

OFFICE OF THE MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCATE

Staff Presentation to the House Finance Committee
FY 2015 Revised & FY 2016 Budgets
May 7, 2015

MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCATE

- Directed by statute to: ensure the legal, civil, and special rights of people with mental illness
- Provide legal representation at involuntary commitment hearings (mandated by the US constitution)

MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCATE

- Monitor procedures & policies at in-patient treatment facilities & community based health centers
- Protect the treatment rights of criminally insane and inmates at the forensic hospital

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MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCATE

- Statutory Authority in Section 40.1-5-13 through 40.1-5-25 of the Rhode Island General Laws
- Duties are outlined in Section 40.1-5-22
- Rights and powers are in Section 40.1-5-24
- Additional duties in Section 40.1-24.5-12

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DIVISION OF ADVOCACY

- The Governor proposed Article 18 to create the Division of Advocacy in the OHHS
 - Merge Mental Health Advocate, Child Advocate, Governor's Commission on Disabilities & Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing with each retaining authority to serve identified population
- Budget assumes savings of \$0.1 million
- On 3/31 requested this article be withdrawn

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GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

	Enacted	FY 2015 Rev.	FY 2016 Rec.*	FY 2016 to Enacted
Salaries & Benefits	\$480,514	\$489,359	\$485,332	\$4,818
Operating	12,696	13,419	21,119	8,423
Contract Servs	1,800	3,300	1,800	-
Total	\$495,010	\$506,078	\$508,251	\$13,241
FTE	3.7	3.7	4.0	0.3

*shown in Division of Advocacy in OHHS

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STAFFING – FY 2016

- Office adds 1.3 positions to current authorized level
 - Social worker & upgrades a current attorney in request
- Governor includes 4.0 positions
 - Mental Health Advocate
 - Administrative Assistant
 - Staff Attorneys – 2.0 positions
 - Savings in the Division of Advocacy from keeping MHA administrative assistant position vacant final 6 months

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PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES

- Governor includes \$1,800 in FY 2015 & FY 2016
 - the enacted level
- Services performed on an as needed basis
- Range \$800 to \$2,000 for an evaluation
 - About \$200 an hour
 - Cost based on time required to complete

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PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES – HISTORICAL SPENDING

Fiscal Year	Actual	# of Evaluations
2014	-	-
2013	\$1,750	1
2012	\$3,900	3
2011	\$1,000	1
2010	\$800	2
2009	\$4,300	3
2008	\$4,500	4
2007	\$5,500	4

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LEGAL/INTERPRETER SERVICES

- \$200 in FY 2015 & FY 2016 for transcription services
- \$100 in FY 2015 and FY 2016 for interpreter services

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