



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
DISABILITIES SERVICES DIVISION

Milwaukee County

Héctor Colón • DHHS Director
Geri L. Lyday • DSD Administrator

Combined Community Services Board

John Doherty, Vice Chair

Cindy Bentley
Lisa Burg
Michael Kreuser
Patrick Linnane
Luanne McGregor
Supervisor, Peggy Romo-West
Duncan Shrout
Cathy Simpson
Supervisor, Russell Stamper

October 30, 2013

Supervisor Peggy Romo-West, Chairwoman - Health and Human Needs Committee
Supervisor Willie Johnson, Co-Chair - Finance, Personnel and Audit Committee
Supervisor David Cullen, Co-Chair - Finance, Personnel and Audit Committee
901 N. 9th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53203

RE: 2014 Department of Health and Human Services Requested Budget

Dear Supervisors Romo-West, Johnson and Cullen:

At the October 23, 2013 meeting of the Combined Community Services Board (CCSB), Mr. Héctor Colón, Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), provided an overview of the DHHS 2014 Requested Budget as submitted by County Executive Chris Abele. After lengthy discussion, the CCSB wanted to express support for the direction the budget is taking. We understand this issue is under consideration by the County Board. A motion to "support the direction the budget is taking" was introduced by the CCSB and was passed by a unanimous vote of the members present at the meeting.

As you know, the CCSB provides advisory oversight under the auspices of Chapter 51.42 of Wisconsin State Statutes to many of the programs within DHHS including programs provided by the Behavioral Health Division (BHD) and the Disabilities Services Division. Those programs include mental health, alcohol and other substance abuse (AODA) and intellectual disabilities for adults and children. We are writing to communicate our position on this issue to the County Board and to voice support for programs that enhance the quality of life for individuals with disabilities and encourage full inclusion for all.

The CCSB also would also like to express our interest in the outcomes/actions from the community investments being made to support individuals who may be relocated from BHD to community-based services. It is the Board's intention to keep informed about these program developments and to provide ongoing feedback to DHHS and the County Board as the programs are implemented.

We realize that there are many challenges facing the County Board in the 2014 budget. However, CCSB hopes the Board will consider supporting these community program investments that address the needs of some of the most venerable individuals in our community as being among your highest priorities. We are confident that you will do what is best for all citizens and tax payers of this community.

On behalf of the CCSB, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and the members of the County Board for considering this issue.

Sincerely,



John Doherty, Vice Chairman
Combined Community Services Board

cc: Chairwoman Marina Dimitrijevic – Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Kelly Bablitch, Milwaukee County Board Chief of Staff
Amber Moreen, Chief of Staff – Milwaukee County Executive’s Office
Raisa Koltun, Director of Legislative Affairs – Milwaukee County Executive’s Office
Stephen Cady, Analyst – Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Health and Human Needs Committee Members
Finance, Audit & Personnel Committee Members
Héctor Colón, Director – Department of Health & Human Services
Geri Lyday, Administrator – Disabilities Services Division
Jim Kubicek, Interim Administrator – Behavioral Health Division
Combined Community Services Board Members