



"A Community Mental Health Funding Alliance"

Townships of: Aurora - Batavia - Big Rock - Bluckberry - Kaneville - Sugar Grove - Virgil

Remarks to HS Comm.

Good Afternoon,

My name is Jerry Murphy. I serve as executive director of the INC Board, a local mental health authority which plans for and funds mental health, developmental disability and substance abuse services using local real estate tax revenues. As such, we closely watch how decisions at the state level affect services at the local level. In our limited time I would like to cite just a few examples and situations.

Currently, one of the major adjustments has been the system needing to change how it serves non-Medicaid clients. While the state has decided this population either does not need, or is not worthy of these services, this is far from the truth. Medicaid eligibility should not be a determining factor. Local funding sources have had to pick up the slack for this population.

Community providers are operating with two handicaps as we speak. First, most have been given only four month contracts with dismal expectations for the last eight months of FY12. Second, they are being paid for their services anywhere from two to six months late. Not-for-profit is a corporate tax status, not a way of doing business. How can community providers be expected to conduct business under these conditions?

20,000 Illinois residents with developmental disabilities are on the PUNS (Priority Utilization of Need Services) list. Many will eventually pass away before ever getting the needed services. Improved services for this population usually come about as a result of lawsuits. What does that say about Illinois?

One specific example of poor decision-making I would like to mention is the termination of the Community Hospitalization or CHPS program. This mental health crisis stabilization program operated for years to prevent or forestall commitment of the mentally ill to state-operated facilities by using short-term intervention at local hospitals. Since the program was terminated, the hospitals now have to serve these same residents with expensive emergency room services. Admissions to places like Elgin Mental Health Center have increased dramatically. Penny-wise and pound-foolish, by my estimate.

I would not be the first to say that a society, a community, or a state can be judged by how it treats the most vulnerable in our midst. I think lawsuits and getting federal reimbursement are terrible criteria for making decisions about services for these, our most vulnerable citizens.

PO Box 935, 400 Mercy Road, Aurora IL 60507-0935 • Ph: 630-892-5456 • Fax: 630-892-5480 • Web: www.incboard.org

Staff: Jerry Murphy, Executive Director
email: jerrym@incboard.org

Marti Cross, Assistant Director
email: marti@incboard.org

Eileen Maryanski, Administrative Assistant
email: eileen@incboard.org
