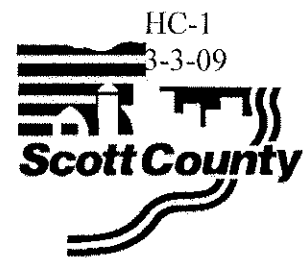


## Community Services Department

600 W. 4<sup>th</sup> St.  
Davenport, Iowa 52801



**(563) 326-8723**      **Fax (563) 326-8730**

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February 23, 2009

TO: Dee F. Bruemmer

FROM: Lori A. Elam

RE: Mental Health Court Grant

As you are aware there was a Task Force organized in July 2008 to evaluate and implement a mental health court program in Scott County. There are a variety of stakeholders on the task force: Vera French staff, CADS staff, Sheriff's Department, Jail staff, Scott County Judiciary, Community Services staff, County Attorney's Office, Court Administrator, Davenport and Bettendorf Police Departments, Iowa State Corrections Office, public defender's office, and several private attorneys.

The task force has developed a plan to broaden the current jail diversion program into a mental health court. The overall goal is to divert these people who are mentally ill from the jail and into community mental health and substance abuse programs. The hope is to assist them in stabilizing and becoming independent/productive members of our community with appropriate supports. The end result would be to avoid repeated contacts with the criminal justice system.

The mental health court will require more timely mental health assessment, treatment and diversion to appropriate community services. Individuals would be court-supervised and be required to comply with and participate in a treatment plan set out by the mental health court team. The intent of the mental health court program is to provide a means to hold individuals accountable and ensure they are receiving the intensive, ongoing support to be successful. The recidivism rate will be dramatically reduced.

The task force is applying for a \$250,000 federal grant, "Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program", through the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance. The grant application is due March 9, 2009. There have been several members of the task force involved in supplying data and reviewing the narrative. It has truly been a collaborative effort for Scott County. The grant does require matching funds. The hope is that current jail diversion funds would be used as the matching funds.

In August of 2008, 34% of the inmates in the Scott County jail were receiving psychiatric medication and in need of mental health treatment. The jail is not the appropriate place to treat mentally ill individuals. The savings to the county and to the taxpayers of having alternative programs/treatment is obvious.