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Details: Legislative Audit Bureau Report 07-14: An Audit: Wisconsin Mental Health Institutes,
Department of Health and Family Services

(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

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#### An Audit

# Wisconsin Mental Health Institutes

Department of Health and Family Services

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From the Department of Health and Family Services



#### STATE OF WISCONSIN

# Legislative Audit Bureau

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> Janice Mueller State Auditor

September 27, 2007

Senator Jim Sullivan and Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz, Co-chairpersons Joint Legislative Audit Committee State Capitol Madison, Wisconsin 53702

Dear Senator Sullivan and Representative Jeskewitz:

We have completed financial audits of Mendota and Winnebago Mental Health Institutes for the period July 1, 2005, through June 30, 2006. The audits were requested by the Department of Health and Family Services to comply with requirements of the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. We were able to express an unqualified opinion on each Institute's financial statements.

Mendota and Winnebago Mental Health Institutes are licensed and accredited hospitals that provide specialized diagnostic, evaluation, and treatment services for mentally ill children and adults. The Institutes also provide services to forensic patients referred to them through the criminal justice system. The Institutes are funded through a mix of general purpose revenue and program revenue.

Each Institute reported a financial gain for fiscal year 2005-06. Mendota reported a gain of \$1.2 million, and Winnebago reported a gain of \$1.8 million. In each case, operating revenues increased enough to offset increases in operating expenses, such as salary and fringe benefit costs. Further, each Institute reported a positive accounting balance, which is reflected in its financial statements as unrestricted net assets.

As part of our audit, we followed up on internal control concerns reported in our prior year's audit related to administration of approximately \$395,000 in client funds by the Program of Assertive Community Treatment, an outpatient unit of Mendota. To assist clients in managing their own money, staff receive and disburse funds on their behalf. In accepting client funds, the State is responsible for ensuring proper controls are in place to reduce the risks of error or misappropriation. While some improvements were made, internal control concerns remain related to client funds administered by the Program of Assertive Community Treatment, including a lack of separation of duties and limited oversight of operations.

We appreciate the courtesy and cooperation extended to us by Department of Health and Family Services staff during our audit. A response from the Department follows our report.

Respectfully submitted,

Audin

Janice Mueller State Auditor

JM/CS/ss