

Colleen Wieck

From: William Bauer [William.Bauer@state.mn.us]
Sent: Monday, February 03, 2003 1:53 PM
To: Ann Zick; Janiece Duffy; Karen Larson; CIL ILCIL; Terry Graff; Connie Lee Berg; MCIL CIL; CIL SMILES; Mark Eggen; FREEDOM CIL; Bryan Jensen; Cory Heit; Kim Rezek; Linda Lingen; Sharon R Johnson; CIL OPTIONS; Laurie Brownell; CIL SEMCIL; david.skilbred@state.mn.us; Roseann.Faber@state.mn.us; CIL SWCIL; CILNM CIL; Phyllis Coppess; Mary Pennington
Cc: Colleen.Wieck@state.mn.us
Subject: From The Arc.

Pasted below, FYI.

Informational Alert #3 1/29/03
Arc Minnesota

Topic: Rebasings of the MR/RC Waiver

Overview:

In order to level off the future growth in the waiver program, DHS rebased (or recalculated) the waiver program. Rebasings was done administratively by DHS, not through the legislature. The result is a different dollar amount than was authorized previously, has been given to each county. One problem we are seeing is that there are 87 different counties and the effect of rebasing, or the amount of money (usually a reduction) varies greatly between counties. Some counties who have done a good job of using waiver dollars more efficiently have been hardest hit. We have heard this is particularly true in Dakota and Carver Counties. Smaller counties with less flexibility in their waiver budgets will also be more pressed to reduce to the level given by DHS.

One other facet of this is that DHS had hoped that by rebasing and limiting future growth in the waiver budget that this action would hold off potential serious cuts in the next round of the budget cuts to balance the 2004/05 4.5 billion dollar deficit. This may or may not be a reality. Counties received their new budgeted amounts around January 17. As far as we know today, some counties, including Hennepin and Ramsey are still working on what their response will be. Dakota County has already met with providers and told them to expect a 7% reduction, and that families can anticipate a reduction of 15 - 20% in their currently approved budgets. For example, some of the cuts counties have experienced between what they have authorized to providers and families and what they will receive from DHS are: Dakota -12%, Sherburne -9%, Ramsey -7%, Anoka - 6.5%, Hennepin -5.3%, and Carver - 20%.

What you can do immediately:

We need to hear how this has impacted counties in greater Minnesota. Chapters should call the Supervisors of the Programs for Persons with Developmental Disabilities in your counties and ask them how rebasing has impacted their county and what action the county plans to take. Please e-mail that information to Steve Larson at arcmn115@yahoo.com asap.

What has been done:

- ¢ Arc staff attended Dakota County's meetings
- ¢ Arc staff attended an informational videoconference that DHS was conducting with the counties.
- ¢ We have requested a meeting with DHS and County representatives.
- ¢ We have met with ARRM (providers) to discuss our joint concerns

What are Arc Minnesota and the Disability Law Center doing about it?

We are hearing from DHS that the counties should not have to cut so deeply. The counties disagree with this. We are hearing from families in Dakota County about the impact on their individual budgets. We have asked for a meeting with both DHS and county representatives, to get all parties to the table to work out the facts. We have informed the Commissioner about our concerns and he has offered help from his office to set up this meeting quickly. We are working to more fully understand the impact, assess what options we have and take the appropriate action if warranted or strategically wise. As soon as we have the factual information to share and a plan of action, we will again contact you.

Thanks for your support and patience.

Hot off the press:

There will be an article in the Pioneer Press probably tomorrow or Friday on this subject. Steve Larson was called for a quick interview.

William Bauer

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