

Coalition Briefs

FLASH

BREAKING NEWS ABOUT COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH IN NEW YORK

One-house resolutions reveal legislative desires

Assembly includes 2% trend and presumptive eligibility

Both houses of the legislature released their one-house budget resolutions early this week. These resolutions are essentially the opening bids in the budget negotiations. The nuts-and-bolts negotiating will take place through the conference committee process, likely to begin within the next two weeks. The resolutions include:

Assembly

\$55.112 million additional mental hygiene spending including member items, of which:

\$33.95 million is allocated to mental health

- \$8.8 million for a 2% trended rate adjustment on personal services and OTPS for all community-based mental health providers except those who operate without a contract
- \$3.5 million to provide a \$10-15 per visit adjustment for non-contract agencies
- The \$15 million medication grants program is eliminated, that money is used for:
 - \$6 million to provide presumptive Medicaid eligibility to people with psychiatric disabilities coming out of jails, prisons and psychiatric hospitals
 - \$3.5 million to provide mental health services in homeless shelters
 - \$2 million for CSP peer-support programs
 - \$3.5 million for Links programs for people coming out of jails and prisons
- \$4.4 million for children's treatment services
- \$5 million for adult treatment services
- \$1 million for gambling addiction treatment
- \$7.6 million to fully restore the missing 149 shared staff positions
- \$1 million for suicide prevention
- \$1.5 million for school-based mental health programs
- \$1.15 million for member items

\$20.595 million is allocated to substance abuse

- \$4.8 million for a 2% trended rate adjustment on personal services and OTPS for all alcohol and substance abuse treatment providers
- \$15 million for prevention, residential and outpatient treatment services
- \$795,000 for member items

\$567,000 is allocated to mental retardation and developmental disabilities

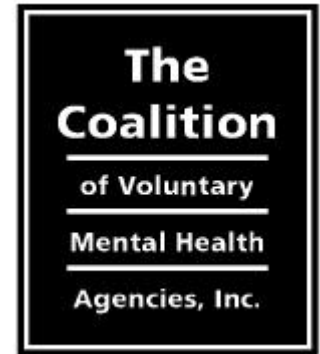
- \$567,000 for member items

In addition \$5 million is allocated to the Department of Health budget for a Medicaid buy-in option.

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One-house budget bills

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Senate

The only money added by the Senate to the mental health budget is \$925,000 in member items. The Senate did shift around some of the funding proposed by the Governor to allocate:

In mental health:

- \$7.6 million to fully restore the missing 149 shared staff positions
- \$1.2 million to restore proposed cuts to the Nathan Kline Institute

In order to fund this they proposed the following reductions:

- \$3 million reduction in proposed additional OMH oversight funding, leaving the total at \$7 million
- \$4 million reduction based on a re-estimate of the COPS recoupment
- \$1.196 million reduction in proposed new forensic staff positions until an implementation plan is prepared
- \$2 million reduction in supported housing costs
- \$3 million reduction in non-bonding capital for facilities maintenance
- \$1.196 million reduction in OMH non-personal services

In addition, "The Senate is exploring the availability of funds in other areas including child psychiatric care, outpatient case management and rent subsidies."

In substance abuse services:

- \$5 million for prevention and treatment of alcoholism and substance abuse
- \$2.5 million for community transitional services

In addition, "The Senate is exploring the availability of funds in other areas including treatment of women with children, adolescents and school-based prevention and community-based co-occurring disorders research and design."

The heavy negotiating has yet to begin. The inclusion of our budgetary priorities in the Assembly one-house bill is encouraging, but it is no guarantee of inclusion in the final budget. Whether or not there is a trend in the final budget will depend largely on our ability to influence the legislative leadership over the next few weeks. *Briefs* readers must make sure that the legislative leadership realizes how critical trended adjustments are to the entire mental health sector.

Call your representatives, (if you need help determining who your representatives are, contact Joshua Rubin at x17 or jfrubin@cvmha.org) **urge them to speak with their leadership about the importance of trended adjustments. Call Assembly Speaker Silver at (518) 455-3791. Call Senate Majority Leader Bruno at (518) 455-3191. Tell them that a trended adjustment on all mental health rates, grants and fees is essential to your agency and the people you serve.©**