



# CLAY COUNTY AUDITOR

## Marjorie A. Pitts

Phone: 712-262-1569  
 Fax: 712-262-5793  
 Email: mpitts@co.clay.ia.us

Clay County Administration Building  
 300 West 4th Street, Suite 4  
 Spencer, Iowa 51301

January 9, 2012

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

Michael E. Marshall  
 Secretary of the Senate  
 State Capitol Building  
 Des Moines, Iowa 50319

Charlie Smithson  
 Chief Clerk of the House  
 State Capitol Building  
 Des Moines, Iowa 50319

RE: SYF2011 Risk Pool Distribution to Counties:

On behalf of the Mental Health Risk Pool Board, I would like to submit a review of the risk pool funding awarded in 2011. The chart below summarizes the funding available as well as the funding distributed.

		RISK POOL/WAITING LIST	
HF209/SF629		\$	10,000,000
August 2011 Awards			
	Polk	\$	7,732,181
	Scott	\$	619,809
	Clinton	\$	656,973
	Jackson	\$	29,271
Amount Remaining		\$	961,766
Amount Rebated SFY2012		\$	3,798,529
Carry forward from SFY2011		\$	1,324,489
Available for December		\$	6,084,784
December 2011 Awards			
	Linn	\$	1,032,433.90
	Osceola	\$	37,058.25
Amount Remaining		\$	5,015,292

Gina Ean  
 Auditor Staff  
 Email: gean@co.clay.ia.us

Ann Baschke  
 Deputy Auditor  
 Email: abaschke@co.clay.ia.us

Audrey Coffman  
 Auditor Staff  
 Email: acoffman@co.clay.ia.us

Connie Adams  
 Auditor Staff  
 Email: cadams@co.clay.ia.us

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On November 29, 2011, Osceola County submitted a Risk Pool application for a total of \$83,904.45. This application included funding for seven (7) individuals in the Osceola County MHDD system. Three of the individuals listed on the application were not officially on a waiting list, but instead reflected increased service requests for the HCBS/ID Waiver services. The cost of these three individuals totaled \$46,846.20.

As background, in 2009 the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) directed the Department to develop one statewide waiting list for applicants to the Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Intellectual Disability (ID) waiver. This directive requires the State to assure that all persons applying to the ID waiver have equal access to a funding slot. In response, the Department has developed a system for managing all applicants to the ID waiver based on the priority need of the applicants. Over the last two years the Department has worked with a stakeholder group to develop the process. Effective October 1, 2011, all applicants were placed on the statewide wait list based on their assessed need. Prior to October 1, 2011 each county identified the number of HCBS/ID Waiver slots it would fund based on available funding.

When Risk Pool funding was distributed in August 2011, Counties were able to add individuals waiting for a waiver slots to their Risk Pool application because at that time counties officially had HCBS/ID Waiver individuals on a county waiting list, however the Counties applying in December did not have that same ability because the state managed the HCBS/ID Waiver. This is why Osceola County was only awarded \$37,058.25 when they had originally requested \$83,904.45. It is also important to note that Linn County state that they would have requested additional dollars had they been able to include HCBS/ID Waiver funding to their list. Linn County did not submit a request for this funding because it does not meet the requirements of the current legislation.

The Risk Pool Board, via a majority vote, wants to clearly express their concern for these counties, and would like to advocate for them to access some of the remaining \$5,015,292 to fund the individuals identified as increased costs but not officially placed on a waiting list. This would result in providing Osceola County with an additional \$46,846.20, and Linn County would be asked to submit the additional cost to be considered. It is also important to note that this approach does not allow other counties who did not submit applications to the Risk Pool Board to request a portion of the remaining funds to cover their needs.

On behalf of the Risk Pool Board I thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully Submitted,



Marjorie A. Pitts, Chair  
Mental Health Risk Pool Board

Gina Ean  
Auditor Staff  
Email: gean@co.clay.ia.us

Ann Baschke  
Deputy Auditor  
Email: abaschke@co.clay.ia.us

Audrey Coffman  
Auditor Staff  
Email: acoffman@co.clay.ia.us

Connie Adams  
Auditor Staff  
Email: cadams@co.clay.ia.us

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