

From: OCP, Inc. [mailto:ocpinc@sbcglobal.net]

Sent: Friday, June 04, 2010 11:29 AM

To: Hendrick, Howard

Cc: Nicholson, James; John Richard; Schlotthauer, Scott CTR; Larry Smith; Randy Ross; Effie Foster Ballard; William Smith; David Oliver; Jane Nelson; Haddock, Raymond; McClain, Gwen; Chace, Regina

Subject: DHS janitorial contracts

Dear Howard,

First, let me congratulate you on surviving yet another year of the Oklahoma Legislative session. It was touch and go for all of us so the fact that we are still here is a blessing.

I want to bring to your attention what is, I'm sure, an unintended consequence of the dire predictions over the last couple of months for DHS's financial future. As you may be aware most, if not all, janitorial contracts for DHS buildings (county offices, etc) are with various sheltered workshops for people with developmental disabilities through the State Use Program.

These contracts provide work and salaries for our service recipients and are vital to the continued viability of sheltered workshops across the state. Most of the sheltered workshops (with the exception of possibly one or two) hold contracts with DHS/DDSD to provide services to individuals with developmental disabilities.

When the grim predictions were being made for DHS, many of the DHS building managers began to either cancel or reduce their janitorial contracts with sheltered workshops in what I assume was an effort to reduce costs. For some workshops the reduction was as high as 33% of the total contract amount. You can imagine the impact this kind of loss has had on these provider agencies.

The contract reductions were predicated on possible furloughs and the services were reduced to four days a week. Unfortunately, no one took into consideration that while it might have been less expensive for the state office building, it would be MORE expensive for DHS because now people who are not working would need residential supports for that time and those are much more expensive than vocational supports.

The contracts have already been reduced and many workshops remain in serious financial straits because of these reductions. I would ask that you please advise your DHS offices that have contracts with sheltered workshops to reinstate those janitorial contracts to their previous levels. It will serve two purposes. First it will put our service recipients back to work where they belong and second, it will cost DHS less money because the people will be receiving vocational supports rather than residential supports.

Thank you very much for your help in this matter. Should you wish to discuss this further, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Best regards,
Judy Goodwin