



251 West Central Street
Suite 21
Natick, MA 01760

T 508.647.8385
F 508.647.8311
www.ABHmass.org

Vicker V. DiGravio III PRESIDENT / CEO
Karin Jeffers, LMHC CHAIR

ASSOCIATION
FOR BEHAVIORAL
HEALTHCARE

ABH Budget Priorities Fiscal Year 2018

Department of Mental Health (DMH)

- The current DMH community system does not have excess capacity to accommodate new placements for individuals to transition out of hospital levels of care. ABH is requesting **an additional \$10 million over House 1 in line item 5046-0000 to fund new community placements for individuals moving into the community from DMH hospitals.** (\$397,630,579)
- **ABH requests maintenance funding to preserve DMH programming for children and adolescents (5042-5000)**, including funding to support the joint DMH/DCF Caring Together procurement, and the DMH Individual and Family Flexible Supports Program.
- ABH requests **an additional \$1 million in increased funding for the DHCD Rental Subsidies for DMH clients above House 1 (\$6,548,125: 7004-9033)** as this program is vital in supporting DMH clients' throughout the service continuum.

Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

- **ABH requests the legislature fund line item 4512-0200 at \$133,175,888.** This amount will annualize funding for all current services covered by this line-item and the Substance Abuse Services Fund (1595-4510) and includes an additional \$5.5 million to fund vital new services to address the ongoing opioid crisis.
 - **\$3 million is need to expand the successful Access to Recovery (MA-ATR) program.** MA-ATR is a federal grant that is slated to expire in September 2017. BSAS has committed to funding this grant in 2017 with new federal money. We are requesting an additional \$3 million to expand the program to other cities given the tremendous outcomes seen to date in the current programs.
 - ABH is requesting an additional **\$1 million in funding for providers to maintain access to NARCAN at their programs.** BSAS licensed programs are required to have NARCAN available and the limited supply and funding make this very difficult for providers to maintain.
 - **\$1.5 million to support the opening of 3 additional recovery centers across the state.** Currently BSAS funds 10 centers that are based principally on volunteer work by peers who support one another and who are involved in a participatory process to help build community and help design, plan, facilitate and evaluate activities offered at the centers.
 - ABH is requesting the Legislature adopt the Governor's recommendation to transfer the \$5 million in funding from FY17 in the substance abuse fund (1595-4510) to 4512-0200.
- **We also request that the Legislature preserve the Governor's budget recommendations for other BSAS funded services (line items 4512-0201, 4512-0202, 4512-0203, 4512-0204, and 4512-0211).**

MassHealth

- 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 ongoing implementation of the *Rosie D.* court order (4000-0950)**. 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)

- We ask the Legislature to fully fund all Chapter 257 established rates funded throughout the budget as well as the Chapter 257 **(\$39,698,479; 4599-6903)** rate reserve at the levels recommended in H1.