

February 12, 2009

The Honorable Carolyn McGinn  
State Senate  
Statehouse, Room 222-E  
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Senator McGinn:

Attached is the information requested by the Senate Committee that reflects a 10 percent reduction in State General Fund expenditures in FY 2010 from the FY 2009 Governor's revised recommendation for SRS and the state hospitals. Also included on the listing are reductions of an additional 3 percent as requested by the Committee. We have identified the level of additional reduction that would be required if caseloads are included in the reduction and the level of reduction if the caseload portion of our budget is exempted.

Given the state's financial situation SRS is prepared to manage with fewer resources in FY 2010 than in FY 2009. Since early in the state fiscal year I have limited travel and purchases of capital outlay and imposed a hiring freeze at SRS (except for direct care staff at our state hospitals). Currently, the SRS central office has 29.4 percent of its authorized positions vacant. Our regional offices are operating with almost 12 percent of positions vacant, while our state hospitals are operating with more than 13 percent of positions vacant.

To achieve the level of reductions necessary in FY 2010 given the state's financial situation cannot be accomplished without reductions in direct assistance to Kansans. We proposed reductions to the Governor which reflected a basic value of protecting the most vulnerable Kansans among the many vulnerable Kansans who rely on SRS for assistance in meeting basic needs. The Governor's budget recommendation for SRS and the state hospitals in FY 2010 makes a State General Fund reduction of \$52.8 million from the revised 2009 Governor's recommendation, which is a 6.8 percent reduction. If the consensus caseload portion of our budget is excluded, the Governor's recommendation is already a reduction of 10.6 percent from FY 2009. The agency believes the level of reductions contained in the Governor's recommendations, while painful and impacting the lives of Kansans, are the most responsible choices given the current challenging financial situation. The reductions SRS recommended to the Governor were based on minimizing the impact on the most vulnerable Kansans that we serve and preserving the basic social service safety net that protects these vulnerable Kansans.

Reductions below the level recommended by the Governor cannot be made without having a significant impact on the lives of Kansas' most vulnerable citizens. Such reductions would cause great harm to the social services safety net at a time when the need for such services is rising. Other local and private systems would clearly feel the impact of these additional cuts at the state level, as the needs would not be eliminated by reductions in state funding.

I appreciate the challenges that that the Legislature faces this Session. I would ask that you be mindful of the impacts of further cuts on the vulnerable Kansans, and support the Governor's FY 2010 budget recommendations. Please contact me if I can provide you with any additional information.

Sincerely,



Don Jordan  
Secretary

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