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## comments re LCCF05

From: **Foster, Michael** (Michael.Foster@sclhs.net)

Sent: Fri 6/20/14 10:30 AM

To: 'Dave Wanzenried' (daveew@gmail.com); 'Roger Webb' (webb4mt@hotmail.com);  
'carolynpeaselopez@gmail.com' (carolynpeaselopez@gmail.com)

Good morning, Honorable Legislators!

Thank you again, Sen. Wanzenried and Sen. Webb, for meeting with a group of us on short notice on Wednesday morning. All of us thought it was a very productive meeting. I'm very sorry, Rep. Pease-Lopez, that you had to miss the meeting due to a family loss. Everyone at the meeting expressed their sympathy and best wishes.

Below is our response to a request by Sen. Wanzenried for bullet points regarding our concerns about LCCF05, the draft bill addressing HB 130 grant funding for community-based crisis services. We hope this information is helpful, and we greatly appreciate your willingness to meet with us and work to improve crisis services in Montana.

Thank you!

Mike

Here are our comments:

Language in Section 1, part 4 on page 3 has the effect of allocating all the additional \$1 million for the biennium or \$500,000 per year (Section 2) in HB 130 grant funding to new crisis services only

CHILDREN & FAMILIES  
June 25, 2014  
**Exhibit 30**

Intent of the committee was to increase available funding for both existing and new community-based crisis facilities and programs

Although subpart b of part 4 says that State funding for existing crisis services being provided in Billings, Bozeman, and Hamilton would be maintained at current levels, the prioritization of the additional \$1 million (Section 2) to new facilities would likely result in existing facilities being prohibited from accessing any of that additional funding

So, the draft needs to clarify that existing crisis facilities (currently in Billings, Bozeman, and Hamilton) would be eligible to receive increased grant funding from the additional \$1 million (Section 2)

Method of providing funding for existing crisis facilities needs to be examined for possible new formula

- + Starting point could be current grant level as base funding
- + Other factors to consider could be community contribution (\$ and in-kind) compared to total budget and array of services
- + Clinical outcome measures
- + Savings to State as measured by lower use of Warm Springs using, for instance, per capita emergency detentions and civil commitments
- + Service area geographically and population, including number of counties utilizing facility or services
- + Cost of caring for clients on a per client or per visit basis
- + Alternate approach would be using FMAP model with State providing a certain % as the base (e.g. 50% of facility budget) and then adjusted up or down using similar factors as listed above

In order for data collection to be meaningful and worthwhile and to measure the impact that community-based crisis services are having, CFHHS should engage existing crisis services facilities and other stakeholders to:

- + Explore a possible unified model/standard of services and evidence-based best practices for such centers

+ Discuss the standardized collection and beneficial use/measurement of that data, including whether or not the data would be

publicly available

+ Discuss the ongoing role of the legislature and CFHHS regarding oversight of the grant funding levels and allocations, program

evaluation, performance measures, data collection and utilization, and regular reporting by the crisis facilities to CFHHS

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Because demand for crisis services is rising significantly and the benefit to patients and the State is very large, the committee should consider increasing the pool of additional grant money from \$1 million for the biennium (Section 2) to \$1 million per year

Language should be added to require DPHHS to allocate annually to local entities the entire amount of money in the HB 130 grant pool authorized by the legislature, unless dire financial circumstances occur

As a point of clarification, please explain the meaning of the existing statute in 53-21-1203, part (3) (c), which can be found toward the bottom of page 2 of the draft; for instance, is this a reference to Medicaid?