



Hamilton County Board of Mental Retardation & Developmental Disabilities

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Cheryl Phipps, Superintendent

August 19, 2009

Dear Individuals Served, Family Members and Friends,

As we feared, the County Commissioners voted on August 18 to approve our levy at the \$388 million mark, which is below what we need for the next 5 years. This will mean cuts to our current budget as we go into 2010, but I assure you that **no one currently served will be without services!**

We have already started discussing options that will keep our services going and enable us to serve new individuals who will need our services during the next 5 years. Those options may include:

1. Not spending levy dollars on services that could be covered by Medicaid waiver funds
2. Decreasing/eliminating levy dollar supplements to Medicaid waiver services
3. Decreasing the number of IO waivers we apply for during the next 5 years
4. If waiting lists need to be established, making sure we offer "part time" services
5. Asking school districts to share in more of the costs of our school program

Those are just some of the ideas we are preparing to discuss between now and the time the 2010 budget is finalized in October. Other suggestions are welcome!

The spirit of our entire MR/DD community is to put people we serve first and, when handed lemons, to make the best lemonade possible. The next few years will be tight financially for us, but we will do everything in our power to serve everyone who needs us in some way. We have weathered tough times before and come out on top for the individuals we serve. This time will be no different.

The good news is that, after 8 long months, we are through the tax levy approval process and can now move on to the actual levy campaign. In spite of the tough economic times, I am confident that we can and will pass our levy on November 3!

Thank you!

Cheryl Phipps, Superintendent