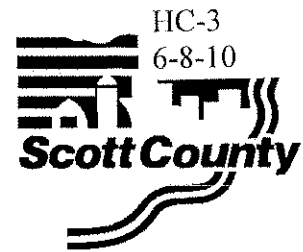


Community Services Department

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June 1, 2010

TO: Dee F. Bruemmer

FROM: Lori A. Elam

RE: DHS County Waiting List Letter Requirement

The Department of Human Services requires notification if a county has a waiting list for services from the MH/DD Fund (Fund 10). DHS was notified that Scott County had a waiting list in place. If a county can not provide services in accordance with their management plan and remain in compliance with the budgeting requirement of Iowa Code Section 331.439(5)(a), a waiting list is started. DHS is now requiring the Board of Supervisors and the CPC to sign a letter each year indicating such a waiting list. This written requirement is not specifically identified in code currently.

This waiting list notification requirement is due to code amendments in House File 909 which were passed during the 2007 Legislative Session. House File 909 changed the accessibility of services across the state (county of legal settlement verses county of residency). A person in need of services can now access them in the county in which they reside and the county of legal settlement is mandated financially responsible, regardless of their management plan. The CPC in the county of residency must check with the CPC in the county of legal settlement to see if that county has a waiting list as the waiting list would be the only prohibition of that financial mandate. Language was added to House File 909 to address those counties with current waiting lists in order to prevent more financial strain on the MH/DD budgets. If the county of legal settlement has a waiting list, the services are authorized in accordance with the county of legal settlement's waiting list provisions.

These changes have improved access to services for people with disabilities. A person can now access services in the county they reside in, regardless of their county of legal settlement. Although House File 909 improved service accessibility, it continues to create a financial crisis in some counties that didn't previously pay for a variety of services. It has also made future budgeting even more challenging for some counties.