



June 7, 2012

The Honorable Stephen Brewer, Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
State House, Room 212  
Boston, MA 02133

*Re: FY 2013 Budget*

Dear Chairman Brewer:

ABH is a statewide association representing over eighty community-based mental health and addiction treatment provider organizations. Our members are the primary providers of publicly-funded behavioral healthcare services in the Commonwealth, serving approximately 81,000 Massachusetts residents daily and over three-quarters of a million residents annually while employing 37,500 people.

Ensuring that individuals and families have access to community-based mental health and addiction services that are person-centered, outcome-oriented and both clinically and cost-effective, is a goal we believe we share with the Commonwealth. Towards that end, ABH and our members request your support of the following during FY 2013 conference committee deliberations:

***DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH (DMH):***

Please support the **Senate** appropriation for the following DMH line item:

**5046-000:** Adult Community Services. The Senate funded this line item at \$343,927,150 which is \$758,572 higher than the House appropriation.

Please support the **House** appropriation for the following DMH line item:

**5042-5000:** Child Adolescent Services. The House funded this line item at \$77,571,631 which is \$754,874 higher than the Senate appropriation.

Current community resources are not sufficient to truly support recovery and resiliency for clients. This funding is necessary to ensure that individuals with mental illness are able to live successfully in their own communities.

***BUREAU OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES (BSAS):***

Please support the **House** appropriation for the following BSAS line item:

**4512-0200:** BSAS Programming and Operations. The House funded this line item at \$77,539,595 which is \$1,000,000 higher than the Senate appropriation.

Please support the **Senate** appropriation for the following BSAS line item:

**4512-0202:** Secure Treatment Facilities for Opiate Addiction/Pilot Jail Diversion. The Senate funded this line item at \$2,000,000. The House did not provide any funding for this line item.

These funding levels are necessary to ensure that the state is able to maintain the current level of services for individuals living with substance use disorders.

***HUMAN SERVICES SALARY RESERVE:***

Please support the **Senate** appropriation and line item language to appropriate \$20 million in FY13 for the Human Services Salary Reserve.

ABH and our members are grateful for the Senate's ongoing leadership on funding for community-based mental health and addiction treatment services.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Vicker V. DiGravio III  
President/CEO