



**MECKLENBURG COUNTY**  
Office of the County Manager

**MEMORANDUM**

To: Commissioners

From: Hyong Yi, Management & Budget Director  
Office of Strategic Organizational Improvement

Date: June 7, 2011

Subject: Update on FY12 Budget Reductions for Health and Social Service Departments

For your information, following is how the Manager intends to address the \$2 million reduction to the Department of Social Services and the \$500,000 reduction to the health contract with Carolinas Healthcare System.

**Department of Social Services**

The \$2 million reduction will be addressed through a combination of increasing federal reimbursable revenue, a six month hiring freeze for 36 current vacancies, and additional reductions in non-salary line items. The table below outlines the reductions, dollar amounts, and the impact of the reductions.

<b>Reduction Item</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Impact</b>
6 Month Hiring Freeze on Current Vacancies	\$750,000	Implement a 6 month hiring freeze on 36 of 41 positions (88% of current vacancies). Five vacancies within Youth & Family Services will be preserved as to not weaken strategic programs in this area. The impact of this freeze will be the limited ability to improve performance and reduce workloads in areas that are above state standards. Service impact to external customers will be limited; however, staff will continue to be asked to maintain heavy workloads and “do more with less.”  Breakdown of vacant positions by division:

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth &amp; Family Services -14</li> <li>• Economic Services – 8</li> <li>• Community Resources – 6</li> <li>• Services for Adults – 5</li> <li>• Business Affairs - 3</li> </ul>
YFS County Dollars	150,000	Reduce a portion of the Client Benefits funds and reduce funds originally budgeted for a new (non-mandated) independent living initiative for children aging out of foster care. We will continue to utilize state funds to meet these needs. There will be minimal service impacts to these cuts.
Real Estate Rental Budget	150,000	Budget adjustment to align with FY11 spending levels. No service impact.
Gas Budget	80,000	Budget adjustment to align with FY11 spending levels. No service impact.
Fleet Maintenance Budget	20,000	Budget adjustment to align with FY11 spending levels. No service impact.
Revenue Increase	850,000	DSS has historically budgeted revenue related to management and support staff at 32%. Year to date trends for FY11 result in a 40% average reimbursement rate. An increase in revenue of 850k can be supported based on current trends.
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,000,000</b>	

While service impacts were minimized, the freezing of 36 vacant positions will have some service impacts. Wait times may grow longer, fewer clients may be served, and maintenance may suffer as a result of these reductions.

### Health Department

The Health Department was directed to find \$500,000 in reductions to the contract with Carolinas HealthCare System for public health services. The table below outlines the reductions, dollar amounts, and the impact of the reductions.

Reduction Item	Dollar Amount	Impact
Women's Health Services Program	\$140,500	<p>Discontinue Women's Health Services Program that provides breast and cervical cancer screenings, which would eliminate the following positions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Part-time Registered Nurse position (0.5 FTE vacant)</li> <li>- Part-time Nurse Practitioner position (0.5 FTE filled)</li> <li>- Part-time Clerical Support position (0.1 FTE filled)</li> </ul> <p>Approximately 60 women receive breast cancer screening and cervical cancer screening services each month. Clients would be referred to free and low-cost health clinics in the</p>

		community for these services.
School Health Nurses	285,000	<p>Eliminate the following vacant positions in School Health:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2 RN School Nurse positions (1.7 FTEs)</li> <li>- 1 RN School Nurse Supervisor positions (1 FTE)</li> <li>- 1 Clerical Support position (0.85 FTE)</li> <li>- 1 Registered Dietician position (0.85 FTE)</li> </ul> <p>Currently, 60 schools have full- time nurse and 57 nurses cover 2 schools each. In FY12, because of CMS school closures, 63 schools will have a full-time nurse and 52 nurses will cover 2 schools each.</p> <p>The number of school health nurses will be reduced from 117 to 115. The nurse:student ratio will increase from 1:1180 to 1:1208. Middle- and high-school students will no longer receive nutrition services.</p>
Administrative Support	40,500	Eliminate one vacant administrative support position (1 FTE).
Clerical Support Positions	34,000	Eliminate 2 part-time vacant Clerical Support positions in Community Services Division (1.2 FTEs).
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>	

If you have any questions about these reductions to meet the Board directed FY2012 funding levels, please contact me at 704-336-6945.

CC: Harry L. Jones, Sr., County Manager  
General Managers  
Wynn Mabry, Health Director  
Mary Wilson, Social Services Director  
Michael Bryant, Budget Manager