



# Mendocino County Health and Human Services Agency

*Healthy People, Healthy Communities*

**Carmel Angelo**  
Director

**Susana Wilson**  
Assistant Director

**Administration**  
1120 S. Dora St.  
Ukiah, CA 95482  
Ph.: (707) 472-2333  
Fax: (707) 472-2335

**Employment and Family  
Assistance Services**  
Sandi Brown, Deputy Director  
(707) 463-2437  
Fax: (707) 463-7859

**Fiscal**  
Doug Gherkin,  
Chief Financial Officer  
(707) 463-7882  
Fax: (707) 467-5813

**Staff Resources**  
Pat Meek, Manager  
(707) 463-7722  
Fax: (707) 467-5834

❖  
**Adult and Older Adult  
System of Care**  
Susan Era, Director  
747 S. State St.  
Ukiah, CA 95482  
(707) 463-7900  
Fax: (707) 463-7979

❖  
**Children and Family  
System of Care**  
Mary Elliott, Director  
860 N. Bush St.  
Ukiah, CA 95482  
(707) 463-5481  
Fax: (707) 463-4043

❖  
**Community Health  
Services**  
Stacey Cryer, Director  
1120 S. Dora St.  
Ukiah, CA 95482  
(707) 472-2600  
Fax: (707) 472-2773

## Press Release

Date: June 2, 2009

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Sandi Brown, Deputy Director  
Eligibility and Family Assistance Services, Community Health Services  
Mendocino County Health and Human Services  
Phone: 707-463-7788  
Email: [browns@mcdss.org](mailto:browns@mcdss.org)

### As more fall on hard times, holes in the safety net widen

As economic conditions have worsened, more people are turning to safety-net programs to weather the downturn, according to a report released in April.

But the same economic conditions also have caused a reduction in funding for programs which, along with flat state funding for the past eight years, has contributed to an annual shortfall to social services programs approaching \$2 billion a year, according to a report released by the County Welfare Directors Association of California and the California State Association of Counties (CSAC). This is happening when increases in these types of services could provide a much needed boost to ailing local economies, the report continues, noting that every dollar spent on human services translates to \$1.32 of economic activity. "The assistance we provide not only helps families," said Mendocino County Health and Human Services Agency Director, Carmel Angelo, explaining that the money recipients spend on groceries, clothes and other needs has a multiplying effect on the economy.

As more and more people lose their jobs, demand has increased dramatically. From September 2007 to September 2008, caseloads in California increased 15.47 percent for food stamps, 5.89 percent for welfare programs for families, 5.24 percent for health services for the low-income and 14.94 percent for cash assistance for those not eligible for state or federal aid, according to the report. "These are year-to-year increases of a magnitude we've never seen before," reports Frank Mecca, executive director of the Welfare Directors Association.

According to Mendocino County Health and Human Services Agency Director Carmel Angelo, in our county, some of these numbers are even more dramatic for this same period of time. Although cash assistance for



# Mendocino County Health and Human Services Agency

*Healthy People, Healthy Communities*

**Carmel Angelo**  
Director

**Susana Wilson**  
Assistant Director

**Administration**  
1120 S. Dora St.  
Ukiah, CA 95482  
Ph.: (707) 472-2333  
Fax: (707) 472-2335

**Employment and Family  
Assistance Services**  
*Sandi Brown, Deputy Director*  
(707) 463-2437  
Fax: (707) 463-7859

**Fiscal**  
*Doug Gherkin,*  
*Chief Financial Officer*  
(707) 463-7882  
Fax: (707) 467-5813

**Staff Resources**  
*Pat Meek, Manager*  
(707) 463-7722  
Fax: (707) 467-5834

❖  
**Adult and Older Adult  
System of Care**  
Susan Era, Director  
747 S. State St.  
Ukiah, CA 95482  
(707) 463-7900  
Fax: (707) 463-7979

❖  
**Children and Family  
System of Care**  
Mary Elliott, Director  
860 N. Bush St.  
Ukiah, CA 95482  
(707) 463-5481  
Fax: (707) 463-4043

❖  
**Community Health  
Services**  
Stacey Cryer, Director  
1120 S. Dora St.  
Ukiah, CA 95482  
(707) 472-2600  
Fax: (707) 472-2773

## As more fall on hard times, holes in the safety net widen (cont.)

Page 2 of 2

families decreased by 9% and cash assistance for those not eligible for state or federal aid was down 6%, Food Stamp caseloads rose 24% and health services caseloads rose 20%. Between September 2007 and September 2008, new applications for food stamps increased 51%. Office lobbies are crowded with applicants.

State statistics reflect that people now asking for help have more education, a more stable work history and an increased likelihood of being two-parent families. "That seems to be the case in Mendocino County as well, based on perceptions of county staff," confirms County Health and Human Services Director Carmel Angelo. "The greater demand for services, however, will create greater demands on the program itself and on our staff, at a time when the county is experiencing severe budget cuts and a resulting hiring freeze" says Angelo.

"Despite the growing need, human services have been hit by a decline in state spending," said Jon Haveman, a founding partner of Beacon Economics, which produced economic findings highlighted in the CSAC report. "Cuts in social services can resurface later as increased costs in hospitals, courtrooms and drug-treatment programs. You can pay for it now, or you can pay for it later."