

OFFICE OF THE MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCATE

Staff Presentation to the House Finance Committee

FY 2014 Revised & FY 2015 Budgets

March 13, 2014

MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCATE

- Directed by statute to: ensure the legal, civil, and special rights of people with mental illness
- Provide legal representation at involuntary commitment hearings (mandated by the US constitution)

MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCATE

- Monitor procedures & policies at in-patient treatment facilities & community based health centers
- Protect the treatment rights of criminally insane and inmates at the forensic hospital

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MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCATE

- Statutory Authority in Section 40.1-5-13 through 40.1-5-25 of the Rhode Island General Laws
- Duties are outlined in Section 40.1-5.22
- Rights and powers are in Section 40.1-5-24
- Additional duties in Section 40.1-24.5-12

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ANNUAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

- 2013 Assembly enacted legislation requiring OMB to prepare, review and inventory all reports filed with Assembly
- Report to be presented to Assembly as part of budget submission annually
- Office is required to submit 1 report
- Currently submitting the report

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GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

	Enacted	FY 2014 Rev.	FY 2015 Rec.	FY 2015 to Enacted
Salaries & Benefits	\$473,848	\$471,881	\$480,514	\$6,666
Operating	10,496	10,035	12,696	2,200
Contract Services	1,800	1,800	1,800	-
Total	\$486,144	\$483,716	\$495,010	\$8,866

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Salaries and Benefits

Full-Time Equivalent Positions

Full-Time Positions	FTEs	Chg. To Enacted
Enacted Authorized	3.7	
FY 2015 Request	3.7	-
FY 2015 Governor	3.7	-
FY 2014 Average Filled	3.0	(0.7)
Filled as of March 8	3.7	-

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STAFFING – FY 2014

- Advocate
- Administrative Assistant
- Staff Attorneys - 1.7 positions
- Includes savings from statewide medical benefit adjustments

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STAFFING – FY 2015

- Office adds 1.3 positions to current authorized level
 - Social worker
 - Upgrade a current attorney
- Governor fully funds the enacted level of 3.7 positions
 - Mental Health Advocate
 - Administrative Assistant
 - Staff Attorneys - 1.7 positions

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STAFFING – FY 2015

- Office suggested 24 pay reduction days for savings of \$37,961 to meet constrained budget target
- Governor did not concur

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PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES

- Governor includes \$1,800 in FY 2014 & FY 2015
 - the enacted level
- Services performed on an as needed basis
- Range \$800 to \$2,000 for an evaluation
 - About \$200 an hour
 - Cost based on time required to complete

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PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES – HISTORICAL SPENDING

Fiscal Year	Actual	# of Evaluations
2013	\$1,750	1
2012	\$3,900	3
2011	\$1,000	1
2010	\$800	2
2009	\$4,300	3
2008	\$4,500	4
2007	\$5,500	4

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LEGAL/INTERPRETER SERVICES

- \$200 in FY 2014 & FY 2015 for transcription services
- \$100 in FY 2014 and FY 2015 for interpreter services

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