

HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Diane D. Gill, Director

The Department of Human Services was responsible for an appropriated budget of \$15,306,380 for the funding of services to residents of nursing homes, the elderly, the disabled, and court-ordered services for juveniles and their families.

The Intermediate Nursing Care 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 – fifty percent federal share, 25 percent state share and 25 percent county share. There was an average of 625 recipients each month, at an average total monthly cost of \$577,560.

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 two categories of expenditures for these types of services are Home and Community Based Care 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 are eligible for nursing facility admission. The average monthly caseload for HCBC clients was 380 persons, at an average cost of \$135,700 per month. The Provider Payment caseload averaged 850 persons, at an average cost of \$107,000 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 fifty percent of the total cost. Rockingham County paid for as many as 189 clients per month, at a total average cost of \$20,215 per month.

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 fifty percent of the costs. This program served an average caseload of 985 persons, at a total average monthly cost of \$136,155.

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 twenty-five percent of these costs, and the State of New Hampshire, Division for Children, Youth and Families, funds seventy-five percent. Rockingham County paid expenses for an average of 405 children on a monthly basis. Average monthly costs totaled \$124,000 for out of home placement and in-home services. This department collected \$550,915 from parents to reimburse the state and county for court-ordered services for their children.

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 NH, Division for Children, Youth and Families, called the 6% Incentive Funds. Rockingham County granted \$734,192 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.

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.