

December 15, 2009

DIRECTOR'S
NEWS UPDATE



ADDITIONAL REVENUE SHORTFALL

The Oklahoma economy continues to be weak thereby creating a continued revenue shortfall. An additional budget reduction of 10% was announced today. The department will continue to update you on the budget crisis via email, updates and press releases from various sources.

There continues to be hopes and possibilities that during a special session or as part of the regular legislative session some level of funding relief will occur that will offset the need to furlough or at least reduce the amount of furlough days.

Also, the department has been asked through the legislative process to respond to many cost cutting scenarios. Undoubtedly such processes will create rumors and speculation of what operations, programs and/or staff will be reduced or eliminated. The goal is to keep staff updated with factual and timely information.

Recently there has been some legislative proposals to allow several forms of possible compensation deferrals if employees voluntarily work on chosen furlough days. These types of proposals will require legislation and maybe viable options as furloughs become closer to reality.

As evident by reductions already taken, the department will continue to explore all options to minimize the recession's affect on best practices in our profession, core operations and compliance with our mission and vision statements.