



Improving Capacity and Access to Services for Persons with Serious Mental Illnesses and Substance Use Disorders Requires Investment

Last year, after the historic two-year budget impasse, the General Assembly began to address the decade-long pattern of cuts to community behavioral health by taking steps to increase the rates and reimbursements for providers of community services and supports with the FY18 enacted budget. The three trade organizations representing community providers of behavioral health services in Illinois, IARF, IABH, and CBHA, join together to encourage the Illinois General Assembly to address the following budget priorities with the FY19 budget.

Preserve EXISTING Capacity and Increase FUTURE Capacity with FY19 Budget

- The Governor's Introduced Budget for FY19 eliminates the 3% rate increases for mental health enacted in FY18 and rolls back rates to FY17. **These increases MUST BE PRESERVED AND FULLY IMPLEMENTED!**
- To address inadequate capacity, a shrinking workforce, increasingly delayed access to needed mental health and substance use disorder services, and to address the ongoing opioid crisis, **WE RECOMMEND A 10% INCREASE IN RATES FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER SERVICES** (approximately \$23 million/\$11.5 million with Medicaid match for mental health; and \$12 million/\$6 million with Medicaid match for substance use disorders)

In addition to the above budget priorities, we ask for support of the following bills:

- **HB4936** – Rep. Tom Demmer/Sen. Tim Bivins – Psychiatric Training Armed Forces
- **HB 4949** - Rep. Sara Feigenholtz/Sen. Heather Steans - Consumer Fraud Mental Health Ads
- **HB 5109** - Rep. Lou Lang/Sen. Heather Steans - Community Behavioral Health Care Professional Loan Repayment Act
- **HB 5110** - Rep. Lou Lang/Sen. Heather Steans - Social Work/Counselor License
- **HB 5111** - Rep. Lou Lang/Sen. Heather Steans - Behavioral Health Workforce Act
- **SB 2951** - Sen. Melinda Bush/Rep. Sara Feigenholtz - Early Mental Health Act

As Illinois continues its path of transformation of the behavioral health system, addressing the above priorities is crucial to ensuring adequate capacity is available for community providers to improve access to services for those most in need!

Budgets Reflect Priorities... It's Time to Prioritize Mental Health & Substance Use Disorders in Illinois