



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

PIMA COUNTY GOVERNMENTAL CENTER
130 W. CONGRESS, FLOOR 10, TUCSON, AZ 85701-1317
(520) 724-8661 FAX (520) 724-8171

C.H. HUCKELBERRY
County Administrator

June 12, 2015

James Vlahovich, County Administrator
Cochise County
1415 Melody Lane, Building G
Bisbee, Arizona 85603

Re: Your June 1, 2015 Letter Regarding Restoration to Competency Services Agreement

Dear Mr. Vlahovich:

I appreciate your June 1, 2015 letter regarding Restoration to Competency (RTC) services. I have had additional conversations with your former County Administrator Mike Ortega.

As you know, the counties in Arizona are under increasing pressure from unrealistic and, in fact, punitive cost transfers from the State of Arizona. Many of their programs are illogical and not founded in scientific or fiscal analysis.

In the past, we have provided RTC services as an effort to assist other counties. It is unfortunate this program, which began as entirely funded by the State, has now been systematically transferred to the counties. Unfortunately, we have been required to raise our service rates to provide these services; however, I believe your proposal to reduce the amount of the increase for this coming fiscal year is appropriate and will allow us sufficient time to evaluate the cost impacts associated with State cost transfers.

Your proposal is accepted for this fiscal year with the understanding we will revisit these costs for the following fiscal year and may be required to raise our rates to those that were proposed by Pima County originally.

Mr. James Vlahovich

Re: **Your June 1, 2015 Letter Regarding Restoration to Competency Services Agreement**

June 12, 2015

Page 2

I strongly recommend the Cochise County Board of Supervisors express their displeasure with these unreasonable and unfortunate cost transfers to counties that simply require us to raise taxes on our taxpayers to pay for State programs.

This year, we have begun to restructure our property tax statements such that it is clear that one-third of our primary property taxes are levied on behalf of the State at the State's request for their programs. Most of our taxpayers are not aware such is the case. We intend to illuminate who is requiring higher property taxes in the State. It is not the counties; it is clearly the Governor and State Legislature.

Sincerely,



C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

CHH/anc

Attachment

c: The Honorable Chair and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors
Jan Leshar, Deputy County Administrator for Medical and Health Services
Danna Whiting, Administrator, Behavioral Health



Cochise County Board of Supervisors

Public Programs...Personal Service
www.cochise.az.gov

PATRICK G. CALL
Chairman
District 1

JAMES E. VLAHOVICH
County Administrator

ANN ENGLISH
Vice-Chairman
District 2

ARLETHE G. RIOS
Clerk of the Board

RICHARD R. SEARLE
Supervisor
District 3

June 1, 2015

Chuck Huckelberry
County Administrator
Pima County
130 West Congress Street, 10th Floor
Tucson, Arizona 85701

Re: Letter from Danna Whiting dated April 29, 2015 – Restoration to Competency Services Agreement

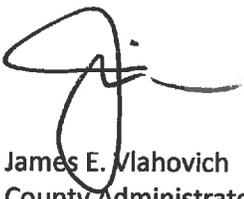
Dear Mr. Huckelberry:

Given how the State has burdened the counties to solve their budget issues, we certainly understand Pima County's situation with regard to your budget and the need to review all agreements and associated costs. Per your conversations with former County Administrator, Mike Ortega, you are aware that we are in a similar position from a budget standpoint and cannot afford Pima County's proposed increase to nearly double what you charge us to provide RTC services.

We understand that your staff has performed an analysis of the costs associated with providing this service and it is less expensive than what the State Hospital charges; however, it is more than we can afford to pay at this time. What we propose is to increase our payments by 50% to \$30,000 per inmate patient. We understand this may not cover your fully loaded costs, but believe it would certainly cover all variable costs and a large portion of the fixed costs associated with performing these services.

We thank you for your partnership and hope our proposal is acceptable. Both Mike and I are available to discuss this with you in more detail at your convenience.

Sincerely,



James E. Vlahovich
County Administrator

CC: BOS, Courts

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