From: Irving, Toni </O=STATE OF ILLINOIS/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=TONI.IRVING>
Sent: Monday, November 5, 2012 5:40 PM
To: Mary Johnson <mjohnson@corazoncs.org>
Cc: Cutrone, Jack <Jack.Cutrone@Illinois.gov>
Subject: RE: Cicero NRI and SNW

Dear Ms. Johnson,

I understand your concern and can tell you that it is shared by many. Unfortunately, we do not have any control over the current funding levels. The General Assembly reduced the amount the Governor's office requested to fully fund NRI at the end of last session. While I find your personal account of the impact in Cicero compelling, the General Assembly needs to see greater documented outcome data. The best use of energy right now would be to work with CJIA in identifying the appropriate outcomes to document, and to lobby the General Assembly to return funds for FY 14.

Sincerely,

Toni Irving, Ph.D
Deputy Chief of Staff
& Senior Advisor
Governor Pat Quinn
100 W Randolph St
Chicago, IL 60601

From: Mary Johnson [mailto:mjohnson@corazoncs.org]
Sent: Monday, November 05, 2012 11:24 AM
To: Irving, Toni
Subject: Cicero NRI and SNW

Good Morning Dr. Irving,

I hope this email finds you well. I am reaching out to you in regards to the Neighborhood Recovery Initiative and SafetyNet Works programs in Cicero. I serve as the Executive Director of Corazon Community Services, and we are the current lead agency for NRI and were the lead agency for SNW.

Both programs deeply impacted the Cicero community in a positive way; our Elected Officials have, on numerous occasions, acknowledged the work of both programs playing an integral role in the decrease in community violence in our community. During 2011, Cicero had zero gang-related homicides and only one gang-related shooting- a drastic improvement.

With the massive reduction in funds for NRI (and elimination of School-Based Counseling and Reentry) and the elimination of the three programs (Case Management, Youth Development, Youth Leadership) of SNW, I am truly concerned that our progress toward violence prevention in Cicero will move backward. An estimated 312 less youth will receive services on a weekly basis in Cicero.

I am hoping it might be possible to meet with you to further discuss these concerns. We have already discussed the funding cut at length with our State Representatives, ICJIA, IVPA and local Cicero Town Officials, but have been consistently redirected to you in the Governor's Office.

My schedule is pretty open this week and as this is a pressing issue, I will make sure to be available at whatever time is best for you.

I really appreciate any guidance you can provide.

Thank you,

Mary

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Mary Johnson A.M., LSW

Executive Director
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