

Governor Quinn Proposes Additional Budget Cuts

There is no denying the fact that we are in the midst of difficult economic times – as a country – and as a state. That reality is certainly revealed in the budgets of non-profit organizations such as Trinity. Many vacant positions remain unfilled, building repairs are being postponed and expenditures are being carefully scrutinized. Programs are being shrunk and vacancies in our residential programs are unfilled because of the lack of funds. This is what's going on right now.

In his budget address to the legislature on February 16th, Governor Quinn has proposed even more cuts to Human Services. As one example of these budgetary reductions, all respite services are currently scheduled to be eliminated on April 1st of this year – it is April Fools Day. In terms of relevance for Trinity, it means that at least 25 families will be without assistance in their homes.

The rationale to eliminate such programs as respite services is based on the fact that these programs are totally funded with state dollars, they receive no federal matching dollars.

Even more devastating in the proposed budget is the intent to cut all Medicaid rates by 6%. If enacted, Trinity will have to reduce its budget by over two (2) million dollars. This also includes a 20% reduction to mental health grant programs. Needless to say, we are doing everything we can do to stop these cuts but feedback at the present time from the legislature is not encouraging.

Trinity's Board of Directors met this past week and spent considerable time reviewing the current fiscal situation. Also this past week, we began a series of meetings to develop a plan of action if these cuts do in fact go through.

Also please know that while these reductions have been occurring, the regulatory demands continue to increase and result in even more paperwork.

It is not a pretty picture but we will do everything we can to stop these cuts but, if we are not successful, it is our hope to have a plan in place as quickly as possible. We will work to keep you informed. We hope to have additional clarification in the next couple of weeks.

Thanks,

Art Dykstra