reductions at existing facilities.

Admission into the Ozone Advance Program provides the AIR Committees and community leadership of the Alamo Region an opportunity to implement meaningful strategies to prevent a non-attainment designation in the years to come. The Alamo Region must seize this opportunity to avoid non-attainment designation.

The Natural Resources Department is also involved in coordinating an ozone precursor emissions inventory for the Eagle Ford Shale play. Natural Resources is collaborating with resource extraction stakeholders and TCEQ in developing the emissions inventory. The emissions inventory will help answer what is being emitted, where it is located, how much of it there is, and the typical cycle of release so effective strategies for mitigating its impact on the health and safety of the Alamo Region can be devised.

Clean Cities  
promotes  
alternative fuels  
and vehicles,  
such as  
electric cars.



## Alamo Area Clean Cities Coalition

The Alamo Area Clean Cities Coalition (AACCC) provides technical and financial support to both public and private fleet operators that are replacing gasoline-powered equipment and vehicles with those that use domestically-produced fuels. These domestically-produced fuels include compressed natural gas, propane, bio-fuels, electricity, and hydrogen. AACCC also provides assistance in establishing alternative fueling stations.

The benefits of adopting these alternative technologies are reducing dependency on foreign oil, providing greater energy security, and improving air quality. AACCC hosted twelve events in 2012 highlighting advantages of the various alternative fuels. These events included two stakeholder meetings, a biodiesel workshop, an ethanol workshop, and a commercial propane mower and electric vehicle demonstration event.

AACCC hosted a two-day course for first-responders that was sponsored by the Department of Energy. The first-responder course was presented by the National Alternative Fuels Training Consortium. It trained 25 firefighters and emergency medical personnel from the San Antonio Fire Department to safely approach alternative fuel vehicles involved in accidents. Another interesting event was a partnership with Texas Public Radio to screen the documentary "Revenge of the Electric Car" that had more than 300 people in attendance.

The discovery and extraction of significant amounts of natural gas from the Eagle Ford Shale play has focused local attention on developing it as a regional alternative fuel. The South Central Texas Natural Gas Vehicle Consortium was formed in 2012, holding four meetings to promote local interest in adopting natural gas technologies. A compressed natural gas (CNG) vehicle exhibit was held in conjunction with the Eagle Ford Shale Forum at the Pearl Stable. The exhibit presented transit buses, automobiles, and refuse trucks all powered by CNG. Also in 2012, a CNG workshop held at the Boerne Convention Center informed the local community about the work of AACCC and the new South Central Texas Natural Gas Vehicle Consortium.

AACCC secured funding through a Texas Emissions Reduction Plan grant for new natural gas fueling infrastructure and electric vehicle charging stations that will be available to the general public. AACCC also applied for funding that was awarded to the San Antonio Missions National Park to purchase additional electric and propane powered vehicles. These collective actions serve to reduce the nation's dependence on foreign fuel sources and provide economic and environmental benefits for the Alamo Region. Through its leadership, AACCC estimates that three million gallons of petroleum were displaced in 2012.





## Commute Solutions

Commute Solutions strives to improve air quality through education about ways to use less gasoline and to reduce smog-forming emissions. In 2012, Commute Solutions participated in 32 events within the Alamo Region, informing more than 100,000 attendees about strategies they can take to help make the air cleaner and to reduce the negative health impacts of poor air quality.

One way Commute Solutions educates and engages the community is through the Green Patrol Program. It is a project at elementary and middle schools that enlists students in convincing parents that they should not idle their engines while waiting to pick up children after school. The Green Patrol Program reminds parents that exhaust fumes from waiting vehicles increases schoolchildren's exposure to concentrated air pollutants. Commute Solutions provides in-school presentations and coordinates with the school staff to send letters home asking parents not to idle their vehicles. The program also recruits students to form a squad of Green Patrol "officers" who remind parents to turn off their engines. The most recent school to adopt the Green Patrol Program is Harmony Hills Elementary School in the North East Independent School District.

Fresh Air Friday is an annual collaboration of more than 20 organizations held at San Antonio's Main Plaza that draws attention to regional air quality and offers methods for reducing air pollutants. More than 500 people working in downtown San Antonio attended the event instead of driving their vehicle to eat lunch elsewhere. This annual event reinforces the message that an important way to reduce smog in the Alamo Region is simply to drive less.

Another method Commute Solutions uses to reduce vehicle emissions is sponsorship of [www.NuRide.com](http://www.NuRide.com). This online service rewards individuals for recording the trips they take walking, biking, busing, carpooling, vanpooling, telecommuting, and working a compressed schedule with gifts and discounts from over 100 businesses. NuRide also helps individuals search for potential carpool or vanpool partners. More than 5,100 commuters in the Alamo Region have registered with NuRide. In 2012, more than 900 new participants joined NuRide, which recorded the reduction of 13.75 million equivalent miles from being driven in the Alamo Region by single-occupant vehicles.



Commute Solutions conducts an annual Fresh Air Friday event to draw attention to the start of the ozone season on April 1.



2012  
Newly Elected  
Officials Workshop

## Economic and Community Development

The Economic Development Department coordinates with counties and municipalities about economic development related issues, such as GIS mapping, strategic plans, and grant information. It also administers local scoring of Texas Community Development Block Grant (TxCDBG) applications and provides staff support to the Regional Review Committee (RRC). In 2012, the RRC updated and distributed the AACOG Guidebook for the TxCDBG 2013-2014 funding cycle.

Economic Development annually hosts the Newly Elected Officials (NEO) workshop and the Planning and Zoning Officials (P&Z) workshop. These workshops inform local government officials about the requirements and duties associated with their respective positions as well as any new legislation that affects local governments or P&Z commissions. In 2012, 28 individuals participated in the NEO workshop and 41 individuals participated in the P&Z Workshop. The Basics of Economic Development for Elected Officials Workshop was also added to the list of training opportunities, with 24 individuals in attendance. Collectively, these workshops improve regional communication and promote greater cooperation regarding infrastructure, planning, and other economic development issues.

Economic Development collaborated with Alamo Regional Transit (ART) in making presentations to County Commissioners Courts in Atascosa, Bandera, Frio, Guadalupe, Kendall, Kerr, Medina, and Wilson Counties. The presentations provided information about ART's operational status and specific activities in each county. A presentation was made to the Seguin City Council at the request of local citizens and Texas Lutheran University about establishing city bus service. Economic Development also assisted ART in negotiating an agreement with the City of Jourdanton to relocate ART's Atascosa County bus fleet to Jourdanton's public works facility.





## Eagle Ford Shale

Most communities involved in resource extraction are experiencing tremendous growth in population, traffic, and commercial activity related to Eagle Ford Shale development. A collaborative approach is the best way to address the growth management and environmental protection issues associated with resource extraction through hydraulic fracturing in the Eagle Ford Shale play. Although there are significant benefits to the increased activity, there are significant challenges that accompany it, too.

AACOG joined the Eagle Ford Shale Consortium as a member of the Steering/Planning Committee in the summer of 2011. The first Eagle Ford Shale Conference was held in March 2012. In May 2012, the Economic Development Department was given the responsibility of being AACOG's point of contact for all issues related to the Eagle Ford Shale play.

One of the initial priorities was developing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the seven councils of government in south-central Texas – Alamo Area Council of Governments, Capital Area Council of Governments, Coastal Bend Council of Governments, Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission, Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council, Middle Rio Grande Development Council, and South Texas Development Council. The guiding principle of the MOU is building a collaboration that maximizes the strengths of each participant. The seven Councils of Government agree that working in tandem is the optimal way to meet the needs of member governments, affiliates, private sector participants, and citizens of each region. Coordination will expand and enhance the services each council of government provides to its members and the region it serves.

AACOG departments are working to facilitate communication, promote action, and assist local governments in addressing topics such as air quality, criminal justice and homeland security planning, economic challenges, emergency 9-1-1 communications, housing availability, and roads. Economic Development facilitated meetings between business owners and major oil and gas companies to improve regional business opportunities. The Alamo Area Development Corporation, AACOG's nonprofit arm, was involved with workforce training and job fairs to prepare local workers for new employment opportunities and to assist new companies with finding skilled workers.



Tour of Chesapeake Energy's natural gas operations was organized by Senator Leticia Van de Putte and included AACOG and Commissioner Rolando Pablos of the Texas Public Utility Commission.

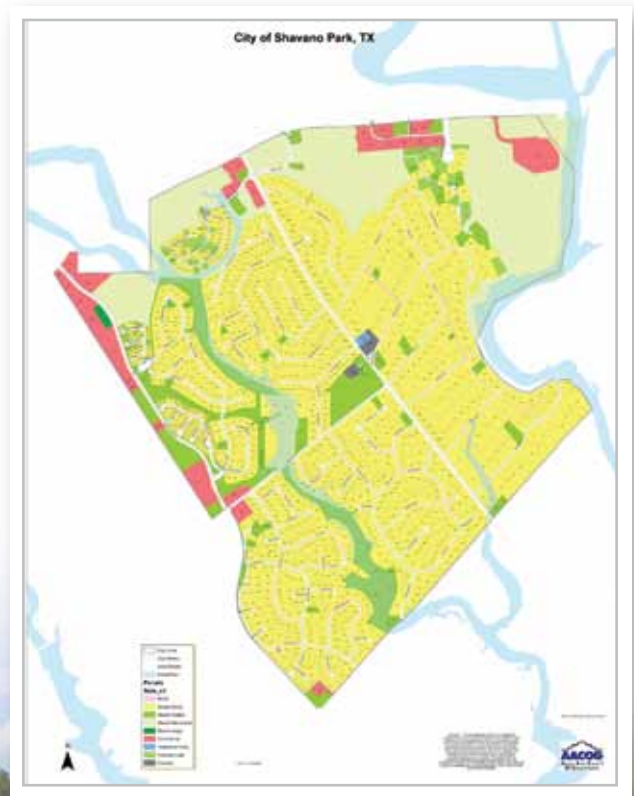
## Regional Data Center

The Regional Data Center is an established expert with GIS technology that assists with data collection, technical support, mapping, and information services to promote future land use planning. Even though AACOG serves a broader role than is often expected of a council of governments, its central mission remains providing professional planning expertise to regional governments. One important issue that governments strive to answer is where future growth will occur so that they can plan for the placement of utilities, infrastructure, and public buildings.

The Regional Data Center also works with AACOG's programs and member governments to quantify and graphically illustrate program information and operational data. Collaborating with the San Antonio-Bexar County Metropolitan Planning Organization, the Regional Data Center performs demographic modeling to anticipate future population and employment patterns for Bexar, Comal, Guadalupe, Kendall, and Wilson Counties. In 2012, the City of Kerrville asked the Regional Data Center to map proposed zoning changes to assist in considering the city's alternatives. The Regional Data Center also composed a spatial database of service area maps for all public and private transportation providers in the eleven rural counties of the Alamo Region.

This project supports a Texas Department of Transportation regional planning grant for Alamo Regional Transit.

Land Use Map  
produced by the  
Regional Data Center  
for the City of  
Shavano Park





Courteous, responsible, and safe transportation that is both efficient and timely



ART's drivers assist riders with safe, secure transportation.

### Alamo Regional Transit

The mission of Alamo Regional Transit (ART) is to provide courteous, responsible, and safe transportation that is both efficient and timely. ART offers complete regional coverage and curb-to-curb service for shopping trips, medical appointments, traveling to work, or any other purpose to residents of the eleven rural counties of the Alamo Region. All ART buses are equipped with wheelchair lifts providing mobility options to persons who might otherwise have difficulty finding transportation.

Meeting the public transportation needs of rural residents in an area of 11,427 square miles often requires effective collaboration among many different agencies and programs. ART has a proven history of coordinating with a wide range of human services agencies, including kidney dialysis centers, the Department of Aging and Disability Services, the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services, the Medicaid transportation program, and Workforce Solutions Alamo.

The Alamo Region began formal transit system coordination efforts with the formation of the Alamo Regional Transportation Steering Committee (ARTSC) in 2010. ARTSC convenes transportation stakeholders to explore ways to maximize ridership opportunities. ARTSC has established working subcommittees in the topics of health and human services, rural senior transportation, transit agencies, urban senior transportation, veterans, and workforce. ARTSC also prepared the 2012 Regional Public Transportation Coordination Plan that was submitted to the Texas Department of Transportation.

One of the most recent ARTSC projects is successfully completing the interlocal agreement between ART and VIA Metropolitan Transit. This agreement expands regional transportation access by providing interconnectivity between the rural provider and the urban provider. ART is currently working with VIA, Texas State University, and other local transit providers to create a regional transportation network that enhances connectivity and links people living in rural communities to their destinations.



ART Trolley participating in the parade at the Natalia Centennial Celebration, held in downtown Natalia on September 29, 2012.

The whole industry has moved from the concept of "trash" to "recyclables"

## Resource Recovery

Many of the materials that were once viewed as solid waste for disposal in landfills now have too much value to be buried. In fact, the whole industry has moved from the concept of "trash" to "recyclables." The Resource Recovery Department provides information on the management of both organic and inorganic waste with programs for turning these materials into resources with a second life.

To make the most of limited funding while continuing to serve the Alamo Region, Resource Recovery partners with other entities to maximize resources. One example is printing flyers announcing three MedDrops held by the San Antonio Water System. Flyers were also printed for Gillespie County to advertise Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day.

Resource Recovery offered two free training classes that were also opportunities to earn continuing education credits. One class, "Local Control of Oil and Gas Waste", was held in Floresville in partnership with the San Antonio River Authority. The second class, "Substandard Structure Investigation", was held in Hondo to provide code enforcement training. Other activities included providing educational and promotional materials to encourage recycling at ecological awareness events.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality provided funding that Resource Recovery used to award 13 projects. In keeping with the increasing use of electronic dissemination of information, two of the grant projects are developing smart phone applications that will direct the user to information on places to recycle and the proper handling of recycled material in San Antonio and New Braunfels. Other grant projects will provide equipment for e-cycling, educational outreach on the hazards of medical waste, information about the prevention and enforcement of illegal dumping, sponsorship for tire collection events, and providing equipment for chipping and recycling sustainable material resources.





Weatherization  
Assistance  
Program Staff



## Weatherization Assistance

The Weatherization  
Assistance Program

(WAP) is a no-cost program for low-income homeowners and renters that provides energy conservation measures to make homes more energy efficient and less costly to operate. WAP is particularly interested in assisting individuals with physical disabilities or impairments, the elderly, and households with young children. Qualified homes may receive energy conservation measures, such as attic and wall insulation, whole house air sealing, water conservation devices, water heaters, refrigerators, repair or replacement of heating and cooling systems, or other energy saving items. The greatest benefit of weatherization is that energy conservation measures offer the immediate benefit of reduced energy consumption with continued savings on household utility bills for years to come.

WAP also forged important partnerships with several organizations. Creating a partnership with the Texas Association of Community Action Agencies resulted in added funding through a contribution program with Pedernales Electric Cooperative. Working with the Bexar County Department of Community Resources produced a streamlined eligibility and referral process for families who are also seeking utility payment assistance. WAP joined the Cottonwood Creek Energy and Waste Water Reduction Group in Guadalupe County and provided training and technical assistance to community leaders involved in this community improvement project. WAP donated low-flow showerheads and faucet flow-restrictors to households in Rancho Vista and Redwood, which are communities located in the Cottonwood Creek area.

Although federal weatherization funding was reduced in 2012, WAP leveraged funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the Department of Energy, and the Department of Health and Human Services to weatherize over 380 homes infusing \$3.5 million dollars into the regional economy. The WAP team demonstrated its commitment to making a lasting difference in the Alamo Region through partnerships with community leaders, AACOG member governments, and local nonprofit agencies to provide educational materials, energy savings, and community development to residents throughout the Alamo Region.

No-cost program for low-income  
homeowners and renters

## Workforce and Community Development Career Centers

AACOG's nonprofit arm, the Alamo Area Development Corporation (AADC), is under contract with Workforce Solutions Alamo (WSA) to provide employment services and workforce assistance in the eleven rural counties of the Alamo Region. Workforce Services enhances the lives of all residents by strengthening partnerships and meeting the challenges of improving the regional workforce. An important factor in the success of Workforce Services is building positive relationships with area employers. One goal is critical – improving the regional economy through workforce development.

AADC leases employees from AACOG to provide these services and operate the WSA Career Centers. In 2012, 87,660 jobseekers and 4,950 employers received workforce assistance in the rural communities. The Texas Workforce Commission selected WSA as the Best Performing Large Workforce Board in Texas for 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011. WSA is the first large workforce board to win the award in four consecutive years. The award recognizes WSA's work in assisting individuals who are receiving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families and individuals receiving unemployment insurance benefits with finding gainful employment.



Carley Mattingly (fourth from left), a WSA Youth Program participant from Seguin, was recognized by WSA with an Excellence in Individual Achievement award. Through the Youth Program, Carley received career mentoring and job placement assistance and participated in leadership development activities to further improve her and her son's financial situation, which resulted in full-time employment with Texas Power Systems in Seguin, TX.



# The Child Care Services Department helps parents pay for childcare



"If you put your mind to it, you can achieve it." These words by Tanya Mitchell drive her to work full-time to provide for her family, while successfully completing her LVN certification with a 3.7 GPA. Ms. Mitchell, shown here with her 3 children, Kalie, age 9; Cody, age 6; and Chasity, age 11; has steadily progressed toward self-sufficiency and is grateful for the assistance she receives from CCS.

## Child Care Services

The Alamo Area Development Corporation (AADC) is contracted by the City of San Antonio to operate Child Care Services (CCS) in the eleven rural counties of the Alamo Region. CCS helps parents pay for childcare if they are working, attending school, or enrolled in a training program for an approved target occupation. Financial assistance for childcare is provided for an average of 1,745 rural children each month. CCS coordinates this subsidized service with 172 regulated childcare providers, with 21 recognized as Texas Rising Star providers.

AADC leases employees from AACOG to operate this program and CCS offices are located with the WSA Career Centers. In 2012, CCS began using The Workforce Information System of Texas, which is the same automated data system used by Career Center staff. Using a coordinated database enables optimum customer service by providing a more complete view of an individual's participation in all workforce programs. AADC's collaboration with the City of San Antonio and WSA effectively utilizes resources to maximize the number of children benefiting from CCS assistance in the Alamo Region.

## Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8)

The Housing Choice Voucher Department provides rental assistance to eligible low-income households in the eleven rural counties of the Alamo Region. To ensure maximum public service, staff developed extensive knowledge and assembled information resources to assist with inquiries regarding housing and social services requests. This program has increased in size for each of the past three years. The average number of assisted households was 79 in 2010. In 2012, the average number of assisted households grew to 96.

The Housing Choice Voucher Department teams up with other regional agencies to address important housing issues within the community. When called upon, staff assists the Foreclosure Prevention Task Force with hosting information and education events. In 2012, Housing Choice Voucher staff assisted the Department of Housing and Community Affairs with presenting a Fair Housing Focus Group in Kerrville.

# AACOG MEMBERSHIP

## 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  
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  
Brooks Development Authority  
Build San Antonio Green  
Coventry Healthcare  
El Oso Water Supply Corporation  
Goodwill Industries  
Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce  
Greenstar Recycling  
Mission Verde Alliance  
McKamie Krueger LLC  
Northside Chamber of Commerce  
Perdue Brandon Fielder Collins & Mott LLP  
Randolph Metrocom Chamber of Commerce  
San Antonio Area Foundation  
San Antonio Food Bank  
San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce  
San Antonio Mobility Coalition  
Senior Sidekick  
Solar San Antonio  
South Texas Regional Water Alliance

## HOSPITAL DISTRICTS

University Health System

## PUBLIC UTILITIES

CPS Energy  
San Antonio Water System

## SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Boerne ISD  
Dilley ISD  
Floresville ISD  
North East ISD  
Northside ISD  
Pearsall ISD  
Southwest ISD

## SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Alamo Soil and Water Conservation District  
Atascosa County Soil and Water Conservation District  
Kendall County Soil and Water Conservation District

## SPECIAL DISTRICTS

Alamo Colleges  
Alamo Regional Mobility Authority  
Bexar County Emergency Services District No. 6  
Edwards Aquifer Authority  
Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority  
San Antonio River Authority  
VIA Metropolitan Transit



Alamo Area Council of Governments  
2013 Annual Budget  
Effective January 1, 2013 - December 31, 2013

Revenues	2013 Budget
Federal	17,718,248
State	7,252,812
Local / Medicaid / MAC / UHS	6,920,002
Delegate Agency Match (Inkind,Cash,PI)	4,916,574
Program Income / Interest	306,000
AACOG Member Dues	296,993
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$37,410,628</b>

Expenditures	
Administration	2,140,098
AADC-Workforce / Child Care/TVC	2,453,749
Air Quality	310,754
Alamo AAA	3,463,749
Alamo Local Authority (ALA) Formerly BMRA	7,308,225
Bexar AAA	9,766,708
Bexar AAA-Misc.	1,063,835
Commission on State Emergency Communications	805,313
Commute Solutions / Clean Cities	271,709
Criminal Justice	855,665
Data Center	3,097
Government Services	77,994
Homeland Security	332,555
Hud Section 8	451,645
Local	59,068
Metropolitan Planning Org	261,062
Transportation Special Projects (Business Plan / Regional Coordination Planning)	53,097
Resource Recovery	351,095
Transportation	5,194,042
Weatherization	2,303,618
Projected Fund Balance Decrease	(116,450)
<b>Total Program Expenditures</b>	<b>\$37,410,628</b>

AACOG Directors



**Dean Danos**  
Executive  
Director



**Blanca Tapia**  
Controller



**Anthony Jalomo**  
Alamo Local  
Authority Director



**Mike Quinn**  
Deputy Executive  
Director



**Peter Bella**  
Natural Resources  
Director



**Edna Johnson**  
Regional  
Transportation  
Director



**Susan Lodge**  
Senior Director  
of Workforce  
and Community  
Development



**Gaylyn Dieringer**  
Workforce  
Director



**David Kruse**  
Regional Data  
Center Director



**Joe Ramos**  
Senior Director of  
Regional Services



**Grant Gaul**  
Quality Assurance  
Director



**Martha Spinks**  
Bexar Aging  
Director



**Tim Treviño**  
Senior Director of  
Strategic Planning  
and Agency  
Communications



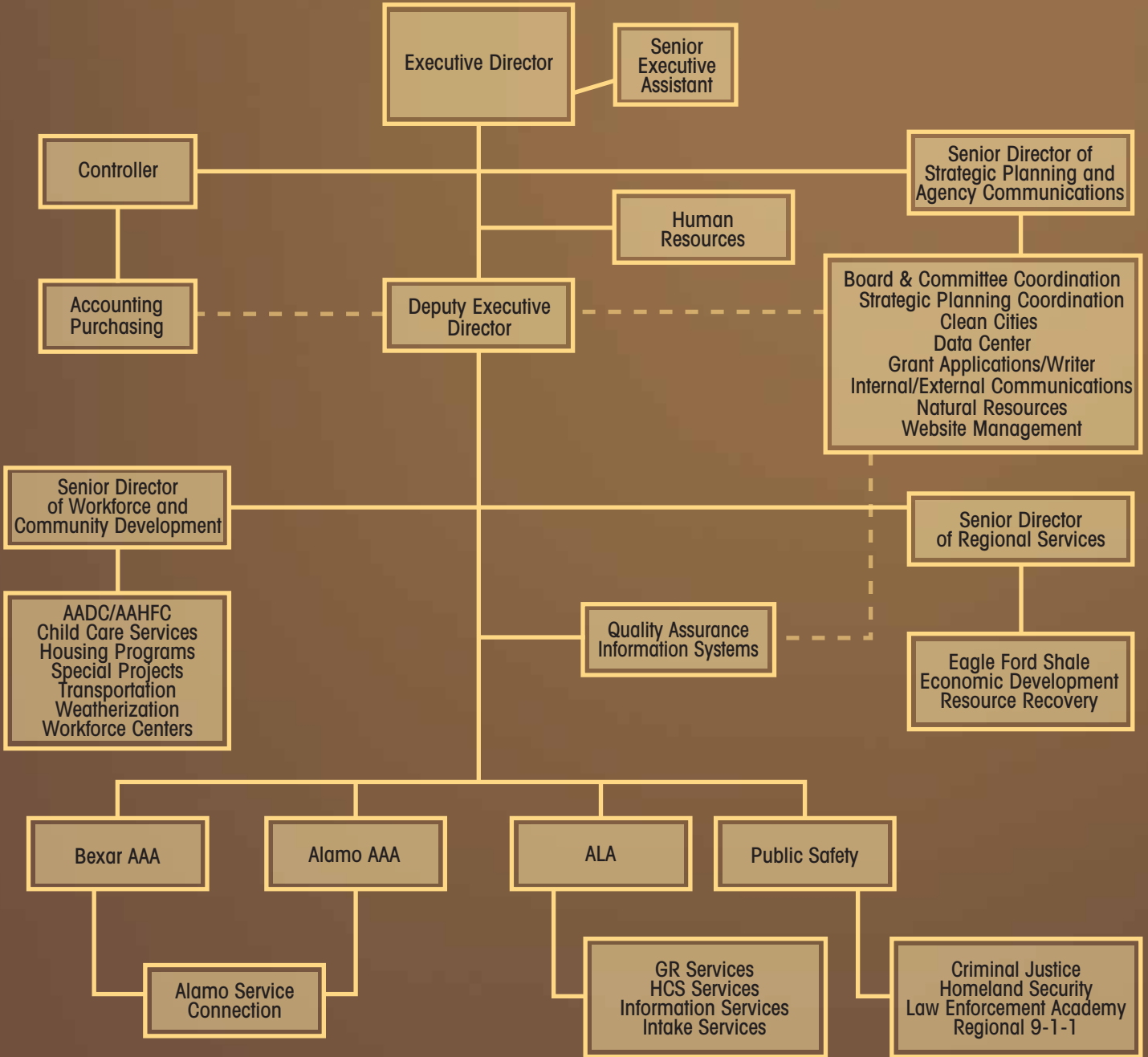
**Sherrie Huckabay**  
Human  
Resources  
Director



**Gloria Vasquez**  
Alamo Aging  
Director



# Organizational Structure



This publication was financed in part through funding from the State of Texas: Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division; Commission of State Emergency Communications; Commission on Environmental Quality; Department of Aging and Disability Services; Department of Emergency Management; Department of Housing and Community Affairs; Department of Public Safety; Department of Rural Affairs; Department of Transportation; Health and Human Services Commission; Texas Association of Area Agencies on Aging; Administration on Aging; U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; U.S. Economic Development Administration; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; University Health System; Leonardo Technologies Inc. (LTI); City of San Antonio-Child Care; San Antonio-Bexar County Metropolitan Planning Organization; Workforce Solutions Alamo; American Medical Response Inc.; Texas Veterans Commission; Federal Transit Administration; and VIA Metropolitan Transit.

Copies of this report are available free by request to [mail@aacog.com](mailto:mail@aacog.com), by calling ACOG Public Relations at (210) 832-5089, or by faxing a request to (210) 225-5937.

