

SCOTT COUNTY MH/DD SERVICES
FY10 BUDGET REDUCTIONS
MH/DD ADVISORY COMMITTEE PROPOSALS
EFFECTIVE 7/1/09

BUDGET CATEGORY/SERVICE	SAVINGS	# OF INDIVIDUALS EFFECTED	SERVICE CHANGE DESCRIPTION	OTHER SERVICE AVAILABLE ?	IMPACT ON INDIVIDUALS/FAMILIES/AGENCIES/STAFF
#1 Agency Budgets: Annual Inflationary Increase	\$119,942 from Vera French Community Mental Health Center (VFCMHC) \$6,840 from the Handicapped Development Center (HDC) <hr/> Total: \$126,782	12,000+ Individuals at VFCMHC 350+ Individuals at HDC	Elimination of annual inflationary increase of 3% to the community agencies, VFCMHC and HDC.	N	<p>Both agencies have certain operating expenses that increase each year- health insurance, utilities, building repairs, etc... The agencies have little or no control over those expenses. The county helps to address the operating expenses by providing an inflationary increase.</p> <p>Without the inflationary increase, the agencies will have to use other budgeted funds. This will result in staff layoffs, reduction in services and closing of programs. This leads to an overall reduction in the number of people served.</p> <p>A reduction in certain services will lead to a diversion of services. The diversion of services may result in an increase in Medicaid rates or more restrictive and costly alternative services provided by hospitals and/or jails.</p>

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#2 Crisis Services	\$10,000	4000+ Individuals (Average 303 calls per month)	Elimination of county funding for the Crisis Line Services at Genesis Medical Center.	N	Without the Crisis Line, individuals facing a mental health crisis may access the emergency room at Genesis Medical Center for treatment. Without the support from the crisis line, the individuals may require services from the emergency room and/or jail, homeless shelters or end up in a potentially lethal situation. The costs of mental health treatment/services in the emergency room are extremely high.
#3 Voluntary Psychiatric Hospitalization	\$25,000	8-10 Individuals	Elimination of county funding for voluntary psychiatric hospitalization.	N	Individuals would no longer be able to apply for financial assistance from the county for voluntary hospitalization costs. This funding is available to individuals who don't have insurance or resources to pay for hospitalization. The individuals may incur undue financial stress, may not seek treatment, or may end up in an involuntary commitment situation. The county then has to pay these involuntary costs: sheriff, attorney, advocate, judicial referee, in addition to the hospital expenses.

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<p>#4 Community Services Funds (VFCMHC)</p>	<p>\$54,904</p>	<p>150-200 Individuals</p>	<p>Elimination of funding for community services hours by VF staff at the Jail, Juvenile Detention Center and Community Health Care (CHC).</p>	<p>N/Y</p>	<p>This service provides education, assessment/consultation to a variety of individuals which ultimately leads to more timely mental health services and treatment.</p> <p>Assessment, consultation and education services would no longer take place at the jail, juvenile detention center and community health care (CHC). Individuals will be referred to VF and the hospital as the result of a decrease in integration and coordination of services in the community.</p>
<p>#5 Community Support Services-Frontier (VFCMHC)</p>	<p>\$175,000</p>	<p>65-75 Individuals per day</p>	<p>A 38% reduction in county funding for the Community Support program-Frontier.</p>	<p>N/Y</p>	<p>The Frontier Program provides a safe and stable place for many individuals. Vital services such as medication management, money management, skill building, as well as, laundry, noon meals and socialization opportunities will be dramatically reduced.</p> <p>Services would continue at a reduced level. Some individuals may be forced to receive certain services through other programs. Staff layoffs will occur or staff will be shifted to work in other programs.</p>

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<p>#6 Employment Services (VFCMHHC)</p>	<p>\$80,709</p>	<p>40 individuals at Job Link and another 200-250 individuals served throughout the year at the Rummage Closet.</p>	<p>Elimination of county funding for employment services- Job Link and the support of the Rummage Closet.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>Individuals with serious and persistent mental health issues will have to search for employment opportunities independently. Individuals will have no assistance in applying for Medicaid programs such as the MEPP program or in maintaining their MEPP. Without MEPP, individuals are no longer eligible for Medicaid which pays for case management, SCL services, and medication management services. The individuals will not be eligible for free or reduced medication costs. Individuals may stop taking their medications in this situation. This could lead to increased hospitalizations for some individuals.</p> <p>The Rummage Closet is a store that supports mentally ill individuals by providing transitional employment, as well as furniture, clothing and other basic needs at a minimum cost to the community.</p> <p>The Rummage Closet will close unless other funding sources can be secured.</p>

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<p>#7 VFCMHC Housing Corporation</p>	<p>\$54,254</p>	<p>120 Individuals</p>	<p>Elimination of county funding for the housing corporation.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>The Housing Corporation would need to locate other revenue or utilize other budgeted funds to support the housing corporation. The elimination of funding will result in a reduction of staff and limit operational capacity and program quality. Future development projects would need to be re-evaluated.</p> <p>Individuals receiving supported housing are less likely to become homeless, use the ER for services and become hospitalized for a psychiatric crisis.</p>
<p>#8 Outpatient Services (VFCMHC)</p>	<p>\$250,000</p>	<p>700-800 Individuals</p>	<p>An 18% reduction in county funding for Outpatient Services.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>The agency will not serve as many individuals as they have in the past. The current county waiting list will be increased. Some individuals will access services through the hospital and/or jail in the interim.</p> <p>A waiting list for mental health services can be very detrimental not only to the person needing service, but to family members as well. Timely access to services provides stabilization and allows the individual to remain a productive member of the community.</p>

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#9 Day Treatment (VFCMHC)	\$175,000	200+ Individuals	A 56% reduction in county funding for Day Treatment services.	N/Y	The Day Treatment program helps to reduce and/or shorten incidents of hospitalizations for treatment. This program is one of the essential services VFCMHC's provides under its accreditation. The reduction in funding will result in fewer individuals treated, increased inpatient admissions, reduced overall services and possible staff layoffs.
#10 Case Monitoring Services (VFCMHC)	\$157,409	120 Individuals	Elimination of county funding for the Case Monitoring service.	N	The Case Monitoring services provides assistance to individuals who have no insurance. Staff assess needs, plan and connect individuals with services and benefits such as food stamps, housing, transportation and compliance with treatment. Staff may also help individuals apply for Social Security, Medicaid and Medicare benefits. The loss of this program will also result in increased isolation, increased hospitalizations, and decreased independence for many individuals. Staff layoffs and/or staff shifting to other programs will occur.

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#11 Vocational Services (HDC)	\$100,000	60 + Individuals	A 52% reduction in county funding for vocational services.	N/Y	<p>Most individuals would not be able to work; some could attend a day program with various activities. Certain individuals would only be able to utilize the Medicaid service HCBS Day Hab.</p> <p>Some individuals will decide not to come to the workshop if they can't work and earn a paycheck. This will dramatically increase the residential rates/budget as some of those individuals will require additional supervision at home. There are currently 32 out of 60 individuals who receive daily site services. Several other individuals may be forced into placements as their family situations don't allow them to remain at home during the day.</p> <p>The individuals affected by this reduction are typically the most productive workers at the workshop and will no longer earn a weekly paycheck. This will have economic impact as they spend their money at stores and restaurants in the community. Loss of wages may also impact where individuals live as their wages supplement their rent payments.</p> <p>This cut in funding has devastating ramifications for the workshop:</p>

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#12 Jail Diversion (VFCMHC)	\$124,722	60-150 Individuals	Elimination of county funding for the Jail Diversion Program. Elimination of the development of a potential Mental Health Court in Scott County.	N	<p>* A decrease in the number of productive individuals working in the workshop.</p> <p>* A decrease in subcontract jobs and agency revenue (self-support) generated. Some individuals will regress and demonstrate behaviors as they would not be able to work. Individuals' self esteem and confidence may decrease. The frustration of not being able to work may lead to the need for a higher level of care.</p> <p>Ultimately, this budget reduction could very well result in the closing of the workshop.</p> <p>Without the Jail Diversion Program, individuals would no longer have professional staff assistance to access community based services. This will result in increased recidivism rates and longer jail time. Individuals served in this program will no longer have staff assistance in applying for Social Security, medical, food and rental assistance. Staff layoffs will occur.</p> <p>This program benefits the court system and the jail by appropriately addressing the needs of mentally ill individuals.</p>

The estimated FY10 deficit is \$1,333,430.

The potential total program/service cuts equal \$1,333,780.

** \$1,191,940 from the VFCMHC budget

** \$106,840 from the HDC budget

** \$35,000 from the Community Services budget

Five programs/services would be eliminated from the Vera French budget with these budget cuts. The sheltered workshop at HDC would be in jeopardy of closing as county funds are being cut by 52%. The county is only able to cut services and programs that are funded with 100% county dollars. With these budget cuts, fewer individuals would be served, entire programs would be closed and several staff would be laid off.

If these cuts/reductions are implemented, thousands of Scott County individuals as well as the community will feel the negative impacts. The social and economical impacts will be devastating. The community may lose taxpayers, both consumers and staff, and businesses. Public safety will be compromised as the "safety net services" provided by VFCMHC will be dramatically reduced. All of the services at VFCMHC provide the overall safety net for many individuals. All of the budget cuts create the risk for increased hospitalizations for many individuals. There are not enough hospital beds to address the current needs. Providers and families are very concerned about where these individuals will go.

The above budget cuts do not address the current waiting list in Scott County. There are already 122 people on the waiting list, 65 of those people are waiting for an MR Waiver slot. An additional \$1.3 million a year is needed to address the waiting list. Currently, most of these people are not receiving any services at all. People needing mental health services will be added to the waiting list in FY10.

Scott County has always been service rich and provided services based on community need. Scott County has always strived to be a positive and safe place to live, in part, because of the services it has historically offered. The State of Iowa has not lived up to its statutory obligations and counties have been forced to spend their fund balances. Now, many counties across the state are being forced to cut services to the most vulnerable population.

