Economic Assistance and Work Services

EAWS Caseloads
A struggling economy has increased caseloads in EAWS as individuals and families look for assistance through Medical Assistance, Badger Care, Child Care, Food Share and Wisconsin Works. EAWS implemented a call center 1 1/2 years ago serving customers in the Capitol Consortium (Dane, Dodge and Sauk Counties). Effective January 2012 we have expanded operations to include 4 additional counties in our consortium (Juneau, Adams, Richland and Columbia).

In the first quarter of 2012 there was a significant increase in caseload (9,900 cases) as we completed the transition of services from the State’s Enrollment Service Center, which had served childless adults' Food Share cases, BadgerCare+, Core Plan and some Family Planning Waiver cases. This caseload is now covered by local Income Maintenance (IM) agencies. In the second quarter of 2012, 300 new cases were added. The growth in the second quarter may be typical of the longer-term trend due to economic conditions. Caseloads continue to trend upward but the trend will be impacted by program changes, especially the Affordable Care Act.

In the second quarter of 2012 W-2 cases with payment continue to show a slight drop in cases.
Inpatient utilization: Mendota Mental Health Institute and Community Hospitals

Over the past 10 years ACS Division work plans have included a strategic initiative to reduce inpatient utilization for adults in state institutions including adults admitted to the gero-psychiatric treatment unit at Mendota Mental Health Institute. Placements cost about $1,000/day with Medicare, Medicaid and private insurance covering a portion of the cost. Data through June reflects a drop in institutional days particularly with the gero-psychiatric population. The combination of fewer days and improved collections for state institutional placements changes the budget outlook from that of last quarter. If this trend continues, net costs will be less than last year.

Community hospital costs remain high. With information through June, hospital days are projected to be less in 2012 in comparison to 2011. Even with fewer hospital days, costs are projected to be similar to 2011 due to an increase in hospital rates.
Badger Prairie Health Care Center

Residential Care Costs
Residential care costs at Badger Prairie exceed industry norms by a wide margin. Sick leave and leave without pay, including family and medical leave, are key contributing factors to high overtime, LTE and contract costs and diminish continuity of care.

The key cost components of residential care are personnel expenses and include staff salaries, overtime, LTE and contract costs. Based on data through the second quarter of 2012, salary costs are increasing as we continue with staff recruitment and new hires though salary costs are projected to be less than budgeted this year. Overtime and LTE costs have shown the greatest decline in comparison to projections based on 1st quarter data this year. Contract costs are also showing a slight decrease from 1st quarter projections.
Overall, personnel expenses are projected to exceed budget by $120,000 based on information through June. Savings in the staff salaries budget line serve to offset some of the effect of LTE and contract costs that are projected to exceed budget based on current utilization.
**Alternate Care**: One of the main variable costs for the Children, Youth and Families (CYF) Division is Alternate Care (AC). Youth are placed in AC when they have been abused, maltreated, committed delinquent acts, or have mental health needs and it is not possible to maintain them in their family homes or in the community. Graphs show the budgeted Average Daily Population (ADP) as the black line along with the Actual ADP’s for each type of care. With information through June 2012, Alternate Care is projected to produce a 2012 surplus of $814,000 mostly due to low ADP's for both Corrections and RCC's.