



STATE OF CONNECTICUT Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services



Legislative Update # 9

February 18, 2015

The Governor presented his 2016-2017 biennial budget to the legislature and below is a summary of the proposed changes to the DMHAS budget. We expect there are changes in the DSS budget that will impact the behavioral health community and we will provide greater detail on the budget as a whole as soon as possible. This update also lays out the public hearing schedule for DSS, DCF and DMHAS.

We are sending you this link to the Appropriations Committee’s subcommittee chairs and membership:
<http://www.cga.ct.gov/app/special/Subcommittee%20Assignments.pdf>

- **DMHAS Budget**

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| • Annualizes Governor’s Mental Health Initiative | 3 million |
| • Annualizes wrap around supports for 100 units of supportive housing | 500 thousand |
| • Expands FUSE | 1 million |
| • Funds 100 additional unit of supportive housing | 1 million |
| • Increases Case Load growth in YAS, GA, Discharge Fund, MFP and Mental Health Waiver | Approx. 10 million |
| • Grant Funding remains as currently budgeted | |
| • Annualizes this fiscal year’s rescissions | -4.5 million |
| • Reduces research funding at CMHC | -786 thousand |
| • Reduces funding for RAC’s and Governor’s Prevention Partnership | -736 thousand |
| • Eliminates Gatekeeper Program | -718 thousand |
| • Reduces funding for Regional Mental Health Boards | -584 thousand |
| • Reduces funding for legal services | -400 thousand |

Details on Budget Public Hearings

Public speaker order for the public hearings will be determined by a lottery system. Lottery numbers will be drawn from 9:00 A.M. until 10:00 A.M. in the LOB First Floor Atrium and from 10:15 A.M. until 1:00 P.M. in Room 2700. Speakers arriving after the completion of the lottery will have their names placed at the end of the speaker list. The list of speakers registered through the lottery system will be posted outside the designated hearing room two hours prior to the start of the public hearing. **On February 27 and March 6 the Committee will provide a separate sign-up sheet for persons with special needs,** and on Tuesday, March 3 a separate sign-up sheet will be provided for students. **Those speakers will be registered on a first-come, first-served basis. The Committee Chairs will alternate between the specialized lists and the standard list until the specialized lists have been exhausted.** Speakers will be limited to three minutes of testimony. Please submit 30 copies of written testimony at the time of sign-up, but not later than 2:00 P.M. Testimony received after the designated time may not be distributed until after the hearing. Please email written testimony in Word or PDF format to APPtestimony@cga.ct.gov. The Committee requests that testimony be limited to matters related to the items on the Agenda.

The hearing schedule is as follows:

DMHAS - Friday March 6th 1:30 pm for agency's presentation,

Public hearing 4:30 in room 2C

DCF - Friday February 27th 11:00-1:00 for agency's presentation

DSS - Friday February 27th 2:00-3:30 P.M. for agency's presentation

Public hearing 5:00 P.M. in room 2C

Accessing Information via the Connecticut General Assembly Web Page:

If you wish to get the details/status on a bill, read the text of a bill, or check on committee agendas or upcoming events in the Bulletin, log onto the Connecticut General Assembly web page at: <http://www.cga.ct.gov>

The CGA schedule of events can be accessed on that same page by scrolling down and clicking on the appropriate item.