

General Provider Communication

Maricopa County Regional Behavioral Health Authority
Magellan Health Services of Arizona, Inc.

Dear Provider,

The action taken in mid-December by the legislature and the governor's executive cabinet resulted in significant cuts to titled and non-titled funding for children and adults receiving general mental health, substance abuse (GMHSA) and prevention services, totaling \$13.7 million for Maricopa County. It's clear that cuts of this magnitude would significantly impact services for Arizonans facing behavioral health challenges. However, due to the responsible fiscal planning of Magellan and the provider organizations, the impact of these cuts will be mitigated and services for GMHSA will continue for now. Some funding will be cut from prevention programs, but primarily in non-essential services.

I am pleased that our efforts can preserve services for the remainder of the current fiscal year despite these cuts and that we have valuable time to thoughtfully and strategically plan how to best transition those affected. However, this kind of effort would not have been possible without the collaboration, insight and hard work of our provider partners.

While these cuts have been mitigated due to good planning, and we have a solid fiscal plan that ensures services remain intact through June 2010 (barring any additional cuts), we must plan for the transition of some services by July 2010, in particular for a significant number of children. This planning will be led by Shawn Thiele, chief of children and youth services, and will take place over the next five months.

As we begin developing our plans for FY2011, the Magellan team will again call on providers to help us strategize and achieve the greatest good for our service recipients. I am confident we can work creatively and collaboratively to develop successful solutions to the challenges we're facing.

The state's fiscal outlook continues to be uncertain, but we must remain focused on our mission to transform the public behavioral health system in Maricopa County. Together, we will ensure that those we serve have access to the resources and the care they need to achieve recovery and enjoy the quality of life they deserve.

Sincerely,



Richard Clarke, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer
Magellan Health Services of Arizona

