Economic Assistance and Work Services

**EAWS Caseload (chart 1):**
Information through the 1st quarter of 2013 continues to reflect steady growth with a total increase of 537 new cases. Volume is expected to increase in 2013 as we gear up for the implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA). The State has budgeted PPACA start-up funding, which will allow Dane County to add 34 staff positions. Applications through PPACA will begin October 1st for benefits starting January 1, 2014.

**Call Center Activity (charts 2 and 3):**
In January 2012 the Call Center expanded serving 7 counties including Dane. Standards of performance have been established. The agency’s goal for average wait time for answering the phone is five minutes or less. The goal for the percentage of calls answered by agents is 85% or greater of total calls.

In January 2013, Call Center operations were revamped to have more staff available to take calls. The average wait time markedly improved as a result of the new staffing model with answer rates falling well below the 5 minutes benchmark. In chart 3 the drop in call volume (blue line) following January may be a result of the new “one-touch” philosophy reducing the number of repeat callers. The percentage of calls answered (red line) also markedly improved after January reaching a 97% answer rate in March.
Inpatient utilization: Mendota Mental Health Institute and Community Hospitals

Over the past 10 years ACS Division work plans have included a strategic initiative to reduce inpatient utilization for adults in state institutions including adults admitted to the gero-psychiatric treatment unit at Mendota Mental Health Institute. Placements cost about $1,000/day with Medicare, Medicaid and private insurance covering a portion of the cost. With information through the 1st quarter of 2013 gero-psychiatric days are projected to continue to drop. Adult inpatient days rose during the 1st quarter due more to the number of admissions than length of stays. Currently the State Institutional budget line is projected to have a small surplus $30,000, which is offset by a projected deficit ($49,000) in the Community Hospitals budget lines.

Community hospital daily rate costs continue to increase. With information through March, community hospital days are projected to decline by 38% in this calendar year though we anticipate a budget deficit as the daily rate average increase across all placements is 13%.
Residential Care Costs
Residential care costs at Badger Prairie exceed industry norms by a wide margin. Sick leave and leave without pay, including family and medical leave, are key contributing factors to high overtime, LTE and contract costs and diminish continuity of care.

The key cost components of residential care are personnel expenses and include staff salaries, overtime, LTE and contract costs. With information through mid-April 2013, salary costs are very close to budget and savings in the over-time and contract expense lines more than offset the overage currently projected for LTE costs. Savings are largely attributed to filling vacancies quickly after recruitment closes and a somewhat improved applicant pool that may be related to economic factors associated with the last recession, and the sluggish recovery. Overall total personnel budget lines show a small surplus of $64,000 at this time.
**Children, Youth and Families**

**Alternate Care:** One of the main variable costs for the Children, Youth and Families (CYF) Division is Alternate Care (AC). Youth are placed in AC when they have been abused, maltreated, committed delinquent acts, or have mental health needs and it is not possible to maintain them in their family homes or in the community. Graphs show the budgeted Average Daily Population (ADP) as the black line along with the Actual ADP’s for each type of care. With information through March of 2013, Alternate Care is projected to produce a 2013 surplus of roughly $13,000 mostly due to low ADP’s for both Corrections and RCC’s.