

08 - 0283

March 5, 2008

The Honorable Tom Rukavina, Chair
House Higher Education and Work Force Development
Policy and Finance Division
477 State Office Building
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Representative Rukavina:

Minnesota Session Law Chapter 135, Section 2, Subd. 3 (f) requires the Commissioner of Employment and Economic Development to report, by March 15, 2008, all specified financial transfers to Centers For Independent Living and any other transfer to Centers for Independent Living made by the Department.

Three separate transfers were specified in the legislative language:

- (1) transfer \$115,000 of federal independent living Part B rehabilitation services funds to the Minnesota Centers for Independent Living each year contingent upon the availability of federal funds under Title VII, Part B, of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended under United States Code, title 29, section 711(c), and approved by the Statewide Independent Living Council;*
- (2) replace federal Part B funds in the State Independent Living Council budget transferred under clause (1) with \$115,000 of Social Security Administration program income funds each year; and*
- (3) provide an additional \$185,000 each year from the Social Security Administration program income to the Minnesota Centers for Independent Living to be allocated equally among the eight centers.*

The funds used in items 1-3 are federal dollars and their use is documented in the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) that is submitted to the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA). Funds were encumbered and contracts let for these three provisions effective October 1, 2007.

The legislative language also requires a report on any other transfer being made to Centers for Independent Living. Between December 1, 2007 and February 1, 2008, eight grants totaling \$1,350,152 for local Rehabilitation Services-Independent Living (RS-IL) service collaborations were awarded to Centers for Independent Living in Minnesota. The purpose of these pilot collaborations is to build local service capacity to advance the employment and independent living of Minnesotans with disabilities who require both vocational rehabilitation and independent living services to achieve their goals for working and living in the community. These pilot projects focus on direct services that will increase consumer employability.

Rehabilitation Services

The Honorable Tom Rukavina

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The Department will make these funds available each year for three years. The RS-IL collaborative projects are funded from Social Security Administration (SSA) Program Income. SSA Program Income comes from cost reimbursements that accrue to the department from the rehabilitation of individuals on SSI and SSDI. The level of SSA Program Income varies from year to year, and is neither permanent nor considered base funding. The Department and Centers will jointly assess the effectiveness of these innovative pilot projects and will work collaboratively to develop viable options for future funding.

If you have further questions, please feel free to contact me at (651)-259-7345 or Kim.Peck@state.mn.us.

Sincerely,



Kimberley T. Peck
Director of Rehabilitation Services

KTP:sg

cc: Jim Gelbmann
Commissioner Dan McElroy
Lynne Batzli
David Sherwood-Gabrielson
John Sherman

March 5, 2008

The Honorable James Metzen
Chair
Senate Business, Industry and Jobs Committee
322 Capitol Building
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

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Rehabilitation Services

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The Honorable James Metzen

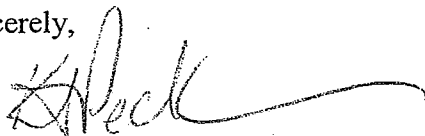
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Kimberley T. Peck
Director of Rehabilitation Services

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cc: Brian Martinson
Commissioner Dan McElroy
Lynne Batzli
David Sherwood-Gabrielson
John Sherman