



**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

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**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** February 10, 2014

**TO:** Senate Appropriations Chair, Senator Deb Peters  
House Appropriations Chair, Representative Fred Romkema

**FROM:** Gloria Pearson, Secretary

**SUBJECT:** Response to JCA Questions

Thank you for the opportunity to meet with the Joint Appropriations Committee to discuss the Department of Human Services' (DHS) recommended budget for FY2015. Below is our departments' response to the six questions posed in your letter dated December 11, 2013.

1. What current activities will your agency eliminate, initiate, or significantly change?

*Response: The DHS will have the primary responsibility of carrying out the recommendations of Governor Daugaard's Employment Works Task Force. Task force recommendations include eliminating disincentives to employment for people with disabilities and connecting businesses to employees with disabilities. The DHS will also be the lead agency in South Dakota in the Promoting the Readiness of Minors in Supplemental Security Income (PROMISE) initiative that is designed to implement interventions for youth ages 14 to 16 who receive Supplemental Security Income. Through an experimental design, this five year, multimillion-dollar project will provide interventions to positively impact the youths' education and employment as well as the overall household income of their families. Finally, the DHS will continue building the necessary capacity to support individuals with intellectual disabilities in their communities and expand services for people who are deaf or hard of hearing.*

2. What initiatives for improving efficiency of operations are planned in FY15?

*Response: The South Dakota Developmental Center (SDDC) will continue with its Rebalancing Initiative implemented in FY13. The initiative's focus has been an effort to transition people into community-based settings while providing high levels of support to people remaining at SDDC. Through this initiative SDDC was able to discharge 36 people while admitting only 23. In FY15, SDDC and DDD will work together with community*

*support providers (CSPs) to develop the infrastructure and community capacity to support more people with complex needs in home and community based settings.*

*Additionally, continuous quality improvement activities such as case file reviews and consumer satisfaction surveys will continue to be performed on an on-going basis. Administrative staff and supervisors are able to use the information gathered from these activities to improve the efficiency of operations.*

3. What are the standards of performance or metrics by which you judge the success and efficiencies of your agency's outcomes?

*Response: For the Division of Developmental Disabilities, standards are measured through their accreditation process through the national quality assurance organization called the Council on Quality and Leadership, compliance with Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) waiver assurances, file reviews, the Department of Social Services (DSS) Medicaid oversight, and National Core Indicators project. SDDC receives an annual recertification evaluation by the Department of Health based upon federal ICF/IID standards. The Divisions of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) and Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired (SBVI) gather information for evaluation standards and performance indicators for the vocational rehabilitation (VR) program that include outcome and related measures of program performance. One example of a performance indicator is the percentage of consumers who exit the DRS or SBVI vocational rehabilitation programs in competitive employment at or above the state minimum wage.*

4. What funds from FY14 are planned to be applied to FY15 activities? Are these amounts in addition to amounts contained in the Governor's FY15 budget?

*Response: None*

5. What are your plans regarding amending the FY14 General Bill?

*Response: On our department's behalf, the Bureau of Finance & Management (BFM) and the Bureau of Human Resources (BHR) will be proposing some amendments pertaining to Bureau Billings, utility costs, and Health Insurance. These details will be presented by BFM and BHR and are proposed in HB1040; An Act to revise the General Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2014.*

6. What programs and services offered by your agency have been, or will be affected by federal budget reductions due to the Budget Control Act of 2011 or other actions by the federal government? Were General and/or Other Funds used to support the continuation of these programs or services?

*Response: The DHS receives various grants from the US Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration to fund programs offered by the Division of Rehabilitation Services and Division of Services to the Blind and Visually Impaired. These grants have been cut under the Budget Control Act (BCA); however, we did not use general or other funds.*

*Additionally, the DHS receives the Developmental Disabilities Basic Support grant from the Health and Human Services Administration to fund the South Dakota Council on Developmental Disabilities. There was a minimal cut to this grant under the BCA.*