



Coalition Briefs

FLASH

BREAKING NEWS ABOUT COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH IN NEW YORK

Mayor's last budget cuts mental health

After seven years, Mayor Giuliani released on Wednesday the final executive budget of his tenure. And, as previewed in the January Plan, mental health has received the sharp end of the stick. In fact, the Mayor's plan for mental health differs little from the January plan with two exceptions, both of which appear to be revenue maximization initiatives that will not impact providers. The mayor's initiatives follow, including those outlined by the January plan. The real work now begins, folks.

New revenue changes:

- ▶ The Mayor's budget transfers a family court program run by the Health and Hospitals Corporation from the auspices of DMH to ACS which will free-up additional city tax levy dollars while drawing down a different combination of state and federal dollars. Note that the program will continue to operate, they will just receive funds through a different budgetary line and through Children's Services.
- ▶ DMH receives some Medicaid funds for administration which they have reorganized in such a way that they will receive additional federal or state dollars. The budget lines themselves remain steady, this merely frees up additional city tax levy dollars.

Cuts in Mental Health from the January Plan that are still on the table:

- ▶ **Enhanced Revenue Collections** which offset increases in state funding. The state has increased the maximum COPs rate and the city will therefore decrease funding of deficit-funded agencies by an equal amount. Agencies will experience no net increase in their funding, a portion of their funding liability is merely being transferred from the city to the state.
- ▶ **Early Retirement** due to standard attrition. Positions will only be reinstated at a 1:2 ration. For every two people that leave, only one will be replaced.
- ▶ **Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Prevention.** In 1999 the City Council funded alcohol prevention education to the tune of \$1 million. In 1998 the city council funded teen alcohol prevention for \$500,000. And, the City Council also funded La Bodega, an alcohol treatment facility. The funding for all these programs has been cut by the mayor.
- ▶ **Managed Care Technical Assistance**, also known as The Coalition's Professional Learning Center, was originally funded by the City Council. The mayor has proposed cutting it in its entirety.
- ▶ **Case Management Services**, City Council funded programs, will be cut. \$500,000 for case management, and \$250,000 for forensic services provided by Fordham-Tremont.
- ▶ **Family Support Services**, in the form of five parent resource centers, have been eliminated. They were originally funded by the City Council.