



BUTLER COUNTY BOARD OF  
**M**ENTAL  
**R**ETARDATION  
&  
**D**EVELOPMENTAL  
**D**ISABILITIES



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Visit our website at  
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Equal Opportunity Employer  
& Service Provider

March 18, 2009

Update on Financial Situation:

First Follow-up to Letter sent in January, 2009

At the time of my previous letter about finances, we were waiting for Congress to vote on the Federal Stimulus Package. As you know, the Stimulus Package passed and now we are waiting for the state budget.

We are fairly certain that the Stimulus Package will help us because it provides additional federal money to Medicaid programs. This means that for all the Medicaid programs for which we currently pay match, our obligation will be temporarily decreased by a percentage amount. This will be, in effect, retroactive to October 2008 and will be available for 18 months. Although we don't know if the state will further cut their subsidy to us, this increase in federal funds may balance out some of the cuts we already incurred in 2008. This is not a long term solution but should help us with our expenditures as we see declining revenues. If you remember in my last letter, we are trying to keep from going on the ballot for a levy request until 2012; this may help us to do that.

In addition, there are pending state decisions that I am watching carefully:

1. HB 52, which proposes to merge the current Department of MRDD under other departments. With this, the Director of the Ohio Department of MRDD would no longer hold a seat in the Governor's Cabinet.
2. Changes with Help Me Grow and Early Intervention which may narrow the eligibility for services and reduce the current level of services to children at risk of developmental disabilities. Also, long term funding has not been established. For many County Boards of MRDD Early Intervention programs are a great risk due to the funding issues.
3. The effects of the Tangible Personal Property Tax that is to begin in 2011. In order to be held harmless in 2011, legislation would need to be introduced in this budget bill.
4. Although the Governor's budget proposal and House Bill 1 seem to protect MRDD from severe cuts, we do not know how the Bill will come out in the end.

What are we doing to help our financial situation?

1. We are applying for as many Medicaid Level I waivers for adults as possible to help us reduce the costs of their existing services.
2. We are requesting that adults who are eligible for Medicaid and wish to have services which are funded by Medicaid, apply for it. If not, they will be required to pay a portion of the services and/or have services capped at a certain level.
3. We are revising our Payor of Last Resort Policy to include adult day array services. We are also requiring that people who live in homes with residential support share costs by having roommates.



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4. We are looking within the organization to see if we can do things differently so that we can continue to keep up with the demands without necessarily adding staff. All vacant staff positions will be reviewed before filling.
5. We are also looking at forming a Council of Government with other nearby counties. This is a way many counties are pooling resources so that they can run some administrative functions more efficiently.
6. We are maximizing our billing to Medicaid for reimbursable services and setting standards of productivity.
7. We are monitoring our costs of services.

In closing, *given what we know today*, it appears that we will be able to minimize the negative effects that the economy has on direct service levels for 2009. We will likely have to adjust how we do things and may not be able to maintain every program and support at their current levels. We will continue to do everything possible to use the resources we have to support as many individuals as possible.

I am grateful that this agency has a tradition of long term financial planning. Because of this and because we are strategic in our planning, we are far better off than many other social service agencies.

Please keep yourself informed through the various avenues that were attached to the last letter. The January 2009 letter is on our website at [www.butlermrdd.org](http://www.butlermrdd.org).

Continue to give your input to our state representatives as they work to decide on the state budget.

Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

Christina Hurr  
Superintendent

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