

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
95th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
TRANSCRIPTION DEBATE  
SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION

3rd Legislative Day / Comm. of the Whole

7/12/2007

Speaker Hannig: "The Seventh Special Session will now come to order. Is there leave to use the Attendance Roll Call? Leave is granted and a quorum is present. We're gonna pause for a moment. Representative Brady, you're recognized for an announcement."

Brady: "Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, a point of personal privilege. I'd like to have your attention and ask you to join me in welcoming to Springfield a group of fine young ladies who are from my district, the Normal Community High School... ladies, please stand... the Normal Community High School Girls Class AA Softball State Champions from Normal. Ladies and Gentlemen, the Normal Community Iron Women. And with us, we have some of the members in the Speaker's gallery. Courtney Sharp, Shayla Hoenes, Bailey Franklin, Jordan Menendez, Amber May, Marla Kindred, Katy Lutes, Allie Wylder, Megan Holzhauer. I hope I covered everyone there, ladies, and also, head coach, Coach Bob Grimes. Ladies and Gentlemen, I've also been presented with a great memento, a team picture and a autographed softball from the ladies. So, once again, please join me in congratulating the Lady Iron Women of Normal Community High School, State Champions."

Speaker Hannig: "Representative Currie, you're... you're recognized for a Motion."

Currie: "Thank you, Speaker. I move that the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole for purposes of testimony on the Supportive Living Program in the Department of Healthcare and Family Services."

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Speaker Hannig: "You've heard the Lady mot... the Lady's Motion. All in favor say 'aye'; opposed 'nay'. The 'ayes' have it. The Motion is adopted. So Representative Joyce will be the presider of the Committee of the Whole. So, Representative Joyce."

Chairman Joyce: "Committee of the Whole - Supportive Living Programs will come to order. With us today, Director Barry Maram, Department of Healthcare and Family Services, Finance Administrator Mike Moss, Administrator of Medical Programs Theresa Eagleson. Director, if you want to begin".

Director Maram: "Good afternoon. I don't know if you missed me. I didn't have this opportunity yesterday, but I very much welcome it today. This is a very important program that I know you've all have been part of in many ways and... specifically we're here to indicate our desire for you to hear some of these issues. The funding that you proposed in the budget was, for this year level, and I'll say that up front, level to what it was last year. But we are going to point out why we believe very strongly that this program is being under funded by twenty-four million dollars (\$24,000,000) and hopefully, we can express that to you and hopefully, to come to some resolution on this. Thank you for the opportunity to speak about supportive living facilities. As you know, we call them SLFs. It's a great program. Illinois's motto of Medicaid assisted living, which is our SLFs. HFS is extremely proud to administer this program which operates through home and community-based services. A waiver for assisted living services approved by

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the Federal Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services. The program's renewal waiver was just recently approved for five (5) years, effective July 1, 2007. As you know, in prior years there was a moratorium on SLFs and with your support, the Governor's initiative and with the support of this Legislature, the SLF moratorium was removed. And we've had SLFs operating across the state that are a major cost-saving opportunity. Basically, 60 percent of a nursing home bed cost, 60 percent of the cost, and there's appropriate settings for people in nursing homes. There's appropriate settings for people in SLFs. But when people can be placed appropriately, it not only gives people the opportunities and the independence they need, but gives the state cost savings. A few more comments about the program and we're here to answer your questions. The supportive living program gives seniors, as well as younger persons, and that should be pointed out that it's not only for seniors, but for people with physical disabilities, an option to live in a community setting and receive the support services they require in order to promote and encourage independence. We all know that there is a growing senior population as well as a population of people with disabilities and having options is so important. Supportive living facilities are comprised of individual apartments that have lockable entrances, private bathrooms, kitchens or kitchenettes, and individual heating/cooling controls. The services are based on each resident's individual needs and preferences and are based on a health and wellness model and services are

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reimbursed at a rate, again which I've state before, on 60 percent of the nursing home facility rate. It's a win-win. It's a win for people of Illinois, because you're saving money and it's a win for people who get choices to live in appropriate settings. Since fiscal year 2004, the number of supportive living facilities has grown from thirty-seven (37) to seven-nine (79). Again, there was a moratorium prior to approximately 2004 and the Governor and the Legislature, I think, for the most part was very excited, I know the Governor was and I think many of you were, to lift this moratorium. It made sense. Preliminary numbers... well, the growth of the program has growth from thirty-seven (37) to seven-nine (79) facilities and the number of affordable assisted living apartments has grown to over thirty-two hundred (3200). Preliminary numbers for fiscal year 2007 indicate that more than four thousand three hundred (4,300) Medicaid eligible people chose to reside in a SLF apartment. In the next few years, the total number of operating SLFs will increase to a hundred and forty-seven (147) containing more than eleven thousand (11,000) units. Healthcare and Family Services is directly responsible for the oversight of the SLF program and employs field staff who support the regulatory program in addition to other duties. As the central Medicaid financing agency and it's the Medicaid financing agency, this is a program that we've received the approval of the Federal Government for the plans and we operate through them as a Medicaid plan. HFS is mandated to investigate all complaints within seven (7) days and

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immediately in cases that potentially affect patient health and safety. Ensuring the provision of quality health and social services to these individuals is a paramount importance to the department and a mission we are proud to promote. The program has been more successful than any similar waiver program nationally. We've actually had states across the nation coming to Illinois, talking about the successes and how they could repeat it in their various sites. It is a program that provides needed choices for individuals. Seniors and persons with disabilities have seen this as a great opportunity to have choices in appropriate settings, giving them more independence and again, extremely cost effective. It is a program that provides needed choices for individuals who are in need of long-term care, and I know that many of you have seen these communities thriving in your home districts. For all those reasons, we need to continue to pay these providers at a reasonable rate in a reasonable time. SLFs were paid at about an eighty (80)-day average cycle through FY2007. While the HFS requested budget for FY08 would have brought that down even further, the budget passed by the chamber would take the average cycle of this program to nearly two hundred (200) days. And we understand, again, that this is level with last year. We're just trying to indicate where the needs are so that it wouldn't take payment cycle out to nearly two hundred (200) days. The budget that the department introduced for this program was eighty-four million (84,000,000). And the budget that was proposed in

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this chamber was fifty-eight million (58,000,000). While I understand the figure was the same as the prior year's appropriation, it under funds this critical program by almost twenty-six million dollars (\$26,000,000). Again, we understand its level funding, we just want to share with you where the growth has been, where the needs are and what we believe would make sense to have this program funded at the requested amount. And I thank you for your time. With me, to my left, is Theresa Eagleson. And again, Theresa has been with the department for approximately... been with the state for... eight (8) years with the department and more years with the state and has worked with this program for a number of years. And to my right, is Mike Moss, the Administrator of Budget and Finance, and we certainly want to answer questions. Thank you."

Chairman Joyce: "Thank you, Director. Representative Mulligan? Do you want to divide up your time or are you going to take it all or..."

Mulligan: "I could take it all but I am not going to."

Chairman Joyce: "Thank you."

Mulligan: "I've had the distinct privilege of having Mr. Maram before our committee any number of times. Although, I think his sum total of time on the House Floor the last couple of days tends to be more than he has given us in committee. And certainly is more than we had last year when we had about, I'd say, an hour to hear a sixteen billion dollars (\$16,000,000) budget. So it's is very interesting that the Governor is allowing this to go forward since we've all

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heard this, or some of it before and there are individual advocates. On our side, Representative Sacia would like 5 minutes."

Chairman Joyce: "Representative Sacia."

Sacia: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Director and Theresa and Mike, thank the three (3) of you for being here. I think it's very enlightening when we get this opportunity when we are not in the individual committees to have you testify before us. I... the district that I represent is the five (5) northwestern most counties of Illinois and the SLF program has been, in my opinion, extremely successful with several caveats and those being... I think of one gentleman in particular who has a severe disability and needs... it isn't 100 percent care, but probably safe to say 18-hour-a-day care due to a very severe automobile accident some years ago. He's contacted me on several occasions trying to get the adequacy of funding for care personnel into a situation where it is easier to hire someone with the skills to look after, and again, I am using him as an example and I know it's something that is compounded by the elderly and other persons with severe disabilities, and when you share with us, if I understood the figure right, a difference of eight-four million (84,000,000) and was it fifty-eight million (58,000,000), which is almost scary to me. Are we losing that degree of funding or did I not understand something there?"

Director Maram: "I think what I has said was that the budget that was passed by this chamber was fifty-eight million

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(58,000,000), which was level to last year and... what we're here today and we appreciate the opportunity, is to point out that this year's appropriation, that would under fund our program by twenty-six million (26,000,000). And we are here to explain where the needs are because the introduced budget from the department was at eighty-four million (84,000,000)."

Sacia: "And if it's being funded at fifty-eight million (58,000,000), that's an insult, because you deserve far more. Again, I just can't speak highly enough for this SLF program. Am I calling it right? Is it SLF..."

Director Maram: "You are calling it exactly right."

Sacia: "To have people have the ability to be in a small setting, typically in their home or home-like setting, is just so much superior. And I think everybody in this chamber recognizes that as opposed to a nursing center. But again, if I could try to direct my question specifically. Do you see any type of an alternative to get the care personnel that are necessary to come in when we have individuals with severe, profound if you will, disabilities? But yet, we're saving the state a tremendous amount of money when we're not putting them in a nursing home, but yet, we need more funding. And maybe the question I'm asking of you was one that you should be asking of me, I'm not exactly sure."

Director Maram: "I think you are making a lot of sense, Representative."



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Sacia: "But what do you see that we could do, perhaps, as the best way to say it, Sir, to better effectively help those that are in such a profound need?"

Director Maram: "Well first, and I am going to have Theresa go into some of the detail on other services. But in terms of the supportive living facilities, actually, I really believe to speak to the whole committee, as a whole, is a very productive situation. Because we're able... your committees are great and we appreciate it, but to speak to all of you, there are times you don't realize some of the things we're doing, maybe it's our fault, we try to communicate it. And by being together in a committee on a whole we are able to share it. One, we would like to have this funded at the level we've requested, which is an additional twenty-six million dollars (\$26,000,000). We believe it would fund what Theresa is going to go into the additional services that are being provided throughout the state and through these sites. But also, it would hold down payment cycle. Now, specifically, for other services, Theresa, why don't you speak to the Representative how they work together?"

Theresa Eagleson: "Certainly. Representative, this is one (1) of seven (7) approved home- and community-based services waivers that the state has. This particular one we're talking about today is administered day-to-day by this department. There are others, such as one administered by the Department of Human Services for people with physical disabilities where personal attendants can come into their home and help them, too. It's... so there are a broad range

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of choices for individuals depending on their different circumstances. And as far as continuing to create these types of choices, in 2006 there were approximately sixty-four (64) of these supportive living facilities throughout the state. At the end of FY07, there were approximately, well, there were seventy-eight (78) of these facilities. Already one has opened in the month of July and we expect several more to open in fiscal year 2008 continuing to build on this good program."

Sacia: "Thank you so much. Go ahead, Theresa. All I would say, is even though I am a Member of the Minority Party, I strongly support your efforts and I applaud your efforts in encouraging these SLFs. I really think it's a huge, huge, huge answer to the care of the disabled and the elderly to reduce costs. And there isn't anyone in this Body that doesn't recognize the tremendous cost to keep nursing homes and like facilities open. So, I applaud you on your work and thank you for your answer."

Director Maram: "Thank you, Representative."

Chairman Joyce: "Representative Black is recognized for 2 minutes."

Black: "Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Director, again, thank you for being here. May I ask you a question about the budget that has already passed the House. I have an 89-year-old father and 95-year-old mother-in-law, so I know a little bit about geriatric care. In the... Senate Bill 1132, that has passed the House, do you know what the funding line was for geriatric long-term care?"

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Director Maram: "If we have a... a moment, Representative?"

Black: "Sure. I could help you because I have the figure."

Mike Moss: "I do have the figures. The... it was passed at eight hundred fifty-seven million point six (857,600,000)."

Black: "All right."

Director Maram: "That's GRF?"

Mike Moss: "That's GRF, yes."

Black: "The figure we were given by staff was nine hundred and thirty-two million (932,000,000), but when you get into that kind of money..."

Mike Moss: "That would include... there's another fund as well that feeds into those appropriations."

Black: "Okay. All right. Now, it's my understanding that that's more money than was included for geriatric long-term care in the Governor's introduced '08 budget. Is it not?"

Mike Moss: "It is... the Governor's introduced budget was..."

Director Maram: "I think the monies that were added, with due respect, were for the nursing homes."

Black: "Yeah, geriatric long-care nursing homes. Right?"

Director Maram: "I think they were nursing homes and not SLFs."

Black: "Yeah. Well, the case that I'm trying to make is that the budget that has passed the House has nine hundred and thirty-two million dollars (\$932,000,000) for geriatric long-term care nursing homes, one of the fastest growing, unfortunately, parts of the budget. And as the baby boomers begin to age, it is only going to get worse. The Governor asked for six hundred and thirty-one million (631,000,000) and the budget that passed the House, Senate Bill 1132, gave

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you transfer authority of 8 percent. So, I guess my question is, if you're short in the SLF, with an 8 percent transfer authority, it would seem to me that you would have leeway to transfer geriatric long-term care nursing funds into SLF within FY2008 if needed and necessary, rather than just argue about what amount of money was appropriated and what wasn't."

Mike Moss: "Well, Representative, the budget that we introduced seeks to meet the needs of each line as we project, in terms of the... in terms of the liability. In terms of the regular geriatric care line, there are two (2) funds that can feed that line. There is the General Revenue Fund and the Nursing Home Assessment Fund. With them both together, the introduced appropriation was 1.6 billion dollars (\$1,600,000,000) in total introduced appropriations."

Black: "Okay. All right."

Mike Moss: "So, and that would... that sought to keep the geriatric nursing homes at about the same cycle in 2008 as they would have been in 2007. So, given that we're trying to keep the cycles the same for each of these programs and trying to maintain the budget as it is, but with whatever cost increases we're going to experience, that's why the budget (inaudible)"

Black: "I know we might disagree on particular line items, but I thought the budget, introduced and passed by the House, with that extra transfer authority, would enable the department to manage those items a little more efficiently if you run into shortfalls. But I've used up my time. If I might,

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Director, evidently, my remarks on Monday were misinterpreted and I've talked to you in the hall. Let me make it very clear that the people in your agency, that my district office legislative aides work with on child support, I don't want to mention anyone's name, but Tammy knows who she is. My legislative staff cannot rave and praise her enough for how hard she works to clear up child support issues. And, I want you to know that I appreciate that, my legislative staff appreciates that, but more than that, it's the custodial parent who need that money, appreciates it. And I'd also like to make sure you understand that I think that the Danville DHS office is one of the most cooperative I've ever dealt with. They are open, they are accessible and I appreciate that."

Director Maram: "Each DHS child support office.. And Representative, your questions are fair. You express support for the staff; they work with you quite a bit and we appreciate it. And we wouldn't be standing up here talking to you about successes without the great work within the agency. And I might just say, we could follow through a little more on that. Our concern is, on this line, that there isn't enough funding for the SLFs and..."

Mike Casey: "I'm Mike Casey. I'm the Budget Bureau Chief for the Health Care and Family Services. Yes, there is a percent transferability on the budget that the House passed that would be used for all medical assistance lines. Given that the House budget is less than, overall, than what the Governor had proposed, we will need that transferability and

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even the amounts in total are less. So we feel we need this twenty-five million (25,000,000) for the line.

Black: "And I keep hoping that people of goodwill will reach a budget. I don't want to go through what Pennsylvania did. Although, they only had to go through it for two days before common sense prevailed. But we could be looking at a shutdown of some vital services and I don't think anyone wants that to happen. But, I again, would be remiss, Director, if I didn't tell you the people that my district office works with on a daily basis in child support are just some of the best people we work with in state government. I appreciate them. I appreciate what you've done with child support, which seven (7) or eight (8) years ago was an absolute cesspool. And for that, I compliment you and the staff that makes that possible."

Director Maram: "Thank you. And Pam Lowery, the administrator appreciates. Thank you, sir."

Chairman Joyce: "Representative Hamos for 10 minutes."

Hamos: "Thank you. I have several questions about this program. What... would you say that the introduced budget request for SLFs was sufficient as it went in FY08 budget?"

Director Maram: "You're talking about the..."

Hamos: "Governor's introduced budget."

Mike Moss: "Yes, the Governor's introduced budget maintained the program as well as addressed projected cost increases on the program."

Hamos: "So, what was your payment cycle for SLFs in '07?"

Mike Moss: "It was approximately eight (80) days."

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Hamos: "The budget book for '07 says seventy (70) days. So did that slip during the year?"

Mike Moss: "It would vary between the year, but between seventy (70) and eighty (80) days."

Hamos: "Well the cash flow models that I am looking at said seventy (70) throughout the year. You're saying not end of year?"

Mike Moss: "Representative, the last time I checked the budget... I'm sorry, the pay cycle for the SLF program for most of 2007 was about eighty (80) days."

Hamos: "So what was going to be your projected payment cycle for SLFs in '08?"

Mike Moss: "Our projected would... with this increase, would have maintained it at about eighty (80) days."

Hamos: "Eighty (80) days? Did you say eighty (80) days?"

Mike Moss: "Yes. Yes."

Hamos: "So you are not intending to introduce a budget that would actually bring down the payment cycle for SLFs?" That was never a goal or..."

Mike Moss: "As part of the introduced budget for HFS, there was an additional plan of fund transfers to be used to pay down a pay cycle in general. However, that was introduced as an overall plan."

Hamos: "What is the payment cycle that you had projected in FY08 for other nursing homes?"

Director Maram: "Nursing homes..."

Mike Moss: "We were projecting approximately forty-five (45) days. However, the transferability plan was to do something

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very similar to what happened with Senate Bill 14 last year, where transfers were made, funds were made available through other funds, other than GRF that feed into the Medicaid program. And that would be Long-term Care Assessment Fund and a couple of other funds. The fund transferability plan that was contemplated for 2008, as it was introduced, would have had that... those dollars, part of those dollars, contemplated going into the assessment, the Long-term Care Assessment Fund and then paid out. But we would have looked at that."

Hamos: "So that would have reduced it from forty-five (45) days, right?"

Mike Moss: "That would have taken the nursing homes to forty-five (45) days. But we... that was something that was just the initial plan."

Hamos: "That was what?"

Mike Moss: "The initial plan based on the fund transfers."

Hamos: "Okay. So, tell me this. Why would you introduce a budget where you're paying nursing homes... where you're projection for payment cycle for nursing homes is forty-five (45) days, but for SLFs its eighty (80) days? Why would you even do that as a goal for a fiscal year... upcoming fiscal year?"

Mike Moss: "Again, without the transfer... without the fund transfer additional proposal, the nursing homes would have remained at about sixty (60) days, which is where they were in 2007."

Hamos: "Okay. Your budget... your..."



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Mike Moss: "So, in terms of the overall... I'm sorry, go ahead.  
I'm sorry, Representative."

Hamos: "I mean, this says fifty-five (55) days, but you're saying sixty (60), so there is still a discrepancy between sixty (60) and eighty (80)."

Mike Moss: "Well, again, the way we constructed the budget was, what would it take to maintain the pay cycles that each line had been experiencing from '07 to '08? On top of that there was, of course, the fund transferability plan. In terms of the basic budget, it would have kept nursing homes from, and again, it's a bit of a variance, but between sixty (60) days for '07 to sixty (60) days for '08 without those additional fund transfer funds."

Hamos: "Okay. Let me ask you some other questions because my time will run out. So where... what is the average... first of all, did you say you went from thirty-seven (37) SLFs to seventy-nine (79) and it's on its way to a hundred and forty-seven (147)?"

Director Maram: "No. I think, right now, we are..."

Hamos: "There are seventy (70)..."

Director Maram: "...thirty-seven (37) to seventy-nine (79)."

Hamos: "I'm sorry."

Director Maram: "Thirty-seven (37) to seventy-nine (79)."

Hamos: "And what was that one hundred and forty-seven (147)?"

Director Maram: "I think that was the number of SLF applications. But the numbers..."

Hamos: "How many are in the pipeline right now, being built?"

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Theresa Eagleson: "Actually, there is seven-nine (79) Supportive Living Facilities operational around the state at this moment. And there are another... going up to one hundred and forty-seven (147). That difference are those that are actually their business plans are approved to proceed towards operation."

Hamos: "So how many..."

Director Maram: "That doesn't only include what's approved in the last few years. The last few ye... Those were those that had been in play before."

Hamos: "That what? I didn't hear that."

Director Maram: "That... number of those were from previously before the expansion. They were not built yet but they're coming on line. They are not all from the expansion."

Hamos: "Well, if we ask you the same question a year from now or two years from now, would we be at a hundred and forty (140) something? I mean, that's how many are in the pipeline?"

Theresa Eagleson: "Yes. That is how many are currently approved and proceeding towards operation. Yes."

Hamos: "So, where do you get the budget for these? Where did the budget come from, all of a sudden to build... so how many units are they, by the way, at seventy-nine (79), did you say four-three hundred forty-three (4300) units?"

Theresa Eagleson: "Currently, there are about six thousand (6,000) units. I believe the number that the Director referenced in his comments were Medicaid eligible residents in those units. And that six thousand (6,000) apartments..."

Hamos: "How many are State of Illinois clients?"

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Theresa Eagleson: "About forty-three hundred (4300) currently."

Hamos: "Okay. And so, if you're going to build.. if we're building seventy (70) more and the average size of these is maybe a hundred (100)?"

Theresa Eagleson: "The average varies from, you know, as low as ten (10) to as many as one hundred and forty (140). And the average statewide is about eighty (80) -some units."

Hamos: "Eighty (80) -some units? And so, where are you going to get the budget for these additional thousands of beds?"

Theresa Eagleson: "Well, actually, the rates for this program are based on, as the Director said, about 60 percent of the nursing home rate. And as the geriatric population continues to grow, we're looking for more cost-effective alternatives to serve them as opposed to the nursing home line growing as much as it potentially could, we're looking at programs, such as this one option to hold that growth down."

Director Maram: "And this has been demonstrated the last few years in the growth of the long-term care line, that is this program has come online, there has been stability there. And, in fact, I think some of the increases might be due to MDS, but I think that's reflected. So the savings are being reflected in the stability in the long-term care line not growing as much."

Hamos: "Have we seen any corresponding reduction in nursing home beds?"

Theresa Eagleson: "Well, as the Director just said, the number of people being served by the Medicaid program in nursing

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facilities has remained remarkably stable over the last, even ten (10) years. So, as there are options out there, such as the other home community-based waivers and this particular supportive living waiver, the number of people in nursing homes has remained fairly flat, even though that population is growing."

Hamos: "And aren't you required to show that there's actually a savings?"

Director Maram: "We point out in our federal..."

Hamos: "And you're showing the savings, because this 60 percent of nursing home rate, and even though we haven't seen a reduction... stable is good?"

Director Maram: "With the growth in demographics of seniors and the utilization on nursing homes, you would have seen a line growing much more rapidly over the last few years than has been, because of this program. To say what Theresa has just said... that's been remarkable because it has leveled out, is very much an indication of the savings, that people who would be reaching out to nursing homes this plan was approved based on that. Federal Government..."

Hamos: "I'm sorry to be cutting you off, but I'm aware of my time. I'm gonna need some more time, Mr. Chairman. I believe I am the only Democrat asking questions. So... let me... that statement brings me to my next question, because I really have been tracking this program from the beginning."

Director Maram: "I know you have. I know you have."

Hamos: "And I've tried to learn a little more about it and the criticism that I've heard is that the people going into

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SLFs, that there is now a lot of SLF beds and, therefore, there will be a competition to fill those beds and that people who are filling those beds may not be the most appropriate people to fill those beds. So, what you just said reminds me of this question. Isn't there supposed to be a difference in acuity level between the people who go into SLFs and those who go into nursing homes?"

Director Maram: "Certainly. And, I might point out that, although, there is a number of happy SLF operators, there's a number of not-so-happy SLF applicants who haven't been approved. There are many applications that weren't approved because we've worked very hard to consider a number of factors: geography, need, feasibility, in approving these. So we've been... as you've noticed in the last few years we just came out with, maybe nine (9), but there hasn't been a big, dramatic, increase in our approvals on these SLFs."

Hamos: "I mean, when you said earlier that these people would be going into nursing homes, I guess, I would argue with that. If we provided more community-based services in their homes, they may not be going into nursing homes, because people don't really go into nursing homes before they really need to. So, this is... theoretically is a different population than the people who would be going into nursing homes."

Theresa Eagleson: "With all these waivers, Representative, the... each individual has to meet a nursing home level of care in order to qualify for the supportive living waiver or to qualify for some of the other home community-based waivers in the other agencies."

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Hamos: "Yeah."

Theresa Eagleson: "So, they have to meet that same level of care need, even though the more..."

Hamos: "Okay."

Theresa Eagleson: "...chronic people may end up in a higher level need setting, such as a nursing home as opposed to a SLF."

Hamos: "And what is the average stay of the people in SLFs?"

Theresa Eagleson: "It is... I would have to get back to you with that exact figure, but I believe it is over a year."

Hamos: "Over one year?"

Theresa Eagleson: "Over one year."

Director Maram: "Yes, I think. And you're so right. It's having the appropriate setting. There are people who normally in the past would have gone to nursing homes more costly, but could live with a degree of more independence, still have the supportive services of a SLF but be more appropriate in a SLF setting. They may end up in a nursing home, but at least those years there's more independence and more cost savings."

Hamos: "So, I believe that the average stay is actually between six (6) months to a year. And people either die or go to nursing homes after that time. Those are the only two places that people go from SLFs. Correct? So that brings me to my next question, which is, is there a market saturation for SLFs or are we just going to keep responding to developers? Is there a strategic plan for how many more we need or...?"

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Director Maram: "We are far... Representative Hamos, I can tell you very sincerely, there has been very strong scrutiny. There has been unhappiness out there because we don't make massive approvals, large numbers. It's been years... How long... about a year and a half since we had the last approval... Before we just approved just nine (9)? Well, there are many people out there who have applied. And I'll say this, I know what SLFs looked like before, they were smaller in number. The SLFs that have been approved have been very indicative of communities around the State of Illinois, not-for-profit groups, community groups, this is certainly not been focused... I'm not criticizing developers, but this is far from a developer-driven group. This has been a real attempt to look at community groups. We just approved some within Central Illinois that are very indicative of the community. So, I feel very strongly that this, in due respect, that this is far from being driven by any one group, including developers.

Hamos: "And so, is there a market saturation point? Do we know how many more we need?"

Director Maram: "The reason... I think the reflection that we just only approved nine (9) after... How long was it?"

Theresa Eagleson: "About a year."

Director Maram: "A year, year and a half."

Hamos: "Okay."

Director Maram: "Is the point that we don't feel that we are operating, issuing them willy-nilly, we were very scrutinizing. Okay. And the fact that we only did nine (9)

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in the last year and a half is a reflection of that fact that we are not looking to saturate that market. We are being very scrutinizing."

Theresa Eagleson: "And I'd just like to refer back to the rule that we look at to scrutinize each one of these applications that we get. And one of the criteria that we look at very carefully is geographic distribution and market feasibility of those buildings. This is a model that has proven to work in an urban setting, in a rural setting, and in a suburban setting and we have other states, I can't emphasize enough, that we have other states coming here to look at this model because they believe it is working so well."

Hamos: "So, I just have two other questions. One is, there's been talk, as I have been part of many... actually, some discussions, I should say, about some interest in creating SLFs for people with mental illness. What is the status of that?"

Director Maram: "We are very interested in pursuing that consideration. Theresa, why don't you expand on that?"

Theresa Eagleson: "We actually just at the end of May were notified by the federal government that we were approved for our a-money-follows-the person demonstration..."

Hamos: "Were approved for what?"

Theresa Eagleson: "A-money-follows-the-person demonstration. This... an assisted living-like model, such as this one for persons with mental illness as well as some other community-based programs for persons with mental illness are very much on... said that we will look at and do those programs. The



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Federal Government's hesitation to fund services for this population makes it harder to get a waiver for that population. But we have every intention of moving forward with that."

Hamos: "Because IMD's, right now, over sixteen (16) beds do not qualify for federal match. Why do we think a SLF MI would qualify for federal match?"

Theresa Eagleson: "We believe that SLFs qualify because of their individual apartments. They are not facilities, they are individual apartments."

Hamos: "Okay. Let me relay to you, and this is the conversation that we need to continue, not today obviously, but I am going to ask the Chair of the House Appropriations Committee with the Minority Leader's assent to actually have a special hearing on this question, because I can tell you that the mental health providers who are trying to provide supportive housing services for people with mental illness are very much concerned about building buildings with eighty (80) or a hundred (100) beds for people with mental illness. That feels very institutional and I think the question of what is the appropriate housing model, whether or not the money is available, what is the appropriate housing model and what is the vision around this? And this... the problem we have, is this is your agency working on SLFs, then we have DHS division of mental health doing supportive housing. There are both supportive housing programs... I think we need to understand, we Legislators, we know you are talking to each other, we Legislators need to understand better what the

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different housing models are and I am going to ask them for that kind of hearing. One more quick question, which is, is the department looking at nursing home bed closures or a buy-back program? We've been talking about that as well. New nursing homes, I think, are interested in that. We're talking about converting nursing homes into different models as well along with the MDS approach."

Theresa Eagleson: "There are a lot of options in the demonstration that I was just referring to. I'd also like to point out that the permanent supportive housing model, that you were just referencing for persons with mental illness, this department is very much supportive of that and that's a very important hallmark of the demonstration program that was just approved."

Director Maram: "And we are... and as you know, working with yourself and number of other Legislators, looking at... making sure there's appropriate settings and how we can work with that... what Bill is that?"

Theresa Eagleson: "The Older Adults Services Advisory Committee that you are very much aware of, Representative."

Director Maram: "So, we are very much and working, sitting down, with the various parts of the industry. The fact is, as we all know, there's a wide spectrum in long-term care. There's people who live in independent living and there's people who need a nursing home with serious issues. And in between there's a world that should be investigated and worked with, there's a place for everyone in this spectrum,

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but to focus on an appropriate setting is what we want to do and will be responsive to."

Hamos: "Well, I think... and as a punch line, I'm sorry, this really is, I think that the SLF issue is, I think, an interesting model. It seems to be, they seem to be quite nice, they're brand new buildings, most of them, right? But I think the scale is an issue for a lot of people and there's a continuum question, which, of course, I very much support that whole continuum issue. There is also a scale question. Because as we in the Legislature hear about community-based settings and home-based settings, those suggest small, institutions have suggested gigantic and SLFs come in at pretty large. So, the concern that you should be aware of, you hopefully are, from a lot of providers who work with these populations, it may be totally appropriate for seniors, but when you talk about people with other kinds of disabilities, it's an issue. Thank you."

Chairman Joyce: "Representative Ryg for 2 minutes."

Ryg: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am excited about the conversations you are having in terms of using the money-follows-the-person demonstration money from the federal level to expand our continuum of care. And when you talk about economies of scale, I think it's important that we let the market and individual choice drive some of that, as well. So, whether it's a building of ten (10) units or one hundred and forty (140) units those who will have different appeals to people as they do for normal people who chose to live in an individual home or a townhouse or a condo or a

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high rise. So, I think, when we talk about expanding access to that continuum of care, based on your individual choice and the level of need for your supportive services, we always talk about it financially and in terms of rates and cost of doing business. And the cost of doing business... how does that fit into the overall operation, the building or the acquisition of a building to actually offer SLF services to a client?

Director Maram: "I want to answer your question directly and if I don't, please set me more on that path. One, I really believe this is, not only a choice product, because people really get to live in more independent living, and also more cost effective, but it's not only about dollars. We've had people come up to us when we've visited the supportive living facilities and say, 'I can't believe I'm living here. It's too good.' But people, you know, these people are... it's cost effective, they're able to socialize, but still have independence. We're being competitive in terms of using private market tools here, because we're making sure that there's feasibility studies. I can't tell you... We can go through the facilities, there are so many community-based facilities that have gotten themselves together, whether it's from religious groups, whether it's from not-for-profits, worked with the private sector, gotten this done. We also have been also very competitive to make sure that there's a need in the community. We required feasibility studies. Am I answering your question, Representative Ryg?"

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Ryg: "Well, more directly, if these are so cost effective for us and these are not-for-profit and community-based drivers, we are always bombarded as lawmakers that the rates don't cover the cost."

Director Maram: "Oh, I see."

Ryg: "And that the cost-of-doing-business increases don't meet the cost."

Director Maram: "No. I'm sorry."

Ryg: "So there are specific areas that we hear, utility rates in particular. So these are different from private homes, units where as a tenant you pay your utility bills or pay an association fee that covers it. So, the operators of these programs have additional expenses that may not be covered by the rate that the state is paying. And I am wondering if we're looking at ways, as we as lawmakers negotiate, you know, on different levels of service and opportunities for not-for-profits to be incentivized to offer these programs. Can you help us determine how we can bring their overhead costs to make the rates more productive for them?"

Director Maram: "We have... there is going to some increase in rates going into effect."

Theresa Eagleson: "Because these rates are tied to the nursing home rates and because the Legislature and... added money to the MBS program last year for nursing homes, the rates for supportive living facilities actually just went up for April services. But we'd be happy to sit down with you, Representative, to look at individual cost data. I think it's different for each individual business."

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Ryg: "And I guess I'm asking that you help us when we're making decisions and there are too few resources to meet the needs, that we not only look at putting more money in, but finding ways to work with collective groups to say, you know what, if you are paying utility rates and you're not getting a residential break on that maybe we can impact that."

Director Maram: "I understand and we would like to be in contact with you. And I would like to just also bring up the fact that... I'm going to share the wife's occupation, she's a registered nurse that works in geriatric settings with seniors. And when you have a SLF, she doesn't work in a supportive living facility, but when you have a SLF you are able to save dollars because a nursing home requires extensive nursing care, you're going to have less, but appropriate levels of medical care in a SLF, and you're going to be able to save dollars. And that is a system that works with 'em. But anyway, we will stay in touch with you on these other issues."

Ryg: "Yes, and that's exactly... those are service related, but I am talking about out of the box ideas of reducing costs."

Director Maram: "That's a very good point and we will look forward to working with you on that and others."

Ryg: "Okay, thank you."

Chairman Joyce: "Representative Mulligan for 10 minutes."

Mulligan: "Actually, I'll take the rest of the Republican time, I don't think there's anybody else left so that gives me twenty-three (23)."

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Chairman Joyce: "Well, actually, I added Representative Ryg's time and Representative Hamos went over. I timed all them, they're a little bit... so I think you can do it in less than twenty (20), right?"

Mulligan: "Well, no, I don't think so. I think I need it all."

Chairman Joyce: "Well, I'm in the Chair so we will see."

Mulligan: "We'll see. I have good questions. What is the Medicaid rate for SLFs?"

Theresa Eagleson: "It's in the neighborhood, it varies by region, but it's in the neighborhood of sixty dollars (\$60), sixty-five dollars (\$65) per day."

Mulligan: "Per day. This coming year for FY08 you have to renegotiate the Medicaid waiver, what are you anticipating and will this be part of the renegotiation?"

Theresa Eagleson: "The Federal Government just did reapprove..."

Director Maram: "We did recently be approved for another five (5) years. We've gone through that process."

Mulligan: "All right. So you've been approved for another five years, so are you still getting fifty cents (.50) on the dollar for regular straight Medicaid?"

Director Maram: "For regular straight Medicaid we've been at fifty cents (.50), 50 percent of match, yes."

Mulligan: "All right. Would you give us a sheet of what you were approved for in all areas of Medicaid so that we would have that?"

Director Maram: "Sure. This would be the specific SLF waiver we are talking about."

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Mulligan: "Well. I'll write you a separate letter so that we can get them all, if you would like me to. I mean, I have no problem with that."

Director Maram: "Representative, with due respect, I'm just trying to ask a question here. You'd like us to indicate the different providers?"

Mulligan: "Right. No. Yes. We would like to know.. I mean, to us that are working on the budget, even though the Governor seems to have no common sense that we are working on the budget, because he seems to have to bring people here to inform us of things we've been working on for the last six (6) months. Those of us that are working on it were anticipating that you had renegotiated and it's good to hear that it has been renegotiated. So, it will be good to know that the rates are still equal to what they currently are or were before."

Director Maram: "You know we've been in..."

Mulligan: "That's just a sidebar."

Director Maram: "Sure, and I know that we have been in continual contact with you and I think events like today are good, because with the committee as a whole people realize the challenges but the opportunities as situations like this."

Mulligan: "Do you honestly think that the people that aren't interested in this don't sit on the committees where they ask you questions during the interview?"

Director Maram: "No, but I think that this is such a great program that has been supported across the aisles here, that this is a way to save money. We're saving dramatic dollars



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at the same time giving people choice. And we just want to, hopefully, express why we need the funding. Thank you."

Mulligan: "All right. Would you allow me to ask you a follow-up question from Child Support?"

Director Maram: "Yes. Sure."

Mulligan: "My understanding was that you had said that it was a problem to collect the twenty-five dollars (\$25) from recipients, it was too much trouble. But yet in JCAR, on Tuesday, your... you proposed a rule that would allow you to go after that twenty-five (\$25). So have you changed your mind from what you were telling people in the hearing the other day to what you proposed to..."

Director Maram: "No, not at all. I think that... We can get into the specifics of that, but what was being pointed out there was different potential options. I think the question was that in JCAR there was a request for Child Support."

Mulligan: "In the hearing on Child Support there was some comments made, which I was not here for, that it was too much trouble to collect the twenty-five dollar (\$25) fee. But that in JCAR you proposed a rule, that we heard on Tuesday that said you were actually going after that and it was a part of the federal rule that you were implementing, I thought."

Theresa Eagleson: "I don't believe that the twenty-five (\$25) fee was, I can double-check, but can explain to you the rationale behind why it was determined to be ineffective."

Director Maram: "And I think rule, and we can go into detail and get back to you, was for broader issues, as well."

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Mulligan: "All right. So we can..."

Theresa Eagleson: "And we are working on that request."

Director Maram: "But we will get back to you."

Mulligan: "...we can have that as a separate discussion."

Director Maram: "Yes."

Theresa Eagleson: "Absolutely."

Mulligan: "I thought we discussed Tap-10? Is that going to come up next time?"

Tamara Hoffman: "Yes. We got a forty-five (45)-day extension on that, Representative."

Mulligan: "Right. That's right."

Tamara Hoffman: "And we're going to work with you in the meantime to make sure that all of your questions are answered."

Mulligan: "Okay. But it was just that... can't have it both ways (inaudible)."

Director Maram: "And I don't think we are at all. In fact, we'll get back to you. But I think... not at all."

Tamara Hoffman: "And one of the reasons we asked for an extension, Representative, is that we knew that we needed to adjust some language in that rule."

Mulligan: "Okay. Could you go over the funds that you were going to transfer from and to or that you did for 2 percent of this year and did you use all your transferability in the lines?"

Mike Moss: "Representative, we did use our transferability for FY07, as I believe was your question."

Mulligan: "Right. You used all of your transferability."

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Mike Moss: "Yes."

Mulligan: "So, if this is such an important issue to you and the Governor, what was the rationale of transferring money out of lines that would go to nursing homes in areas of this into physicians and doctors in order to pay the KidCare people, the AllKids people and a SLF in a timely manner and then you have a hearing specifically about this to show the Governor's concern about it?"

Director Maram: "We didn't transfer any money out of SLFs. And the point being here is we're looking forward to this next year. We came with... what we are trying to do here is just express why there's a need for twenty-six million more dollars (\$26,000,000) going forward. And there's... you know we haven't really gotten into that. We look forward to the opportunity. One, you've got increased seniors, numbers going into SLFs again, every time someone goes in that SLF you're saving dollars and we're all saving dollars from the nursing homes' lines and other lines for the cost of the state."

Mulligan: "I think the majority of the people that work on the issues know that. But that's why..."

Director Maram: "No, I know. But that's why we are going forward for twenty-six million dollars (\$26,000,000)."

Mulligan: "It might go to the heart of when the Governor looks and calls the Democratic Speaker a Republican and what his definition of Republican is, because Republicans care about these issues just as well as Democrats. And so, I think his

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perpetual insult generates more insults from us and he doesn't like that, but neither do we."

Director Maram: "I think... I want to respond to questions. But I think the Governor worked very closely with Legislators across the aisle, very excited about lifting the moratorium a couple of years ago that has made this SLFs a reality, all of us working together. Thank you."

Mulligan: "So I think that is very interesting, since I asked Representative Hamos, who was part of the Conference of Women Legislators budget committee, as am I, Representative Coulson and Representative Feigenholtz, if our request to meet with the Governor had been honored, at least for the Democrat women and has not been. She has not been in to speak on the budget to the Governor. Representative May, who is our co-convenor asked for that. So, some of these issues on SLFs, where it appears that, in the Democrat-passed budget out of the House, where there's three hundred million (300,000,000) more in funding in areas for supportive living, where you could transfer with transferability of 8 percent, that you could have done that. And I am sure if he had chosen to meet with us at the beginning of the year, as other Governors have in past, he would have found out that our concern equaled his concern."

Director Maram: "I may be missing the question. I want to be respectful. I can say to you that the Governor's met with many of the Legislators and we really look forward to just telling you why this can be a win-win, if we can get the additional twenty-six million (26,000,000)."

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Mulligan: "So, how much time have you spent, personally, talking to the Governor about SLFs?"

Director Maram: "How much time have I spent? I'm trying to... Representative Mulligan, out of due respect, this is a Governor who, very much cares about health care for seniors with Illinois Cares RX. Again, I try not to make it a bipartisan issue because, as you know, I've served for many years and even in prior administrations. This is a Governor..

Mulligan: "Very good. That's why he has you here testifying today. You're very tactful and just wonderful on that issue. But the bottom line is.."

Director Maram: "I try not to get a partisan issue. We try to keep bipartisan because the Governor very much... the Governor very much cares about health care issues, as did many people in this chamber, and I realize that this is a simple one today. We want to share with you why it makes sense to get additional twenty-six million dollars (\$26,000,000) for a program that works.

Mulligan: "Well, I think that probably, Representative Hamos and Representative Feigenholtz were responsible for the extra money being in the Speaker's budget, with the transferability between line items, which obviously the Governor does not recognize. And although it is not my place here to praise that particular budget, I think there are some things that are obvious that are overlooked in some of the negotiations."

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Director Maram: "And even with the total amount of that funding, it is still far short for the SLFs, but I am here to answer questions."

Mulligan: "It doesn't fall short if you use your transferability. I certainly wouldn't have given you 8 percent transferability. I think that was pretty generous. It allows you... of the three hundred million (300,000,000) that was put into those programs, eight hundred (800)... out of three hundred million (300,000,000) 8 percent would have been a moving of twenty-five (25)... you could move twenty-five million (25,000,000), twenty-four million (24,000,000), and it would have brought you up almost to what the Governor's level was within a million or so dollars of that. Now, in any budget negotiation, coming with something that is eighty-three billion dollars (\$83,000,000,000) within a million dollars (\$1,000,000) is pretty close. And I think in most instances people would give or take a million if they could get the majority of what they wanted in a budget. So, I don't see that as being what he's trying to point out as a huge short-fall in any budget. I think in any finished negotiation of a budget, considering the austerity of what's happening here, you would be lucky to receive that amount. The only reason I would push for something like that is because it's an issue that's important to me and because, not only is it important to the people it serves, it's also a recognized savings for the state in an area that is quite expensive. So, if you have someone in a SLF instead of in a

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long-term care facility, you're much better off financially."

Director Maram: "I agree with that."

Mulligan: "All right. So, does this Governor have a clue, so that we are having this whole hearing again, like we're all a bunch of dummies here, where we don't get it?"

Director Maram: "Well, with due respect, I think there has been a number of questions here sharing about the SLFs and indicated by Representatives from various... both aisles, that these are things that are being brought to light right now and I am glad to be here sharing on."

Mulligan: "It would be my suggestion that if you were really responsible about a budget, you would not go into some kind of an overtime hash session where the Leaders are carving up big issues and individual issues like this fall on the floor unless Legislators go out there and bat their heads against the wall to make sure they are in the budget. And so, by doing what he's doing he is assuring that things like this are not funded. It is not a wise move, nor a sensible move, on a way to do a budget that is a compassionate budget. So, when he talks about who's a Republican, who's a Democrat and what's going on, I can't figure out who he is. Because, quite frankly, the issues that being left on the... off the table are issues like this that are the every day nuts and bolts issues that we work with all the time in the committees where, if you had come before us and told us the honest-to-God truth, we try to go along with what happens. His area of how we do budgets with his directors is one of a

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fencing game. Unless we go behind his back or we ask questions or we go dig out the information or we have staff dig it out, we sometimes have a very hard time getting this information. So now he's deeming it in his wonderful thing of having Special Sessions to have you here to explain to us issues that we have been trying to work on for a number of years, but he won't see the women Legislators in to talk to him about it during, ya know, March, before his budget was presented?"

Director Maram: "Obviously, I've been in a number of meetings with many of you who have been together with us and Governor and Governor's staff. But the point being here is, we introduced a budget that asks for this twenty-six million (26,000,000). It hasn't been funded yet. We appreciate the time. Hopefully, it will be funded with people of goodwill getting together."

Mulligan: "Mr. Moss alluded to a transfer program where the agency was going to get more money. And I would like to know what funds you were planning on getting those transfers from? Where you were going to put the money in since you alluded to it, I'm sure you must have some idea what funds were going to be swept in order for you to get extra money?"

Mike Moss: "Representative, that... in terms of the extra money that is... was a plan that was put out. I believe you would have to discuss that with... it's a statewide issue."

Mulligan: "Should we discuss it with the Governor, who won't see us?"



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Mike Moss: "It was a statewide program and, therefore, I don't have the specific information outside of the agency as to what other..."

Mulligan: "I think your ability as a financial person in one of the biggest budgeted agencies in the state, would certainly allow you to come back to us with that information. If he thinks it is so important to have that transferability, you know... we talked about domestic violence the other day, but, you know, he was willing to transfer money out of the Domestic Violence Fund. I always find it interesting. So, before we get it dropped on our desk 5 seconds before we're voting on a Bill, I would like to have an idea of where you thought you were going to get that money and if you are not going to get that money, what's the monies that you need and where would it come from?"

Mike Moss: "In any case, Representative, the budget as presented and the appropriation request as presented, even without the extra transferability program, excluding those for a second, that budget would have held each line in the overall budget at about the same pay cycle from 2007 to 2008. The increases requested were increases based on the projected liability increases that we would see based on the program as it is."

Mulligan: "I would like a chart and I would like it to go to all Legislators. The last time I asked Mr. Filan for something he sent it to me only and referred only to my district. I want to make it very clear. I want the chart for the state. I'd like a chart by provider for the end of FY07 and what

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the average payment rate was for each provider in the SLF area and the cycle and the payment cycle which you say you're going to put down. So, could you give it to us? I'd like that for the end of the year. Now, I don't know if you want to go at it the way it is now, because my understanding from the Comptroller's office is that they don't necessarily refer to lapse-period spending as lapse-period spending anymore; they kind of look at it differently. So, you could do it as it ended and then you could update it when you feel that it's updateable from the money that was in. But, as of June 30..."

Director Maram: "I'm not sure I know what you want, but what we would like to do is take a look at what we have there and we will stay in touch with you and get back to you."

Mulligan: "I'll have Mr. Klenke from our staff follow up so you understand what we want."

Director Maram: "Look forward to it."

Mike Moss: "I can follow up with him and..."

Director Maram: "We look forward to following up with your staff."

Mulligan: "Okay. I'm sure that you do. I honestly think that the discussions are helpful for a few people here who might pay attention and who aren't really interested in sitting a committee for this for the whole year. But quite frankly, there are a lot of people here that are quite interested and have worked on the issues for a long time."

Director Maram: "We appreciate that."

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Mulligan: "And we find that the Governor doing this... I've tried to be careful of my words today so I don't say anything into an open mike that is inappropriate. But we find that it is rather interesting and I would bet, probably my first-born child, but that's not such a great thing to give away at this point because he's pretty old, that there are more people in this Body that have paid attention to this issue than the Governor's have spent on it in the last fifteen (15) years. So, for him to really lecture us is very interesting and I hope he pays attention that perhaps, things like this that were already on the books and in the works are more important than pushing issues that are really expensive and that we can't afford. And perhaps, he should have his picture occasionally taken with the elderly, the infirm and the disabled as opposed to young kids who look healthy."

Director Maram: "Obviously, that's not a question."

Mulligan: "It's a statement."

Director Maram: "But the Governor is very involved with seniors, as have all of you and that's what we are here on today just to keep these successful programs going."

Mulligan: "Thank you for coming today."

Director Maram: "Thank you."

Mulligan: "There was some things in a committee hearing last night that we hope you will get to us on and we will tell you about because we thought that was an important hearing also."

Director Maram: "Thank you."

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Mulligan: "And I understand that you are a good representative for the Governor and that's why he put you out here to talk to us. You have done your job fairly well, I would say. Some of us have not been as equal to the task, because we are a little irritated at this point, which, quite frankly, the more you irritate people the less you come together on issues that are resolved reasonably among people that would like to be reasonable."

Chairman Joyce: "You all done, Representative Mulligan? Thank you. Okay. Representative Monique Davis for 2 minutes."

Davis, M.: "Thank you Mr. Chairman. Hi, you have been here every day like I have, haven't you? I have a very simple question. We have a Resolution on the table and the Resolution directs the Department of Health Care and Family Services to create an incentive-based smoking cessation program for Medicare recipients and they asked that it be in operation by January '08. It provides that the department can enter into an agreement with a third party to create or run the program. Could you be in support of that?"

Director Maram: "Obviously, we'd have to review and take a look at what is being talked about. I would like to share what we are doing already... respectfully, what we are doing already."

Davis, M.: "Okay."

Theresa Eagleson: "We have done outreach efforts to our beneficiaries already. We've done mailings with enrollment cards to encourage people to quit smoking, offering them the assistance of the Quit Line that's run through the

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Department of Public Health. We also pay for smoking cessation medications for beneficiaries. So we would love to sit down with you and talk to you about our efforts in that regard. And I would want to take, as the Director said, a careful look at that particular language."

Davis, M.: "But you are currently providing some direction in reference to smoking cessation?"

Director Maram: "Very much so."

Davis, M.: "Okay. Thank you very much. I appreciate that."

Director Maram: "Thank you, Representative."

Chairman Joyce: "Representative Lang, 2 minutes."

Lang: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen good afternoon. I just have one question, I think. I know that will surprise all of you. And it's for Mr. Moss. So, Mr. Maram, take a deep breath, have a cup of coffee. I have your cash flow information that you gave to our staff at around the time the budget was proposed in March, I believe. I'm just wondering if there are updated cash flow numbers or when such updated numbers will be available."

Mike Moss: "Representative, I can take a look to see if there are any updates that would be necessary and get right back to you on those."

Lang: "That would be great. It's going to be hard for us to take a look, a real look, at your numbers unless we see current cash flow figures. I'm sure you understand that."

Mike Moss: "I understand."

Lang: "Thank you. Thank you very much."

Mike Moss: "Thank you."

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Chairman Joyce: "Thank you, Director. Any other questions? At this time, the Chair wants to recognize the distinguished gentleman from Chicago, the Superintendent of the Chicago Park District, Tim Mitchell, is in the gallery up there. Welcome to Springfield, Superintendent. Chair recognizes Leader Currie for a Motion."

Currie: "Thank you Speaker. I move that the Committee of the Whole do rise."

Speaker Hannig: "So, you've heard the Lady's Motion. All in favor say 'aye'; opposed 'nay'. The 'ayes' have it. And the Committee does arise. So now, Representative Currie moves that the Seventh Special Session adjourn until tomorrow, Friday, at the hour of 10 a.m. All in favor say 'aye'; opposed 'nay'. The 'ayes' have it. And the Seventh Special Session is adjourned."