

**BROOME COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF
AUDIT AND CONTROL**

COMMUNITY ALTERNATIVE SYSTEMS AGENCY

ANALYSIS

APRIL 2010

Alex J. McLaughlin, Comptroller

Broome County Department of Audit and Control

Alex J. McLaughlin, Comptroller • Daniel D. Reynolds, Chairman of the Legislature



Broome County Office Building • 60 Hawley Street • P.O. Box 1766 • Binghamton, New York 13902
(607) 778-2178 • Fax (607) 778-2236 • Website: www.gobroomecounty.com

April 26, 2010

Barbara J. Fiala, County Executive:

The Department of Audit and Control has completed an analysis of the Community Alternative Systems Agency (CASA). Our principle objective was to ascertain the extent to which CASA is successful in containing the growth in Broome County Medicaid expenditures for long term care.

Based on the results of our analysis, it is our opinion that CASA's efforts do not have an impact on Broome County's Medicaid expenditures for long term care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alex J. McLaughlin".

Alex J. McLaughlin
Comptroller

cc: Daniel D. Reynolds, Chairman of the Legislature
Members of the Legislature
Eric S. Denk, Clerk of the Legislature
Michelle Berry, Director, CASA
Arthur R. Johnson, Commissioner of Social Services

Background

The Community Alternative Systems Agency (CASA) was established in 1983 and was designed to contain the growth in Medicaid expenditures for long term care.

For 2010, CASA has an operating budget of just over \$2.1 million and employs 28 people. All of CASA's expenses are charged to the Department of Social Services, where they were they are reimbursed fully through State and Federal Sources.

Although CASA provides services to the community by helping those in need to access and navigate the long term care system and works to insure appropriate utilization of long term care services, its efforts do not have any effect on what Broome County pays for Medicaid.

Broome County's annual Medicaid expenditures are driven by a New York State formula that has dictated their amount since 2006. Expenditures for a base period were captured and frozen. That amount is trended forward each year, as stipulated in the law, to determine Broome County's share of Medicaid expenses for that year.

AUDIT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESPONSES

As noted in the background, all of CASA's expenditures are charged to the Department of Social Services and, in turn, the Department of Social Services is fully reimbursed by New York State and the Federal Government. For the purpose of verifying that all expenses were correctly submitted to the Department of Social Services and subsequently fully reimbursed, we examined CASA expenditures for 2006 thru 2008. We traced CASA expenditures to the various Department of Social Service's schedules and State claim forms. We then matched all monthly Broome County claims related to CASA to the actual reimbursements received from the State. For the time period examined, we found no exceptions.

We thank the Department of Social Service's Accounting staff for their time in helping us to obtain an understanding of the claim process.