

## Budget Analysis Assignment

1. Question At first-glance, what are your initial thoughts and reactions to this budget?

Answer: This budget did not address the fiscal obligations for provider agencies requiring HIPAA compliance. It is disheartening to once again not receive adequate funding to provide much needed services in the area of social services. It would appear that some awareness of the need with the September 11 tragedy, that it would have been given more consideration.

2. Question While programs you may have wanted funded, or projects you may have wanted started, do not appear in this budget, do you think overall it is a fair budget? Why or why not?

Answer: I think that with the effect that 9/11 had on the nation, it was fair in that we did not appear to have substantial reductions.

3. Question: Is there a program not funded or a project not started that you, as a professional, think should appear in the budget? If so, what is it, what is the funding needs, etc? If not, why?

Answer: I believe that when HIPAA was mandated, it should have had dollars attached that would assist provider agencies in compliance. Also, the 2% COLA is a primary concern for retention issues.

4. Question How would you, as a professional, lobby or request that your program or project be added to the budget?

Answer: Ongoing PCPA efforts to assist providers' as well as local legislative awareness and media coverage when possible.

5. Question How would you propose your professional association lobby for your proposal? When considering the other items PCPA must weight when determining lobbying agenda, do you think this is something that should be added? Why or why not?

Answer: I believe that PCPA is very involved in HIPAA and is making our position known. Indirectly, salaries and bonus may be put on the back burner since the money is not needed for HIPAA requirements.

6. OPTIONAL Should the Rainy Day Fund be tapped this Year? IF so, how much? For what types of programs, or does that not matter? Should anything remain in the fund for the next Administration?

Answer: The Rainy Day Fund should be tapped this year to cover the nations 9/11 crisis. I believe that half should remain for additional emergency funding.

BONUS: Did you contact any entities or legislators while working on this analysis: If so, please list them as well as a brief summary of your interactions.

Answer: I provided Senator Kukovich's office information on salaries and HIPAA requirements. Senator Kukovich's aide serves on our Board of Directors and was very helpful in getting information to Senator Kukovich. We are planning future

meetings with Senator Kukovich and his staff to meet directly and explain an overview of the problems and ways in which we serve Westmoreland County.

Missy, I do not believe that I can attend for sure in July but if possible I will prioritize it. It may depend on some internal projects and staffing. I will let you know but please keep me posted so that if possible I will schedule.

Again, thank you for all of your support.

Debbie Bumar