

FISCAL UPDATE

August 9, 2007

Legislative Services Agency

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JULY MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING

Commission Meeting

The Mental Health, Mental Retardation, Developmental Disabilities, and Brain Injury Commission met on July 19.

Accreditations & Updates

The Commission approved various accreditations for agencies and programs and received updates on the following:



- Functional Assessment Workgroup, Outcomes Workgroup, and Department of Human Services (DHS) staff county data collection.
- An interstate compact relating to mental health commitments when the person needing services may be out-of-state.
- The federal Money Follows the Person Grant within the Iowa Medicaid Enterprise. The DHS has set aside \$15.0 million in the FY 2009 budget request for mental health purposes.
- The six workgroups required in HF 909 (FY 2008 Health and Human Services Appropriations Act).

Presentations

The Commission also received presentations on the Coalition and Behavior Health Workforce from Annapolis, Maryland, and the Children's Mental Health Systems from two Florida-based consultants.

More Information

The next meeting is scheduled for August 16. The date for the September meeting (two-day retreat) will be announced in the near future. Additional information is available from the Legislative Services Agency (LSA) upon request.

STAFF CONTACT: Sue Lerdal (Ext. 17794)

UPDATE ON MENTAL HEALTH WORKGROUPS

HF 909

House File 909 (FY 2008 Health and Human Services Appropriations Act) created six workgroups staffed by the Department of Human Services (DHS).

Funding

The Alternative Distribution Formula Workgroup continues to meet and has reviewed available data for possible changes to the funding distribution for mental health allowed growth. Members discussed the possibility of phasing-in changes, as well as use of outcomes-based distribution.

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Community MH Centers

The Community Mental Health Centers Workgroup has reviewed similar agencies in other states, possible areas of improvements, county collaboration, and acute care services. There was acknowledgement of existing overlap with the mission of the Core Services Workgroup.

Core Services

The Core Mental Health Services Workgroup has reviewed draft standards for emergency mental health services, discussed future school-based services, and discussed requirements from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

Standards

The Mental Health and Core Service Agency Standards and Accreditation Workgroup is being delayed to receive information from the other Workgroups before proceeding with recommendations.

Co-Occurring Disorders

The Co-Occurring Disorders Workgroup met with the Co-Occurring Disorders Academy, a joint meeting of the Department of Public Health and the DHS to rejuvenate the Academy for services that may serve a person with more than one need.

Evidenced-Based

The Evidenced-Based Practices Workgroup has discussed the implementation and selection methodology for the required evidenced-based practices in HF 909, which are two adult and two child practices each year for three years. Discussion included that the required practices may be used to replace existing services in lieu of additional requirements.

Steering Committee



The DHS Division Director created an additional Steering Committee to receive updates from the six Workgroups and to organize possible recommendations. The Committee has discussed three common areas: emergency services, services for children, and co-occurring disorders. Members discussed possible impacts on school-based and juvenile services, as well as the possible need for a training academy, although one of the consultants indicated that such academies usually have no impact without thorough and consistent follow-up. Members discussed the need for data, which may not be available in a consistent manner from providers and counties.

More Information

The DHS places the agendas and handouts from all Workgroups and Committee meetings on the web site at: http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/dhs2005/mhdd/MH_System_Improvement_Workgroups/Worgroup_Index.html. Additional information is available from the LSA upon request.

STAFF CONTACT: Sue Lerdal (Ext. 17794)

GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING

Oversight Meeting

The Government Oversight Committee met on July 23-24. The focus for the two-day meeting was current and potential future utilization of the Iowa Communications Network (ICN) and changing technological applications.

July 23

On July 23, the Committee heard presentations from Director John Gillespie, ICN; Nicole Turner Lee, One Economy; Joshua Breitbart, Ethos Wireless; Ryan Ford, *Source* magazine; Bob Haug, Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities; and Alan Kemp, Iowa League of Cities.

July 24

On July 24, the Committee heard presentations from Brigadier General Mark Zirkelbach, Iowa National Guard; Bob and Kristin Steingreaber, Great Prairie AEA 15; Steven Fleagle, University of Iowa; Jim Davis, Iowa State University; Dr. James Bodensteiner, University of Northern Iowa; and Craig Schoenfeld, Iowa Network Services and other telecom interests.

More Information

The next meeting is scheduled for September 17-18. Handouts from the meeting are available on the web site at: http://www.legis.state.ia.us/scripts/docmgr/docmgr_comdocs.dll/showtypeFC?id=true&type=ih&com=41. A briefing of the presentations at this meeting can be found in the next issue of the 2007 Calendar and Briefing Report at: <http://www.legis.state.ia.us/Current/Interim/>.

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FOURTH ANNUAL GOVERNOR'S HOMELAND SECURITY CONFERENCE

Conference

The Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division held the fourth Annual Governor's Conference on July 16-18. The Conference covered a range of topics, including special needs evacuation policies, public information releases, risk management, an overview of federal grants and programs, the hazards of ethanol, and the National Incident Management System requirements and compliancy issues.

FEMA

Iowa is a member of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region VII, which includes Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, and Missouri. In 2007, there have been 11 Presidential-declared disasters in Region VII, of which three have been in Iowa. From 2002 through 2007, Iowa has received \$324.0 million, of which \$135.0 million were FEMA Disaster Grants. Iowa has seen a 56.7% reduction in the Homeland Security Grant Program from FFY 2004 to FFY 2006 (\$30.0 million to \$13.0 million).

Recent Disasters

As a result of the snow and ice storms in February and March, and the corresponding flooding that followed, the Presidential-declared disaster on March 26, 2007, has received obligated Public Assistance Funds of \$60.0 million. The Presidential-declared disaster on April 24, 2007, has received obligated Public Assistance Funds of \$4.0 million. The Presidential-declared disaster on June 22, 2007, is estimated to receive Public Assistance Funds totaling \$17.6 million.

Pilot Project

The federal government is reorganizing the responsibilities and operations of FEMA, including offering a Public Assistance Pilot Program signed into law October 6, 2006, to reduce costs to the federal government, increase administrative flexibility, and expedite assistance to state and local governments.

More Information

Additional information is available from the LSA upon request.

STAFF CONTACT: Jennifer Acton (Ext. 17846)

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS BOARD MEETING

DOC Board Meeting

The Department of Corrections (DOC) Board met July 13 at the Oakdale Prison in Coralville.

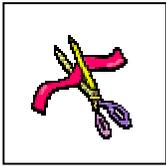
National Recognition

The Oakdale education staff received recognition and certificates from the American Corrections Association (ACA) Correctional Education Officers Conference in Atlanta. Oakdale, Fort Dodge, and Rockwell City are all nationally accredited.

Oakdale Security Fence

The DOC is reviewing the Power Fence by Gallagher, a security fence that provides an electric shock of 7,000 volts of DC current. This system is currently used at five institutions in Wisconsin. The estimated cost to equip both Fort Madison and Anamosa with this system is approximately \$225,000. The DOC has a security upgrade budget of \$2.0 million and this expense could be funded within the FY 2008 budget, if approved by the Board.

Ribbon Cutting



Lt. Governor Patty Judge was the keynote speaker at the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Iowa Medical and Classification Center's Special Needs Unit in Oakdale. The total square footage is 150,000 sq. ft. and current staff consists of 290.5 FTE positions, including 103 Correctional Officers, 37 Registered Nurses, and 27 Limited Practice Nurses. The medical units consist of an infirmary and short-term and long-term ambulatory care. The behavior units consist of a transportation holdover housing pad, secure observation, and special needs program housing.

More Information

The next meeting is scheduled for August 3 in Clarinda. Additional information is available from the LSA upon request.

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IOWA TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION MEETING

Commission Meeting

The Iowa Telecommunications and Technology Commission (ITTC) met on July 19. The Commission discussed Integrated Video Services, video rates, and video usage; reviewed the proposed regulatory plan; and held a planning session.

ICN Statistics

The Iowa Communications Network (ICN) has 3,100 miles of owned fiber (Part I and II) and 3,500 miles of leased fiber (Part III). The ICN has 758 two-way video classrooms. Iowa has invested approximately \$231.3 million in the ICN. This includes:



- \$114.5 million for Parts I and II construction funded through Certificates of Participation (COPS).
- \$64.2 million for Parts I and II finance costs.
- \$35.9 million for Part III construction costs.
- \$12.7 million for network upgrades.
- \$4.0 million for federal construction.

More Information

Additional information is available from the LSA upon request.

STAFF CONTACT: Jennifer Acton (Ext. 17846)

JUNE REPORT OF THE INJURED VETERANS GRANT PROGRAM

Payment Report

The Injured Veterans Grant Program June Report has been received from the Department of Veterans Affairs. Two additional payments have been made, which include:

- \$10,000 to one injured and evacuated veteran during FY 2005. This represents four monthly payments at one time.
- \$5,000 to one injured and evacuated veteran during FY 2007. This represents two monthly payments at one time.

Program Balance

The remaining balance for the Program is an estimated \$1.9 million, which includes cancelled warrants and all appropriations for FY 2007 and FY 2008.

More Information

Additional information is available from the LSA upon request.

STAFF CONTACTS: Sue Lerdal (Ext. 17794) Jennifer Acton (Ext. 17846)

WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT REVIEW BOARD MEETING

Watershed Meeting

The Watershed Improvement Review Board met July 17 in Cedar Falls.

Projects Amended

The Board amended two projects previously funded for FY 2007, which included the following:



- An extension of three months for a stormwater improvement project being completed by the cities of Clear Lake and Ventura and Cerro Gordo County. The revised completion date is March 31, 2008.
- A shift in the allocation of funding for the Clear Creek Watershed Project in the Iowa Soil and Water Conservation District. Increased project costs included \$35,000 for engineering and design and \$40,000 for property acquisition. The project overestimated the cost of the septic collection system by \$75,000, which will fund the increased cost categories.

Projects Tour

The Board toured various conservation projects related to the improvement of water quality in a watershed. Sites visited included projects at Miller Creek and Dry Run Creek, which are located in Black Hawk County.



Producer Nick Meier and Senator Rob Hogg discuss conservation practices.

More Information

The next meeting is scheduled for August 14 in Des Moines. For more information on the Watershed Improvement Review Board, access the web site at: <http://www.agriculture.state.ia.us/IWIRB.htm>. Additional information is available from the LSA upon request.

STAFF CONTACT: Debra Kozel (Ext. 16767)

IOWA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD APPROVES AWARDS

Board Meeting

The Iowa Economic Development Board met July 19 and approved awards for 14 projects.

Job Creation

The projects have pledged to create 1,990 jobs and retain 27. The projects have also pledged to create or retain an additional 100 jobs that do not qualify for funding. The projects have pledged to make capital investments of approximately \$811.8 million. The direct awards, excluding an unknown amount of tax benefits, total approximately \$3.4 million of loans and forgivable loans.

More Information

Additional information is available from the LSA upon request.

STAFF CONTACT: Ron Robinson (Ext. 16256)

AUDIT REPORT – DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND LAND STEWARDSHIP

Audit Report

The LSA received a copy of the State Auditor's FY 2006 Audit Report for the Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (DALs).

Statutory Findings

There were ten findings related to statutory requirements, including, but not limited to, the following:

- The Department had not submitted an annual report on the usage of the Iowa Communications Network to the General Assembly. The Department will review the reporting requirements and submit the annual report on time.
- There were eight instead of ten members on the Agricultural Products Advisory Council. The Department will be filling the vacant positions.
- The semi-annual report from the Office of Renewable Fuels and Co-Products was not submitted to the General Assembly. There is no funding available to complete the report. The Department will discuss this with the General Assembly.
- One member of the State Soil Conservation Committee did not attend the required number of Committee meetings. The Department has no control over the participation of a Committee member.
- The Office of Renewable Fuels and Co-Products was non-operational and did not further the production and consumption of ethanol fuel in Iowa. There is no funding available for this Program. The Department will discuss this with Legislators.
- The Department does not have a State Apiarist to give lectures and demonstrations. The General Assembly appropriated \$40,000 for FY 2008 for a State Apiarist. The Department will fill the position.



- There is no Organic Nutrient Management Fund or Program in the Department. There is no funding for this Program. The Department will discuss this with Legislators.

Capital Asset

The Department does not maintain an accurate and up-to-date inventory on all real property owned by the State. Two assets that had been disposed of were still listed on the inventory.

More Information

A copy of the Audit Report is available from the LSA upon request or on the State Auditor's web site at: <http://auditor.iowa.gov/reports/reports.htm>.

STAFF CONTACT: Debra Kozel (Ext. 16767)

AUDIT REPORT – DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Audit Report

The LSA received a copy of the State Auditor's FY 2006 Audit Report for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Statutory Findings

There were 17 findings related to statutory requirements, including, but limited to, the following:

- The Department collected \$3.00 for a Snowmobile Safety Certification Fee and the amount should have been \$5.00. The Department is now charging the correct fee.
- The Department is required to conduct random inspections completed by city and county public works departments. No inspections were documented as completed. The Department does a random check on the quarterly reports submitted by the participating cities and counties; however, no on-site inspections have been completed.
- The Department is required to investigate all known or suspected hazardous waste or hazardous disposal sites to determine if they should be registered. The investigations have not been completed. The Department investigates hazardous waste sites when they are reported; however, this is a federal program and no systematic investigation has been implemented.
- Users of toxic pollutants are required to submit a summary report on usage to the Department. These reports have not been submitted. This is a federal program and the Department can encourage a business to submit a report; however, it is not required.
- The State Geologist is required to submit an annual report to the Governor outlining work completed in the previous year. The Report has not been submitted. The Department will send the Report to the Governor's Office.

**More Information**

A copy of the Audit Report is available from the LSA upon request or on the State Auditor's web site at: <http://auditor.iowa.gov/reports/reports.htm>.

STAFF CONTACT: Debra Kozel (Ext. 16767)

This document can be found on the LSA web site:
<http://www.legis.state.ia.us/Fiscal/fiscupdt/>