



STATE OF IOWA

CHESTER J. CULVER, GOVERNOR
PATTY JUDGE, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
KEVIN W. CONCANNON, DIRECTOR

IOWA MENTAL HEALTH, MENTAL RETARDATION, DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES, BRAIN INJURY COMMISSION

ANNUAL REPORT

January 1, 2008

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The Honorable Governor Chester Culver
Office of the Governor
State Capitol Building
Des Moines, IA 50319

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

Mark Brandsgard
Chief Clerk of the House
State Capitol Building
Des Moines, IA 50319

Dear Governor Culver, Mr. Marshall and Mr. Brandsgard:

This is the annual report of the MHRDDBI Commission activities for calendar year 2007 and MHRDDBI Commission legislative proposals for 2008, as required by Iowa Code chapter 225C.6(h)(1). The Commission's FY10 Allowed Growth Factor Adjustment Recommendation, required by Iowa Code 331.439, subsection 3 has been submitted separately.

There were two changes in legislative leadership serving as ex-officio members of the MHRDDBI Commission. Senator Jerry Behn and Representative David Heaton were appointed to replace Senator Maggie Tinsman and Representative Danny Carroll. Senator Jack Hatch and Representative Lisa Heddens remain serving as ex-officio members of the Commission.

The Governor appointed the following people to replace voting members leaving the Commission:

- David Johnson, Parent of an individual living at a State Resource Center
- Dale Todd, Parent of a child that is a consumer of MHRDDBI Services
- Gano Whetstone, Advocate

Activities for calendar year 2007:

The Commission held 10 regular monthly meetings, a two-day retreat in September, and one Public Hearing in 2007 to discharge its duties as set out in Iowa Code sections 225C.6; 229.24; 249A.12; 331.424A(1); 331.438; 331.439; 331.440; and 426B.

The Commission provided accreditation recommendations on the following organizations providing services to Iowans with mental health needs, mental retardation, developmental disabilities, or brain injury:

- Clinton County Community Services
- Duncan Heights, Inc.
- Penn Center, Inc.
- Sac/Ida County Case Management
- Cornerstone Counseling Center
- Dallas County Community Services
- New Directions Community Mental Health Center
- West Central Mental Health Center
- Skyline Center, Inc.
- Village Northwest Unlimited
- Wesco Industries
- Cedar County Case Management
- Mid-Step Services
- Behavioral Health Center of Southern Iowa
- Vera French Supported Community Living
- Bridgeview Community Mental Health Center
- Cedar Valley Community Support Services
- Exceptional Persons
- FOCUS
- Hillcrest Family Services
- WCDC, Inc.
- Bridge Counseling Center
- Buena Vista County Community Services
- Linn County MHDD Services
- Good Connections
- Vera French Community Mental Health Center (Outpatient)
- Christian Opportunity Center
- Counseling Services LLC
- Tailored Living
- Builders of Hope
- Capstone Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.
- Counseling Associates
- Black Hawk-Grundy Mental Health Center
- Community Based Services of Bremer County
- Families First Counseling Services of Iowa
- Boys and Girls Family Services, Inc.
- Behavioral Health Community Services of Southern Iowa
- County Community Services
- Pathways Behavioral Services
- Child Guidance Center
- T.A.S.C., Inc.
- Communication Services for the Deaf
- Makee Manor

- Allamakee-Howard County Case Management
- Buchanan County Case Management
- Rise LTD
- Park Place
- Access, Inc.
- Hope Haven, Inc.
- North Star Community Services, Inc.
- Hardin County Case Management
- Southern Iowa Mental Health Center
- Visiting Nurse Services
- Intention
- The Spectrum Network
- Carroll County Case Management
- Emmet County Case Management
- Floyd County Case Management
- Iowa Central Industries
- Northern Iowa Mental Health Center
- County Care Center Corporation
- Spectra Health Core
- Quality Choices, Inc.
- Cornerstone Counseling Center
- Home Caring Services, Inc.
- Advancement Services of Jones County

Other Commission activities during 2007 included:

- Supported legislation creating Iowa's Mental Health Systems Improvement (Health and Human Services appropriations bill House File 909). The Commission supported the creation of six Mental Health Systems Improvement workgroups to make recommendations on major changes for improved mental health services in the state. Commission members were represented on all six workgroups
- Sponsored a Public Hearing, held December 13, 2007 and involving 13 ICN sites across the state to receive public comment related to the Mental Health Systems Improvement recommendations
- Proposed an Allowed Growth Factor increase for FY10 as required by Iowa Code
- Reviewed and recommended approval of five county management plans (Dallas, Buena Vista, Clinton, Washington, and Calhoun/Ida/Sac) and three-county management plan amendments (Hamilton, Marshall, and Polk) to the Director of the Iowa Department of Human Services. The recommended plans and plan amendments addressed funding limitations being faced across our state and subsequent reduction of services for many Iowans with disabilities.

In regard to this last bulleted matter the Commission has established a workgroup to document the impact of these reduced services on Iowans with disabilities including a careful analysis of persons who are currently on waiting lists to be provided services as a result of such reduced services. Aside from the moral and ethical challenges presented with any reduction of critical services for persons with disabilities we also believe that this situation may present a significant legal vulnerability to our state in considering the implications of any failure to provide these needed services.

In regard to our need to carefully monitor the provision of services to persons with disabilities and the critical outcomes achieved by these individuals and their families. House file 2780, passed in the 2006 General Assembly, indicated the need to establish an "ongoing process to determine the degree of access to and the effectiveness of the services and other support in achieving the disability services outcomes and indicators identified by the commission pursuant to section 225C.6". This legislation also indicated that the management plans due each year would "identify measurable outcomes and results showing the county's progress in fulfilling the purposes . . . and in achieving the disability services outcomes and indicators identified by the commission pursuant to section 225C.6." This legislation went on the state that by July 1, 2007 county management plans would:

- Describe how the county will provide services and other support that are individualized, provided to produce results, flexible, and cost effective.
- Describe how the ability of the individuals covered by the plan to live, learn, work, and recreate in communities of the individual's choice will be enhanced.

As your offices receive the Mental Health Systems Improvement recommendations in January, 2008 we also believe it is critical to meet the provisions of an ongoing quality improvement and systematic data analysis system as specified by the 2006 General Assembly. We are committed to working with the Department of Human Services and other entities in making this expectation a reality.

Thank you for the opportunity for input with this critical work on behalf of all Iowans.

Sincerely,



Carl R. Smith Ph.D., Chair
MHRDDBI Commission

cc: Dennis Prouty, Legislative Service Agency
Peter Matthes, Senate Minority Caucus
Kris Bell, Senate Majority Caucus
Brad Trow, House Minority Caucus
Zeke Furlong, House Majority Caucus