



# MBTPI FACT SHEET

## MENTAL HYGIENE ADMINISTRATION BUDGET

FEBRUARY 3, 2009

- **The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene – Mental Hygiene Administration is the principal funder of Maryland’s public mental health system, serving 100,000 children and adults. The proposed budget totals \$965 million, of which about 30% comes from federal funding.**

The budget represents a \$40 million increase over the current appropriation: 4.3%. Of this, \$18 million is available to provide for enrollment increases. This may not be enough to provide services to all eligible patients.

The Governor highlights a 9/10 of 1% increase in reimbursement rates for most community providers and increases in federal funds to provide mental health services for foster care children. The recommended rate increase for community providers was 3.58%, so the 0.9% proposed increase does not keep up with costs. Inadequate reimbursement rates impair the availability of services.

- **About 30% of MHA funding goes towards residential institutions, although they serve only one client out of 30 in the public mental health system overall.**

Advocates support expanding community services to divert individuals from residential placements or prevent unnecessary institutional placements. The budget does provide for the transfer of individuals with developmental disabilities from out of state mental hospitals into community placements or facilities better suited to meet their specific needs.

- **Waits for community-based residential services average 7 months in Baltimore City.**

MHA does not keep a statewide waiting list for mental health services, although some individual jurisdictions do. In Baltimore City, for example, the average waiting time for community-based residential services exceeded seven months, as of November 2008. Other jurisdictions also have waiting lists for services. Without community-based treatment, these individuals are at serious risk of re-hospitalization, homelessness and other adverse outcomes.

- **Maryland could receive over \$4 billion in federal stimulus payments.**

While much of this funding is dedicated to construction and other specific programs, some could be used to restore proposed budget cuts.

## **Sources**

Community Behavioral Health Association of Maryland.

Department of Budget and Management. Maryland Budget Highlights FY 2010. January 21, 2009.

Department of Legislative Services. Fiscal Briefing. January 26, 2009.

Department of Legislative Services. Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Fiscal 2010 Budget Overview. January 2009.

Maryland Disability Law Center, *Testimony on FY 2010 Mental Hygiene Administration Budget*. 2009.

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