

OFFICE OF THE MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCATE

Staff Presentation to the House Finance Committee

FY 2013 Revised & FY 2014 Budgets

February 28, 2013

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

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

	Enacted	FY 2013 Rev.	FY 2014 Rec.	FY 2014 to Enacted
Salaries & Benefits	\$434,239	\$335,911	\$473,848	\$39,609
Operating	11,080	10,496	10,496	(584)
Contract Services	1,800	13,800	1,800	-
Total	\$447,119	\$360,207	\$486,144	\$39,025

Salaries and Benefits

Full-Time Equivalent Positions

Full-Time Positions	FTEs	Chg. To Enacted
Enacted Authorized	3.7	-
FY 2014 Request	3.7	
FY 2014 Governor	3.7	-
FY 2012 Average Filled	3.0	(0.7)
Filled as of February 23	2.0	(1.7)

STAFFING – FY 2013

- Governor includes current level of 3.7 positions
 - Advocate position still vacant but budget assumes confirmation this month
 - Governor submitted nomination to the Senate on January 10, 2013
 - Confirmation hearing not scheduled

STAFFING – FY 2013

- Also includes Administrative Assistant
- Staff Attorneys - 1.7 positions
 - Funds 0.7 vacant position beginning January 2013
 - Still vacant
- Includes savings from statewide medical benefit adjustment & vacancies

STAFFING – FY 2014

- Office suggested 40 pay reduction days for savings of \$62,863 to meet constrained budget target - Governor did not concur
- He fully funds the enacted level of 3.7 positions
 - Mental Health Advocate
 - Administrative Assistant
 - Staff Attorneys - 1.7 positions

PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES

- Governor includes \$1,500 in FY 2013 & FY 2014
 - 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

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

LEGAL/TRANSCRIPTION SERVICES

- Governor includes \$12,000 in FY 2013 revised recommendation for outside legal services
 - Assume mental health advocate position is filled
 - Spent \$21,000 to date
 - Services not included in FY 2014
- \$200 in FY 2013 & FY 2014 for transcription services

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