



Iowa Mental Health and Disability Services Commission

Commissioners

January 26, 2011

John Willey – Chair

Craig Wood – Vice Chair

Neil Broderick

Lynn Crannell

Richard Crouch

Julie Fidler Dixon

Rick Hecht

Jan Heikes

Richard Heitmann

Chris Hoffman

Cindy Kaestner

Linda Langston

Patricia Penning

Laurel Phipps

Susan Koch-Seehase

Dale Todd

Gano Whetstone

The Honorable Terry E. Branstad  
Office of the Governor  
State Capitol Building  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

Re: Allowable Growth for MHDD Services

Dear Governor Branstad:

Last November, pursuant to Iowa Code §331.439(3)(b) the Iowa Mental Health and Disability Services Commission submitted our recommendation for an allowable growth factor adjustment for State Fiscal Year 2013 to former Governor Culver. As the State budgeting process moves forward, it is our desire to encourage you to give careful consideration to that request.

We based our recommendation on information we received from counties, county management plans, county officials like myself, people providing services in our communities, individuals receiving services, and their family members. All those sources of input tell us that we need a significant increase in funding to support the county services system over the next two fiscal years. The Commission is aware that you understand that the State has not been an equal partner with the counties in this crisis and we are most thankful for your acknowledgement of the funding shortfall.

Last year we looked at the need for growth and the state of the economy, and with both factors in mind we simply asked for a return to the level originally appropriated for State Fiscal Year 2010. During the 2010 Legislative Session that increase did not occur.

Today we are renewing our effort to gain your support for State Fiscal Year 2012 and 2013 allowed growth. The amount requested for SFY12 was \$69,949,069, which represents only an \$8.2 million increase over the \$61.7 million funding level for State Fiscal Year 2009. In contrast, county expenditures were estimated to be \$330 million in State Fiscal Year 2009. We believe it is reasonable to request that State MHDD funding for SFY 2012 be restored to the level of that original SFY10 appropriation.

Ex-Officio Commissioners

Senator Merlin Bartz

Senator Jack Hatch

Representative Dave Heaton

Representative Lisa Heddens

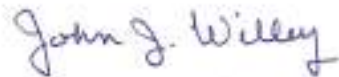
The Commission also looks to the future, and for that reason our recommendation for State Fiscal Year 2013 is an increase of 1% over the SFY12 amount requested. This would represent modest growth of approximately \$3.3 million for a total State share of \$73.2 million.

We have also been working with the Department of Human Services on the development of the DHS Olmstead Plan for Mental Health and Disability Services, a plan to enhance community capacity in accordance with the U.S. Supreme Court's 1999 *Olmstead v. L.C. and E.W.* decision. We recognize the importance of implementing the plan both in response to the federal mandate and in terms of addressing the needs of lowans, but we are concerned that transforming our current system will require a necessary investment in the cost of doing business.

We know you are aware of many other sound reasons to support the Allowable Growth Recommendation we have presented. We feel strongly that we have to take responsibility as a State to ensure that those who rely on mental health and disability services can get what they need to remain safe and healthy.

On behalf of the Iowa Mental Health and Disability Services Commission, thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John J. Willey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

*John (Jack) Willey*  
Chair, MHDS Commission