

HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Diane D. Gill, Director

The Department of Human Services was responsible for an appropriated budget of \$16,893,138 for the funding of residents of nursing homes or persons who are receiving care in their own homes as an alternative to nursing home care.

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 (INC) and Home and Community Based Services (HCBC). The State of New Hampshire assumed liability for other categories of assistance.

The Intermediate Nursing Care 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, 50 percent county share. The average number of Medicaid recipients receiving nursing home care is 656 per month.

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 418 persons.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) has had a beneficial effect on this budget, in that counties' percentage of Medicaid expenses has been temporarily reduced by the receipt of funds from the federal government. It is important to recognize that the revenue from ARRA funds is temporary, and makes the budget expenditures appear lower than actual costs.

I would like to commend the excellent staff of this department for success in preventing costly incarceration of young adults in our county correctional facility. The Adult Diversion Program served one hundred and thirteen clients during 2009, with only fourteen returned for prosecution.

I appreciate the guidance of the Board of Commissioners and commend the professional staff of Rockingham County for their dedicated efforts on behalf of county taxpayers.