

To: MH/MR Administrators
From: Michael D. Chambers
Date: September 11, 2009
Subject: Bullets

“No just cause can be advanced by terrorism.” - Koffi Anan.

The State Budget: All morning we have been sending you updates on the budget compromise as they have become available. Obviously the news is not good for us or for any human services. It's clear that there will be cuts, but it will be up to the program offices to work the numbers and allocate the dollars. We are still several days from seeing a budget bill signed by the Governor. The agreement is a framework and there is still a lot of conversation and number crunching before the budget takes its final form. Assuming that the bill moves quickly, it could be 6 to 8 weeks before allocations are final and money is flowing. It ain't over until it's over and it's never over. Meanwhile, despite the optimism that we will have a budget, the House Republicans don't like the plan and are likely not to support it, according to Sam Smith (R-Armstrong), the Republican Floor Leader.

The Conference Committee will meet at 10:00 am on Monday to consider and vote. Session days are planned for all of next week.

Strategic Planning: The Board of Directors will gather on September 23, 24 and 25, 2009 for its annual strategic planning meeting. Given the change that you and your association have encountered recently, we expect significant changes in the association and the board will consider a number of them this month.

The Letter: Last month, you may remember, we sent a letter to Kevin Casey, outlining issues with the ODP rate setting process. We gave the letter wide circulation. Yesterday, Mr. Casey said that his letter of response was on his desk and that he would review it then send it to us very soon. We'll let you know.

Still Summer!: I'm finally taking my summer vacation next week. Have a great weekend.