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## ABH Budget Priorities Fiscal Year 2017

### Department of Mental Health (DMH)

- **Fund the Department of Mental Health (DMH) adult community services and child/adolescent services line items at the levels recommend by Governor Baker (5042-0000: \$382.6 million and 5042-5000: \$88 million).**
- This funding level annualizes the cost of the new community placements created by the Legislature during the last two fiscal years to help alleviate the crisis of individuals being “boarded” in hospital Emergency Departments (EDs). It also protects critical safety net services not typically paid for by insurance companies for children served in the community.
- ABH has continued to work closely with NAMI-Massachusetts and their Criminal Justice Diversion project and **strongly supports expanding funding for the jail diversion grant program operated by DMH.**

### Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS)

- Increase funding for the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) main line item **by \$11 million over the Governor’s House 2 budget proposal to \$133.5 million (4512-0200).**
  - **\$6 million would be used to procure 200 new residential treatment/recovery home beds.** The addition of 200 new beds would serve an additional 500 to 600 individuals and families per year. Currently there is an approximate three week wait in Massachusetts for individuals to get into a recovery home.
  - **\$2 million would serve approximately 500 individuals and families per year in the Supportive Case Management program.** This service helps people in early recovery obtain and maintain transitional and permanent housing post their discharge from treatment.
  - **\$3 million would be used to implement a pilot program for Recovery Coaches.** This pilot program is designed to place trained Recovery Coaches in drug courts and emergency rooms to support individuals and families; to conduct street outreach to the homeless population to help get them into treatment; and coach individuals in community settings to help support their stabilization and promote relapse prevention. BSAS is currently procuring one program focused on the Emergency Department. This funding would support an additional 4 to 5 programs in high need areas of the state.
- **ABH requests the Legislature support Governor Baker’s recommendations for the remaining BSAS line items. (4512-0200, 4512-0201, 4512-0202, 4512-0203, 4512-0204, 4512-0210, 4512-0211).** BSAS has indicated this funding level will preserve all existing services, including the expansion of services the Legislature funded in FY’15 and FY’16.

## **MassHealth**

- Fund MassHealth at the **level recommended by the Governor**, which preserves existing behavioral health services and includes a 1.5% rate increase for behavioral health services.
- ABH is requesting that the Legislature require **MassHealth to make Enhanced Acute Treatment Services (Enhanced Detox/EATS), Community Support Programs (CSP), and Structured Outpatient Addiction Programs (SOAP) and Intensive Outpatient Programs (IOP) standard MassHealth benefits** and provide funding to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services to buy the services for uninsured clients. We believe additional client access to these programs is important in continuing to address to addiction opioid crisis.
- As the state continues to work to further develop and refine the Children's Behavioral Health Initiative (CBHI) system, **adequate funding is necessary to ensure successful implementation of the Rosie D. court order**. These services are absolutely essential to strengthening our community-based mental health system to better serve children living with Severe Emotional Disturbance (SED) in Massachusetts.

## **Purchase of Service Reform (Chapter 257)**

- **ABH strongly supports the Governor's inclusion of the Chapter 257 Rate Reserve (1599-6903: \$36.2 million).**
- This rate reserve will fund the rates the administration anticipates to set in FY17. Funding for new rates set in FY16 was annualized in the programmatic line items.