



## **SUPPORT A BALANCED AND COST EFFECTIVE BUDGET**

### **REQUESTS TO MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FY 2012**

***Support the Governor's Proposed Budget that provides funding for services that increase recovery and reduce expensive unnecessary and less productive costs:***

Service Capacity for Young Adults Transferring to the Adult System ~ Access to Community Mental Health Services ~ Stable Supportive Housing

#### **DCF Transfers to DMHAS**

Additional funding is needed for increasing numbers of young adults entering the DMHAS system. This is a wise proposal that can prevent future disability in adulthood, increase the likelihood that these young people will attain an education and future employment, and reduce long term disability costs to the state. Since DMHAS established their much needed Young Adult Services (YAS), the number of young adults requiring services has increased over 4500%. DMHAS reports that the needs of young adults entering from DCF are "much more complex" than older adults and they expect that number to expand. Currently only a portion of young adults in DMHAS receive YAS; only about half of Local Mental Health Authorities have YAS.

***Support the increase in the DMHAS budget for caseload growth in DMHAS Young Adult Services to meet current demand for services and prevent long term costly disability and dependency***

#### **Preserve Access to Community Services**

There are greater demands for community services as DMHAS continues to successfully move people out of expensive inpatient beds, prevent overuse of nursing facilities, and respond to new people seeking mental health services at local agencies and emergency rooms. Many providers report that the economic downturn has resulted in a greater need for mental health services from people who have not used services before.

***Support the DMHAS budget that protects community mental health and substance abuse services and promotes more cost-effective opportunities for people to be diverted or discharged from institutional settings.***

#### **Provide Stable Supportive Housing**

**The lack of housing threatens recovery and results in extra costs and system gridlock.** When housing is not available, state hospitals keep people longer than needed, incur unnecessary costs and prevent others from finding a bed. In the community, consumers end up in shelters, or worse, the criminal justice system, which are not therapeutic and cost more than supportive housing. Because other low income housing programs (Rental Assistance and Section 8 programs) have waiting lists of two years or more, it is very important that new units of supportive housing are funded and that we maintain a way to create low income housing in our state. Funding is requested to support operating costs of 150 new units of supportive housing, as well as for the necessary supportive services and rental assistance subsidies.

***Support Supportive Housing Initiatives that promote recovery and prevent more costly homelessness and institutionalization.***

Most of this information is extracted from the Fact Sheet by the North Central Regional Mental Health Board, Inc., entitled "Request to Members of the General Assembly FY 2012." Keep the Promise Coalition Thanks the NCRMHB, Inc.

For further information, please contact Keep the Promise Coalition at 800-215-3021.