

# Office of the Mental Health Advocate

Staff Presentation to the House Finance Committee  
FY 2017 Revised & FY 2018 Budgets  
April 11, 2017

---

# 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
- 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

# 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

# Governor's Recommendation

	Enacted	FY 2017 Rev.	FY 2018 Rec.	Rec to Enacted
Salaries & Benefits	\$529,115	\$532,391	\$535,404	\$6,289
Cont. Srv.	1,800	1,950	1,950	150
Operating	11,094	14,932	12,209	1,115
Total	\$542,009	\$549,273	\$549,563	\$7,554
FTE	4.0	4.0	4.0	-

# Target Budget

- Budget Office provided a target of \$504,300
- Current service adjustments of \$6,143
  - For statewide adjustments
- 8.0% reduction of \$43,852
- Constrained request is meets the target
- Recommendation is \$45,263 above

# Statewide Savings

- Assessment to salaries that funds workers' comp., unemployment & unused leave
  - Lowered from enacted based on experience
    - Savings of \$1.2 million in FY 2017
    - Savings of \$1.5 million in FY 2018
- Medical benefit cost growth
  - Lower than initial estimates
    - Savings of \$2.6 million in FY 2018
- Total impact to Office of the Mental Health Advocate
  - \$829 in FY 2017; \$2,762 in FY 2018

# Staffing – FY 2018

- Enacted budget includes & Governor recommends 4.0 positions
  - Mental Health Advocate
  - Administrative Assistant
  - Staff Attorneys – 2.0 positions
  - Currently all filled

# Psychiatric Services

- Governor includes \$1,500 in FY 2017 & FY 2018
  - At 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



# Psychiatric Services – Historical Spending

Fiscal Year	Actual	# of Evals
2016	\$-	-
2015	\$1,200	1
2013	\$1,750	1
2012	\$3,900	3
2011	\$1,000	1
2010	\$800	2
2009	\$4,300	3
2008	\$4,500	4
<i>FY 2014 – no expenses</i>		

# Operating & Other Services

- FY 2017 - \$2,223 reappropriated for furniture
- \$200 in FY 2017 & FY 2018 for transcription services
- \$250 in FY 2017 & FY 2018 for interpreter services
  - \$150 more than enacted
  - FY 2016 spent was \$278

# Annual Reporting Requirements

- 2013 Assembly required OMB to prepare, review & inventory all reports filed w/ Assembly
  - Report to be presented to Assembly as part of budget submission annually
- Office is in compliance with requirement to submit an annual report

# Office of the Mental Health Advocate

Staff Presentation to the House Finance Committee  
FY 2017 Revised & FY 2018 Budgets  
April 11, 2017

---