

OFFICE OF THE MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCATE

Staff Presentation to the House Finance Committee

FY 2016 Revised & FY 2017 Budgets

April 12, 2016

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 2016 Rev.	FY 2017 Rec.	FY 2017 to Enacted
Salaries & Benefits	\$485,332	\$526,645	\$529,115	\$43,783
Contracted Services	1,800	1,800	1,800	-
Operating	21,119	20,974	11,094	(10,025)
Total	\$508,251	\$549,419	\$542,009	\$33,758
FTE	4.0	4.0	4.0	-

STAFFING – FY 2017

- 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 2016 & FY 2017
 - 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
2015	\$1,200	1
2014	-	-
2013	\$1,750	1
2012	\$3,900	3
2011	\$1,000	1
2010	\$800	2
2009	\$4,300	3
2008	\$4,500	4

OTHER SERVICES

- \$200 in FY 2016 & FY 2017 for transcription services
- \$100 in FY 2016 and FY 2017 for interpreter services

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