

A Call to Action
Clarinda MHI at Risk!

As many of you know, I spent the summer and fall attending task force meetings designed to study the efficiency of our four mental health institutes in Iowa. In a 20 page report issued on December 15, 2009, the Task Force recommendation was that no state institution should be closed at this time. The Iowa Department of Human Services subsequently made the decision that the Mount Pleasant Mental Health would be closed.

In the legislature, the House and Senate State Government Committees have been meeting in regard to this decision and other recommendations to reorganize state government for the purpose of cutting state expenses. Within the last week, members of this committee and the Health and Human Services Budget Subcommittee have proposed the closure of the Clarinda MHI rather than Mount Pleasant. Mount Pleasant residents are contacting legislators.

Now is the time for us to let policy-makers from across Iowa know how important the Clarinda MHI is to our area and to the entire state. If you are concerned, please take time to send an e-mail or make a phone call to Governor Culver and Iowa legislators, especially those directly involved. Personal contacts can make a difference. Please keep your communication brief, informational and politely passionate, as it is more likely to be read and considered. In the subject line please reference Clarinda MHI.

Specific committee members to contact are:

State Government Reorganization Subcommittee members assigned to HSB 565,
Division 34 (which includes the MHI legislation) are:

Rep. Mary Mascher	mary.mascher@legis.state.ia.us
Rep. John Beard	john.beard@legis.state.ia.us
Rep. Renee Schulte	renee.schulte@legis.state.ia.us

Other State Government Reorganization Committee members assigned to HSB 565 are:

Rep. Mary Gaskill	mary.gaskill@legis.state.ia.us
Rep. Todd Taylor	todd.taylor@legis.state.ia.us
Rep. Doug Struyk	doug.struyk@legis.state.ia.us
Rep. Jeff Kaufmann	jeff.kaufmann@legis.state.ia.us

Health and Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee members are:

Senator Jack Hatch	jack.hatch@legis.state.ia.us
Senator Amanda Ragan	amanda.ragan@legis.state.ia.us
Senator David Johnson	david.johnson@legis.state.ia.us
Senator David Hartsuch	david.hartsuch@legis.state.ia.us
Senator Becky Schmitz	becky.schmitz@legis.state.ia.us
Rep. Lisa Heddens	lisa.heddens@legis.state.ia.us
Rep. Phyllis Thede	phyllis.thede@legis.state.ia.us
Rep. David Heaton	david.heaton@legis.state.ia.us
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Rep. Paul Shomshor	paul.shomshor@legis.state.ia.us
Rep. Mark Smith	mark.smith@legis.state.ia.us
Rep. Beth Wessel-Kroeschell	beth.wessel-kroeschell@legis.state.ia.us

All legislative e-mail addresses are available on the legislative website: www.legis.state.ia.us

Governor Culver's e-mail is: chet.culver@iowa.gov

As you can see, Senator Houser and I are not on any of the above committees. I am doing what I can to stay abreast of developments and to rally support here in the Capitol. I will try to keep you informed.

State Representative Rich Anderson
House District 97