

HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Diane D. Gill, Director

The Department of Human Services was responsible for an appropriated budget of \$14,287,371 for the funding of services to residents of nursing homes, juveniles and their families, the disabled, and the elderly.

The Intermediate Nursing Care (INC) line of the budget represents the most costly portion of this department's budget. INC pays for nursing home care for Medicaid-eligible residents of private nursing homes, as well as the Rockingham County Nursing Home, with costs split – 50% federal share, 25% county, and 25% state share. There were an average of 687 recipients, at an average total monthly cost of \$534,000; a reduction in the number of recipients from the previous year.

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 receive services in their own homes, or in mid-level care facilities. The two categories of expenditures for these types of services are Home and Community Based Care (HCBC) and Provider Payments. The costs for these services are funded 50% federal share, 25% state, and 25% county shares. Services are available only to those persons who would be eligible for Medicaid nursing facility services. The average monthly caseload for HCBC clients was 286 persons, at an average cost of \$73,000 per month. The Provider Payment caseload averaged 1,015 persons, at an average cost of \$169,000 per month.

This department is also responsible for the payment of expenses for Old Age Assistance. This program provides cash grants to income-eligible elderly persons. The county pays 50% of the total cost. Rockingham County paid for as many as 191 clients per month, at a total average cost of \$17,000.

The Aid to the Permanently and Totally Disabled is a program that provides cash grants to income-eligible persons who have severe physical or mental disabilities. The county share is 50% of the costs. This program served an average caseload of 908 persons, at a total average monthly cost of \$ 107,000.

The Department of Human Services is responsible for approving payments for court-ordered services for juveniles and their families; including Children in Need of Services, delinquents, and children who have been found to have been abused or neglected. Rockingham County funds 25% of these costs, and the State of New Hampshire, Division of Children, Youth and Families, funds 75%. Rockingham County paid expenses for an average of 393 children on a monthly basis. Average monthly costs totaled \$107,000 for out-of-home placement and in-home services. Reimbursement for juvenile's expenses was collected from parents in the amount of \$486,272 by this department, acting on behalf of the state.

In order to reduce the number of court-involved juveniles, and out of home placements that may result from court involvement, counties receive prevention funds from the State of New Hampshire, Division for Children, Youth and Families,

called the 6% Incentive Funds. Rockingham County granted \$665,000 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 once a juvenile petition has been filed.

An example of a prevention program is Rockingham County's Juvenile Diversion Program. A single staff member provides intake and referral services to families who are experiencing difficulties with their adolescents. The program received referrals from the courts as a diversion alternative, from schools, from the Division for Children, Youth and Families, and from police departments. Juvenile diversion is provided free of charge to families who reside in Rockingham County.

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 the department, as well as the legislators who serve on the Human Services sub-committee, for their service on behalf of the citizens of Rockingham County.