Office of the Mental Health Advocate

Staff Presentation to the House Finance Committee
FY 2017 Revised & FY 2018 Budgets
April 11, 2017
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
- 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
## Governor’s Recommendation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Enacted</th>
<th>FY 2017 Rev.</th>
<th>FY 2018 Rec.</th>
<th>Rec to Enacted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Salaries &amp; Benefits</strong></td>
<td>$529,115</td>
<td>$532,391</td>
<td>$535,404</td>
<td>$6,289</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cont. Srv.</td>
<td>1,800</td>
<td>1,950</td>
<td>1,950</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating</td>
<td>11,094</td>
<td>14,932</td>
<td>12,209</td>
<td>1,115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>$542,009</td>
<td>$549,273</td>
<td>$549,563</td>
<td>$7,554</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FTE</strong></td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>4.0</td>
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</table>
Target Budget

- Budget Office provided a target of $504,300
- Current service adjustments of $6,143
  - For statewide adjustments
- 8.0% reduction of $43,852
- Constrained request is meets the target
- Recommendation is $45,263 above
Statewide Savings

- Assessment to salaries that funds workers’ comp., unemployment & unused leave
  - Lowered from enacted based on experience
    - Savings of $1.2 million in FY 2017
    - Savings of $1.5 million in FY 2018
- Medical benefit cost growth
  - Lower than initial estimates
    - Savings of $2.6 million in FY 2018
- Total impact to Office of the Mental Health Advocate
  - $829 in FY 2017; $2,762 in FY 2018
Staffing – FY 2018

- Enacted budget includes & Governor recommends 4.0 positions
  - Mental Health Advocate
  - Administrative Assistant
  - Staff Attorneys – 2.0 positions
  - Currently all filled
Psychiatric Services

- Governor includes $1,500 in FY 2017 & FY 2018
  - At 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 Evals</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>$-</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>$1,200</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>$4,500</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY 2014</td>
<td>no expenses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: FY 2014 – no expenses*
Operating & Other Services

- FY 2017 - $2,223 reappropriated for furniture
- $200 in FY 2017 & FY 2018 for transcription services
- $250 in FY 2017 & FY 2018 for interpreter services
  - $150 more than enacted
  - FY 2016 spent was $278
Annual Reporting Requirements

- 2013 Assembly required OMB to prepare, review & inventory all reports filed w/ Assembly
  - Report to be presented to Assembly as part of budget submission annually
- Office is in compliance with requirement to submit an annual report