

DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



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February 29, 2011

Senator Jon Sonju, Presiding Officer
Select Committee on Efficiency in Government
PO Box 201706
Helena, MT 59620-1706

Dear Senator Sonju:

Thank you for forwarding the issues that you identified on behalf of the Select Committee on Efficiency in Government regarding children's mental health measures. The Department has researched and selected a validated tool to measure acuity of children who will be served by wraparound services in children's mental health. Providers were involved in the discussions about and demonstrations of the tools that were looked at. There was general agreement about the tool selected.

The Department, as we do with every budget cycle, is also examining the current system of payment for children's mental health services to better improve efficiencies in the system and outcomes for children. We are just starting our Executive Planning Process and do not know at this time what will be contained in the Department's budget that we will submit to the Governor.

We are unable to commit at this time to including all of the suggestions that you have made in your letter in the EPP process. We will commit to giving them due consideration as we move forward.

Sincerely,


Anna Whiting Sorrell
Director

cc: Sue O'Connell
Mary Dalton