

Georgia Shepherd

Subject: Dec 4 NTBHA meeting

>

>> Hi Keith,

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>> I will be at the NTBHA meeting on the 14th. My daughter has a
>> basketball game on Monday night, so I will not make the discussion on
>> the letter to the state. However, here are a few of the points I
>> would make in considering your letter. I am attaching the table used
>> to reference this information from the DSHS website (given to me by Alex).

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>> The point I would make is the allocation of funds does not seem to be
>> fair across the state.

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>> Northstar provided services to 26.94% of the Non-Medicaid (indigent)
>> people who received services in the state in 2010, but we only
>> received 13.22% of the funds allocated to provide those services.
>> Individuals in Northstar received an average of \$1639.86 worth of
>> services (lowest in the state); whereas, the average person
>> throughout the state received \$3832.66. The next lowest LMHA
>> received \$2550.22 per person served, and the highest received
>> \$6710.42 per person served. The next largest provider of services is
>> Harris MHMR. They provided services to 9.39% of the people served,
>> and they received 14.03% of the funding. Individuals in Harris MHMR received an average of \$4991.35
worth of services throughout the year.

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>> I know we (NTBHA) operate a little differently (and apparently more
>> efficiently), but this seems inherently unfair and raises a lot of
>> questions I do not have answered yet. I am assuming that the state
>> cut the funding equally across all LMHAs for this budget cycle, but I
>> do not know that for sure.

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>> Regardless, I would argue that we were already operating at close to
>> max efficiency and the cuts to this budget have caused us to reduce
>> services to a level that will lead to more expensive services being
>> required through more people being incarcerated or served in
>> emergency rooms. Other LMHAs may be able to absorb the budget cuts
>> without eliminating essential services by finding more efficient ways
>> to operate. Unfortunately, with Northstar, we do not have that
>> luxury. Due to the reduced level of funding we have always had, we
>> cannot find more efficiencies without cutting essential services that
>> will ultimately cost us (and the state) more money in the long run.

>>

>> I would like to know how these numbers compare for the current budget
>> cycle, but I do not have that information and I do not know if it is

>> available yet. I am copying Alex on this, in case I have missed
>> something or he has a different interpretation of this information.
>>
>> Thanks,
>> Bret
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>> On Tue, Nov 29, 2011 at 10:27 AM, Keith Self Judge <
>> keith.self@co.collin.tx.us> wrote:
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>>> Brett, I have a long-standing speaking engagement at noon on Dec 14,
>>> so I will miss the meeting. Do you plan to attend?
>>>
>>> The Commissioners Court will be discussing the letter to the state
>>> at the evening court on Dec 5 in Plano at 6 PM. If you care to
>>> attend, you can participate if you choose. It should be an interesting discussion.
>>>
>>> Thanks,
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>>> Keith Self
>>> County Judge
>>> Collin County
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>> --
>> Mayor Bret Baldwin
>> City of Murphy, TX
>> City of Murphy Website <<http://murphytx.org>>