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

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
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- On 3/31 requested this article be withdrawn

GOVERNOR’S RECOMMENDATION

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

*shown in Division of Advocacy in OHHS
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

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
PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES – HISTORICAL SPENDING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th># of Evaluations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>$1,750</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>$3,900</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>$800</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>$4,300</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>$4,500</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>$5,500</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LEGAL/INTERPRETER SERVICES

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