

# BRADLEY COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

## REP. JEFF WARDLAW PRESENTED LEGISLATIVE UPDATE TO BCEDC

**Rep. Jeff Wardlaw** presented a Legislative Update to the BCEDC Board of Directors. Rep. Wardlaw explained that he wanted to discuss what he thinks is important legislatively. Then he wanted to hear what the Directors would like to see or discussed in the next session.

Rep. Wardlaw advised the Board of Directors that the Legislature begins Budget Hearings on October 7, 2014. The Hearings will begin with all of the cash paying agencies, those that pay dues in, like the Medical Board. This will take 2-3 weeks. Next, the Budget Hearings will go into the Agencies. Rep. Wardlaw advised that usually only the Big 7 Agencies, such as the Dept. of Human Services, Dept. of Corrections and the largest being Education are discussed.

Rep. Wardlaw advised that he sees the most important legislative issue being the Community First Choice Option (CFCO) issue. Rep. Wardlaw stated that CFCO is the new, big add-on to the Affordable Care Act. During the Interim Session the CFCO add-on was pursued, but pushed off until a later session. Rep. Wardlaw explained the content of the CFCO. He stated that CFCO is a push to deinstitutionalize people within the State, such as Human Development Center patients, nursing home patients and Millcreek patients. These patients would be moved to Home and Community based services where they would be cared for in their individual homes. Rep. Wardlaw stated that the problem he sees is that the budget does not allow for the cost increase. The federal government will provide a 6% increase in match money if CFCO is implemented, which will not cover the cost of the conversion. The additional proposed funding will come from taking 5% out annually from the Human Development Centers and nursing homes. This will cut the agencies annual admissions by 5% going forward for 10 to 15 years. Rep. Wardlaw advised that this plan will ultimately close at least 2 of the Human Development Centers in the next 10 years. He stated that the Booneville HDC is in bad shape, the Jonesboro and Conway Centers

are at about half capacity and the Warren HDC is full and would likely not be closed.

Rep. Wardlaw stated that 85% of the protesters for the implementation of CFCO were from outside of Arkansas.

Rep. Wardlaw further discussed the funding deficits of CFCO. He stated that to care for one patient in a home takes 3 nurses for 24 hour care. But, in a facility three nurses can care for 20 patients in 24 hours. The Dept. of Human Services testified in committee on August 28, 2014 that it will cost between \$160 million and \$210 million to convert the system. The 6% match money from the federal government will only be \$40 million, leaving a huge deficit in funding. Rep. Wardlaw advised that the next big Medicaid fight will be CFCO.

**Dr. Bob Smalling** asked if there are supporters in the Legislature for CFCO. Rep. Wardlaw advised that there are. **John Lipton** advised that these Community Based Services all have their own administration and many of the administrators earn as much or more than the Director of the Dept. Of Human Services. Mr. Lipton advised that the problem being that this could contribute to the loss of concern for the care of patient.

Rep. Wardlaw stated that one of the concerns with the current Waiver Program is the waiting list, even though those on the waiting list still receive day services. The program in July had a waiting list of 2900 people. When the announcement came out in August that CFCO would be pursued, the waiting list immediately increased to 3400 people. Rep. Wardlaw acknowledged that there is a current lawsuit in Arkansas because of the waiting list. Rep. Wardlaw stated that Arkansas is not unique with a waiting list. Other states have waiting lists larger than Arkansas'; Indiana has 8,000, Washington has 16,000 and Oregon has 14,000 people on a waiting list.

Rep. Wardlaw advised that the Affordable Health Care Act states that CFCO would be

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granted to "All Who Qualify", therefore it is no longer a waiver, it becomes an entitlement. Arkansas would have no control over who enters the program, we would just have to pay the bill. The State would have to sign a 20 year contract and without adequate funding it could force Arkansas into a deficit.

Rep. Wardlaw stated that another big issue in the Legislature is the Educational Voucher System. He advised that this issue has been brought up for the last 4 years and will be brought up again in the new session. The issue will have a bigger push this time. Rep. Wardlaw stated that his District has always been big supporters of public schools and he stays with his District.

**Continued on page 2**

October 2014 Jobs Update			JOB OPENINGS AT:
Bradley Co. Employers	# Emp.	Openings	
AR Superior Federal CU	13	0	<p><b>Armstrong Flooring:</b> Has a Plant Controller position posted online with job description and requirements at <a href="http://www.armstrong.com">www.armstrong.com</a>. They also have Ongoing True Temp positions. Interested candidates must apply at Employers Staffing of America in Monticello at 870-367-2727, must be available to work 1st or 2nd shift.</p> <p><b>Bradley Co. Medical Center:</b> Has job openings for C.N.A.'s, RN's, LPN's and a Director of Medical Records. For information on job openings and to apply go to — <a href="http://www.bradleycountymedicalcenter.com/jobs">www.bradleycountymedicalcenter.com/jobs</a></p> <p><b>Hermitage Schools:</b> Has openings for an Art Teacher and a Certified Sub for Literacy. Call Hermitage School District. 870-463-2246</p> <p><b>Ozark Mountain Poultry:</b> Has a opening for a Production Supervisor experienced in debone and a QA Manager experienced in debone. Apply at <a href="mailto:jwatson@ompfoods.com">jwatson@ompfoods.com</a> Applications for hourly employees are taken at the Arkansas Workforce Center in Monticello, AR</p> <p><b>Potlatch Corporation:</b> Is looking to hire a Senior Purchasing Specialist and a night shift Sawmill Supervisor. For a list of job duties and required qualifications, please look on the careers section of their website <a href="http://www.potlatchcorp.com">www.potlatchcorp.com</a>. Potlatch is an EEO/AA /Veteran employer with competitive wages and benefits.</p> <p><b>SE AR Community Action Corp.</b> Has openings for Bus Drivers in Monticello, Lake Village and Hermitage. Call Carolyn Davis at SEACAC, 870-226-2668</p> <p><b>SE AR Human Development Ctr.:</b> For job openings information</p>
Armstrong Flooring	254	1+	
Ashcraft Wood Products	19	0	
Bradley Brand Furniture	5	3	
Bradley County	70	0	
Bradley Co. Medical Ctr.	238	13	
Chapel Woods Health & Rehab	unavailable	unavailable	
City of Hermitage	6	0	
City of Warren	51	2	
First Presbyterian Childcare Ctr	24	0	
First State Bank of Warren	31	0	
Fulghum Fibers	10	0	
Hermitage Schools	77	2	
New Beginnings, CASA	21	0	
Oasis Trading	42	0	
OK Foods	14	0	
Ouachita Hardwood	43	0*	
Ozark Mountain Poultry	130	2	
Potlatch	163	2	
SE AR Community Action Corp.	83	3	
SE AR Human Dev. Ctr.	281	18	
Super Valu Foods	54	1**	
The Mad Butcher	60	3***	
Townsend Flooring	33	0*	
UAMS/KIDS FIRST—Warren	18	0	
Union Bank	8	0	
Warren Bank & Trust	36	0	
Warren School Dist.	285	2	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2069</b>	<b>52</b>	

\*Taking Applications \*\*Applications on Thur. \*\*\*Applications on Mon., 1-4 pm

## HOW CAN BCEDC HELP

### BCEDC

110 N. Myrtle St.  
Warren, AR 71671

Phone: 870-226-3760

Fax: 870-226-3770

websites:

[www.bcedcar.com](http://www.bcedcar.com)

[arkansassitesselection.com](http://arkansassitesselection.com)

E-mail:

[bradleycountyidc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bradleycountyidc@sbcglobal.net)

go online to [www.arstatedjob.com](http://www.arstatedjob.com)

**The Mad Butcher:** Has openings for a Cake Decorator, an Experienced Meat Wrapper and an Experienced Produce Person. Applications taken at The Mad Butcher on Mondays from 1-4 pm.

**Warren School Dist.:** Has an opening for a Part-time Speech Teacher and an opening for a SEACBEC Custodian. For details on job openings and to apply contact the Warren School Dist at 870-226-6738 or online at [www.edline.net/pages/warren\\_sd](http://www.edline.net/pages/warren_sd)

If your company would like to list job openings in the BCEDC Newsletter call 870-226-3760 or email [bradley-countyidc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bradley-countyidc@sbcglobal.net)

### Community Unity

Community unity is important to prospective new employers as well as existing industries. When considering moving to an area or remaining and expanding in an area companies look at how the town works together.

### Continued—Legislative

Rep. Wardlaw advised that the funding for a new 1000 bed prison will also be brought up in the upcoming session. He advised that one option that has been mentioned for the new prison funding is the doubling of the driver licensing fees.

Rep. Wardlaw discussed the East Camden Environmental Academy being underfunded. He stated that due to sequester the EPA cutout all of their grants to training mechanisms for local and city wastewater and solid waste employees. The Arkansas Attorney General has for the past 4 years written a check from his Discretionary Fund to keep the Envi-

ronmental Academy open at an approximate annual cost of \$200,000. The Academy is currently funded until July, 2015. Rep. Wardlaw explained that to fund the Environmental Academy it is being considered to allocate \$0.03 from the \$0.30 charge the Health Dept. attaches to every water bill or to increase this existing charge by \$0.03. Rep. Wardlaw advised that the allocation of \$0.03 will generate about \$270,000 for the funding of the Environmental Academy. If the Academy is not funded, all cities and counties will have to pay a fee when an employee is sent for mandatory EPA training.

Companies want to bring their employees to a harmonious area.

Community unity must start at the top. The Mayor's Office, The City Council, The County Judge's Office, The Chamber of Commerce and BCEDC must work together and serve the community as ONE. And we do! The collective ONE must be available to all residents of Warren and Bradley County. We need to listen to and answer to the community. Our goal should be to continually strive to improve the livability and economic conditions of the community. When one is improved it helps to improve the other.

Community unity is also displayed when local businesses work together. BCEDC, SEACBEC, Bradley County Medical Center and many local businesses have come together to organize an Existing Industries group. This group meets regularly to develop mutual job training and community awareness of the skilled labor needs. Each member of this group works selflessly for the betterment of the community.

Community unity is most importantly demonstrated by the citizens of Warren and Bradley County. If we all work together as a whole we will become stronger as a community.