

HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Diane D. Gill, Director

The Department of Human Services was responsible for an appropriated budget of \$18,040,016 for the funding of services to residents of nursing homes, the elderly or disabled, and court-ordered services for juveniles and their families.

The Intermediate Nursing Care (INC) line of the budget represents the most costly portion of this department's budget. INC funds nursing home care for Medicaid-eligible residents of private nursing homes, as well as the Rockingham County Nursing Home, with costs split – fifty percent federal share, 25 percent state share and 25 percent county share. The average number of Medicaid recipients receiving nursing home care is 530 per month.

With the passage of House Bill 2, effective July 1, 2008 the counties gained 100% liability for the non-federal share of the cost of Medicaid recipients of Intermediate Nursing Care and Home and Community Based Services (HCBC). The State of New Hampshire assumed liability for court-ordered services to juveniles, Provider Payments, Medicare Part D, Old Age Assistance and Aid to the Permanently and Totally Disabled.

Some elderly persons prefer to remain at home, or in a setting less acute than a nursing facility. Medicaid-eligible elderly and chronically ill adults may choose to receive services in their own homes or in mid-level care facilities. The average monthly caseload for HCBC clients was 380 persons.

Rockingham County paid expenses of court-ordered services for 405 juveniles on a monthly basis. These juveniles and their families were involved in the court process through abuse or neglect petitions, Children in Need of Services or Delinquency cases. . After July 1, 2008 the county no longer had liability for court-ordered juvenile expenses. This department collected \$522,787.95 from parents to reimburse the state and county for court-ordered services for their children. The Division for Children, Youth and Families took over the process of collecting parental reimbursement on January 1, 2009.

In order to reduce the number of juvenile court cases, counties receive prevention funds from the State of New Hampshire, Division for Children, Youth and Families, called the 6% Incentive Funds. Rockingham County granted \$765,360 to community programs that provide services to prevent children and families from becoming involved in the juvenile justice system, or to provide judges with alternatives to costly placements or services.

I would like to express my appreciation to the Board of Commissioners for their guidance and assistance to this department. I would also like to recognize the excellent staff of this department for their service on behalf of the families of Rockingham County.