

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF RAMSEY

FILED
Court Administrator
JUN 21 2011
By  Deputy

DISTRICT COURT
SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

In re Temporary Funding of Core)
Functions of the Executive Branch)
Of the State of Minnesota)

Case Type: Civil
Court File No. 62-cv-11-5203

**Affidavit of Minnesota AIDS Project Re Impact on
Client Health and Safety of State Government Shut Down**

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
) ss.
COUNTY OF HENNEPIN)

I, Kathleen H. Corley, Interim Executive Director of the Minnesota AIDS Project, 1400 Park Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota state as follows:

Minnesota AIDS Project (MAP) provides confidential and non-discriminatory services to benefit the health and safety of individuals at risk of HIV infection and to approximately half of Minnesotans living with HIV.

MAP is a nonprofit organization reliant upon primarily public funding with services subsidized by 15% to 20% private funding.

These services rely primarily on federal and state government contracts, administered by the Minnesota Department of Health and the Minnesota Department of Human Services.

Termination of these services would have a devastating effect on Minnesota's HIV-positive population and the public health of the state.

HIV Prevention programming plays a critical role in protecting the public health for our state by providing timely intervention and information for those at greatest risk to transmit HIV. Prevention activities targeting those engaging in high risk behaviors are especially needed during summer months where access to targeted individuals is increased due to weather, festivals, and community events. HIV testing, another critical service sees its greatest volume in the summer. Our prevention programs have demonstrated success in individuals reducing their risk-taking behavior. Stopping these activities during this critical time of year could cause an undue risk to public health and safety.

HIV Case Management services provide a road to health care and better health care means not only a decreased burden in medical services because of improved health, but also greater protection to

public health because of reduced possibility of transmission. Case Management is prevention – research show that those connected to care engage in less high-risk behavior.

Case Management and Benefits Counseling support medication adherence and medication adherence results in less drug resistant viruses being produced.

Obtaining and retaining health insurance and benefits coverage – especially for medication is vital for people living with HIV. HIV medications are essential for fighting the virus. Uninterrupted access to medications is vital for preventing drug resistance. Each unscheduled interruption of taking HIV drugs as prescribed carries a real risk of drug resistance.

Case managers and benefits counselors are the first calls that individuals make when they are unable to access medications or treatment. If services are unavailable most will likely go without medications rather than seeking medicines at an emergency room.

During the 2005 government shut down, Special Master, Edward C. Stringer found: “Case Management services are related to the risk of new infections and care for those already infected. There is a greater need for providing services related to prevention during the peak season.”


We also note the important role advocacy staff would play if a shutdown occurs - to help their clients navigate what services are and aren't available. The same could hold true for MAP's case managers and benefits counselor

Minnesota AIDS Project strongly supports any action, such as appointing a mediator that could bring a resolution to current budget issues and prevent a state government shut down on July 1, 2011.


If a state government shut down should occur, Minnesota AIDS Projects requests that its services be designated as core function of government. In the alternative, Minnesota AIDS Project, respectfully requests a process for establishing our prevention, Case Management, and Benefits Counseling services as core services that fulfill a critical need for the public health and safety of our state.

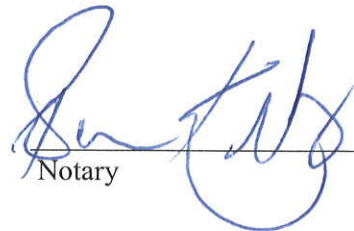
Thank you for your consideration.

June 21, 2011
Date


Kathleen H. Corley, Interim Executive Director
Minnesota AIDS Project

Subscribed, sworn to and acknowledged before me by this 21 day of June, 2011.




Notary

