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To: County Board of Supervisors

From: Chuck Palmer, Department of Human Services, Director
Bill Peterson, Iowa State Association of Counties, Executive Director

Re: Technical Assistance on Mental Health and Disability Services (MHDS)
Redesign

Date: February 8, 2013

The Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Iowa State Association of Counties (ISAC) realize counties may want assistance with making changes and decisions regarding MHDS redesign. Working in partnership, DHS and ISAC are offering technical assistance to counties as they move forward in the MHDS redesign process. Technical assistance may be requested at any time. This includes prior to submitting a letter of intent to DHS to form into a region.

There are many areas that technical assistance may benefit a county or region. These include but are not limited to: development of 28E agreement, funding the MHDS region and management of county dollars in the region, governing board responsibilities, development of regional management plans, working with community stakeholders, development of provider contracts, identifying required regional elements, development of best practices in service providers, and maintaining service delivery in the transition to a region.

A request should be submitted to:

Rick Shults
Department of Human Services
Hoover State Office Building
1305 E Walnut Street
Des Moines, IA 50319
rshults@dhs.state.ia.us

AND Kristi Harshbarger
Iowa State Association of Counties
5500 Westown Parkway
Suite 190
West Des Moines, IA 50266
kharsbarger@iowacounties.org

If a county or region has a specific technical assistance need it should be stated in the request. Counties or regions do not need to have a clearly identified need. Technical assistance can be provided to assist in identifying the county or region's needs.

Once your request is received it will be reviewed by DHS and ISAC to determine who can provide the assistance. ISAC and DHS will both be able to provide technical assistance and DHS will be able to fund other entities to provide technical assistance.