

**Address by Lynn Miehle
to the State of Wisconsin's
Joint Finance Committee**

I would like to thank the Joint Finance Committee for the opportunity to express my concerns this morning. My name is Lynn Miehle and I am the office manager for the DeRose Children's Dental Office at 316 5th Street in downtown Racine.

We are a caring and compassionate office and have been committed to treating children on medical assistance since the doctor began practice twenty years ago. Every day we get calls about children who cried all night long in pain or have been sent home from school with high fevers and swollen faces. I could talk for hours about the heartbreaking cases -- sometimes it's a lack of money, sometimes the parents are loving but negligent with ignorance, sometimes we suspect abuse -- but in all cases, it comes down to one thing, a child's suffering.

In the past, when I got such calls I would schedule an appointment for the child immediately. Now, that Racine has joined a Dental HMO program for medical assistance, and we can only accept certain patients, I apologize that we can't see their child, and direct them to call one of the two dentists in Racine that are HMO providers. What I don't tell them is that their hurting child won't get an appointment any time soon because the few doctors that participate in the HMO are overwhelmed.

Wisconsin has historically been a progressive State and seeking new solutions to a challenging public health issue is in character with our past. Unfortunately, the choice of an HMO structure for dental health was debilitating. Just as many individuals are opting out of their employers HMO's because they have realized that they can get better quality care if they choose from providers operating in a competitive market, the State should reconsider the direction they are steering the Medical Assistance program.

We believe that there is a false sense of security that the HMO is providing adequate care ^{just} because it exists. At a certain point, and we hope it is sooner than later, the Medical Assistance program needs to be evaluated by the standards of quality not merely as an option better than nothing.

On the surface, the solution would appear to be simple -- have more dentists participate in the HMO program. Unfortunately, it is not that simple. At the bottom of this problem is the fact that dentists can not afford to, nor should they have to, PAY, to take care of our State's needy. In our office alone we billed _____ and were compensated only 75% of our fees. Dentistry receives less than 1% of the 2.5 billion dollars spent on Medicaid in Wisconsin. In 1981, Wisconsin spent 25 million dollars on dental Medicaid and dentists were reimbursed at 85% of their fees; ^{but} In 1998, Wisconsin spent only 14 million dollars, ~~and reimbursed us at 53% of our fees.~~ ^{and reimbursed us much lower fees.}

Funds allocated to health are always wise investments because preventive medicine is always the best -- this is especially true of dentistry. As the one who negotiates payment arrangements with parents, I can assure you it is less expensive to pay for regular exams, cleanings, and fluoride treatments than it is to pay for root canals, crowns, and pulpectomies. Recent research is even indicating a strong correlation between heart disease and the lack of proper dental care.

Dental health providers are good people. I know -- I attend conferences with them, I play volley ball with them, and most significantly, I talk to them about all of the charity work they do in and out of their offices. The lack of participation in the Medical Assistance program is a shame, but it is completely understandable. The Governor's 10% increase is a step in the right direction. But it must be remembered that the program belongs to the State and needs to be fixed by the State. We need the Joint Finance Committee to budget accordingly with fair reimbursement. Thank you.



Wisconsin Council 40
AFSCME, AFL-CIO

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Michael Murphy
President
Robert W. Lyons
Executive Director

Testimony of John Maglio, Staff Representative
AFSCME Council 40
Joint Committee on Finance Budget Hearing
Thursday, April 8, 1999 -- Racine, Wisconsin

Hello. My name is John Maglio and I represent AFSCME Council 40 members who work for local units of government in Racine, Kenosha, and Waukesha counties. I'm here to urge your support for an increase in two very important appropriations that provide critical services to the most vulnerable citizens in our communities: Youth Aids and Basic Community Aids. I would also like to address our concerns with the Governor's Family Care proposal.

Many of the programs funded by Youth Aids and Community Aids are mandated by the state. The shortage of funds has caused the costs for these mandated services to be shifted to the local county tax levy. This pressure on the levy results in waiting lists for non-mandated programs as well as cuts in other important services that counties provide.

The shift from state to county funding of Youth Aids services has been quite dramatic. In 1982, the Youth Aids appropriation funded 92 percent of all county costs for serving juveniles. By 1997, it only paid for 45 percent of the costs, \$82.3 million. Counties now contribute more than the state--around \$100 million per year, primarily from property taxes to fund the other 55 percent of costs associated with the services.



in the public service



We would urge this committee to consider the following measures to rectify the Youth Aids funding dilemma:

1. Increase the Youth Aids appropriation over the 1998-99 base by 5 percent in each year of the biennium. The Governor's budget provides a 2% increase in the appropriation each year of the biennium.
2. In the statutes, re-link juvenile corrections rate increases with the requirement that the state increase the Youth Aids appropriation to cover the rate increases.
3. Update the current formula and hold harmless those counties that lose funding under the update.

We are equally concerned with the pressures present in our programs that are funded by the Basic Community Aids allocation. Community Aids provides counties with funding to partially pay for mandated services to abused and neglected children and their families, adults with serious and persistent mental illness, older adults, and adults and children with developmental disabilities.

The funds for Community Aids have been frozen or decreased the past two budget biennia. Increased client populations and increasing costs for services have pressured counties to provide significant "overmatch" to the funding pot. In 1997, 252.6 million county tax dollars matched and overmatched the Community Aids allocation from the state. That amount is greater than the \$175 million state GPR appropriation.

The Governor's budget reduces the Community Aids appropriation by 2.5% and 1.8%, respectively, in each year of the biennium. It also transfers \$14.3 million over the biennium into Family Care and proposes withholding \$9 million over the biennium to distribute to counties based on performance requirements. It also proposes to reduce each county's appropriation by an amount to be determined by the Department of Health & Family Services when a county is

providing services funded by Community Aids to a consumer with a disability who will received services under the proposed MA purchase plan.

These recommendations will seriously undermine the services counties are providing to their citizens. We urge this committee to halt the continual degradation of the Community Aids appropriation by supporting the following:

1. Increase the Community Aids appropriation by at least 3% in each year of the biennium.
2. Delete the statutory requirement for withholding \$9 million of the Community Aids allocation and the performance measures.
3. Delete the statutory authority to transfer Community Aids into Family Care based on a flat percentage. A fairer measure to place Community Aids funds into Family Care would be for the department to negotiate with each individual pilot county to determine the proportion of Community Aids currently funding the types of services to be offered in Family Care.
4. Delete the statutory requirement to reduce a county's Community Aids allocation if a former recipient of services funded by the allocation is a participant in a MA purchase plan.

Many counties are reaching or have reached the tax levy limit ceiling, and with little or no property growth cannot continue to levy additional taxes to cover these increased costs. Yet the demand to provide services continues to grow.

Finally, while AFSCME has generally supported the concept of Family Care, we would recommend several changes to the program as proposed in the Governor's budget:

1. We would recommend that more than one model be piloted. Testing only the model in the Governor's proposal assumes this to be the only model that may meet the goals that you, and the Governor, have for this system of care. A non-risk based model, which would be based upon what the counties are currently doing that works, would not require the creation of duplicative bureaucracies such as the Family Care Districts.
2. We strongly oppose the statutory changes being proposed. These are not necessary for the pilot proposals to operate. Making the significant statutory changes the Department is proposing seems to be saying that it does not matter what information the pilots produce—we know what we want.

Thank you for allowing me to appear before your committee.

*Questions regarding this testimony should be directed to:
Jennifer Grondin
AFSCME Legislative Council
(608) 836-6666*

Good Morning Members of the Legislative Budget Committee:
My name is Helen Woller, and I am the owner / director of Kountry Kids Child Care in Delavan, WI. I come before you today wearing many hats. I am a single parent, a former AFDC recipient, small business owner, child advocate and board member of the Wisconsin Early Childhood Association.

I am urging you to support the Governor's proposed initiatives for the 1999-2001 budget. These proposed initiatives are necessary for providing safe, healthy, quality childcare for Wisconsin families, and increasing benefits for the childcare workforce.

As a small business owner one of the toughest obstacles I face is that of staff recruiting and retention. With the average child care teacher in Walworth county making \$6.00 / hr., it's very hard to find qualified help, and if you do find them, it's hard to retain them.

Last year our center was a recipient of a quality improvement grant, and this enabled us to cut our staff turnover down by two-thirds, from 1997 to 1998, due to increased wages, the addition of health insurance and providing education opportunities for the staff. We need more programs like the quality improvement grants.

The 2nd greatest obstacle a small business owner faces is trying to keep the doors open. Most childcare centers operate on a "shoestring budget" and when more than 30 % of my income comes from W-2 clients, it's very hard to sleep at night worrying that with one change up in Madison, I could be out of business.

To help overcome these challenges, I am asking that in addition to the governor's budget initiatives, that you consider the proposals presented by the Wisconsin Women's Network Legislative Agenda for 1999. Especially restoring the training requirements for all certified providers, and increase the minimum requirement for training in child development to 20 hrs.

I know that you all have a lot of important decisions to make and have to be fiscally responsible, however, before you make any decisions involving childcare, I am asking that you take a moment to stop and think of the impact this will have upon our children and child care businesses. Without changes, many children will not be able to experience quality childcare and many child care centers will not be able to stay open.

Sincerely,

Helen M Woller
Kountry Kids Child Care
5496 Hwy. 50
Delavan, WI 53115

WALWORTH COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

W3955 Highway NN, P.O. Box 1006, Elkhorn, Wisconsin 53121-1006
414-741-3300 1-800-365-1587 TTY 414-741-3272 FAX 414-741-3320

MEMO

TO: Members of the Joint Finance Committee

FROM: Thomas K. Mackesey, Director *Tom*
Walworth County Department of Health & Human Services

RE: State Budget

DATE: April 8, 1999

As you deliberate on the budget which is presently before you, I would ask you to give special consideration to your partner in providing essential health and human services to citizens of Wisconsin. The partnership the counties of Wisconsin have had with the State over the last ten years has suffered from the inadequacy of sufficient funding to carry on the increased demands at the local level. While some of these demands resulted from State mandates, others were simply the result of societal changes and problems which have resulted in increased use of local services which we are simply unable to provide without substantial increases in funding.

Since the State has been unable to assist counties in meeting these needs, we have had to request additional funds from our county taxpayers in order to keep services at a level which we feel we must retain. The State has exacerbated this problem by raising the rates it charges counties for essential supportive services such as mental health in-patient days at our state institutes and correctional charges from our youth correctional facilities. These charges, over the past 5 years, have increased in one case 27% and another 50%. This shortfall needed to be covered by the county, and in my situation I am fortunate to have supportive a county board who has stood behind essential services that our department must provide.

Walworth County has, in the past 10 years, integrated, modernized and, in many situations, privatized its operations. We have eliminated administrative overhead from 5 previously separate departments and developed one responsive, technology-assisted health and human services department. We have, meanwhile, made a county investment in prevention projects such as family preservation, Early Intervention programs for families, and alcohol and drug programs in our county correctional facilities. We have 4 model communities working under our Family Preservation program who are making significant progress dealing with the problems of our youth and families at the local level, and are seeing that these efforts will reduce the long-term reliance on the county for assistance. However, these efforts will probably be jeopardized

if limits are put on our county, which may end up forcing these programs to die while we pay the ever-increasing bills which our state facilities will pass on to us, with no limits on their ability to do so.

Any effort you can make to infuse a better sense of equity and fairness into our partnership arrangement will eventually end up assisting those for whom you are setting public policy. Many of the responsibilities that we now carry out at the county level are shared responsibilities that at one time were all state responsibilities. If we could, in good faith, share our support of those services and develop a better financial partnership, we would do a much better job of serving our citizens.

Thank you for taking the time to listen. If there is any way in which I can provide information to help you deal with the difficulties regarding this budget, I would be happy to provide same.

TKM:vm



Transitional Living Services, Inc.



Transitional Living Services, Inc.

Elizabeth Aldred
CSP Director

436 Main Street • Racine, Wisconsin 53403
414-637-8820 (VOICE/TTY) • 414-637-6942 (FAX)



The joint finance committee is meeting at Case High School here in
Though attending this meeting may be difficult for you, as a consum
we would appreciate your comments as to the following questions:

1. What does the community support program mean to you and your recovery from Mental Illness?

I feel that this Program has helped
me through some difficult times. I would
~~be~~ really feel lost if this Program is
cut by the budget.

2. How would you be affected if this program were to be cut?

My medication and payee would be hard
to do.



The joint finance committee is meeting at Case High School here in Racine on Thursday April 8, 1999. Though attending this meeting may be difficult for you, as a consumer of mental health services to attend, we would appreciate your comments as to the following questions:

1. What does the community support program mean to you and your recovery from Mental Illness?

It manages my ~~budget~~
budget manages my meds

2. How would you be affected if this program were to be cut?

I would not be able
to get my budget managed
I would have to have
people coming to my
house all of the time

Dave Galley





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1. What does the community support program mean to you and your recovery from Mental Illness?

No Bother

2. How would you be affected if this program were to be cut?

No Bother

Shane Kennedy





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1. What does the community support program mean to you and your recovery from Mental Illness?

*I feel that it will help me
out really good. I need it.*

2. How would you be affected if this program were to be cut?

I wouldn't like it!



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1. What does the community support program mean to you and your recovery from Mental Illness?

It means that the establishment
has been trying to help me get
back on my feet and this is
appreciate. I commend them and
all their staff for their greater
support

2. How would you be affected if this program were to be cut?

I'd probably have to go to a half-way
house or live on my own and
get my own doctor and try to
live at the same place.

May Butler





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1. What does the community support program mean to you and your recovery from Mental Illness?

*Belonging to each other for moral support
in time of needs*

2. How would you be affected if this program were to be cut?

*I would feel apart both mentally &
psychically! I need their support right
now because I'm going through a very
tough time emotionally*

Loee Wilkins





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1. What does the community support program mean to you and your recovery from Mental Illness?

medication, Dr are provided
services

2. How would you be affected if this program were to be cut?

I would need to find other services
to help me

Runell error





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1. What does the community support program mean to you and your recovery from Mental Illness?

I'm in a ~~D~~ routine

2. How would you be affected if this program were to be cut?

no affect

Dennis Meyer





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1. What does the community support program mean to you and your recovery from Mental Illness?

as I agency has help me in the community

2. How would you be affected if this program were to be cut?

well I would manage in the community
I my own

Sunny Wilmar





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1. What does the community support program mean to you and your recovery from Mental Illness?

I have had very good treatments from TLS and know I need help to do better, and feel good results from others getting the same mental help.

2. How would you be affected if this program were to be cut?

I think being around around people who are in need of the same help

Mrs Carol A Meyer





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1. What does the community support program mean to you and your recovery from Mental Illness?

Meds, Mental Help, Moral Support

2. How would you be affected if this program were to be cut?

*I would miss talking to my case worker and
The Psychiatrist -*

Joseph Arnes





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1. What does the community support program mean to you and your recovery from Mental Illness?

Counseling, bills taken care of,
Good and helpful medication,
Friendly social workers.

2. How would you be affected if this program were to be cut?

I would feel lonely, I would
not have guidance.

Robert Schwab





Rudy R.

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1. What does the community support program mean to you and your recovery from Mental Illness?

I think TLS helps me in medication and my worker to help me and help my ~~finance~~ money situations.

2. How would you be affected if this program were to be cut?

I'd be on my own payee that's more responsibility for me.





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1. What does the community support program mean to you and your recovery from Mental Illness?

help me alot

2. How would you be affected if this program were to be cut?

*probably
probably have to go to the hospital*

George Cole





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1. What does the community support program mean to you and your recovery from Mental Illness?

I can get my money managed and my medication on a daily basis.

2. How would you be affected if this program were to be cut?

I would probably have to find another place to live.

Karen Fryer





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1. What does the community support program mean to you and your recovery from Mental Illness?

I reminds me of my recovery and gives good advice.

2. How would you be affected if this program were to be cut?

I probably will become depressed and that's all

Brenda L. Bennett



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1. What does the community support program mean to you and your recovery from Mental Illness?

I am not currently in TLS, but I attend the STENSS meeting (for dual diagnosis) and it really helps me express my feelings and lowers the risk of relapse to drug/alcohol or depression a lot. I would also be affected because most of my friends are in TLS and they will have lots of difficulty without it. Some can't handle their own resources and will be taken advantage of.

2. How would you be affected if this program were to be cut?

I wouldn't have any place to go to share how my mental and emotional illnesses could relate with people like me to keep me stable.

Thank you,

Bob Blevins

Tanna Thompson



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1. What does the community support program mean to you and your recovery from Mental Illness?

I can't say they've been a big help as far as my recovery from mental illness don't know if that will ever go away my problems might now mean one's son to deal with relationships breaking up and people treating me like I did first my way but then I found

2. How would you be affected if this program were to be cut?

It would affect me a lot I'd probably have to try to manage my own money and bill would have to find some other way and doctor to get my important med. I would like to go to like perhaps Sunny Beach Washington rest from away for a year being no spending money.



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1. What does the community support program mean to you and your recovery from Mental Illness?

It will help you in anything you need help in.

2. How would you be affected if this program were to be cut?

It will be difficult to get the help we need.





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1. What does the community support program mean to you and your recovery from Mental Illness?

It means that I have someone to talk to about my mental illness. And they always listen to me about my problems.

2. How would you be affected if this program were to be cut?

I wouldn't have anyone to talk to about my symptoms.





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1. What does the community support program mean to you and your recovery from Mental Illness?

*Higher level of orientation as people in Society
General Interest*

2. How would you be affected if this program were to be cut?

Three times the effort to stay afloat "in Society"



LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF JOINT FINANCE, MY NAME IS MAUREEN REED, I SERVE ON THE KENOSHA COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING. I AM HERE TODAY TO TELL YOU THAT I'M NOT INTERESTED IN SELLING MY GRANDMOTHER FOR A \$75 TAX BREAK.

NEITHER AM I INTERESTED IN BENEFITTING IN ANY WAY FROM THE REDUCTION OF SERVICES TO ANY OF OUR MOST VULNERABLE PEOPLE; MENTALLY ILL, PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED, THE POOR, THE UNEMPLOYED, THE ELDERLY, THE CHILDREN.

I'VE LIVED IN WISCONSIN ALL MY LIFE AND HAVE BEEN PROUD OF OUR NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED CHARACTER AS AN INDEPENDENT PEOPLE WITH A TREMENDOUS WORK ETHIC, A STRONG FAITH, AND COMPASSION FOR THOSE WHO NEED OUR HELP.

NOW, FOR THE FIRST TIME, I AM ASHAMED TO SAY I'M A WISCONSINITE.

THE LONG-TIME LEADER OF OUR STATE HAS BETRAYED OUR PRINCIPLES AND ERODED OUR COMPASSION BY USING EACH BI-ENNIAL BUDGET TO SET POLICY, TO MANDATE REDUCTION OF SERVICES TO OUR NEEDIEST POPULATIONS, AND TO GAIN PERSONAL PRESTIGE AS AN ECONOMIC "WIZARD."

THIS "WIZARD" HAS MADE THE POOR DISAPPEAR FROM WISCONSIN BY THE WAVE OF A PEN.

HE HAS CREATED A CLASS OF SUCCESSFUL AND PROSPEROUS BUSINESS OWNERS THROUGH "REDISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH" VIA TAX MANIPULATIONS AND MANDATED "FEES" IN EVERY BUDGET, ALL THE WHILE CLAIMING HE IS CUTTING TAXES AND PROVIDING TAX "GIFTS" TO WISCONSIN TAXPAYERS, WHO OF COURSE SUPPLY THE MONEY IN THE FIRST PLACE.

WE ARE PAYING DEARLY FOR THE MAGIC SHOW PUT ON BY THE "WIZARD OF OZ"; A SMALL MAN SHELTERING UNDER A LARGE STATE-CAPITOL DOME, USING INTIMIDATION AND QUESTIONABLE TACTICS AND INFLUENCE TO MAKE HIMSELF ATTRACTIVE AS A CANDIDATE FOR NATIONAL OFFICE.

WE CANNOT CONTINUE TO PROSPER BY CUTTING QUALITY OF LIFE THINGS SUCH AS FISHING LICENSES FOR THE ELDERLY, A MERE \$4 WAGE INCREASE FOR PERSONAL CARE WORKERS TENDING THE HOMEBOUND, OR BY INCREASING THE BASE OF TAXATION FOR SOCIAL SECURITY PAYMENTS TO 85%!!

YOU HAVE THE UNENVIABLE JOB OF ATTEMPTING TO CURTAIL THE ACTIONS OF THE EMPEROR, OF MAKING IT CLEAR THAT HIS BEAUTIFUL NEW CLOTHES ARE, INDEED, INVISIBLE, AND WE CAN ALL SEE HIS NAKED

GREED AND LUST FOR POWER.

**PLEASE MAKE THE EFFORT, FOR ALL OUR SAKES AND GOD GIVE YOU
STRENGTH.**

**Testimony for Joint Finance Committee Hearings on State Budget
Thursday, April 8, 1999
J.I. Case High School in Racine, WI
Submitted by Ed Adams**

Dear Joint Finance Committee Members:

My name is Ed Adams. I am a member of the Advisory Council of the Southeastern Wisconsin Area Agency on Aging, who I am representing today. I am here today because we are concerned about the status of long term care programs and workers who provide these services. The current system of long term care is fragmented, underfunded, and extremely difficult to find your way through and that is why we support the Governor's Family Care proposal. In order to make this proposal work, there are certain things that are essential for making a real attempt at redesign.

The pilot programs that are already in place in areas that cover a large percentage of the state's population need adequate financial resources, in order to function properly and truly serve as a pilot project. These pilots are the cornerstone for the future of the Governor's Family Care proposal. Without proper funding, the state

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will never be able to see what affect the pilot programs have on placing individuals in the right setting for care and will essentially fail. If the state is serious about making this system easier for people in need of long term care, it must make an effort to bring the long term care programs together. If the programs are not pulled together with the proper resources, the pilot counties will not be able to plan delivery of much needed services. I repeat, adequate funding is essential for a fair assessment of the pilot programs.

Next, we would like to stress the importance of protecting the rights of long term care customers or clients through the external advocacy component in the proposed language.

To make sure that people receiving these services are empowered with fair and expeditious ways to address their concerns, we are asking for your support that the external advocacy portion be maintained.

This external advocate would be independent of the agency or organization that is providing services for Family Care clients. It would

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be the watchdog for all individuals looking to get the most from the programs that are available. It would also act as a center for persons who want to inquire about program eligibility, the level of care they will receive and provider options. If an individual feels their rights are being violated or if they are not receiving the quality of care they deserve, it is unfair to have that same agency or organization that may be violating these rights, investigating the complaint. It is also important that families and clients have an unbiased assesment of their needs. The external advocate is imperative to the success of the long term care redesign.

A major part of providing quality long term care for the elderly and disabled are the personal care workers. They are the front line workers who are the heart of long term care. They provide vital services for people in home care. If the state is going to redesign long term care, a sufficient and reliable workforce is crucial. Unfortunately, the governor's budget only includes a 1% pay reimbursement increase

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for personal care workers which does not become effective until 2001.

As small as this raise is, it is the first one proposed in four years. It is impossible to run a redesigned long term care network where keeping people in their homes is important, if organizations that provide the home care have to close their doors or turn away clients, because wages and fringe benefits do not stack up to other employment sectors. The time to turn around the image of personal care workers is now.

Adequate compensation is necessary to recruit and maintain these people to provide this valuable service.

In closing, I would like to thank you for your time here today.

This is a great opportunity for us older adults to share our concerns with you. I am hoping that you will support proper funding and resources for the Family Care pilot programs, fair pay and benefits for Personal Care Workers, and the formation of an external advocacy component for long term care services.

Testimony by Dan Young

4-8-99

I was in a car accident in 1991. It left me a C5-6 Quad. I live in a 3 bedroom ranch with my daughters ages 7 and 14. I need a PCW to provide the care that keeps me at home at a lower cost compared to all other options. I'm a tax paying home owner, I'm very involved in keep cost as low as possible and get my needs met. This is a business I must compete with all other companies for help. I cannot compete with substandard ~~with~~ wages and no benefits. I desperately need help. I have not had a shower since December and no brake in sight.

Independence First has promised to pass the increase directly to the workers. This is the most cost effective situation available all other cannot compare. This increase will make it possible for me to compete and get the help I need.

The other half is COP and they are being ask to help many more people with no increase in funds. I will lose!

Testimony in support of the \$4.00 increase to MA Personal Care.

Wages need to be raised for personal care workers because workers have to be able to earn enough to live + pay their rent + food + gas + ^{auto} expenses + utilities, which ^{are} all going otherwise they constantly look for new work + we lose them. We have to compete with nursing homes + home health care agencies which ^{& pr. care incl} often times are paid significantly higher + have ^{benef} ~~health ins included~~ ^{will}.

~~HOME HEALTH CARE~~
~~PROVIDE~~

I WAS IN A CAR ACCIDENT IN 1991 IT LEFT ME A C5-6 SPINAL CORD I LIVE IN A 3500 BARN WITH MY 2 DAUGHTERS + 14

I need DPCW to provide the care that keeps me at home AT A LOWER COST COMPARE TO ALL OTHER DPCW IN NJ I AM A TAX PAYING HOME OWNER I AM VERY INVOLVED IN KEEP COST AS LOW AS POSSIBLE AND GET MY MEDS MEET THIS IS A BUSINESS I MUST COMPETE WITH ALL OTHER COMPANIES FOR HELP

I cannot compete with SUBSISTANT
WAGES AND NO BENEFITS I RESPECTFULLY
NEED HELP I HAVE NOT HAD A
SHOWER SINCE DECEMBER AND NO BRAKE
IN SIGHT

IT HAS PROMISED TO PASS THE INCREASE
DIRECTLY TO THE WORKERS
THIS IS THE MOST COST EFFECTIVE
SITUATION AVAILABLE ALL OTHER CANNOT
COMPARE THIS INCREASE WILL MAKE IT
POSSIBLE FOR ME TO COMPETE AND GET
THE HELP I NEED

THE OTHER HALF IS COP AND THEY ARE
BEING ASKED TO TAKE MANY MORE RESPONSIBILITIES
WITH NO INCREASE IN FUNDS
I WILL PROSE

RICH MARSHON



8008 West Capitol Dr. • Milwaukee, WI 53222 • (414) 464-1800 • FAX (414) 464-1804

April 6, 1999

Representative Cloyd Porter
P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Cloyd Porter,

On behalf of children and families served by our agency and as Executive Director, we strongly urge your support of action to restore Community aids funding to Milwaukee County. While all other counties will face a reasonable and equitable cut of 2.9% in Community Aids, Milwaukee County's share are to be decreased by 13% (equalling \$2.9 million) from current levels.

Our agency staff and board members feel the stress created out of the continuous changes brought on by service delivery reorganization. Other programs experience this same difficulty but can tell you better the direct impact on treatment and care for individuals. We feel the State Legislature, through action by the Joint Finance Committee, should use \$2.9 million from its emergency contingency fund to solve this critical problem. We urge you to support action that would correct this inequity. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'John H. Molenaar'.

John H Molenaar
8008 W Capitol
Milwaukee, WI 53222
1-414-464-1800

home: N78 W14942 Pueblo
Menomonie Falls, WI 53051

P:\state\tr99.wps

April 2, 1999

To the Members of the Joint Finance Committee:

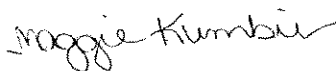
I am the parent of a child who receives special education services through the Racine County School Office and reside in the Waterford School District. I am unable to attend this meeting due to a prior commitment. Please allow me to submit my input regarding the funding issue before us.

My 9 year old son has the diagnosis of autism and has been a part of state programming since age 2. In addition to school, he participates in a state funded behavior modification home program. Having a child with any disability is an extremely time consuming and labor intensive lifestyle for parents, not to mention the emotional strain it can have on family members and all who work with these kids.

When he entered the Waterford school district, I was overwhelmed by how much is involved to ensure that my son received quality programming. Through the extraordinary efforts of RCSO in coordination with my local school district, I feel that everyone involved has done all they can to achieve that goal. We have had obstacles of little to no funding to implement certain areas of his education and I am astonished that we now have to face having funds cut even further!

Please, do not allow funding to be cut any further than it already is. Racine County School Office should be entitled to the funding that was not included in the Governor's funding provision. The taxpayers of Racine County should not be forced to pay more than its fair share of taxes to make up for an oversight on the part of the state.

Sincerely,



Maggie Kumbier
3122 Buena Park Road
Burlington, WI 53105

Community Aides can not continue to be cut without continuing impact on the consumers being served. I am the Director of a Community Support Program in Milwaukee County as well as one in Racine County. Transitional Living Services are serving 175 people with Severe and Persistent Mental Illness in Racine and serving approximately 300 people in Milwaukee. I have seen the difference that the cuts in budgets have had in the different counties. Racine County lost an excellent provider of CSP in Goodwill Industries due to insufficient funds. Who suffered? The Consumers, one of which committed suicide during the transition/engagement phase. Services have also been cut in Milwaukee. Group Home beds have decreased CSP and TCM jobs have decreased. We have run a certified community support program in Milw. since 1993. Last year my team in Milw had only 1 hospitalization for 60 people. These 2 programs show how consistent community supports create a decreased need for costly services i.e. hospitalization as well insuring a quality of life that could not otherwise be achieved. I have submitted multiple written statements from some of our consumers who were unable to attend today's meeting. The one that struck me

most was the consumer who indicated that how she was affected by CSP was "life" and what would be the result if this program is cut was "death". This is a life and death budget cut that you are discussing. The mental illnesses that are affecting these consumers are will result in deaths, drug/alcohol self-medication & criminal justice involvement, if services are cut or eliminated. Please consider carefully the lives of your constituents that will be affected. Remember when dollars relate to lives we are all held accountable. Thank you for your time in reading this statement.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Aldred

CSP Director

Transitional Living Services

Racine County and Milwaukee County

Ladies & Gentlemen I am addressing you because I feel that if the mental health is cut, the programs that are not cut will be overloaded. I have been ~~not~~ involved in several programs that are funded by you and I feel as well as others that they have benefited me. Without ~~these~~ programs like DVPR, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, I never would have graduated from Gateway Technical Collage, They helped me pay for my books, and get through collage with special needs, like ~~to~~ special testing and textbooks read. Another program is Homes for Independent living. I benefited from this \$ when I was getting out of Winibago and had nowhere to go. I was ~~able~~ able to stay there for 6 months, till I got back on my feet, another program I benefited from was Goodwill. The CSP (Community Support Program) helped me to get on my feet as far as controlling my money and helping to keep my medicine controlled. In January T&S Transitional Living Services took ^{over} the goodwill or CSP program. When they started the Drop-in program, I started coming down and really having fun. This stopped

me from sitting on the couch at home and melting away. As for the Crisis Center, I used that, too. When I was in my own place and did not feel real safe or even suicidal, I could go there and get counseling, a safe place. If not for them I would not be here today. These are just a few of the places I have used and all of them have helped me in one way or another. That is ~~why~~ why I am pleading with you not to cut the budget of the mental health services

Jodine F Delray
(2)

To whom it may concern,

I am a mother of 3

children and I have a few problems that I was trying to deal with. I was facing 8 charges of truancy (my child not going to school) and at my wife and I were trying to get my 2 younger children to school and trying to work a job at the same time. Finally with the help of Professional Services and working with them, things now are alot better I can work my job and support my family. My 2 children are attending school full time and all day they are not skipping class or sitting at home. The charges I was facing are dropped and my family is alot happier and so am I.

If it wasn't for Professional Services coming into my family I would of lost everything my job, my family and my home. →


Everything I worked hard for the last 10 years was saved with the help of Professional Services.

Please keep programs like this one they really do help, more than you even know.

Thank You

Susan Brown
3219 Victory Ave
Racine WI
53405

1110 1911 70114



Hi, my name is Ryan C. O'Toole.
and I'm a client of PSN.

~~Sean Davis~~

Sean Davis ~~and~~ ~~He~~ is my
worker and friend. And I
believe they should continue
to proceed with their
work. Me and other kids
love to work ~~with~~ with them,
but it's more like playing.
Thank you for your time.
Have a nice. I hope to
continue with PSN.

Hi, my name is Sean
O'Toole I am also a
client of PSN. This is
my first ~~speech~~ speech
and I am very nervous.
So really all.

To: Kimberly Plache

If it was not for
these people I ~~would~~
would be detention
or in another home.

We can't stop these
~~programs~~ programs because
other kids need help
too. But I am still
in my home. They helped
me at school at home too.

Kayla Brown

3219 Victory Ave
Rockne WI
53905

They helped me get back
in school because school
is verry important.
You have to stay in
school.