

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

Karen E. Timberlake
Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Reggie Bicha
Secretary



State of Wisconsin

Jim Doyle
Governor

AREA ADMINISTRATION

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DATE: December 22, 2009

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TO: County Human and Social Service Agencies
Tribal Human Service Coordinators
Managed Care Organizations
Aging & Disability Resource Centers
Other Interested Stakeholders

FROM: Mark Thomas, Deputy Secretary, Department of Health Services
Ron Hunt, Acting Deputy Secretary, Department of Children and Families

KT for Mark Thomas
RH

RE: AREA ADMINISTRATION

The Departments of Health Services (DHS) and Children and Families (DCF) thank you for participating in meetings earlier in 2009 regarding regional operations including Area Administration. DHS and DCF are implementing plans for regional office operations in 2010 and many of the recommendations offered by stakeholders are incorporated into these plans.

Both Departments will continue to work with local agencies in 2010 based on the long standing regions for human service programs. Area Administration staff will continue to serve local agencies from five regional offices in the state as employees of DHS and DCF.

DHS Area Administration (AA) will serve programs including long term care, mental health and substance abuse, and economic support services. AA staff will continue to support administrative and fiscal services in local agencies. The AA staff will work closely with county and tribal agencies, managed care organizations, aging and disability resource centers, and other stakeholders. DHS AA staff will maintain a presence in each of the five regions and be available to assist your agencies with DHS programs.

DCF is forming an Office of Regional Operations (ORO) that includes the AA staff that serve the child welfare program and Title IV-E eligibility along with other DCF regional staff that serve the W-2 and child support programs. DCF is also pursuing new regional positions that will serve the child care subsidy program. The DCF AA staff will be the first staff included in ORO with the other regional staff added in the first few months of 2010. The ORO will also have a presence in each of the five regions to assist your agencies with DCF programs. More information about ORO will be shared with local agencies as the new structure is implemented.

The new DHS and DCF regional structures will result in changes in the program assignments for some AA staff. The AA staff will focus on programs for the Department in which they are employed, with DHS AA staff serving DHS programs and DCF AA staff serving DCF programs. Depending on the program, your agency may be served by an AA staff person that is not based in that region. A new AA staff directory is being developed to identify DHS and DCF AA staff and their program assignments. You can continue to work with your regional office on any human service program issue and the appropriate AA staff person will follow up with your agency.

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DHS and DCF appreciate the partnership with local agencies and understand the value of regional office staff to support agencies. The new regional office structures will continue to offer resources to support your organization. We look forward to working with your agencies in 2010.

cc: Chuck Wilhelm, Director, Bureau of Intergovernmental Relations and Contracts
Pat Cork, Acting Director, DHS Area Administration
John Tuohy, Director, DCF Office of Regional Operations